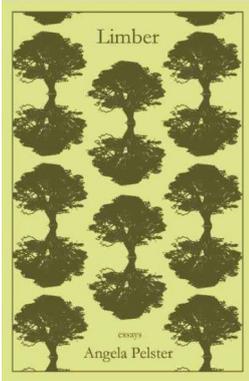


# Dory L.'s blog

## Limber



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**ISBN:**

9781936747757

Nature, particularly trees are central to this lovely book of essays. Several of the narratives were unusual enough that I wondered if they had been fictionalized. They seemed more like creative nonfiction than essays. For instance, "Moon Trees" begins with this sentence, "There are cinnabar trees growing on the moon." But soon the world of facts and interesting ones becomes paramount.

Did you know that astronaut Stuart Roosa brought lots of tree seeds—katsura, loblolly pine, sycamore, sweet gum, and redbud onto Apollo 14's moon expedition? Unfortunately, he did not get chosen to land on the moon so he brought these seeds back, and 450 of them were planted and studied by scientists. But they just grew normally like tree seeds that had never left Earth. However, for a brief while, Roosa got to combine his early career as a forest service Smoke Jumper (saving beautiful trees) and an astronaut whirling through space.

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Posted by Dory L. on Sep 10, 2014 [Add new comment](#)



## The New York Dog



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**ISBN:**

9781617690907

There are dog people in this world and then there others! Sorry, cat *afionados*. But for you lovers of all things canine, this new book of photographs with New Yorker's "best friend" stories will charm you. When you think of it, what could be more counterintuitive than a Manhattan or Brooklynite pup? Imagine the crowds (*homo sapien* primarily), the honking horns, lights, and police and fire sirens. It's enough to set even a human howling.

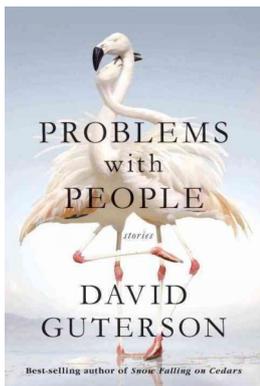
The photos are lovely. They include: an endearing poodle with its mouth open leaning into the wind from a cab window, a Great Dane crossing a car-filled side street, and several mixed breeds running free past colorful graffitied walls. There's even a refreshing series of summer beach scenes with dogs coated in sand or racing into the surf. Famous photographer William Wegman is shown with four of his graceful dog models: Flo, Topper, Candy, and Bobbin.

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## Problems with People



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**ISBN:**

9780385351485

This is Guterson's first story collection in nearly twenty years. Ignore the bland title for these stories set in his native Northwest and in foreign countries including Germany, South Africa, and Nepal are muscular, well-written, and anchored with a deep sense of place. An air of melancholy and of possible tragedy hangs over a few of them, especially two of my favorites, "Pilanesberg" and "Krassavitseh."

In "Pilanesberg" a brother visits his sister in Africa to go wildlife viewing, but you soon discover that the sister has cancer and her favorite thing to do is "sleep." They share a wonderful experience viewing big mammals: elephants, tigers, etc. but the trip is marred by the fact that they animals are fenced in, and the couple find themselves at dusk locked in as well. Next follows a humorous and ludicrous conversation with the gatekeeper who says he cannot let them out.

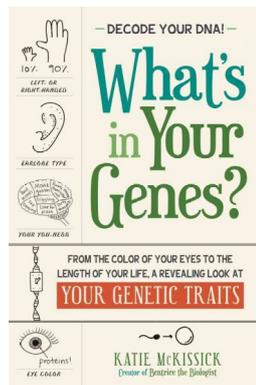
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Posted by Dory L. on Aug 25, 2014 [Add new comment](#)



## From the color of Your Eyes to Your Type of Earwax



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**ISBN:**

9781440567643

If the last thing you learned about genes was Gregor Mendel's pea pod experiments, you might want to try this easy to read science book to get up to speed about many fascinating changes in hereditary theory.

For instance, humans have only 20,000 to 25,000 genes, downgraded from a previous estimate of 100,000. In comparison, a tiny water flea--barely visible to our naked eye--has about 31,000. You've heard the word genome in the news and on PBS. Your genome is your full set of genes. Every cell in your body gets a copy of the full set although each cell cannot read all of them. By the way, the word "cell" came from Robert Hooke, the first person who saw them in the 1600s. When he first discovered them under a microscope, they reminded him of monks' cells.

Other interesting facts about your genome. The chromosomes scientists have discovered have something to do with either inherited diseases or traits. For instance, chromosome 1 is associated with deafness, schizophrenia and maple syrup disease. (You read that right!) If you have red hair, thank chromosome 2. Blue or green eyes? Chromosome 19 is for you. And yes, previously scientists thought that there were only two possibilities for eye color: brown or blue. Those green eyes, they just tagged as a variant of blue.

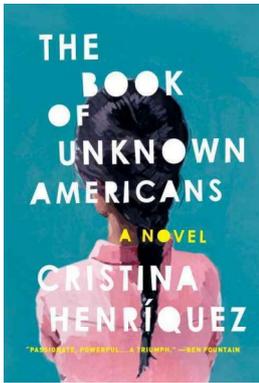
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[For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Nonfiction Science What's in Your Genes?](#)

Posted by Dory L. on Aug 21, 2014 [Add new comment](#)



## The Book of Unknown Americans



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**ISBN:**

9780385350846

With immigration a hot button issue both politically and in the news, it was interesting to read Cristina Henríquez's second novel *The Book of Unknown Americans*. It tells the stories of various immigrants (from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and other Latin American countries) who have all landed in Delaware.

The book opens with a family's arrival at night from the border. A paid driver has brought Arturo, Alma, and their daughter Maribel to this immigrant enclave outside of Dover. They are legal immigrants given papers to work on a mushroom farm. Or at least Arturo will work there. They have come primarily to get special schooling for 15 year old Maribel who fell off a ladder at her father's construction site in Mexico and has brain damage.

The story of this family is the heartwood of the novel. But woven in are life stories of other immigrants including a boxer, who came to the states to win matches but became instead a landlord, and an actress who worked hard to make it in New York City, but came to Delaware and formed her own theatre.

This beautiful books gives you a feel of how hard it is to start life over in a new place, not understanding the language or culture. It also explores issues of guilt and secrecy, and how they affect even the strongest of marriages.

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[For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Fiction Multicultural The Book of Unknown Americans](#)

Posted by Dory L. on Aug 18, 2014 [Add new comment](#)



## Touching Strangers



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**ISBN:**

9781597112499

Anyone with the ability to get a stranger to pose for a camera while touching two or three other strangers in New York City must have both courage and amazing diplomatic skills. Enter photographer Richard Renaldi. Since 2007 Renaldi has been hauling his big, 8 by 10 inch view camera not just around New York, but around other cities and towns across America. This cool involving book presents some of the amazing portraits he's created.

The juxtapositions are captivating: ages, races, classes, sexes, outfits, jewelry, tattoos, and indoor and outdoor settings all present a panoply of portraits of 21<sup>st</sup> century Americans. In 'Jesse and Michael,' a bearded middle-aged man in an orange sweatshirt and woolen cap clutches the hands of a very old woman wearing a wig, with her cane draped over her purse. Atlantic Ocean waves break behind them.

'Pedro and Neal' touch in some kind of shop or factory. Pedro sits, his body exuding confidence and authority, a radio attached to his shirt. Neal in a blue cap has claimed a perch on Pedro's desk and Neal places one hand on Pedro's shoulder, another around his wrist.

'Michael and Sarah' look like they could be engaged. Sarah leans into Michael's shoulder on the NYC subway during winter—both wear coats and hats; their opposite hands are clasped on Sarah's left wrist.

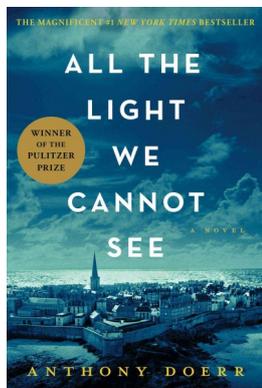
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Posted by Dory L. on Aug 13, 2014 [Add new comment](#)



## All the Light We Cannot See



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**ISBN:**

9781476746586

A blind French girl. A brilliant German boy. A locksmith who works at a world-class museum. A French resistance worker who doubles as a housewife. An agoraphobic great uncle who has not left home since the close of the last war, WW1. A Nazi army gem expert who prowls after a world-class jewel that he believes will cure his advanced cancer.

These are the main characters that people this fascinating WWII novel. Tying them all together are radio signals and a blue diamond worth millions.

The novel alternates (mostly) between the points of view of Marie-Laure, a blind girl and Werner, an orphan who teaches himself advanced radio skills. Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six. Just after the German occupation, she and her locksmith father flee Paris, but soon after the Germans take and imprison her father.

A myth surrounds the blue diamond itself. Marie-Laure learned about the diamond early in her life. The myth says that anyone who carries it will have bad luck befall them. Unfortunately, the museum director entrusts the locksmith with this diamond as the Germans enter Paris. He also ordered two other duplicates

created to confuse anyone trying to track the diamond. None of the three employees trusted with the diamond know who has the real one.

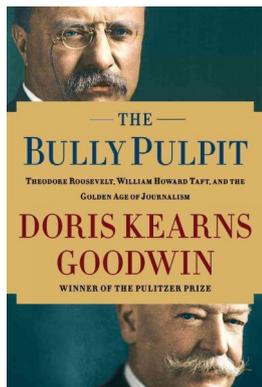
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Posted by Dory L. on Jul 21, 2014 [Add new comment](#)



## Carnegie Award Winners Announced



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**ISBN:**

9781416547860

Since 2012, the American Library Association has chosen a best book for adult readers in both fiction and nonfiction that were published in the U.S. in the previous year. Drumroll!!! This year's winners are *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism* by Doris Kearns Goodwin and *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tart.

Both books have received excellent reviews. *The Bully Pulpit* focuses on the great friendship between Roosevelt and Taft that was severely tried when they ran against each other for president in 1912. It also vividly describes the muckraking era in American journalism, so far removed from our journalism today, but having left a great influence on it.

*The Goldfinch*, reviewed here previously, tells the story of a young boy's sense of loss after being bombed in a museum and losing his mother. In the craziness after the bombing, he grabs the small painting of the title--a 13 and 1/4 by 9 inch work by the Dutch artist, Carol Fabritius, that was painted in 1654. Theodore's life spins out of control and he keeps this painting for years. It's a novel about art, relationships, and how circumstances can change the course of a life in a single moment.

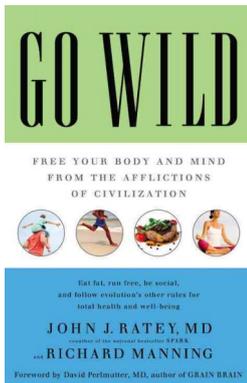
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[For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Andrew Carnegie Award Medals for Excellence Award Winner](#)

Posted by Dory L. on Jul 9, 2014 [Add new comment](#)



## Go Wild: Free Your Body and Mind from the Afflictions of Civilization



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**ISBN:**

9780316246095

This book is not about nature as I'd first thought, except for the fact that it recommends running in those glove-like shoes on outdoor trails. It is a book about health, however?how to keep it, how to get it back in a tense, stress-filled world.

What I like best about it is how the two authors, one a doctor, the other a science journalist cull recent research for results on diets and life-techniques that really work include cutting back on carbs, sleeping eight hours, spending time moving outdoors and meditation.

One study confirmed that Japanese businessmen had a 40% increase in their immune response after just one walk in the woods. Even more surprising is that this lasted for more than a month. The results in improved health and awareness for those that meditate were particularly powerful. Even novice meditators had an increased immune response to a flu virus than others."

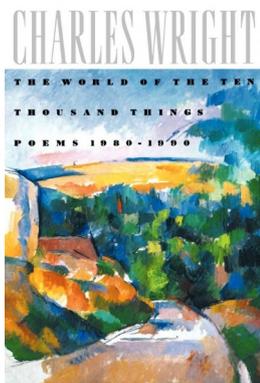
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[For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Go Wild: Free Your Body and Mind from the Afflictions of Civilization Nonfiction](#)

Posted by Dory L. on Jul 5, 2014 [Add new comment](#)



## New U.S. Poet Laureate Announced



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**ISBN:**

0374523266

The Library of Congress just appointed Charles Wright from Virginia to be our new national poet laureate. Some of our best contemporary poets have brought their energy and vision to promote this ancient, ever-changing art. Recent poets laureate have included: Billy Collins, Natasha Trethewey, Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove, Ted Kooser, and Kay Ryan.

Some of their projects live on. Ted Kooser created a free weekly newspaper column called American Life in Poetry that features work each week by a different poet. Billy Collins started Poetry 180 a website that has spawned at least two books that have brought accessible poetry to high school students and the general public. Natasha Trethewey started a series on PBS's The News Hour called Where Poetry Lives. It includes segments of contemporary poets reading their own work and describing how it came to be.

And what, you might ask, will Charles Wright do? In the *New York Times* announcement of his post, Wright said that he and his wife spend two summer months each year in a remote corner of Montana. He will envision his new project there, something worthy of the tradition that earlier appointees have started.

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For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Charles Wright Appointed to be New U.S. Poet Laureate Poetry

Posted by Dory L. on Jun 25, 2014 Add new comment



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