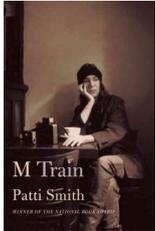


## Writing

# M Train



[view in catalog](#)

This absorbing new memoir by artist, poet, performer, and rock star Patti Smith provides a personal take on her daily life: her dreams, philosophical musings, friendships and myriad exotic journeys. Favorite black jacket, check. Watch cap, check. Black coffee at Café ?Ino, check. Unlike *Just Kids*, which focused on her past, her life with artist Mapplethorpe in the famous Chelsea Hotel, in this book the past and present intertwine. Coffee, the connecting themes. Appropriately enough, it begins with a dream. One of many that thread through the book. Next Patti describes her trip to French Guiana in the 70s. After her husband promised her a trip anyway in the world. Patti--idiosyncratic as always--chose the place where French writer Genet was imprisoned. They were almost jailed themselves on the way back when their driver was caught ferrying a man in the trunk to the airport. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on January 14, 2016

- [M Train](#)

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# The Art of Memoir



[view in catalog](#)

Mary Karr is known for her series of memoirs about her difficult childhood. In this new book about how to write a memoir, she quotes from some of the best works in the genre including McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, Nabokov's *Speak, Memory*, and *Wild: from Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* by a former student of hers, Cheryl Strayed.

What exactly is a memoir? The name is very descriptive. It's a work based on memory. But it's not the same as an autobiography for it concentrates on a specific period of life and is centered by a theme. For instance, Jeanette Winterson's *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* chronicles a teenager's adoption into a strict fundamentalist family, her adopted mom's mistreatment of her, and her eventual rebellion from this way of life. It's a memoir about a young woman discovering her true self.

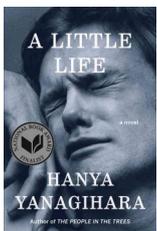
Karr has plenty of what she considers the prime ingredient for a memoir's voice. She defines voice as "not just a manner of talking, it's an operative mindset and way of perceiving?" You could describe Karr's voice as sassy, informal, sometimes even, badass. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 7, 2015

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## Prestigious Man Booker Prize Announces Short List



[view in catalog](#)

It's that time of year again when the [Man Booker Prize](#) whittles its choices down to a manageable six. The Man Booker Award, begun in 1969, is one of the most prestigious literary awards.

It was formerly limited to writers from the UK and Commonwealth, the Republic of Ireland and Zimbabwe. In a move many British writers recented, last year it was opened to Americans for the

first time. Many Brits felt that the Yankees would take over it. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on September 21, 2015

- [The Man Booker Prize Announces their 2015 Short List](#)

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## Gellhorn: A Twentieth-Century Life

**GELLHORN**  
A TWENTIETH-CENTURY LIFE



[view in catalog](#)

?I was never deeply interested in being a child.? Twentieth-century war correspondent and novelist, Gellhorn always said these words would open her autobiography if she ever wrote one. Unfortunately, she never did but Moorehead?s deeply researched biography of the writer is so rich with Gellhorn?s work, family life, love affairs, and travels that probably not even Gellhorn could have gotten it down with such precision. Also, Moorehead provides a rich tapestry of historical and cultural information for the nine decades of Martha?s life.

During WW 11, the military refused to give her a pass to Normandy for the German invasion, so Martha sneaked aboard a troop ship and hid in the bathroom until they were well at sea.

Her father, an ex-German doctor settled in St. Louis and married Edna, an intelligent member of the local upper class. Both parents were half Jewish. One of the fascinating things in this book is to discover the lifelong extremely close connection between mother and daughter. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on August 5, 2015

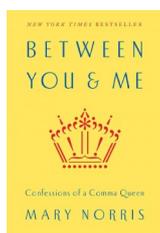
- [Gellhorn: A Twentieth-Century Life](#)

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# Between You & Me: confessions of a comma queen



[view in catalog](#)

Are you a grammar *aficionado*? Do you love learning the ins and outs of different jobs? Do you like reaffirming that your grammar and punctuation is spot-on, or why and how it has strayed from the path of correctness? If so, Mary Norris's *Between You & Me* is exactly right for you. Norris describes her life before and during her thirty year tenure at *The New Yorker* as a copy writer with the detailed knowledge to make sure that the correct word, usage and punctuation is always employed. To accomplish that, her best tool (other than her comprehensive knowledge of grammar) was her noteworthy stash of No. 1 pencils. What an odyssey it was to keep a supply of the best proofreading pencil in the world. And those in a perfect working state. Solution: a passionate epistolary correspondence with one manufacturer of the yellow-painted rods.

With humor and great descriptive ability Norris describes her first jobs, as a foot checker at a public swimming pool (checking for Athletes foot before swimmers entered the pool), and milkman?make that milkwoman--a job those under fifty may not even know existed. Later, she went to graduate school in literature, and moved to New York where she took a few lowly desk jobs before she scored an interview at America's most prestigious literary magazine, *The New Yorker*. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on April 22, 2015

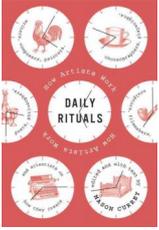
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## How Artists Work



[view in catalog](#)

Do you believe creative artists should be disciplined? Honor routines? Sit (or stand) at their desks, go to their studio every day? Or do you think they should be free spirits? Explore the world? Pound the pavements; hike in the woods? Visit coffee shops and saloons and meet people? Write or paint or compose as the feeling strikes them? Perhaps after delving into this book of 161 summaries of artists' routines, you will change your mind.

It's surprising how many of these creative spirits rise at sunbreak and commence work quickly. This book gets into the nitty gritty. Did you know that Beethoven made his own coffee every day? He routinely counted out sixty coffee beans. He also loved to bathe before a sink, splashing pitchers full of water over himself, but unfortunately, this water spilled on the floor and dribbled downstairs to his landlord's place, forcing the owner to put a concrete base under the great composer's sink. The esteemed composer's servants also had a laugh-fest each time he bathed because he did so while "bellowing up and down the scales." [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on April 14, 2014

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