

Adventure

Darth Vader Vol. 1 by Kieron Gillen



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Star Wars Darth Vader: Vol. 1 by Kieron Gillen fills in a necessary gap in the Star Wars canon, and could help fill the time before *Star Wars: Rogue One* arrives in theaters. Gillen's Vader is trying to learn the identity of the young pilot who destroyed the Death Star, as well as regain the favor of Emperor Palpatine after failing to stop the Rebel Alliance. As Vader goes on these dual missions, he is forced to hire agents who can act as his public face. [Read more](#)

Posted by Sam O. on December 14, 2016

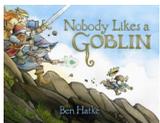
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Nobody Likes a Goblin by Ben Hatke



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Nobody Likes a Goblin by Ben Hatke is a funny fantasy story that flips the classic hero dynamic on its head. Hatke tells the story of a goblin in a dungeon who enjoys a pleasant life counting treasure and spending time with the Skeleton King, when a band of ?heroes? barge into the dungeon, pillage his treasure and take his friend. This event sparks the goblin's odyssey as he leaves the comfort of his dungeon to search for his friend, braving danger and fleeing pitchfork wielding farmers at every step. [Read more](#)

Posted by Sam O. on December 14, 2016

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[Sam O.'s blog](#)

The Inquisitor's Tale by Adam Gidwitz



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Gidwitz tackles a slice of medieval history in the style of *The Canterbury Tales* and much of the book is narrated by various individuals being interviewed in a local inn. This story follows a young peasant girl with prophetic visions, a young monk with supernatural strength, and a young Jewish villager who can heal any wound (as well as the aforementioned Holy Dog). [Read more](#)
Posted by Sam O. on December 14, 2016

- [The Inquisitor's Tale, or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog](#)

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The Wild Robot by Peter Brown



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Peter Brown's foray into middle-grade literature, *The Wild Robot* is a heartwarming story about a robot stranded on an island only populated by animals. Our heroine, the robot Roz, must learn how to survive on the island and how to coexist with the variety of animals who already inhabit the island. Roz is programmed to learn and adapt to her surroundings and eventually she learns how to communicate with the animals. After disguising herself as a bush, a boulder, or flower patch, and eventually earns their trust. [Read more](#)

Posted by Sam O. on December 13, 2016

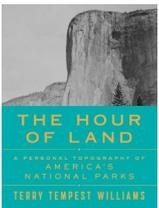
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Happy Birthday, National Park Service, 100 Years!



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Terry Tempest Williams writes passionately about our natural world in the tradition of Thoreau, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Annie Dillard, and Edward Abbey.

This book--timed to come out with the hundredth anniversary of the National Park System--argues strongly about the necessity of keeping our park lands protected. It also reinforces why we need them in our modern world.

"Whenever I go to a national park, I meet the miraculous," she writes in the opening section.

She also says that our national parks "are blood. They are more than scenery, they are portals and thresholds of wonder." Having just returned from Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons, I heartily second that.

Although she has visited many parks, and some, over and over, she has chosen twelve to

highlight here. And I love how she does it. Not only does she share personal anecdotes about each of the twelve, but she uses various formats to do so. For example, in the Big Bend section, she includes journal entries she wrote while there. Through riffs, all on a color theme, she shares what she saw and experienced there. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on July 22, 2016

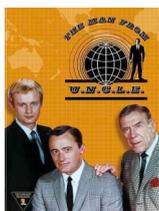
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The Man From U.N.C.L.E. (Television Series)



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The 1960's was the time of the 'Cold War' and the 'Iron Curtain'. Both of these terms were indicative of our relationship with Russia during those years. We may not have been in a shooting war, but we were very much at odds with them in terms of our political philosophies and both countries were very much concerned that these differing political philosophies would spread or worse contaminate their own people. So it is surprising that one of the most popular spy shows on television in the sixties featured an organization made up of agents from many different countries with no regard to the political affiliation or beliefs of their home countries. In fact, the organization's two top agents and their best team consisted of American agent Napoleon Solo (Robert Vaughn) and Russian agent Illya Kuryakin (David McCallum). The series was known as '*The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*' and it was popular enough to spawn several made-for-TV movies, a spin-off series known as '*The Girl from U.N.C.L.E.*?' and an attempted movie reboot in 2015. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on June 21, 2016

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