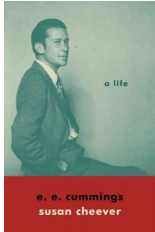


For the Love of Reading

A Poet's LifeE.



[view in catalog](#)

If you like the lyrical, visual poetry of e e cummings, this biography of his life will appeal to you. Even if you are not a poetry fan, but you enjoy reading about Greenwich Village and Paris during their artistic heydays, you will enjoy Susan Cheever's carefully researched biography.

e e cummings was born into privilege in Cambridge, Mass. His father a professor and minister at Harvard. He loved technology and was always buying the next new thing, whether that was an early automobile or a collapsible canoe with folding seats.

The latter purchase caused one of the most horrifying incidents of e e's teenage years. He and his sister took the canoe out on a lake at their summer place in New Hampshire. Their favorite dog, Rex, accompanied them, but unfortunately, turned suddenly to see something. The boat capsized. And as Elizabeth, e e's sister, clung to it, the canoe sank. Meanwhile Rex had swum almost the whole way back to shore, but then heard the children and hurried back. Exhausted by this time, the dog pushed Elizabeth down. Elizabeth came up sputtering for air and Rex shoved her down again. As the dog circled close for his third attempt to rescue himself, e e swam over and held Rex down until he stopped breathing. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 9, 2014

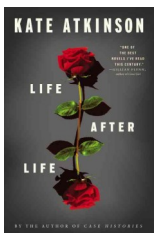
[E. E. Cummings: a Life](#)

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Booksplus Discussion, Sunday June 1: Life After Life by Kate Atkinson



[view in catalog](#)

In the first hundred pages of this novel, Ursula Todd, its heroine, lives and dies at least six times. Once she dies in childbirth, another time she falls off her own roof, having chased a sibling's

favorite toy, and a third time she dies of influenza. This alternative history novel, although innovative in form, is rich in storytelling particularly about life at the beginning of the last century and during World Wars I and II. Ursula's intelligent and perceptive take upon the world makes captivating reading.

New York Times reviewer, Janet Maslin, called *Life after Life* "a big book that defies logic, chronology and even history in ways that underscore its author's fully untethered imagination." *Publishers Weekly* described the book this way, "through Ursula's many lives and the accretion of what T.S. Eliot called visions and revisions, she's found an inventive way to make both the war's toll and the pull of alternate history, of darkness avoided or diminished, fresh.

Atkinson is not afraid to take risks including using Adolph Hitler as a walk-on character in this book—in fact he's responsible for one of Ursula's many deaths.

Please join us for a book talk about this intriguing book this Sunday, June 1st at 2pm. All are welcome. We will meet in Room 2B. For more information about this and future [Booksplus](#) programs, please follow the link.

Posted by Dory L. on May 28, 2014

[Life after Life](#)

[Fiction](#)

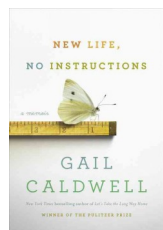
[Historical](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

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New Life, No Instructions



[view in catalog](#)

Did you ever hobble around on crutches? Discover that your most basic possession, your body, does not work as it once did? This excellent memoir about rehabilitation, friendship, loss, and the love of a great dog is a tearjerker at times, but always incredibly well-written. Wow, does Caldwell know how to spin a yarn.

Gail Caldwell suffered from polio as a small child. In this account she describes how her mother sprawled on the floor with her when she was young and did the tough leg exercises needed to strengthen Gail's leg.

All her life, Gail adapted to living with a bum leg. In her late fifties she decided to adopt a strong Samoyed pup. And as Tula grew, Gail soon found herself falling more and more often, and that she could no longer hike the three mile reservoir loop with her strong-willed pet.

Doctor after doctor told Gail that her limp, the weakness in her leg and her frequent falls were caused by her polio, but Gail finally sought another opinion. The new doctor asked to see her CT scans and X-rays but there were no recent ones. Upon doing them, he discovered that Gail's hip was shattered with the ball absolutely flat. She needed hip replacement immediately. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 25, 2014

[New Life](#)

[No Instructions: a Memoir](#)

[Animals](#)

[Friendship](#)

[Memoir](#)

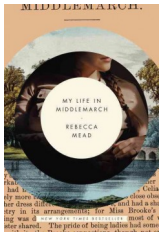
[Nonfiction](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

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My Life in Middlemarch



[view in catalog](#)

Here's what author Rebecca Mead said about a subject dear to our hearts, "Reading does not feel like an escape from life so much as it feels like an urgent, crucial dimension of life itself."

This book is both a biography and travelogue of what many consider the world's best novel? *Middlemarch*. It also is a personal memoir by Mead.

In the first chapter Mead recalls how many times she has read the novel and how much it has changed for her over time. What drew her as a child to it was how full of adult life the book was. She also loved the intelligence of the characters, particularly the heroine, Miss Dorothea Brooke. Along the way we learn about the novel itself, how it was first published as a serial in eight parts with the subtitle "A Provincial Life." It bore a male author's name--George Eliot but even Charles Dickens, a contemporary of Eliot's knew immediately that it was written by a woman. He said, "I believe that no man ever before had the art of making himself, mentally, so like a woman, since the world began." Dickens also loved Eliot's writing. He said of her first novel, "*Adam Bede* has taken its place among the actual experiences and endurances of my life." [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 16, 2014

[My Life in Middlemarch](#)

[Memoir](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

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A Tale for the Time Being



[view in catalog](#)

This cross-cultural gem of a novel tells the story of two women: one, Nao, a young Japanese schoolgirl; the other, Ruth, a middle-aged writer who lives in a rainforest town near Vancouver, Canada. Their lives intersect when Nao's *Hello Kitty* lunchbox lands as jetsam on the beach of the tiny town. Inside are letters, a WW II kamikaze wristwatch and most precious, Nao's diary, wrapped in layers and layers of plastic bags, so it is entirely legible.

The story is told in alternating voices. One belongs to the trendy, irrepressible, somewhat risqué and thoroughly jaded Nao who is bullied in school and mocked as an immigrant from America (she spent most of her childhood in California). The other belongs to Ruth who incidentally has the same first name as the author. Ruth has moved to Canada from another island town, New York City, because her husband loved the peacefulness of life in rural Canada and had major health issues. Also, Ruth brought her aged mother there to die.

Ruth is fascinated by the diary. Because she is suffering from writer's block on her new novel, she totally immerses herself in the diary and in trying to track down Nao. Did Nao's diary begin its journey in the destruction and flooding caused by the great Japanese tsunami of March 2011? [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 7, 2014

[A Tale for the Time Being](#)

[Fiction](#)

[International Settings](#)

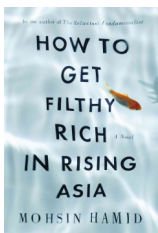
[Pacific Northwest](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

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[How To Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia](#)



[view in catalog](#)

Masked in the persona of a self-help book, this novel is really a love story and a tale of the ambitious struggle of a rural bumpkin to get ahead in a world madly developing at all costs. Unlucky enough to nearly die from hepatitis as an infant, because he is his mother's favorite, he is saved and the family soon follows the first theorem to worldly success in Asia: move to a big city.

Each chapter summarizes in the title that chapter's method of achieving worldly success; for example, the second chapter advises, "Get an education." Though normally the eldest son in this unnamed Asian country (probably Pakistan) would be pushed to study, in this family the narrator was lucky because his older brother was already learning a trade. And being bright, he

succeeded at school despite contradicting a teacher who gave out false information. For in school, you never pointed out the failings of a teacher. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on April 29, 2014

[How To Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia](#)

[Fiction](#)

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