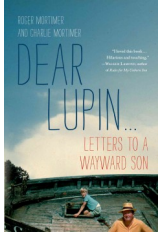


For the Love of Reading

## Dear Lupin



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I've always loved collections of letters. Perhaps, it's the draw of reading words meant for a specific person—a stranger that you will never meet. Some books of letters are huge and it's like tackling a life in a thousand plus episodes. But these letters, written by an apprehensive English father beginning during the rock and roll, drug days of the late 60s and 70s, are a more manageable 187 pages.

All the letters were penned by the father, Roger, a former military man, and POW who later became a racing columnist for the *Sunday Times*. In them he offers tons of advice to his wild, drifter son, Charlie. Providing much of the humor in this book are Charlie's comments that describe his reactions to his Dad's words at the time.

The letters begin with a young Charlie as he flunks out of elite Eton. Soon he leaves with a record of very bad grades for a lowly "crammer" school. No "firsts" or "seconds" or even a degree for this young man. Soon Charlie embarks on a series of low-paying jobs in agriculture, oil, and real estate. Even when he lands a promising job, he can't stick with it and bolts off for long vacations to Greece, Africa, and South America. For his Greek trip his dad advises, don't talk politics. Don't do drugs; you may land in a gaol. Watch the alcoholic drinks there, they are incredibly strong. Later, when Charlie sets off for vagabonding through South America, his dad asks, have you ever considered a life in the church? [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 17, 2013

[Dear Lupin... :Letters to a Wayward Son](#)

[Nonfiction](#)

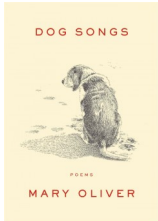
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## Dog Songs



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Who can resist a good dog book? OK so there are a few cat people out there (right here beside me in fact), and bird people, snake people, even for Heaven's sake, skunk lovers and gerbil-groomers. But what makes this book special is that it's a book of poems that gives tribute to the special dogs in renowned nature poet Mary Oliver's life.

There's Luke, the junkyard dog, Benjamin, the canine that is always dragging a chewed-through rope, Bear the small curly-haired who hates to stay overnight at boarding, Bazougey "that dark little dog/ who used to come down the road barking and shining," Ricky, the talker, and Percy named after the famous poet Shelley. Oliver penned a tribute to this hound mischievously patterned after Christopher Smart's "For I will Consider My Cat Geoffrey."

Luke was "born in a junkyard, / not even on a bundle of rags/ or the seat of an old wrecked car/ but the dust below." This beautiful German Shepherd loved flowers: "her dark head// and her wet nose/ touching/ the face/ of everyone." In the poem's closing Oliver expresses one thing dogs show us about the world: "we long to be--/ that happy/ in the heaven of earth--/ that wild, that loving." [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 16, 2013

[Dog Songs: Thirty-five Dog Songs and One Essay](#)

[Dog](#)

[Poetry](#)

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## **While you're waiting for Bill O'Reilly's new book.....**

The holiday season seems like an appropriate time to read about the historical Jesus. While you are waiting for the best selling book by Fox News host Bill O'Reilly - *Killing Jesus* (Main Library and Ellettsville Adult Nonfiction 232.96 Ore) - the latest in his "Killing..." series; you might want to check out some of these books on the life of Jesus by some award winning authors and respected historians ....

*Constructing Jesus: Memory, Imagination, and History* by Dale C. Allison (Main Library and Ellettsville Adult Nonfiction 232.908 All) --- What did Jesus think of himself? How did he face death? What were his expectations of the future? In this volume, now in paperback, internationally renowned Jesus scholar Dale Allison Jr. addresses such perennially fascinating questions about Jesus. The acclaimed hardcover edition received the Biblical Archaeology Society's "Best Book Relating to the New Testament" award in 2011.

*The Historical Jesus: Five Views* by James K. Beilby (Main Library Adult Nonfiction 232.908 His) --- 2011 Christianity Today Book Award winner! The scholarly quest for the historical Jesus has a distinguished pedigree in modern Western religious and historical scholarship, with names such as Strauss, Schweitzer and Bultmann highlighting the story. Since the early 1990s, when

the Jesus quest was reawakened for a third run, numerous significant books have emerged. And the public's attention has been regularly arrested by media coverage, with the Jesus Seminar or the James ossuary headlining the marquee. *The Historical Jesus: Five Views* provides a venue for readers to sit in on a virtual seminar on the historical Jesus.

*The Challenge of Jesus : Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is* by N.T. Wright. (Main Library Adult Nonfiction 232 Wr) --- Today a renewed and vigorous scholarly quest for the historical Jesus is underway. In the midst of well publicized and controversial books on Jesus, N. T. Wright's lectures and writings have been widely recognized for providing a fresh, provocative and historically credible portrait. Out of his own commitment to both historical scholarship and Christian ministry, Wright challenges us to roll up our sleeves and take seriously the study of the historical Jesus.

*The Jesus Quest : The Third Search for the Jew of Nazareth* by Ben Witherington III. (Main Library Adult Nonfiction 232.9 Wi) --- Voted one of *Christianity Today's* 1996 Books of the Year! In recent years Jesus' time, place and social setting have received renewed scholarly attention. New research on the Dead Sea Scrolls and other Jewish and Hellenistic texts has resulted in a surge of new images of Jesus and new ideas about his ministry. Dubbed the Third Quest for the historical Jesus, this recent effort is a transformation of the first quest, memorialized and chronicled by Albert Schweitzer, and the second quest, carried out in the 1950s and 1960s in the wake of extreme Bultmannian skepticism.

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--- Annotations courtesy Amazon.com

Posted by Jim G. on December 11, 2013

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[Christmas](#)

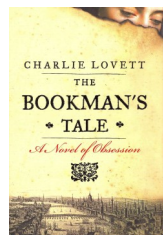
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## Recommended Reads from Library Staff



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It's that time of year again when lots of publications and websites publish their recommended books of the year. This year I polled library staff to see what some savvy readers had discovered in 2013. MCPL folks had lots of nifty recommendations. So whether you are looking for books to help you through the long dark nights of winter or searching for that perfect gift for a loved one or friend, here are some suggestions from some local book people. We do have paper copies of this list and other 2013 favorite book lists available at the Information Desk at the main ILibrary.

### **FICTION**

***And Everyday Was Overcast*** by Paul Kwiatkowski FICTION Kwiatkow

Described on the cover as an illustrated novel, this work is more a scrapbook interspersed with

stories detailing the author's coming of age in southern Florida. The photos don't match the stories exactly and are stronger as a result. They cover drug use, adolescent violence, and teenage sexuality.

***The Bookman's Tale: a novel of obsession*** by Charles C. Lovett FICION Lovett

Anyone who loves the hunting, buying and selling of rare and old books should read this. Filled with emotion, intrigue, mystery, suspense, and tragedy, it also covers love lost and gained as well as the quest for Shakespeare and his writings. Very well written and hard to put down! [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 10, 2013

[Recommended Reads from Library Staff](#)

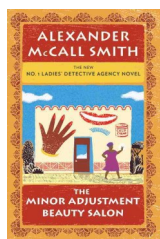
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## The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon



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In the bustle and tensions of the holiday season, it was great to take a couple of nights off and travel to Botswana in Alexander McCall Smith's latest book in the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series. As usual the mysteries--there are two of them here--are interwoven with descriptions and a philosophy of living a moral life in Africa. Grace Makutsi, who scored an amazing 97% on her secretarial school final exam, is married now and expecting a baby yet she has not yet talked to Precious Ramotswe about taking any leave. Before she does, her little son arrives along with a pesky aunt, the matriarch of the family who swoops in to take charge of Grace's household.

While Grace is gone, giving birth and settling into motherhood, Mma Ramotswe faces two problems: an acquaintance has opened a new beauty salon, the one of the title, but she is receiving daily threats from an anonymous source. Whoever is doing it is scaring away all her customers and this threatens the business. Also, a female lawyer has contacted the traditionally built detective about an inheritance issue: a nephew is supposed to inherit a farm from a famous politician, but is Liso the actual nephew or someone posing as him? Precious discovers that if Liso is not who he claims to be, the lawyer will inherit the bulk of the estate. Coincidentally--or maybe not--this lawyer was having an affair with the politician Mma Ramotswe discovers. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 9, 2013

[The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon](#)

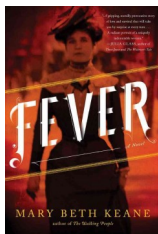
[Mystery](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

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# Dispelling Dark Myths



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Did you ever hear the story of Typhoid Mary? as a child? I remember a gaggle of us neighborhoods kids scaring each other with stories of the woman whose myth lived long after she died. It's not a person we learned about in school, yet just the mention of her name culled up disease, darkness and death. That's one reason I was happy to come across this sympathetic portrait of an Irish-American woman who was much maligned by the press. Not a biography, this fictional account relies on many true-to-life details to make its story highly believable. Young Mary Mallon emigrated from Ireland at age fifteen to stay with an aunt. She soon went to work and started as a laundress--hot dirty work that offered no hope of advancement. Being smart and clever, Mary noticed that the cooks were paid much more and had more freedom. She also liked the creative aspect of crafting fine meals for the wealthy of early 1900s New York City.

Mary got her big break as a substitute cook, and she turned one success into a career. By the time she was 17, she received an excellent summer gig in Oyster Bay, but unfortunately fever swept through the summer place leaving the baby she loved and several other members of the household dead. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 3, 2013

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