

For the Love of Reading

The Vegetarian



[view in catalog](#)

For me, books are a form of traveling to distant places, places I will probably never see. Because of this, I decided to check out this Man Booker Prize winner about South Korea.

My experience with books set in Korea has centered on North Korea—mostly nonfiction, except for Adam Johnson's stellar novel *The Orphan Master's Son* that won the Pulitzer in 2012.

The Vegetarian begins with the speaker, Cheong, saying, "Before my wife turned vegetarian, I'd always thought of her as unremarkable in every way." Cheong, an ambitious businessman, then states that he deliberately chose his wife because she was so bland.

But late one night, Yeong-hye wakes from a dream. Cheong finds her in the kitchen in the dark; she does not respond to his words or even his touch. The next day, Yeong-hye, almost in a trancelike state, throws away all the meat and fish from their refrigerator and freezer. She never willingly eats flesh again. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on March 16, 2017

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Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk



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Solitur Ambulande, solved by walking, could be the motto of this novel. And if you, like me, process the world while strolling through town or the woods, you'll love this book.

Two alternating stories thread through it. In one, it's the 1980s, and New York City still has a crime problem, so people fear walking at night. Most, that is, except for Lillian Boxfish, an octogenarian advertising maven (retired) and a poet. It's New Year's 1985, and a ten-mile,

round trip walk from upper Manhattan to the Bowery and the Village is no big deal for her. The second story first-time novelist Kathleen Rooney weaves tells Lillian's history in the Big Apple. After moving to New York from D.C. in the roaring twenties, Lillian immediately felt at home. She began living in Manhattan in a sheltered rooming house with strict curfews and rules against male visitors. Lillian and her childhood girlfriend got around these rules by organizing Shakespearean theater pieces to which they invited eligible bachelors. Later, they'd head out on the town with them, and coming back hours after curfew, they'd tip the front desk person, and steal back to their rooms. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on March 1, 2017

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Caraval by Stephanie Garber



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Scarlett has been writing to Legend every year for the past 7 years, but this year, she finally got the letter right. Legend is the master of Caraval, a magical, mysterious game where the winner's get fame, glory, and, this time, a wish. Scarlett and her sister Tella have been invited to Caraval, but Scarlett is about to marry a Count and finally take her sister away from their tiny island and their abusive father. If she leaves to play the game, she could ruin everything. [Read more](#)

Posted by Becky F. on February 14, 2017

[Caraval](#)

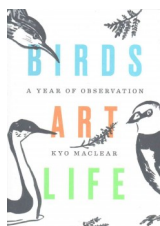
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Birds, Art, Life: a Year of Observation



[view in catalog](#)

If you love the natural world, this little book about birding will entice you. It's also about much more: how to be in the world, parenting, partnering, creativity, and friendship. She also explores the first books people fell in love with, celebrity eyebrows, art, and especially how to make peace

with the roaring, anxious self inside you.

Maclear, a Canadian author of children's books, decides after a heavy stint caring for her aged father after suffering two strokes that she needed to take up a hobby for herself. She is also a mom raising two young boys, the younger of which, has the weird propensity for falling, resulting in emergency room visits.

First, she plans to take up drawing again. But the renowned teacher she interviews about lessons seemed too structured for her. As you can see in the beautiful line drawings, she also spent a year with pen and ink.

One night her husband suggests that she look at some bird photographs taken by the musician who scored his latest film. These bird pictures wowed Kyo. So much so, that within a few days, she'd contacted the musician and asked if he would be her guide to the world of birding for an entire year. What she liked about her guru, who she simply calls "The Musician" throughout the book was that he was "fervent about birds without being reverential." [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on February 8, 2017

[Birds, Art, Life: a Year of Observation](#)

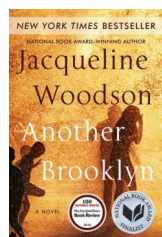
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Another Brooklyn



[view in catalog](#)

The helplessness and friendships of childhood are topics that many writers have tackled. Fewer have written about African-American girlhood, as Woodson does here. The book centers on August, the intelligent young girl who leaves the lush south for the vibrant and dangerous streets of Bushwick, Brooklyn.

"For a long time my mother wasn't dead yet." This sentence opens the novel, which doesn't proceed chronologically, but follows an inner lyric pulse. Throughout, the whereabouts of August's missing mother haunt the story.

August's family lived in Tennessee on a farm called SweetGrove land. It was inherited from her grandparents. After their uncle, Clyde, a Vietnam soldier dies, her mother begins to unravel. Soon, her father rushes north with August and her little brother to Brooklyn, his home town. It's summer--so for safety, August's father locks her and her little brother, who is only five, inside their third-story apartment. They spend long summer days watching children play on the street: double-Dutch, stick ball games and splashing under open fire hydrants. A colorful parade of adults wearing dashikis and other colorful outfits weave past. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on January 31, 2017

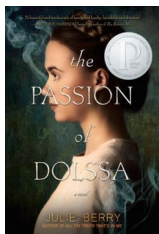
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The Passion of Dolssa by Julie Berry



[view in catalog](#)

This morning (1.23.17) the American Library Association announced the winners of the Youth Media Awards for 2017! Check out the full list [here](#). One of the honor books chosen for the Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults was *The Passion of Dolssa* by Julie Berry. [Read more](#)

Posted by Becky F. on January 23, 2017

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