

J's Shelf

Important Note: All reviews reflected on this page are solely the expressed opinions of the reviewer. Our reviewers are not paid or given any incentive by any publisher.

Title: 72 Hour Hold

Classification: Fiction

Author: Bebe Moore Campbell

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf

Copyright: 2004

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: 72 Hour Hold is overall a good read about a mother's struggle to save her child from the strangle hold of mental illness. As her child turns 18 Keri can no longer control her child's whereabouts and hour holds are the only thing saving her child and herself from her child's Bipolar disorder.

Title: Aeiou - Any Easy Intimacy

Classification: Fiction

Author: Jeffery Brown

Publisher: Top Shelf Productions

Copyright: 2005

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Aeiou is a cute graphic novel about a relationship. Based on the one of the author's previous relationships; it offers humor to what everyone goes through in the beginning of a relationship and through rocky times and sadly the end. The pictures themselves are humorous, almost rough sketches.

Title: Along Interstate 75 (13th Edition)

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Dave Hunter

Publisher: Mile Oak Publishing Inc.

Copyright: 2005

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: For those who travel along Interstate 75 quite often or are just merely taking a family vacation. This book has everything, including an easy to read map for North or South on 75. It lists in detail exit, historical points of interest, rest stops, speed limits, speed traps, detours, construction and everything imaginable to keep you entertained and educated for your travels. The only set back is the lack of Florida, this book takes you from the North of 75 in Michigan to just a few miles south of Georgia. Florida is in a separate book which makes it difficult for Florida snow birds.

Title: And Tango Makes Three

Classification: Children's

Author: Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Copyright: 2005

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: A true story teaching children that diversity exist in animals as well as people. The penguins in the story are still at the zoo listed in the book.

Title: Bell Jar

Classification: Fiction

Author: Sylvia Plath

Publisher: Harper & Row

Copyright: 1971

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: The Bell Jar, a non conforming classic, tells a story of Esther Greenwood in the beginning of her career and a mental breakdown. Poetically written on such a hush hush topic, Sylvia Plath hides her

autobiographical miseries in this honest "fiction". Sylvia Plath was way ahead of her time with her novel and poems.


Title: Best Places SAN FRANCISCO, Editon 1

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Rebecca Poole Foree & Matthew Richard Poole

Publisher: Sasquatch Books

Copyright: 2000

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: If this was the only book I ever saw for San Francisco I would have to think it was a boring place. Best Places never once shows a photograph or drawing of any place it talks about except for the cover. Readers have to rely on their own imagination for the place they're about to vacation to, which seems scary. It does have an extensive list of places to eat and things to do. But it doesn't give you much of an idea to where these neighborhoods are or what they're all about. This book does have one amazing feature; there's an awesome pull out map in the front of the book with almost every possible street listed on a compact map

Title: The Cape Ann

Classification: Fiction

Author: Faith Sullivan

Publisher: Crown Publishers

Copyright: 1988

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: This book has touched me. I often wonder about the lil' protagonist and where life has taken her. Curl up with a box of tissues.

Title: The Catcher in the Rye

Classification: Fiction

Author: J.D. Salinger

Publisher: Little Brown

Copyright: 1951

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: All time favorite!!! This book was my bible through high school. Salinger has the great detail and effort put into a character.

Title: The Celestine Prophecy

Classification: Fiction

Author: James Redfield

Publisher: Warner Books

Copyright: 1994

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: The Celestine Prophecy borderlines for a controversial New Age book. Redfield has it at the prophecy being true teachings about coincidence and consciousness.

Title: A Child Called "It"

Classification: Self-help

Author: David J. Pelzer

Publisher: Health Communications

Copyright: 1995

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: A sad but true account of one boy's struggle through one of the worst accounts of child abuse. A definite tear jerker. Pelzer has written several other recovery books.

Title: Clumsy

Classification: Fiction

Author: Jeffrey Brown

Publisher: Top Shelf Productions

Copyright: 2002

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Clumsy is an very honest graphic novel about the author and one of his past loves. A debut of many graphic novels, Jeffrey tells it all with elementary drawings. He is naive, jealous, obsessive b so loveable and honest. He's my new anti-hero.

Title: **Define "Normal"**

Classification: Children's

Author: Julie Anne Peters

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company

Copyright: 2003

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Voted as one of the best books by ALA for Young Adults, this fiction novel has a grea message. Don't judge a book by it's cover. The two main characters are as opposite as possible. And they e pushed to come to terms of what "normal" means. The book is great for any teenager trying to be themselve matter who judges you.

Title: **Dykes To Watch Out For**

Classification: Fiction

Author: Alison Bechdel

Publisher: Firebrand Books

Copyright: 1986

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: As an old school classic, this graphic novel takes you back in the day of the 80's. The graphics are as lewd as the 80's. Dykes To Watch Out For covers everything like the ABC's of lesbians to humorous comics of life as a dyke.

Title: **Flap Your Wings**

Classification: Children's

Author: P.D. Eastman

Publisher: Beginner Books a div of Random House, Inc. Scholastic Book club ed

Copyright: 1969, 1977, 2000

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Another Dr Suess "I can read it all by myself beginner book," offers lessons and entertainment. A misplaced lost egg finds a home with family of birds to be raised. No matter what the baby or may not be the mom and dad bird raise the baby as their own. And one day the baby must learn to fly! It's quick book, good for a bedtime story even for a 25 year old.

Title: **From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler**

Classification: Children's

Author: E. L. Konigsburg

Publisher: Atheneum

Copyright: 1967

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Every child fantasizes about having an adventure. The siblings in this book live it for y as they run away from home and live in a museum. As usual, the novel beats out the movie any day.

Title: **Frommer's SAN FRANCISCO 2006**

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Erika Lenkert

Publisher: Frommer's

Copyright: 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Frommer's is always a safe bet for travel guides. It offers photographs, and maps for neighborhood mentioned, and one big tear out map of the city in the back of the book. The restaurants and hotels mentioned are always rated and so far I have never been let down. Chapters are split up by hotels,

restaurants, shopping, and fun things to do; under each neighborhood. There are tons of website and contact information. The best feature for this book is the maps that offer the cable car, muni, and bart schedules; for those of you who are planning to walk and rely on public transportation. Frommer's always has so much info always offers great travel information.

Title: The Garden of Vegan

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Tanya Barnard and Sarah Kramer

Publisher: Arsenal Pulp Press

Copyright: 2002

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: This book not only offers great tasting recipes, but also party ideas, and vegan beauty. The authors are sassy and hysterical. This is a sequel to "How it All Vegan".

Title: The Giving Tree "35th Anniversary"

Classification: Children's

Author: Shel Silverstein

Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers

Copyright: 1964, 1992

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: An ultimate classic for any age. Shel Silverstein has never written a bad book. The Giving Tree's 35th Anniversary book is a great gift for anyone. It comes in a special cloth slipcase. The story is not just a goodie. It's about a boy and a tree. Through the years the boy changes and has very different needs. The tree is always there willing to offer the boy anything for a little time with the boy.

Title: Good Faeries Bad Faeries

Classification: Religion & Philosophy

Author: Brian Froud

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Editions

Copyright: 1998

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: A cult classic for all Faerie lovers. Froud's work has continued to inspire and intrigue New Age readers. His works include "The Goblins of Labyrinth" and "Rune of Elfland". He also had collaborated with Jim Hensen on the movies "Dark Crystal" and "Labyrinth".

Title: Historic San Francisco

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Rand Richards

Publisher: Heritage House Publishers

Copyright: 1991

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Historic San Francisco gives information that a typical travel book cannot. Rand Richards offers more about my favorite city in his 300 page book than all the previous travel books I have reviewed. Not only can you find out the truth behind fortune cookies being a Japanese treat; but you can map out what lanes made streets used to be part of the bay. Ever wonder how San Francisco picked up the name Barbary Coast? You can learn a lot about a city's current personality by learning its history first.

Title: I Have Chosen To Stay and Fight

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Margaret Cho

Publisher: Riverhead

Copyright: 2005

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: A bit current affairs, a bit political, and a whole lot of Cho humor to make this one of the most entertaining reads in a long time.

Title: I Know a Rhino

Classification: Children's

Author: Charles Fuge

Publisher: Sterling

Copyright: 2002

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: A new book to add to the classic's list. These are the cutest illustrations I've seen in a time. It's a great board book for toddlers, but also a favorite for adults.

Title: I Know This Much Is True

Classification: Fiction

Author: Wally Lamb

Publisher: Harper Collins

Copyright: 1998

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: A long, but great read. Lamb's book will make you believe you know the protagonist personally as he journeys through life with his challenging twin brother. For those of you who like happy end this is a must read. Also, this novel has been included on Oprah's book list.

Title: Imagining Ourselves - Global Voices From A New Generation

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Edited by Paula Goldman Foreword by Isabel Allende

Publisher: New World Library

Copyright: 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: I truly wanted to love this book. How could any feminist not love a book about Women how they're changing the world? It's a great idea, and many different women are listed throughout this book I found most stories, poems or blogs uninteresting, uninspiring. I had a hard time trying to understand the point of the book. There are several women posted in the book with great art, or ideas; even several more women associated with the International Museum of Women, where the book's idea flows over too. However, the book was a let down. I personally know women who would have made the book better, provided the book's objective was more clear.

Title: Ink: the not-just-skin-deep guide to getting a tattoo

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Terisa Green

Publisher: New York: New American Library

Copyright: 2005

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: If you are thinking about getting a tattoo for the first time you MUST read this book. This guide book goes over every thing you need to know to get a safe, and beautiful tattoo. It covers the history of tattooing, the myths of the tattoo world, types of tattoos, flash, picking your artist, picking the right tattoo for placement, aftercare and do's and don't's. It even gives tips for those annoying questions like, "Did that hurt

Title: Inside Out SAN FRANCISCO

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Unknown

Publisher: ?

Copyright: ?

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: The world's smallest travel guide is also one of the best. Inside Out offers a hand held book that includes: two detailed pop out maps (easy to fold back into place), light pen, compass, and travel guide. The maps are among the best I've seen. They're super tiny so you don't look too much like a tourist to fold and unfold a huge map you have no place to lay flat. The travel guide lists every possible neighborhood and the best places to go to. Also, it offers chapters such as Buy it, watch it, taste it, know it, note it, speak it a directory with info on flights to transportation, web sites and annual events. All this info and tools in a guide

smaller than your hands. Inside Out offers guides also to: Chicago, Hong Kong, Orlando, Paris, Toronto, & I etc.

Title: It's Not Easy Being a Bunny

Classification: Children's

Author: Marilyn Sadler Illustrated by Roger Bollen

Publisher: Beginner Books a Division of Random House, Inc.

Copyright: 1983

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: I recently started a collection of Dr Suess's "I can read it all by myself, Beginner Book wanted to have some classic for when I start a family of my own soon. So far I haven't been disappointed. "I not easy being a bunny" is about P.J. Funnybunny not being happy with who he is. Page after page he tries different identities only to find out he likes it best when he is being himself. This Beginner book offers a less well as entertainment.

Title: Kissing in Columbus: Romantic Things To See and Do in and Around Ohio's Capital

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Amber Stephens and Jennifer Poleon

Publisher: Emuses Press

Copyright: 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: A great guide to Columbus. The book talks about unknown romantics restaurants, ho and adventures; along with common hot spots.

Title: More Dykes To Watch Out For

Classification: Fiction

Author: Alison Bechdel

Publisher: Firebrand Books

Copyright: 1988

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Alison Bechdel did it again. This graphic novel might be from the 80's; giving an interesting perspective on life as a lesbian in the crazy 80's, but even in 2006 I can find myself and certain friends in the characters portrayed in these humorous graphic. Bechdel brings back some old characters from her first graphic novel, "Dykes to Watch Out For" and also some fresh faces

Title: The National Geographic Traveler SAN FRANCISCO

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Jerry Camarillo Dunn, Jr.

Publisher: The National Geographic Society

Copyright: 2000

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: This travel guide had awesome photographs, great maps, and tons of history; however, it lacked decent sources of things to do. The hotel suggestions section was a few pages stuffed in the back. Restaurant suggestions were pretty much non-existent. So if you'd rather have a full history and not get lost opposed to knowing what to do in San Francisco this is your travel guide.

Title: New, Improved! Dykes To Watch Out For

Classification: Fiction

Author: Alison Bechdel

Publisher: Firebrand Books

Copyright: 1990

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Alison Bechdel always makes me laugh out loud at her lesbian based graphic novels. 3rd book in the [series](#) "Dykes To Watch Out For;" Bechdel gets more in touch with the characters with a "bio" introducing each main lady in the beginning. The same loveable but challenging Mo is getting touch with her with therapy. We get to see Lois' softer side. And Clarice and Toni look at the meaning of monogamy.

Title: Self-Made Man

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Norah Vincent

Publisher: Penguin Group

Copyright: 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Self-Made Man goes where no woman has gone before. Norah becomes Ned and en manhood to learn the difference between man and woman. As Ned, she joins a bowling team, is employed testosterone driven sales team and even dates women. She offers interesting insight as Ned, as well as No She emerges back into a woman with many ideas that spark one's curiosity, "Who really has it harder, men women?"

Title: Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs*

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Chuck Klosterman

Publisher: Scribner

Copyright: 2003

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Schizophrenic, opinionated but humorous; Chuck Klosterman is a highly intelligent wr with many thoughts but none all too serious. From media, to breakfast cereal, to a Guns-N-Roses tribute ba you'll be angry and laughing at the same time.

Title: Suggestion

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Illegal Art

Publisher: Chronicle Books

Copyright: 2005

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Suggestion is a book of just that suggestions. Illegal Art walked through New York Cit with a suggestion box, asking the people on the street to make suggestions of any kind. Each page is a new suggestions from the serious, to the funny, to sad, to political, to the religious. Complete with grammatical e and poor handwriting, some in other languages and some written by children. This book is a fun must have.


Title: Unlikely

Classification: Fiction

Author: Jeffrey Brown

Publisher: Top Shelf Productions

Copyright: 2003

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Jeffrey Brown has done it again, in his tell all graphic novel about his first girlfriend. Fi the start you know they're all wrong for each other. But Jeffrey's hope for his first love is hopeful and vulnera After reading three of Brown's graphic novels I wonder if he is doomed for life in the love department.

Title: Wedding Favors & Decorations

Classification: Self-help

Author: Paffrath, Grasdal, & Mcree

Publisher: Quarry Books

Copyright: 2004

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: The book had some decent craft ideas. Some of the suggested wedding favors aren't practical. If someone was having a small wedding some of the decorations might be affordable and practica could see Martha Stewart cringing.

Title: The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill

Classification: Social, World & Cultural Studies

Author: Mark Bittner

Publisher: Harmony Books

Copyright: 2004

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: On the cover of the book it says, "A Love Story....with Wings." There really is no better to describe this amazing book. Mark Bittner is an old soul living in San Francisco; down on his luck he discovers a flock of wild non-native parrots and falls in love with them. The story teaches about fulfilling dreams, trust, love. By the end of this book you'll be wishing to live on Telegraph Hill watching these beautiful creatures that could show the world what it is to really live and love.

Title: Will you still love me if I wet the Bed?

Classification: Fiction

Author: Liz Prince

Publisher: Top Shelf Productions

Copyright: 2005

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: This is by far the best graphic novel I ever read! Liz Prince offers a look into her relationship with her boyfriend; with cute comics about love and the odd things we say to each other when it's just you and your lover. You'll read this and laugh out loud at how similar it is to your own relationship. There is a better way to describe it than to say, "read it!"

Title: Women's Comfort Book: A Shelf Nurturing Guide for Restoring Balance in Your Life

Classification: Self-help

Author: Jennifer Louden

Publisher: Harper

Copyright: 1978

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: A women's self-help bible. The Comfort Book is full of ideas to unwind, relax, heal and add comfort to your life.

Title: The Worst-case Scenario Survival Handbook: Weddings

Classification: Self-help

Author: Joshua Piven, David Borgenicht & Sarah Jordan

Publisher: Chronicle Books LLC

Copyright: 2005

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: If there is one book to read in preparation for your wedding this is it. Your wedding is supposed to be a perfect day. What do you do if you spill red wine on your dress? Or if you can't fit your ring on your finger? What do you do if you break a heel on your shoe? Or what kind of thank you card do you send for a certain gift. All this and more you can find out in this hysterical and practical book.

Title: An Unquiet Mind

Classification: Self-help

Author: Kay Redfield James

Publisher: Vintage

Copyright: 1997

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: James is one of the leading writers, doctors and spokeswomen for the Bi-Polar Disorder. An Unquiet Mind is a true account of her life with this disease. It offers hope and information for anyone struggling with Manic-Depression. The author adds a personal touch with an occasional poetic