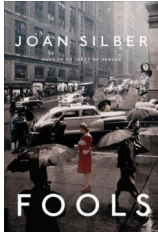


Information, Answers & Reviews

Dorothy Day's Circle of Friends



[view in catalog](#)

I've read other books by Joan Silber, and I think she is a writer who deserves a bigger audience. If you're a fan of historical novels, you will enjoy this book. It's less a novel than a collection of interrelated stories centered on friends of Dorothy Day (or were related to her inner circle). She was a famous Catholic worker who fought hard for the poor.

The first story revolves on a group of young 20-somethings in Day's New York circle about the time she was getting serious about Catholicism. (She was an adult convert.) In the title story, a young vivacious woman named Vera, loves her life surrounded by smart, interesting people, one of whom she marries. Silber captures the feel of New York City during this time, the freedom young adults experienced living together, going to political meetings, working their day jobs but also doing creative things on the side.

Vera is a sign painter until her employer insults her and then eventually fires her without cause. Although in love with her husband, Joe, Vera is drawn to Day's boyfriend, Forster, who is also the father of Day's child. A chance meeting in a park brings Vera and Forster together when they discover the corpse of a poor man who froze to death on a bench. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on February 12, 2014

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Five Days at Memorial



[view in catalog](#)

Physician, humanitarian, and international journalist Sheri Fink has written an amazing book

about what happens to even dedicated professionals in a crises that lasts for days. When a hospital became a flooded, steamy place without electricity, and the media constantly harangued about dangerous people attempting to break in, normal procedures quickly disappeared.

Do you remember that in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina much of New Orleans flooded and that the area covered included some hospitals and nursing homes? Do you also recall a heated trial at which one doctor was accused of mercy-killing elderly patients? This well-researched book investigates not only what happened during the five days that NOLA's Memorial Hospital was flooded but also the people involved: doctors, nurses, the New Orleans city coroner, patients and their families.

The subtitle says it all ?Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital.? The story is as riveting as any good thriller. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on February 6, 2014

[Five Days at Memorial : life and death in a storm-ravaged hospital](#)

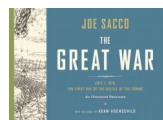
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The Great War



[view in catalog](#)

If you are a fan of graphic novels or comic book histories, Joe Sacco's incredibly detailed book about the battle of the Somme is a keeper. The accordion style of the book imparted a narrative push to this graphic history that has no text.

The folded-over 24 foot long drawing also gave Sacco a large expanse of space to record the planning for the war on the ramparts of Montreuil-sur-Mer, the gathering of horses, laden carts and howitzers before the battle, and the trenches, explosions and destruction of the battle itself. The artist also vividly captured the digging of graves and the field of white crosses after the bloodshed ended. Sacco's drawings are very accurate, expertly rendered, and they convey emotion. To get the full effect of this book, you should spread it out across a long table or even two tables.

The one-day battle had 60,000 British casualties?the largest of any battle Britain has been involved in before or since. Included in a separate booklet is Adam Hochschild's narrative essay that places the art in context. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on January 29, 2014

[The Great War : July 1, 1916 : the first day of the Battle of the Somme : an illustrated panorama](#)

[Graphic Novels & Manga](#)

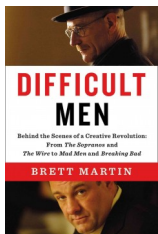
[World War I](#)

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Difficult Men



[view in catalog](#)

This is an interesting book detailing the rise of what the author terms the "Third Golden Age of Television". He provides in-depth details on the development, reaction, and impact of several critically acclaimed television shows ([The Sopranos](#), [The Wire](#), [Deadwood](#), [Mad Men](#)) and touches on others more peripherally ([The Shield](#), [Six Feet Under](#), [Breaking Bad](#) and various others). [Note: The Library may not, and probably will not, have the entirety of some of these shows, so check the catalog if you are inclined to (re-)watch any of them]. The author provides a context for how these new shows developed (going back to briefly recap the first two 'ages' on network television) and traces how this third Age was able to come about only on premium and basic cable stations. [Read more](#)

Posted by Brandon R. on January 28, 2014

[HBO](#)

[Nonfiction](#)

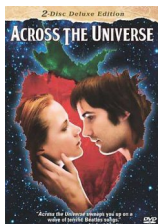
[Television](#)

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Across the Universe



[view in catalog](#)

I'm not much of a purist about most things but Beatles' songs are an exception. The idea of a movie that used the songs of The Beatles to tell a story did not really appeal to me. That the songs were not the original recordings made the idea seem even worse. However after re-reading Roger Ebert's review of the movie 'Across the Universe' I felt I had to at least give the film a shot. Jude (Jim Sturgess) has come to the United States to find his father and make his way as an artist. While here he meets Max Carrigan and his sister Lucy. From here the film follows Jude and Lucy through the turbulent sixties while capturing their up and down relationship. This happens to the beat of the accompanying background of Beatles tunes. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on January 28, 2014

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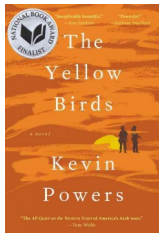
[Roger Ebert](#)

[Sights and Sounds](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[Keith C.'s blog](#)

The Yellow Birds



[view in catalog](#)

I'm not one for war novels, but this little gem hooked me from the start. The writing is stellar and the characters speak and act with a naturalness that only comes from actual combat experience.

Kevin Powers, the author, is an Iraq War veteran. The story he has written about his experiences is heart-breaking. The narrator, 21 year old Private Bartle, had literary aspirations in school and received a lot of taunting from his friends, so he decided to prove his manhood by becoming a soldier. This mirrored the author's life who enlisted at age seventeen. At basic training, he meets, the pimple-faced newbie, Murph, whose mother begs Bartle to promise to bring him back from Iraq unharmed.

Of course, no experienced soldier would ever make such a promise but something about the woman reminds the private of his own mother, so he readily agrees. Big mistake. They soon get sent to Al Tafir where a series of bloody battles, including civilian deaths, jade both men. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on January 20, 2014

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