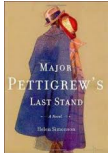


For the Love of Reading

September's Books Plus Discussion



Both a British comedy of errors and a sweet love story, *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* has enough to please a wide range of readers. Major Pettigrew is retired and living a quiet widow's life in a small town in Sussex. As his friendship with Mrs. Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper, becomes something more, complications - both large and small, funny and serious - arise. Join us to discuss Simonson's first novel next week during our monthly Books Plus book discussion.

For more details of this and future programs, please see below.

Books Plus meets the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome. Join the discussion or simply come to listen.

2 p.m., First Sundays

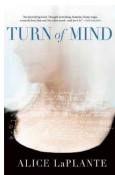
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[For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Library Program](#)

Posted by Sarah B. on Aug 27, 2011 [Sarah B.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



Turn of Mind



This week Tennessee Lady Vol's basketball coach, Pat Summitt, made headlines with her announcement that she had developed Alzheimer's disease. Coincidentally, I was reading this very readable novel on the same subject.

But how do you write a book from the viewpoint of someone suffering from this disease? Not only write it but combine it with a family drama and a murder mystery? This engrossing book does all of these beautifully.

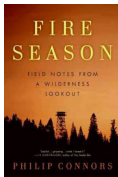
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Posted by Dory L. on Aug 26, 2011 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [1 comment](#)



Fire Season: Field Notes from a Wilderness Lookout



This book describes my dream job, being a fire lookout out west. I could handle the wild creatures, the solitude, even the lightning strikes, but maybe not cleaning out the cistern after vandals pollute it. In the tradition of writers, Jack Kerouac, Gary Snyder, Edward Abbey and Norman Maclean. Philip Connors leaves his job as a *Wall Street Journal* editor and while on vacation signs up on the spot to detect fires for the National Forest Service, or as he jokingly calls it "The National Forest Circus."

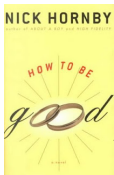
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Posted by Dory L. on Aug 20, 2011 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



How to be Good



As a person raised Catholic, I was drawn to the topic of this novel. Who doesn't want to be a kind, caring person? To do good works? To make the world a bit better each day? OK, maybe not serial killers, some Wall Street tycoons, mafia types, mercenaries, etc. but on the whole most people try (at least part of the time) to be good.

This 2001 [Nick Hornby](#) novel zeroes in on Dr. Katie Carr, a London wife and mother, who deals with boils and warts and patients struggling to breathe. She's a physician for Britain's National Health Service. She's married to David, a stay-at-home husband who writes an acerbic column for the local paper about all the myriad things that send him into rages, for instance, the elderly not taking their reserved seats in the front of bus and annoying other passengers by tottering when the bus suddenly stops.

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Posted by Dory L. on Aug 15, 2011 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



"Why Do We Care About Literary Awards?"



Asking that question is Mark O'Connell at [The Millions](#). He makes a good point: it is kind of ridiculous how seriously people take these things, how offended people can get if their favorite isn't chosen. There's no way for one award to please everyone, to choose the one book that is truly, objectively the best--there is very little "objective" anything when it comes to art. However, for librarians these awards are pretty indispensable. You'll see plenty of posts on this blog, for example, about winners and shortlists. We use them when deciding what to buy, what to recommend to people, what to read ourselves. Maybe it would be better if everyone read all of the books and judged every one for themselves, but that's never going to happen. **[Read more »](#)**
[For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Award Winner](#)
Posted by Meg K. on Aug 9, 2011 [Meg K.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)

