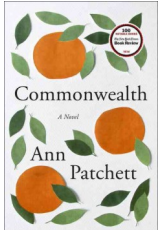


Information, Answers & Reviews

Commonwealth



[view in catalog](#)

Fifty per cent of all North American children experience the divorce of their parents. Talented author Ann Patchett explores her own family's divorce in this novel, altered, of course, as all fiction is.

A chance meeting at a 1960s christening causes two families to divide and then merge in new ways. The novel jumps around in the lives of the Cousinses and Keatings. Fix Keating is a Los Angeles cop, and Bert Cousins, an attorney who moves to Virginia. When Cousins falls hard for Keating's wife, Beverly, at the christening, two families are forever tied though they end up living across the continent from each other.

The novel proceeds from the perfectly realized christening where many of the guests are cops and the families of cops, and many of the partiers get drunk including some of the children, to one lakeside vacation where the blended children of the two families seek their own adventures while their parent and step-parent laze away in bed until mid-afternoon. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 6, 2016

[Commonwealth](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

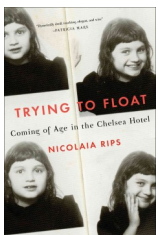
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Trying to Float: Coming of Age in the Chelsea Hotel



[view in catalog](#)

Can't say when the last time I read a book written by a seventeen-year old, but this memoir by a high school student was touching and well-written despite Nicolaia Rips' youth. Growing up in

New York's famed Chelsea Hotel gives one a head start, at least when it comes to knowing interesting characters.

The Chelsea's fame reached its ascendency in the 60s and 70s with noteworthy residents: Leonard Cohen, Robert Mapplethorpe, and Patsy Smith, who wrote her own memoir about it, *Just Kids*.

First Nicolaia describes how she came into being. Her mom was a globe-trotting artist, and her dad had zero interest in raising a child, but somehow the artist got pregnant, and the couple began a new way of life. Though not immediately.

While pregnant, her Mom traveled through Europe and along the Silk Road in Asia. Her dad, a non-practicing lawyer and writer, stayed in New York and added a psychiatrist's office to his daily rounds of coffee shops. He also denied that he was the father, accusing a gay friend for parenting the child. However, once Nicolaia was born, he came around and warmly embraced being a dad, but still the family remained footloose, decamping for several years in Italy, and then roaming North Africa and India, before returning to NYC and the Chelsea Hotel. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 24, 2016

[Trying to Float: Coming of Age in the Chelsea Hotel](#)

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[Memoir](#)

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Food for Fines



How often do you get the chance to help the Library, the community, and yourself—all at the same time? Now's your chance, by participating in the Library's Food for Fines program October 17-30 at the Main Library and Ellettsville Branch. [Read more](#)

Posted by Michael H. on October 18, 2016

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[Michael H.'s blog](#)

Five of my Favorites and So Long



This Sight and Sound blog post was perhaps the hardest for me to write of all of my posts. There are two reasons for this. The first is because I will retire from the library shortly

after this post goes up. I have had almost forty years at the Monroe County Public Library as either a staff member or volunteer and it is time to move on to another adventure. I still believe this library is one of the best, if not the best library in the state. But of course, I am biased. I hope that you and the library will forgive my choice of pictures to head up this post. (I didn't ask for permission) I've always believed that libraries are places of wonder and learning; imagination, and research, but above all, they are places full of fun and life and joy that one can experience almost nowhere else. There is something special about the books, movies, services and special programs that take place in a library that help make any community stronger and better for all. Young and old, rich and poor; people from every walk of life can find something in common at a good library and there are always interesting people to meet at a library. Some of you may remember me from many different places in the library; when I started I worked at the Community Access Channel, then I moved to the Movies and Music Department, then to Adult Services and have recently begun working at our Ellettsville branch. I even worked for a while as a night janitor. One of my greatest joys, however, is playing the clown (and the music) for the Children's Story Hour Extravaganzas and especially the October event for which this picture displays my standard outfit and perhaps the real me. It is the joyous laughter and smiles of a child who is discovering for the first time the world of the library that I will remember the most after I leave.

So this is good-bye, which is hard. Harder still, at least intellectually, is the second reason this post was so difficult. Because this will be my last post I am forcing myself to make a choice out of all the movies I have watched over the years to just five of my favorites. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on October 12, 2016

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[Movies](#)

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Pushing Daisies



[view in catalog](#)

Voices are unique, especially in the world of audiobooks. For years I worked in the Movies and Music area of the library and paid very little attention to the world of books beyond those in my own areas of interest. One day I began hearing about a series of books that was taking not only the country but the world by storm; books about a young lad named Harry Potter. I decided to check them out. Not having much time to read at the time I decided to listen to the first book in the car on my way to work. The Harry Potter series was read in the United States audio editions by Jim Dale. His manner of reading entranced me and brought me into the world of Harry Potter. I could have listened to him read the phone book and been happy. I know this is a trite overused comparison, but it is accurate. So imagine my joy when I watched the first episode of the series *Pushing Daisies* and heard his wonderful and unique voice starting out? At this very moment in the town of Couer d'Couers young Ned was nine years, twenty-seven weeks, six Days and three minutes old.? I was hooked just by this voice alone, then as the story

progressed I was hooked by the whole show

Pushing Daisies started life as rejected script idea for an episode of the show *Dead Like Me*, in which the character of ?George? Lass finds that she cannot collect any souls because someone was resurrecting the dead by touching them. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on September 28, 2016

[Pushing daisies. The complete first season \[videorecording\]](#)

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Ninotchka



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I have a confession to make. For years, I had a secret crush on a much older woman. She passed away in 1990 at the age of 84. I was 34 at the time. I only knew her through her films, and one, in particular, stirred me. The woman was Greta Garbo and the film that burrowed a special place in my heart was *Ninotchka*. The script was written by Charles Brackett and Billy Wilder and directed by Ernst Lubitsch and tells the story of a down to business, emotionally cold Russian official sent to Paris to check on the status of Russia?s sale of the nation?s former crown jewels which were being sold to help support Russia?s recovery after the revolution. Upon arriving in Paris she finds herself involved in a legal battle with Russia?s exiled Grand Duchess for possession of the jewels and finds that the Russian representatives sent originally to sell the jewels seem to have given in to the temptations and pleasures of the rich Paris life. Her mission is complicated by the attentions of Count Leon d?Algout (Melvyn Douglas) who after meeting her on the street is determined to win her heart. Unknown to her is that he is also the lawyer representing the Grand Duchess in court. Unknown to him at the time is her relationship to his case. Can the heart win over political philosophy and the law? [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on September 14, 2016

[Ninotchka \[Motion picture : 1939\] \[videorecording\]](#)

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