

GUIDES FOR THE GOOD LIFE

COMPLETE READING GUIDE

All the Summer Booklists

you'll ever need

REFINE

TRUTH. BEAUTY. LIFE.



Read all summer long!

Welcome to your summer of soul-stirring stories! Whether you're lounging by the beach, traveling cross-country, or sipping iced tea on the porch, there's a book here waiting to whisk you away.

This guide is a treasure trove of tales—some timeless, others contemporary—all chosen to inspire, challenge, and delight. From epic adventures and heartfelt memoirs to spiritual reflections and classic literature, each page offers a doorway to new worlds and deeper understanding.

We've organized the selections into categories to help you find the perfect read for any mood or moment. While rooted in values that uplift the human spirit, these books are for everyone seeking truth, beauty, and goodness.

So, turn the page, pick a story, and let your summer adventure begin!

Happy reading,

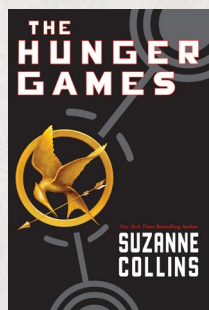
The Refine Team



BEST PICKS

POOLSIDE

Kick back in your lounge chair by the pool or on the beach. Great reading doesn't have to be trashy – or tough!



THE HUNGER GAMES SERIES

By Suzanne Collins

The popular trilogy now has two companion prequels! Check out *Sunrise on the Reaping*.



MISS BUNCLE'S BOOK

By D.E. Stevenson

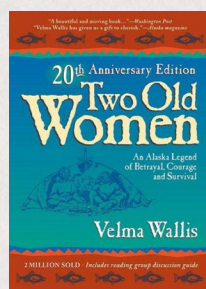
She wrote a novel about her neighbors. They read it. Chaos—and tea—ensued.



A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN

By Betty Smith

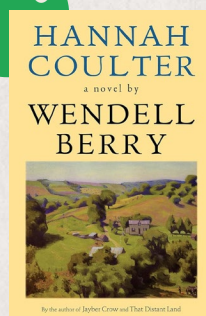
A girl, a tree, and way too many sad Irish relatives—Brooklyn builds character fast.



TWO OLD WOMEN

By Velma Wallis

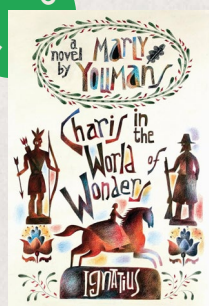
An Alaskan legend sure to cool you off on hot summer days.



HANNAH COULTER

By Wendell Berry

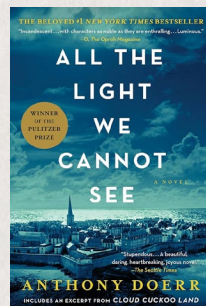
Rural life never felt so tender.



CHARIS IN THE WORLD OF WONDERS

By Marly Youmans

Set in Puritan New England, Youmans's fast-paced masterpiece is a story of a path to a larger, more vivid life.



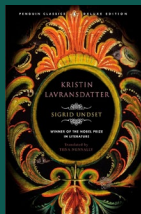
ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE

By Anthony Doerr

One cursed radio brings together a blind French girl and an orphan German boy. Empathy is a survival skill.

GRACE & GRIT CLASSICS

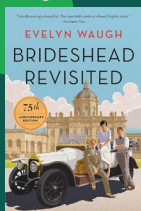
Dive into stories that endure—tales of great beauty, truth, and the human soul.



KRISTIN LAVRANDATTER

By Sigrid Undset

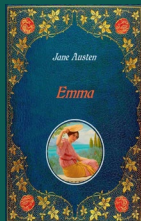
A rich portrayal of medieval life, marriage, and spiritual struggle.



BRIDESHEAD REVISITED

By Evelyn Waugh

A nostalgic tale of wild youth, faith, and the dying embers of aristocratic life in pre-war England.



EMMA

By Jane Austen

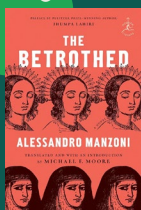
Wit, matchmaking, and wisdom from Austen's masterclass in human folly and friendship.



TILL WE HAVE FACES

By C.S. Lewis

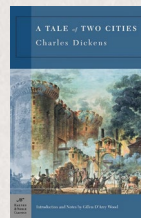
A haunting retelling of the Cupid and Psyche myth, exploring love and self-deception.



THE BETROTHED

By Alessandro Manzoni

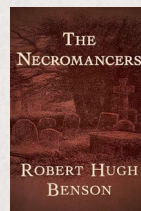
A sweeping historical love story of faith and fidelity in the face of injustice.



A TALE OF TWO CITIES

By Charles Dickens

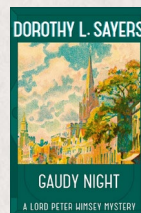
Sacrifice and love during the French Revolution.



THE NECROMANCERS

By Robert Hugh Benson

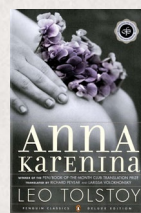
A cautionary gothic tale of the spiritual wiles of the occult.



GAUDY NIGHT

By Dorothy Sayers

A classic mystery from the “golden age” of detective stories set at a university reunion.



ANNA KARENINA

By Leo Tolstoy

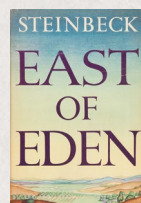
A sweeping exploration of desire, marital duty, and spiritual longing.



REBECCA

By Daphne du Maurier

A gothic thriller you won't be able to put down.



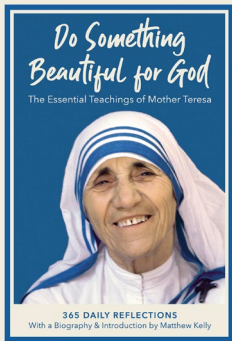
EAST OF EDEN

By John Steinbeck

A multi-generational story about free will, sin, and grace.

INSPIRING MEMOIRS

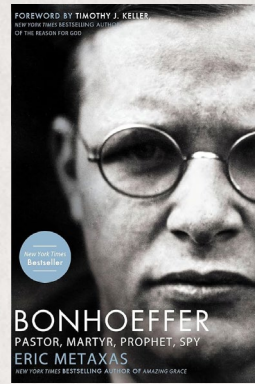
Kick back in your lounge chair by the pool or on the beach. Great reading doesn't have to be trashy – or tough!



SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL FOR GOD

By Malcolm Muggeridge

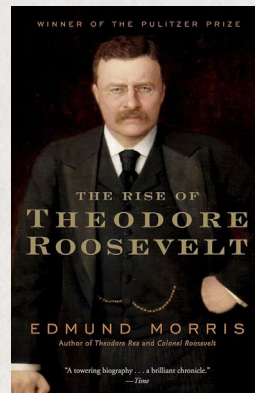
Mother Teresa of Calcutta in her own words.



BONHOEFFER: PASTOR, MARTYR, PROPHET, SPY

By Eric Metaxas

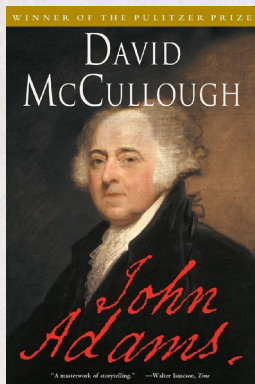
A great Nazi resistance story with a glorious ending.



THE RISE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT

By Edmund Morris

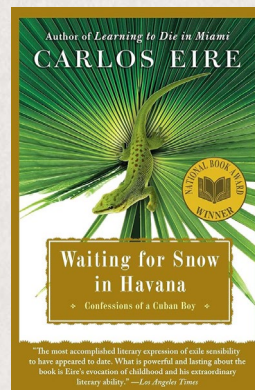
Bully for you! Read softly and carry a big stick.



JOHN ADAMS

By David McCullough

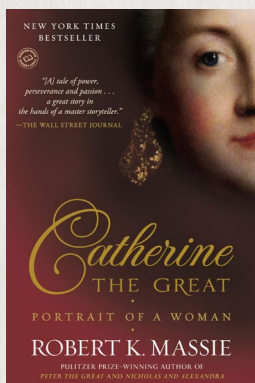
Perfect for 4th of July weekend!



WAITING FOR SNOW IN HAVANA: CONFESSIONS OF A CUBAN BOY

By Carlos Eire

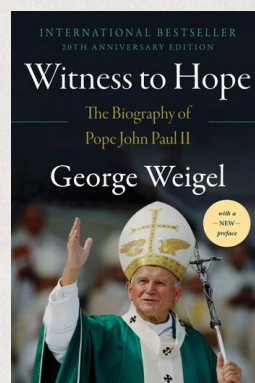
The incredible memoir of a Peter Pan refugee.



CATHERINE THE GREAT: PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN

By Robert K. Massie

The incredible story of the empress of Russia.



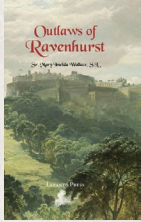
WITNESS TO HOPE

By George Weigel

The drama of the first Polish pope's life.

WONDER & WHIMSY

KIDS & TWEENS



OUTLAWS OF RAVENHURST

By Mary Imelda Wallace S.L.

Scotland's Catholic heritage and swashbuckling action in a tale of hidden identity.



A WRINKLE IN TIME

By Madeleine L'Engle

A whirlwind of adventure across space and time in this beloved classic.



WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS

By Wilson Rawls

Loyalty, love, and loss explored through a boy and his dogs.



THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN

By George MacDonald

Courage and childlike trust lead to triumph.



THE SECRET GARDEN

By Frances Hodgson Burnett

Healing and hope blossoms for a lonely orphan in a mysterious, walled garden.



THE CHILDREN'S HOMER

By Padraic Colum

A gorgeously illustrated introduction to The Iliad and The Odyssey for young readers.



WILL WILDER SERIES

By Raymond Arroyo

A modern, fast-paced adventure filled with monsters, relic hunters, and good vs evil.



FINGAL'S QUEST

By Madeleine A. Polland

Medieval Ireland springs to life in this story of faith, destiny, and devotion.



THE WINGFEATHER SAGA

By Andrew Peterson

Fantasy meets faith in a thrilling tale of identity and redemption.



THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

By C.S. Lewis

The classic series of whimsical tales where wonder meets deep truth and bravery.

MUST READ

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JOURNEYS
& BIG IDEAS

TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS

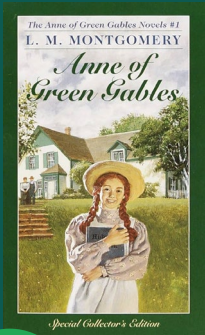
MUST READ



THE FIEFDOM CHRONICLES

By Devin Rose

A modern thriller
rooted in timeless
virtue and courage.

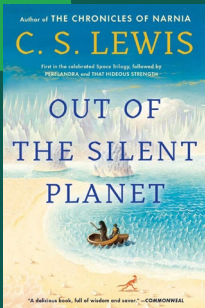


ANNE OF GREEN GABLES SERIES

By L.M. Montgomery

The iconic tales of an
imaginative orphan girl
trying to find her place
in a new home and life.

MUST READ



OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET

By C.S. Lewis

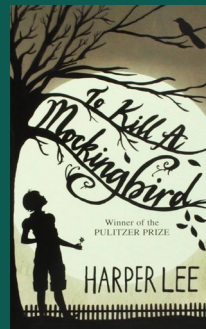
This imaginative sci-
fi voyage reveals the
harmony of creation.



MISTBORN SERIES

By Brandon Sanderson

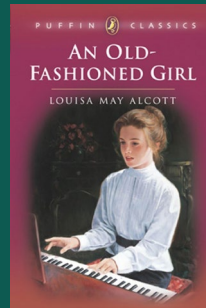
Gritty fantasy meets moral complexity in a
world of ash and rebellion.



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

By Harper Lee

A compelling tale of
justice, conscience, and
compassion.



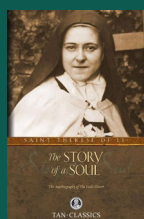
AN OLD-FASHIONED GIRL

By Louisa May Alcott

The Little Women
authoress' lesser-known
coming-of-age tale of
virtue and resilience.

LIGHT FOR THE SOUL SPIRITUAL READS

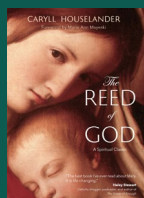
Dive into stories that endure—tales of great beauty, truth, and the human soul.



THE STORY OF A SOUL

By *Thérèse of Lisieux*

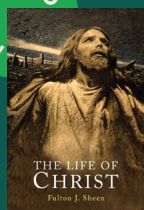
A true account of a little way to heaven, simple yet profound.



THE REED OF GOD

By *Caryll Houselander*

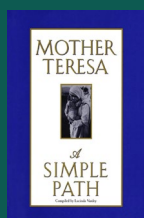
A poetic and intimate reflection on the human side of Mary, Jesus' mother.



LIFE OF CHRIST

By *Fulton Sheen*

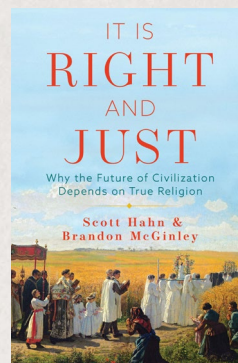
A rich narrative and insight into the person of Jesus.



A SIMPLE PATH

By *Mother Teresa*

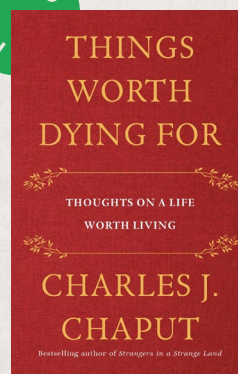
A personal account of spiritual wisdom through acts of love.



IT IS RIGHT AND JUST

By *Scott Hahn and Brandon McGinley*

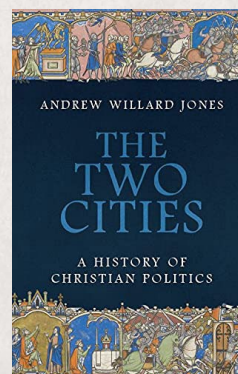
An argument for why worship matters—for souls and society.



THINGS WORTH DYING FOR

By *Charles Chaput*

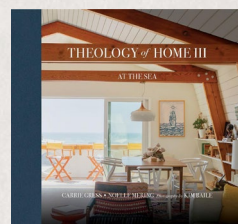
Thought-provoking essays on faith, family, and the challenges of modern life.



THE TWO CITIES

By *Andrew Willard Jones*

A sweeping look at the political history of the West and Christianity's influence.



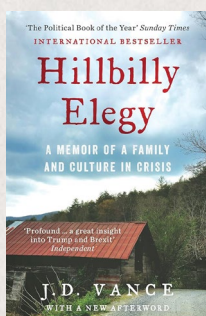
THEOLOGY OF THE HOME: BY THE SEA

By *Carrie Gress, Noelle Mering, and Megan Schrieber*

A celebration of homemaking, rest, and beauty.

LIFE & LEGACY TRUE STORIES

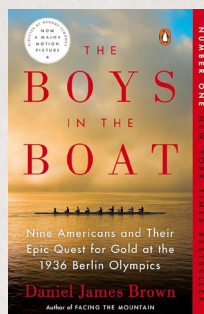
Voices helping us make sense of our times and hearts.



HILLBILLY ELEGY

By JD Vance

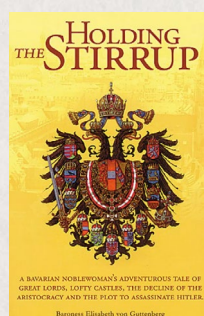
A personal journey through poverty, identity, and redemption.



THE BOYS IN THE BOAT

By Daniel James Brown

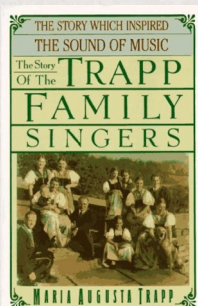
The inspiring story of the American rowing team at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.



HOLDING THE STIRRUP

By Baroness Elisabeth von Guttenberg

One woman's story of faith and resilience amid Europe's war-torn upheaval.

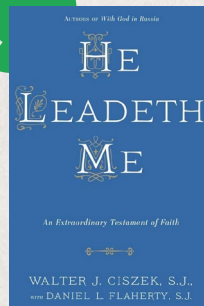


THE STORY OF THE TRAPP FAMILY SINGERS

By Maria von Trapp

The real-life inspiration behind *The Sound of Music*.

MUST READ

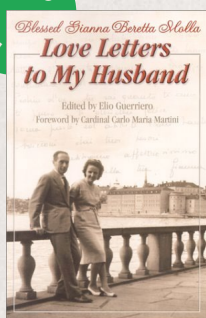


HE LEADETH ME

By Fr. Walter Ciszek

A priest's courageous witness to faith behind the Iron Curtain.

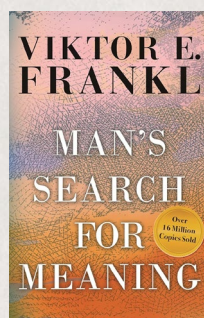
MUST READ



LOVE LETTERS TO MY HUSBAND

By Gianna Molla

A true, charming, and tender testament to the beauty of marital and familial love found in the everyday.

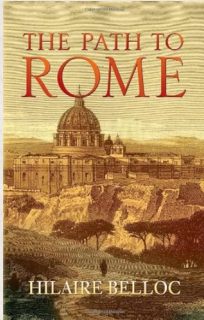


MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING

By Viktor Frankl

Hope and purpose from a Holocaust survivor and psychologist.

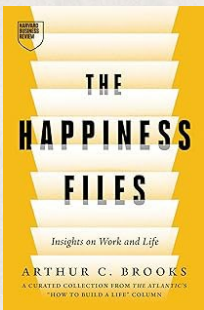
FANTASTIC NON-FICTION



THE PATH TO ROME

By Hilaire Belloc

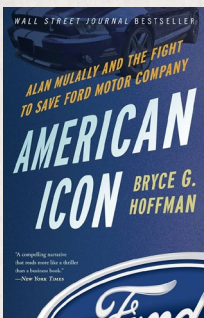
A humorous, devout, and literary travelogue.



THE HAPPINESS FILES

By Arthur Brooks

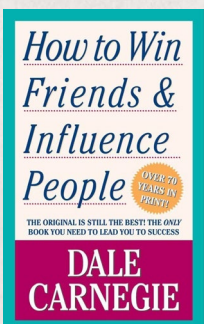
On purpose and contentment in work and life.



AMERICAN ICON

By Bryce Hoffman

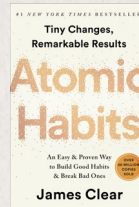
The true story of Alan Mulally's fight to save Ford Motor Company from bankruptcy.



HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE

By Dale Carnegie

Timeless advice on effective communication and building relationships.



ATOMIC HABITS

By James Clear

Practical guidance for small changes with big impact.



END OF WOMAN

By Carrie Gress

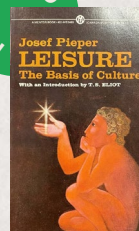
A bold critique of feminism and the cultural effects of "smashing the patriarchy."



THE 5 LOVE LANGUAGES

By Gary Chapman

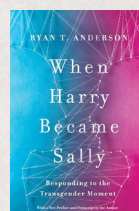
Timeless insights on how we give and receive love.



LEISURE: THE BASIS OF CULTURE

By Josef Pieper

A philosophical case for rest and receptivity.



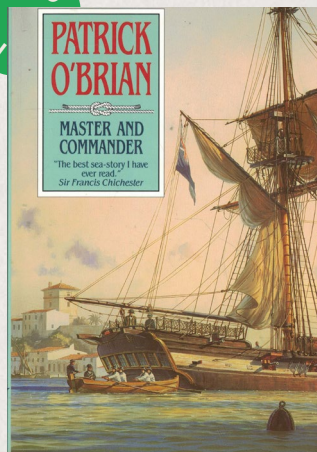
WHEN HARRY BECAME SALLY

By Ryan Anderson

A compassionate, well-researched take on the societal effects of gender ideology.

EDITORS' PICKS

MUST READ

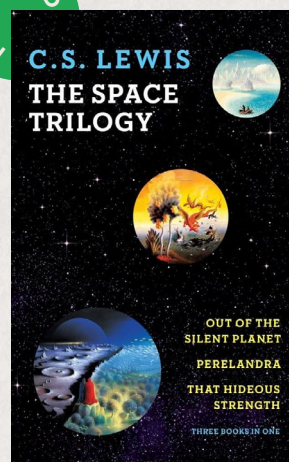


MASTER & COMMANDER

By Patrick O'Brian

Perfect for summer reading, this nautical adventure inspires the soul!

MUST READ

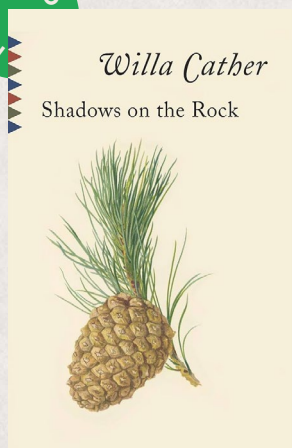


SPACE TRILOGY

By C.S. Lewis

Beloved author's lesser-known masterpiece – high adventure on Mars, Venus, and in Merry England.

MUST READ

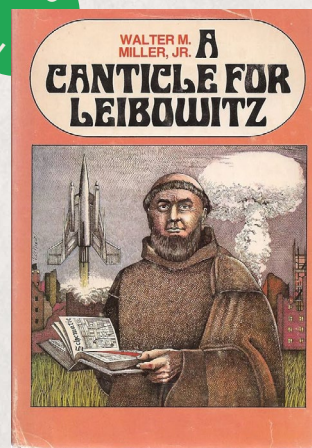


SHADOWS ON THE ROCK

By Willa Cather

A compelling – and beautifully written – novel, complete with frontier drama and interior transformation.

MUST READ




A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ

By Walter M. Miller

One-of-a-kind book in which monks thousands of years in the future become new St. Benedicts in the face of apocalypse.



Rating

A person is seen from the side, sitting in a wooden chair and reading an open book. They are wearing a straw hat. In the background, there is a swimming pool and a clear blue sky. The overall mood is relaxed and leisurely.

*Happy,
reading!*

REFINE

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