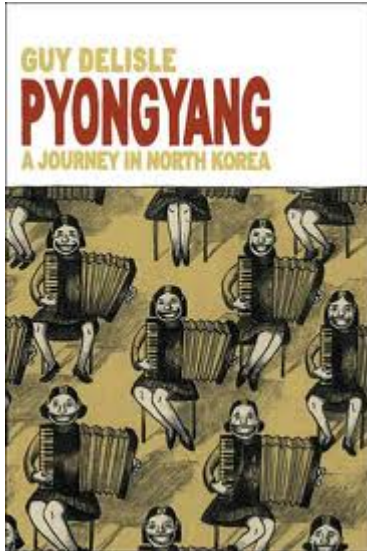


For the Love of Reading

[Graphic Novels from Guy Delisle](#)



People often read travel books of places of either exotic places they want to visit, or of a beloved travel destination. I would think that a travel book of a destination that most people don't ever want to visit wouldn't exactly be very engaging. Guy Delisle proves me wrong.

Delisle is a French Canadian whose work in animation has taken him to some interesting and not so interesting places. Two of these locations have become novel length graphic novels. Delisle has a knack for taking the ridiculous and mundane and making them funny and smart. [Pyongyang](#) chronicles Delisle's stay in North Korea that extends over several months for his job. The charcoal drawings reflect the drab and sterile city. Delisle tries to get to know the residents, but is often thwarted by his guide, translator and driver, with whom Delisle isn't to be without. He is taken to some creepy (and sometimes funny) monuments to the Eternal President. The insights and details are surprising and delightful. Even if you aren't the least curious about North Korea, I would still recommend this title.

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Posted by Sarah B. on Nov 30, 2011 [Sarah B.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)

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[Books Plus Holiday Tea](#)



As the weather turns cold and blustery and sunset comes earlier and earlier there's nothing better than to curl up with a good book.

Next Sunday, we'll have our annual holiday tea. Amal will bring her delicious cake and the Friends of the Library will provide lovely desserts and fruit as well as hot drinks. But the best ingredient is YOU!

Please come and share the titles of books that you have enjoyed this year and with your ideas for new Books Plus programs in 2012. We will also have lists of recommended books for 2011.

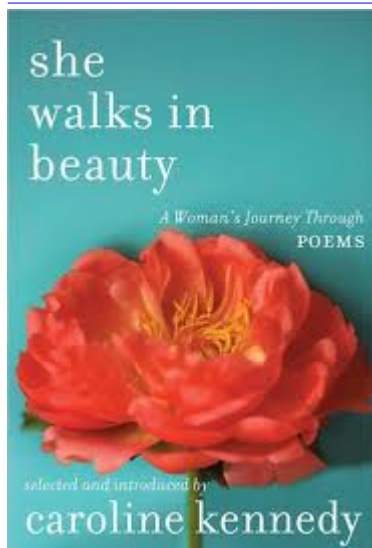
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Posted by Sarah B. on Nov 26, 2011 [Sarah B.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



[She Walks in Beauty: a Woman's Journey through POEMS](#)



Following in her mother's footsteps, Caroline Kennedy has always had a passion for books and literature. After being first lady, Jackie Onassis edited books on art and culture, but she also had a great love for poetry.

Caroline's latest anthology [She Walks in Beauty: a Woman's Journey through POEMS](#) is a collection geared more for women than for men, although the poems themselves are written by both sexes.

The book includes very large sections on "Marriage" and "Growing Up and Growing Old" as well as sections on "Love" in all its aspects--falling, making, and breaking up. She also has gathered poems on "Work," "Friendship," and "Beauty, Clothes, and Things of This World."

Two of my favorite sections are somewhat unexpected; they include "Silence and Solitude" and "How to Live." The latter compendium does what poetry does best, shows us what elements are truly important in our lives.

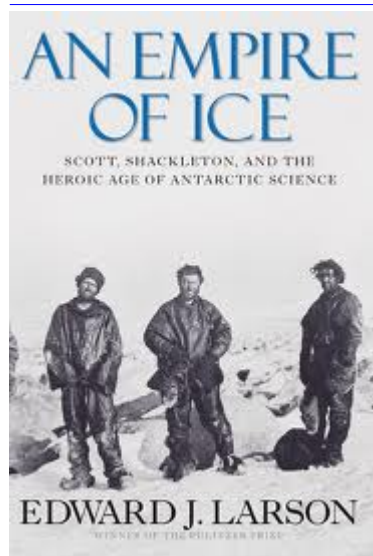
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Posted by Dory L. on Nov 17, 2011 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)

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[**An Empire of Ice: Scott, Shackleton, and the Heroic Age of Antarctic Science**](#)



While most books about the Arctic or Antarctic focus on just one thing--the indomitable quest to reach one of the poles--this book has a much broader canvas--it covers the equally arduous work of making new scientific discoveries during the age of great polar exploration.

This broader canvas allows the reader to learn about biological, geological, and meteorological phenomena but also about the cost of empire. England sponsored many of these expeditions while this country held political dominion over one quarter of the world. And as the twentieth century dawned, political power was changing rapidly. Britain had lost face in the Boer Wars in Africa and needed heroism and success to bolster its image abroad and its people's faith in the government and military as Germany, France, and the United States were becoming arch competitors.

But the book is mostly about science and adventure under the most brutal conditions. At one point Scott and Shackleton dock near an ice floe and decide it's time to use a hot-air balloon to get a better view of the landscape ahead. In this totally unpeopled land, Scott rides up into the air and views the vast white expanse. For most of us, such a view would provoke sheer terror. And Scott himself was a little nervous in the little bamboo basket. I kept thinking, what if he falls out.

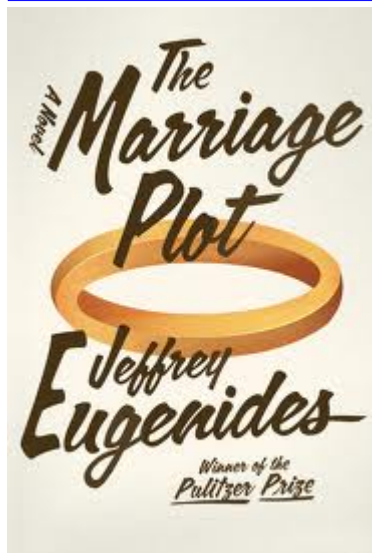
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Posted by Dory L. on Nov 15, 2011 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)

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[Is it that time of year already?](#)



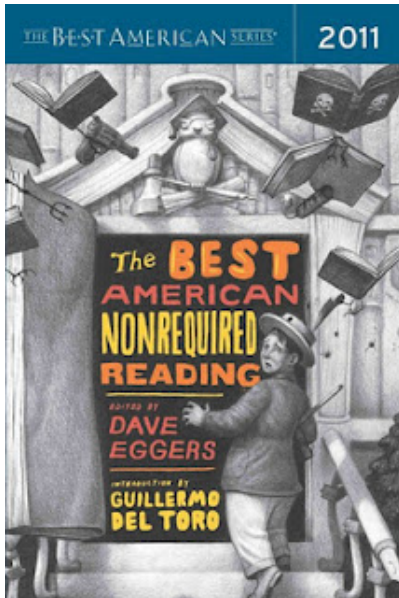
In a world of massive amounts of information, I am a sucker for top ten or best-of lists. I appreciate when someone else condenses something into a short and sweet list, something easy to scan and hopefully points you in the right direction. November brings the earliest end-of-the-year best-of lists and both Amazon and Publisher's Weekly are some of the first to announce their top ten books of the year. Maybe not too shockingly, [Amazon's list](#) is pretty predictable with a lot of best sellers, or other books that got a lot of buzz, including debut-darling [TÃ©a Obrecht](#), [Erik Larson](#), and the new [Steve Jobs bio](#). [Read more »](#)

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Posted by Sarah B. on Nov 9, 2011 [Sarah B.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)

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[The Best American Nonrequired Reading: 2011](#)



Forget the bland title, the latest [Best American Nonrequired Reading](#) presents a fresh, amusing, and wide-ranging compendium of last year's best nonfiction and fiction.

It's not just the writing that is fresh but the kinds of content that editor [Dave Eggers](#) chose to include are both imaginative and often cutting edge including such categories as: Best American Band Names, Best American Ominous Place Names, Best American Call of Duty Handles, Best Wikileaks Revelations, and Best American Commune Names. The reader senses not only a vibrant sense of humor (see Best American Categories that Got Cut) but someone behind the scenes who is curious, wide-reading, and always eager to learn something new. Also, someone with a great sense of humor.

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Posted by Dory L. on Nov 3, 2011 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



[November's Books Plus and Author Visit](#)



As the leaves turn bright orange and the cold weather returns, it feels great to curl up with a good book. Why not transport yourself back to Italy during World War II with James McBride's [Miracle at St. Anna](#)? Join us for a book discussion this coming Sunday. Also, the MCPL Friends of the Library will be hosting "An Evening with James McBride" on November 12th. If you can come to both events, that would be great. If not, we hope to see you at our Books Plus talk.

McBride, who also wrote the best-selling memoir [The Color of Water](#) about growing up in a mixed-race family, is also a jazz musician. ***Miracle of St. Anna*** tells the story of a soldier in the 92nd all-black Buffalo Division during World War II. Four of these GIs take care of a traumatized Italian boy. The book examines issues of race, war, and evil as well as the nature of love and caring.

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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Posted by Sarah B. on Nov 1, 2011 [Sarah B.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)

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