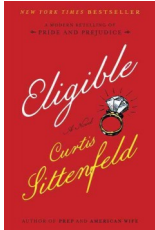


Information, Answers & Reviews

Eligible



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What do jogging, hate sex, cross fit gyms, and reality TV have to do with Jane Austen? Don't be so 19th century. So what if Austen is rolling over in her grave. Sittenfeld has made a delightful pastiche of *Pride and Prejudice*, much more to my fiction-reading tastes than *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

In this reimagined version of the classic, it's 2013 and the Bennet family has relocated to a spider-infected old Tudor in an upscale neighborhood of Cincinnati. Country club lunches, anyone?

The five unmarried daughters still ground the story although all of them have turned very 21st century. Even Mrs. Bennet has been modernized, she's now a shopaholic busybody. However, she still remains in determined pursuit of worthy husbands (rich, upper class) for her daughters. Jane and Liz have flown the nest for New York City where gentle Jane teaches yoga, and Liz, writes for the entertainment mag, *Mascara*. She also sleeps with her married boyfriend. At thirty-nine, Jane has given up on finding a man, and has begun *in vitro* fertilization treatments in the hopes of having a child. Alas, no wedding bells in the offing for both Jane and Liz. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 13, 2016

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Those Magnificent Men and their Flying Machines



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In 1965, there were two racing comedies released both of them set during the first 10 years of 1900's. The more popular of two was *The Great Race*, which was about an around the world automobile race; the second was *Those Magnificent Men and their Flying Machines*, about an air race between London and Paris in very early and flimsy aircraft. While I will admit there is something special about *The Great Race* and it certainly had more stars who were known in the United States, *Those Magnificent Men and their flying Machines* had something the other did not ? History.

What do I mean by history? First of all, there is the light-hearted review of man's attempts to fly featuring the comic skills of Red Skelton mixed with historic footage of some of the more outrageous of man's attempts and failures to fly before the opening credits. You are not likely to see more historical film footage of man's failed attempts to fly in another movie. But of even greater interest to someone like me is that every plane used in the film was a recreation of a historic airplane from the birth of aviation. In a few cases, they added some safety devices or a small change was made to better protect the pilots, but the planes did fly, or, at least, those that were supposed to fly did, and they were actually flown for the movie's footage. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on June 8, 2016

[Those magnificent men in their flying machines \[Motion picture : 1965\]](#)

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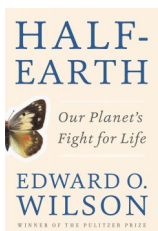
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Half-Earth: our Planet's Fight for Life



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The central premise of this book is that in order to save many of the world's species, humankind has to do something truly radical, that is, create wildlife and nature preserves over half the earth. Renowned entomologist and conservationist, Edward O. Wilson, presents in this book many examples of how interconnected life is in on our planet, and then makes a clarion call to save it. As someone who has actively worked for conservation for decades, Wilson is very knowledgeable.

He points out that of all the fauna and flora now on earth, we know only 20% of them at most at the species level. And much less about how they work together to maintain this web of life. To

learn all these species, even were they to survive, would take at least a couple more centuries.

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Posted by Dory L. on June 6, 2016

[Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life](#)

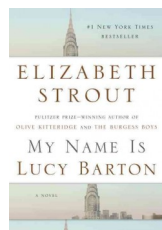
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My Name is Lucy Barton



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If you ever worried as a child about bringing other children home from school and their possible reaction to your home and family life, this book will resonate with you. If you ever reconnected with a close relative after a long absence, ditto.

Lucy Barton had a pretty horrific childhood: dirt-poor for many years the family lived in an actual garage without running water. And not only was there little money, food, or clothes, but her parents provided little emotional sustenance.

Strout takes you deep into the mind and heart of her protagonist, a young mother in her twenties, recently hospitalized after an operation. Lucy is happily married with two young children whom she feels she has abandoned because of her illness. She also is a new writer, proud of her work, but still not at ease calling herself an author.

The present time of the book occurs in a New York City hospital where Lucy is amazed to see her mother, who's come all the way from Iowa to take care of her daughter. But this is so out of character for her, that Lucy can scarcely believe she has arrived. Neither parent has ever visited Lucy before and neither attended her wedding. At his one meeting with their future son-in-law, Lucy's father flipped out because her fiancée was German. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 1, 2016

[My Name is Lucy Barton](#)

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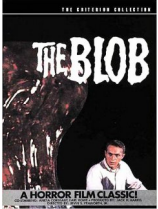
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The Blob (1958)



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If the stories I've heard are true there is a five-gallon bucket somewhere in the United States that contains a batch of red silicone still moist from the 1958 production of *The Blob*.

Supposedly it is brought out and displayed at the annual Blobfest in Phoenixville PA where many of the scenes for the movie were shot. *The Blob* is one of many science fiction movies of the 1950's that told of some unknown horror coming from outer space that endangers the world. A lot of these were extremely low budget and featured extremely bad special effects even taking into account the time they were produced. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on May 23, 2016

[The Blob \[Motion picture :1958\]](#)

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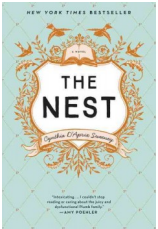
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The Nest



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Tolstoy's quote from *Anna Karenina* applies to this book: "All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."

The Nest is about three generations of Plumbs: Francie, the matriarch, the middle generation that consists of Leo, Bea, Jack, and Melody, plus two of their spouses, and Melody's two girls, the twins, Nora and Louise.

At novel's opening we find Leo, the eldest, who long ago made a bundle on a trendy magazine, and has just been released from rehab, wandering through Central Park trying to score some drugs.

The twins, who are playing hooky from their senior year SAT prep class, watch as their uncle falls to the ground. They decide not to rescue him because he will most likely tell their mom, Melody, where he saw them, thus getting them into trouble.

At that very moment, Leo was supposed to be attending a family lunch. It's about the nest, which is the money their Dad set aside for them in trust that comes due at Melody's 40th birthday. The elder Mr. Plumb wanted his kids to inherit something but not a grand inheritance,

nothing that would create havoc in their lives or make them too dependent on his money. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 12, 2016

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