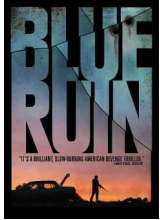


## Information, Answers & Reviews

# Blue Ruin



[view in catalog](#)

Here's one of my favorite American movies I've seen this year. I heard about this while it was making the rounds on the festival circuit last year and finally got a chance to check it out recently. It won the FIPRESCI prize at the Cannes Film Festival last summer (the international critics' prize for best independent feature). While it's worth checking out for the Virginia set cinematography, it is primarily a suspense film about how revenge never goes the way you want it to. [Read more](#)

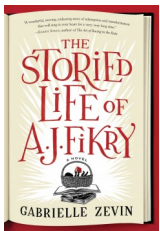
Posted by Brandon R. on October 27, 2014

[Sights and Sounds](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[Brandon R.'s blog](#)[Log in to post comments](#)

# The Storied Life of A.K. Fikry



[view in catalog](#)

Like bookstores? Like islands off the coast of New England? Favor novels that feature an orphan and a single dad? Drawn to love stories especially ones where the couple start off at each other's throats? Have a thing for rare manuscripts especially those of Edgar Allen Poe? If so this charming book-celebratory novel is just your thing.

*The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* begins with publisher's rep, Amelia Loman (?a tall dandelion of a woman") disembarking from a ferry to visit a small bookstore on Alice Island to go over the winter accounts for her publisher, Knightley Press. The owner, the very curmudgeonly A.J. Fikry, is decidedly unfriendly and shocked by the fact that the old book rep has not come. Loman tells him that he has died and then proceeds to push her favorite book, a memoir by a widower dealing with his bereavement.

For Fikry this hits too close to home but he does not tell Alice why. He has recently lost Nic, his intelligent and beautiful wife while she was pregnant with their first child. Fikry begins a delightful rant about all the books he does not like: postmodern, post apocalyptic, magical realism, ones

with multiple fonts, children's books, poetry, YA, etc. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 22, 2014

[The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry](#)

[Fiction](#)

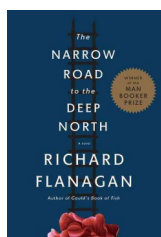
[Book Clubs](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Dory L.'s blog](#)[Log in to post comments](#)

## Man Booker Prize Awarded to Australian Novelist



[view in catalog](#)

The Man Booker Prize winner for 2014 was announced on Tuesday. Richard Flanagan, a popular and highly-regarded Australian novelist, won it for his book *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, a historical novel set during WWII.

It's about the construction of the Thai-Burma railroad, known as the Death Railway. For an odd bit of symmetry, Flanagan's father, who worked on this railway during World War II, died on the very day that Flanagan finished his book.

If you follow book news, you already know that this is the first year that American authors have been allowed to compete for the Booker, and two Americans made the short list: Karen Joy Fowler (*We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*) and Joshua Ferris (*To Rise Again at a Decent Hour*). [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 16, 2014

[The Narrow Road to the Deep North](#)

[Award Winner](#)

[Fiction](#)

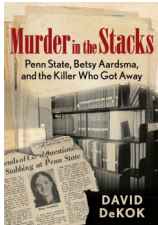
[Historical](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[Dory L.'s blog](#)[Log in to post comments](#)

## Murder in the Stacks



[view in catalog](#)

If one single event stands out in the memory of my first semester in State College, Pa., it's the murder of an English graduate student that happened in the library. Before reading this book, I would have guessed it occurred just a week or two into term, rather than toward its end?so much did it color life for the rest of my college experience in Happy Valley, Pa. Yes, this remote mountain valley in almost the exact center of Pa. is actually named that.

Most of my dorm-mates felt absolute terror after the murder. They literally would not leave the building alone after dark. I remember big gangs of young women walking together in a phalanx toward the library to study. I joined them one night, but that was it. I could not time my departures and arrivals and function in such a timid, emotionally-wrought group.

And though this horrible crime happened decades ago, it still has not been officially ?solved.? But the author, a Harrisburg journalist, has come up with some compelling facts that point to a specific fellow grad student. A student in fact that went on to continue his PhD studies and remained on campus for four or five more years. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 13, 2014

[Murder in the stacks : Penn State, Betsy Aardsma, and the killer who got away](#)

[Crime](#)

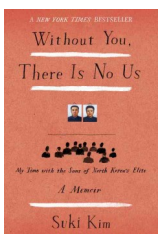
[Nonfiction](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[Dory L.'s blog](#)[Log in to post comments](#)

## Without You, There is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite



[view in catalog](#)

This well-written memoir about teaching in a college in North Korea the year Kim Jong-il died sent shivers up my spine. The author, Suki Kim, an American writer, who spent part of her childhood in South Korea and is fluent in the language, had visited North Korea several times. Each time she felt divorced from the people and prevented by her ?minders? (they were actually called that) from getting a true understanding of what contemporary life was like in the country. Emotionally, Kim felt connected to the country because part of her family lived there. Kim?s mother had often told her stories about how her eldest brother disappeared and was never seen again when he was taken from a truck during the Korean War. The family was divided from other aunts and uncles and cousins who lived across the divide.

Kim, primarily a journalist, had taught at a college in the states and sometime around 2010 heard

that a Bible college, financed by Americans, was soon to open near Pyongyang. The very idea sounded strange? a culture that scorned religion was allowing westerners to open a bible college by the capital? [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 7, 2014

[Without You, There is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite](#)

[Memoir](#)

[Nonfiction](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Dory L.'s blog](#) [Log in to post comments](#)

## The Quiet Man



[view in catalog](#)

John Wayne is one of the most famous and beloved actors of all time. He had an acting style that was uniquely his own. While he is best known for his westerns and war films, my favorite John Wayne film, *The Quiet Man*, falls in neither category. John Wayne plays boxer Sean Thornton returning to his Irish boyhood home from America after retiring from the ring and from fighting altogether after one of his opponents dies from the blows he suffered in their fight. His desire is to return to the simple life he knew as a boy and the town he grew up in. It doesn't take long before he finds love with Mary Kate Danaher (Maureen O'hara), but it is this love that is going to make his life far from simple. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on October 2, 2014

[Quiet man \(Motion picture : 1952\)](#)

[Classics](#)

[Drama](#)

[DVD](#)

[Family Films](#)

[Movies](#)

[Romance](#)

[Sights and Sounds](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[Keith C.'s blog](#) [Log in to post comments](#)

[« first](#) [previous](#)    ? [24](#)[25](#)[26](#)[27](#)    **28**    [29](#)[30](#)[31](#)[32](#)    ? [next](#) [?last](#) »

---