

# **Ex Libris Confessions Of A Common Reader Anne Fadiman**

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## **The Enchanted World of Jessie M. King**

### **Libriomancer**

This book has poetry and songs in Yiddish with the side-by-side English translation.

## **Codex Born**

From the author of the highly praised *The Pencil and The Evolution of Useful Things* comes another captivating history of the seemingly mundane: the book and its storage. Most of us take for granted that our books are vertical on our shelves with the spines facing out, but Henry Petroski, inveterately curious engineer, didn't. As a result, readers are guided along the astonishing evolution from papyrus scrolls boxed at Alexandria to upright books shelved at the Library of Congress. Unimpeachably researched, enviably written, and charmed with anecdotes from Seneca to Samuel Pepys to a nineteenth-century bibliophile who had to climb over his books to get into bed, *The Book on the Bookshelf* is indispensable for anyone who loves books.

## **The Book on the Bookshelf**

Compiles the best literary essays of the year originally published in American periodicals

## **Dogs As I See Them**

Anne Fadiman is--by her own admission--the sort of person who learned about sex from her father's copy of *Fanny Hill*, whose husband buys her 19 pounds of dusty books for her birthday, and who once found herself poring over her roommate's 1974 Toyota Corolla manual because it was the only written material in the apartment that she had not read at least twice. This witty collection of essays recounts a

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lifelong love affair with books and language. For Fadiman, as for many passionate readers, the books she loves have become chapters in her own life story. Writing with remarkable grace, she revives the tradition of the well-crafted personal essay, moving easily from anecdotes about Coleridge and Orwell to tales of her own pathologically literary family. As someone who played at blocks with her father's 22-volume set of Trollope ("My Ancestral Castles") and who only really considered herself married when she and her husband had merged collections ("Marrying Libraries"), she is exquisitely well equipped to expand upon the art of inscriptions, the perverse pleasures of compulsive proof-reading, the allure of long words, and the satisfactions of reading out loud. There is even a foray into pure literary gluttony--Charles Lamb liked buttered muffin crumbs between the leaves, and Fadiman knows of more than one reader who literally consumes page corners. Perfectly balanced between humor and erudition, Ex Libris establishes Fadiman as one of our finest contemporary essayists.

### **Honey for a Woman's Heart**

In *At Large* and *At Small*, Anne Fadiman returns to one of her favorite genres, the familiar essay—a beloved and hallowed literary tradition recognized for both its intellectual breadth and its miniaturist focus on everyday experiences. With the combination of humor and erudition that has distinguished her as one of our finest essayists, Fadiman draws us into twelve of her personal obsessions: from her slightly sinister

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childhood enthusiasm for catching butterflies to her monumental crush on Charles Lamb, from her wistfulness for the days of letter-writing to the challenges and rewards of moving from the city to the country. Many of these essays were composed "under the influence" of the subject at hand. Fadiman ingests a shocking amount of ice cream and divulges her passion for Häagen-Dazs Chocolate Chocolate Chip and her brother's homemade Liquid Nitrogen Kahlúa Coffee (recipe included); she sustains a terrific caffeine buzz while recounting Balzac's coffee addiction; and she stays up till dawn to write about being a night owl, examining the rhythms of our circadian clocks and sharing such insomnia cures as her father's nocturnal word games and Lewis Carroll's mathematical puzzles. At Large and At Small is a brilliant and delightful collection of essays that harkens a revival of a long-cherished genre.

### **Dear Fahrenheit 451**

(Autobiographical).

### **Ex Libris**

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### **The Glamour of Grammar**

A Gen-X librarian's laugh-out-loud funny, deeply moving collection of love letters and break-up notes to the books in her life. Librarians spend their lives weeding. Not weeds, but books! Books that have reached the end of their shelf life, both literally and figuratively. They remove the ones that patrons no longer check out, and they put back the ones they treasure. Annie Spence, who has a decade of experience as a Midwestern librarian, does this not only at her Michigan library but also at home, for her neighbors, at cocktail parties—everywhere. In *Dear Fahrenheit 451*, she addresses those books directly. We read her love letters to *Just Kids* and *Frog and Toad Storybook Treasury*, as well as her break-ups with *The Giving Tree* and *Dear John*. Her notes to *The Goldfinch* and *The Time Traveler's Wife* feel like classics. Through the lens of the books in her life, Annie comments on everything from feminism to health to poverty to childhood aspirations. Hilarious, compassionate, and wise, *Dear Fahrenheit 451* is the consummate book-lover's book.

## **Texts from Jane Eyre**

More information to be announced soon on this forthcoming title from Penguin USA

## **Couture Confessions ebook**

Fiction. Poetry. Literary Nonfiction. Women's Studies. The WRITING MENOPAUSE literary anthology is a diverse and robust collection about menopause: a highly charged and often undervalued transformation. It includes over fifty works of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, interviews and cross-genre pieces from contributors across Canada and the United States that break new ground in portraying menopause in literature. The collection includes literary work from award-winning writers such as Roberta Rees, Margaret Macpherson, Lisa Couturier and Rona Altrows. Emerging voices such as Rea Tarvydas, Leanna McLennan, Steve Passey and Gemma Meharchand, and an original interview with trans educator and pioneering filmmaker Buck Angel, are also featured. This anthology fills a sizable gap, finding the ground between punchline and pathology, between saccharine inspiration and existential gloom. The authors neither celebrate nor demonize menopause. These are diverse depictions, sometimes lighthearted, but just as often dark and scary. Some voices embrace the prospect of change, others dread it. Together, this unique offering reflects the varied experience of menopause and shatters common stereotypes.

## **More Glimpses of the World Unseen**

Hugo winner Jim C. Hines's hilarious and clever Magic ex Libris series, where books come alive and libromancer Isaac Vainio combats magical threats that spring from the page Isaac Vainio is a Libromancer, a member of the secret organization founded five centuries ago by Johannes Gutenberg. Libromancers are gifted with the ability to magically reach into books and draw forth objects. When Isaac is attacked by vampires that leaked from the pages of books into our world, he barely manages to escape. To his horror, he discovers that vampires have been attacking other magic-users as well, and Gutenberg has been kidnapped. With the help of a motorcycle-riding dryad who packs a pair of oak cudgels, Isaac finds himself hunting the unknown dark power that has been manipulating humans and vampires alike. And his search will uncover dangerous secrets about Libromancy, Gutenberg, and the history of magic. . . .

## **So Many Books, So Little Time**

A BELOVED CLASSIC FOR DOG LOVERS OF ALL AGES With a new foreword by Ann Patchett In the 1930s, Lucy Dawson's friendly, sympathetic portraits of dogs were so popular with readers of American and British magazines that she agreed to gather them together in a book, *Dogs As I See Them*. Now available once again after being out of print for decades, and a complete replication the original 1936 edition, *Dogs As I See Them* includes all of Dawson's irresistible graphite and pastel drawings and handwritten notes.

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Along with her illustrations are her own amusing stories about the conduct of each of her subjects as they posed for her. Her charming reminiscences interpret the character and mood of each dog, and make us friends at once with each and every one in this gallery of endearing portraits. *Dogs As I See Them* is a remarkable collection dog lovers of all generations will take to their hearts.

### **Unfinished Business**

The world is full of people who love books. People who not only love to read, but who love to possess and collect books. Since the fifteenth century truly devoted collectors have commissioned their own bookplates, known also as ex libris. Some are straightforward ? a simple label bearing the owner's name. Others are impressive works of art in miniature. Whether plain or fancy, book plates give an owner a special sense of proud proprietorship. Even more important, they assure that if a cherished book is lent, it has a decent chance of being returned. They are an indulgence of the rich and famous, certainly. And, ?The art of the Bookplate? includes many owned by prominent people such as George Washington, Charlie Chaplin, John F. Kennedy, Joan Crawford J.P. Morgan, Walt Disney, Grace Allen, Otto Bismarck, Albert Einstein, Eleanor Roosevelt, Harry Houdini, Sigmund Freud, Charles Dickens, and Anita Loos. But other bookplate patrons are unknown to us, like Mabel Bishop, whose charming ex libris shows a young woman tending her garden, or Lucius Fisher, whose bookplate, naturally enough, features a fish. In

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this delightful book James P. Keenan, Director of the American Society of bookplate collectors & Designers, shares many of his favorite bookplates. He explains the history behind each, and discusses the artists ? some as famous as Rockwell Kent and Claes Oldenburg, others as unknown or not ex libris owners are passionate about keeping their book collections intact. As one very old bookplate proclaims, ?Steal not this book for fear of shame. For here you see the owner?s name.? The Art of the Bookplate is a book to be treasured and, of course, kept in your possession.

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### **The Best American Essays 2003**

A study in the collision between Western medicine and the beliefs of a traditional culture focuses on a hospitalized child of Laotian immigrants whose belief that illness is a spiritual matter comes into conflict with doctors' methods.

### **The Art of the Bookplate**

A history of the small decorative labels pasted inside a book's cover to express personal ownership traces their evolution and expressions in various cultures, showcasing more than 100 key examples by such designers as Walter Crane, Aubrey Beardsley and Rudyard Kipling. Original.

### **Ex Libris**

Late legendary couturiers of modern fashion speaking

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eloquently about life, design, and inspiration. Vionnet, Chanel, Dior, Saint Laurent, McQueen—these names define haute couture, and long after the designers have passed away, their influence on fashion continues to be profound. In an exceptional compilation of the original words of these couturiers, *Couture Confessions* provides a unique and in-depth look at the lives and work of these fashion icons. In this engaging, beautifully designed book, Pamela Golbin, acclaimed chief curator of twentieth-century fashion and textiles at Paris's Musée des Arts Décoratifs, has ingeniously constructed conversations in the designers' own words that highlight their compelling personal stories as well as essential fashion "moments"—from designers Paul Poiret, Cristóbal Balenciaga, Madame Grès, Alexander McQueen, Madeleine Vionnet, and Gabrielle Chanel to Elsa Schiaparelli, Yves Saint Laurent, Jeanne Lanvin, Pierre Balmain, and Christian Dior. Featuring striking illustrations by internationally recognized illustrator Yann Legendre, each "interview" asks the questions every fashion lover has always wanted to ask, making these legends approachable, human, and ever more inspiring.

### **The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down**

Presents a collection of Andersen's fairy tales.

### **The Bookseller's Tale**

Stunning and brutally powerful, Falconer tells the

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story of a man named Farragut, his crime and punishment, and his struggle to remain a man in a universe bent on beating him back into childhood. Only John Cheever could deliver these grand themes with the irony, unforced eloquence, and exhilarating humor that make Falconer such a triumphant work of the moral imagination. From the Trade Paperback edition.

### **The Crack-up**

### **Wally the Wordworm**

From "the most powerful book critic in the English-speaking world" (Vanity Fair) comes 100 personal, thought-provoking essays of the life-changing books she wouldn't want you to miss--beautifully illustrated throughout. Legendary former New York Times critic and bestselling author Michiko Kakutani once again brings her wealth of knowledge and passion about books to eager readers--but this time with her personal selections of more than 140 works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry that have had a profound effect on her life. "Why do we love books so much," she asks in her introduction. "These magical brick-sized objects are actually tiny time machines that can transport us back to the past to learn the lessons of history, and forward to the future, where we may be granted glimpses of more ideal worlds, or more dystopian ones that serve as dark mirrors of what we could become, should we misuse the gifts of science, or fail to protect our ideals and our planet." Books have

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always been her escape and sanctuary, the characters of some novels feeling so real to her childhood self that she worried they might leap out of the pages at night if she left the book cover open. In fact, Kakutani is so connected to her beloved books, she refuses to see certain movie adaptations--even the iconic Lord of the Rings--for fear of the cinematic scenes crowding out the detailed images in her head. More than just recommendations, Ex Libris covers a broad range of topics that help build a well-rounded reader and citizen of the world--from the historical (Federalist Papers, The Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.) to the timely (Elizabeth Kolbert's harrowing The Sixth Extinction, Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale) to the fantastical (the Harry Potter novels, Where the Wild Things Are). With richly detailed illustrations by lettering artist Dana Tanamachi that evoke vintage bookplates leafed between Kakutani's passionate essays, Ex Libris is always pointing us to our next great read.

### **Fairy Tales**

Literary Nonfiction. Women's Studies. Memoir. Cultural Criticism. In THE WORD PRETTY Elisa Gabbert brings together humor and observational intelligence to create a roving and curious series of lyrical essays on writing, reading, and living. Combining elements of criticism, meditation, and personal essay, this book reveals a poet's attention turned to subjects from translation to aphorism, from unreliable memory to beauty and the male gaze.

## **Ex Libris**

Jessie M. King.

## **How Fiction Works**

A book-length essay by the forefront literary critic takes readers on a philosophical tour of the art of the novel, in a wide-ranging piece that explores such topics as the definition of style, the connection between realism and real life, and the qualities that make a story. By the author of *The Irresponsible Self*.

## **Tales of Studebaker: The Early Years**

I imagined him in his beloved Brooklyn, strolling in Prospect Park and preaching to chance comers about his gospel of good books. "When you sell a man a book," says Roger Mifflin, the sprite-like book peddler at the center of this classic novella, "you don't sell him just twelve ounces of paper and ink and glue—you sell him a whole new life." In this beguiling but little-known prequel to Christopher Morley's beloved *Haunted Bookshop*, the "whole new life" that the traveling bookman delivers to Helen McGill, the narrator of *Parnassus on Wheels*, provides the romantic comedy that drives this charming love letter to a life in books. The *Art of The Novella* Series Too short to be a novel, too long to be a short story, the novella is generally unrecognized by academics and publishers. Nonetheless, it is a form beloved and practiced by literature's greatest writers. In the *Art Of The Novella* series, Melville House celebrates this

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renegade art form and its practitioners with titles that are, in many instances, presented in book form for the first time.

### **Falconer**

Hilariously imagined text conversations—the passive aggressive, the clever, and the strange—from classic and modern literary figures, from Scarlett O'Hara to Jessica Wakefield Mallory Ortberg, the co-creator of the cult-favorite website The Toast, presents this whimsical collection of hysterical text conversations from your favorite literary characters. Everyone knows that if Scarlett O'Hara had an unlimited text-and-data plan, she'd constantly try to tempt Ashley away from Melanie with suggestive messages. If Mr. Rochester could text Jane Eyre, his ardent missives would obviously be in all-caps. And Daisy Buchanan would not only text while driving, she'd text you to pick her up after she totaled her car. Based on the popular web-feature, Texts from Jane Eyre is a witty, irreverent mashup that brings the characters from your favorite books into the twenty-first century.

### **Writing Menopause**

A worm with a voracious appetite for words who has grown bored with those he finds in children's books, discovers the dictionary where his flagging appetite revives. Includes puns, puzzles, and plays on words, as well as an afterword by the author's daughter, Anne.

## **Thunder Out of China**

Vibrates with encouragement for women who want to explore and enjoy the world of books Gladys Hunt, long-time advocate of reading and author of the cherished *Honey for a Child's Heart*, has written this new book for busy women who want a wider worldview and stimulus for intellectual and emotional growth. *Honey for a Woman's Heart* explores: \* The wonder of words, language, and reading \* What good books offer thoughtful readers \* What makes a good book \* The value of reading fiction \* Best books in genres of fiction, nonfiction, spirituality, and poetry \* How to enjoy the best of books: the Bible \* The pleasure of sharing books with others \* Something for everyone, no matter what age or reading experience \* Recommendations for over 500 books to enjoy Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24

## **How Reading Changed My Life**

Hugo winner Jim C. Hines's hilarious and clever *Magic ex Libris* series, where books come alive and libromancer Isaac Vainio combats magical threats that spring from the page Five hundred years ago, Johannes Gutenberg discovered the art of libromancy, allowing him to reach into books to create things from their pages. Gutenberg's power brought him many enemies, and some of those enemies have waited centuries for revenge. Revenge which begins with the brutal slaughter of a wendigo in the northern Michigan town of Tamarack, a long-

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established werewolf territory. Libriomancer Isaac Vainio is part of Die Zwelf Portenære, better known as the Porters, the organization founded by Gutenberg to protect the world from magical threats. Isaac is called in to investigate the killing, along with Porter psychiatrist Nidhi Shah and their dryad bodyguard and lover, Lena Greenwood. Born decades ago from the pages of a pulp fantasy novel, Lena was created to be the ultimate fantasy woman, strong and deadly, but shaped by the needs and desires of her companions. Her powers are unique, and Gutenberg's enemies hope to use those powers for themselves. But their plan could unleash a far darker evil...

### **Ex Libris**

Early in the history of English, the words "grammar" and "glamour" meant the same thing: the power to charm. Roy Peter Clark, author of *Writing Tools*, aims to put the glamour back in grammar with this fun, engaging alternative to stuffy instructionals. In this practical guide, readers will learn everything from the different parts of speech to why effective writers prefer concrete nouns and active verbs. *THE GLAMOUR OF GRAMMAR* gives readers all the tools they need to "live inside the language"--to take advantage of grammar to perfect their use of English, to instill meaning, and to charm through their writing. With this indispensable book, readers will come to see just how glamorous grammar can be.

### **The Art of X-Ray Reading**

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Marilynne Robinson has built a sterling reputation as a writer of sharp, subtly moving prose, not only as a major American novelist, but also as a rigorous thinker and incisive essayist. In *When I Was a Child I Read Books* she returns to and expands upon the themes which have preoccupied her work with renewed vigor. In "Austerity as Ideology," she tackles the global debt crisis, and the charged political and social political climate in this country that makes finding a solution to our financial troubles so challenging. In "Open Thy Hand Wide" she searches out the deeply embedded role of generosity in Christian faith. And in "When I Was a Child," one of her most personal essays to date, an account of her childhood in Idaho becomes an exploration of individualism and the myth of the American West. Clear-eyed and forceful as ever, Robinson demonstrates once again why she is regarded as one of our essential writers.

### **Songs from the Ghetto. With Prose Translation, Glossary, and Introduction by L. Wiener**

One of our most beloved writers reassess the electrifying works of literature that have shaped her life I sometimes think I was born reading . . . I can't remember the time when I didn't have a book in my hands, my head lost to the world around me. *Unfinished Business: Notes of a Chronic Re-reader* is Vivian Gornick's celebration of passionate reading, of returning again and again to the books that have shaped her at crucial points in her life. In nine essays

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that traverse literary criticism, memoir, and biography, one of our most celebrated critics writes about the importance of reading—and re-reading—as life progresses. Gornick finds herself in contradictory characters within D. H. Lawrence’s *Sons and Lovers*, assesses womanhood in Colette’s *The Vagabond* and *The Shackle*, and considers the veracity of memory in Marguerite Duras’s *The Lover*. She revisits Great War novels by J. L. Carr and Pat Barker, uncovers the psychological complexity of Elizabeth Bowen’s prose, and soaks in Natalia Ginzburg, “a writer whose work has often made me love life more.” After adopting two cats, whose erratic behavior she finds vexing, she discovers Doris Lessing’s *Particularly Cats*. Guided by Gornick’s trademark verve and insight, *Unfinished Business* is a masterful appreciation of literature’s power to illuminate our lives from a peerless writer and thinker who “still read[s] to feel the power of Life with a capital L.”

### **The Word Pretty**

In *The Wine Lover’s Daughter*, Anne Fadiman examines—with all her characteristic wit and feeling—her relationship with her father, Clifton Fadiman, a renowned literary critic, editor, and radio host whose greatest love was wine. An appreciation of wine—along with a plummy upper-crust accent, expensive suits, and an encyclopedic knowledge of Western literature—was an essential element of Clifton Fadiman’s escape from lower-middle-class Brooklyn to swanky Manhattan. But wine was not just a class-vaulting accessory; it was an object of ardent

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desire. *The Wine Lover's Daughter* traces the arc of a man's infatuation from the glass of cheap Graves he drank in Paris in 1927; through the Château Lafite-Rothschild 1904 he drank to celebrate his eightieth birthday, when he and the bottle were exactly the same age; to the wines that sustained him in his last years, when he was blind but still buoyed, as always, by hedonism. Wine is the spine of this touching memoir; the life and character of Fadiman's father, along with her relationship with him and her own less ardent relationship with wine, are the flesh. *The Wine Lover's Daughter* is a poignant exploration of love, ambition, class, family, and the pleasures of the palate by one of our finest essayists.

### **The Wine Lover's Daughter**

THE LIBRARY OF CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT is a groundbreaking series where America's finest writers and most brilliant minds tackle today's most provocative, fascinating, and relevant issues. Striking and daring, creative and important, these original voices on matters political, social, economic, and cultural, will enlighten, comfort, entertain, enrage, and ignite healthy debate across the country.

### **Ex Libris**

A collection of essays discusses the central and joyful importance of books and reading in the author's life.

### **Ex Libris, Confessions of a Constant Reader**

## **Rereadings**

'Entertaining, erudite, eccentric - The Bookseller's Tale is a delight' Alison Light, author of *Common People: The History of an English Family* 'The right book has a neverendingness, and so does the right bookshop.' This is the story of our love affair with books, whether we arrange them on our shelves, inhale their smell, scrawl in their margins or just curl up with them in bed. Taking us on a journey through comfort reads, street book stalls, mythical libraries, itinerant pedlars, radical pamphleteers, extraordinary bookshop customers and fanatical collectors, Canterbury bookseller Martin Latham uncovers the curious history of our book obsession - and his own. Part cultural history, part literary love letter and part reluctant memoir, this is the tale of one bookseller and many, many books.

## **When I Was a Child I Read Books**

Answering the question "is a book the same the second time around?" this collection of essays includes contributions from Sven Krkerts, Allegra Goodman, Vivian Gornick, Patricia Hampl, Phillip Lopate, and Luc Sante, among others.

## **Parnassus on Wheels**

The autobiography of a scholar, critic and bibliophile.

## **At Large and At Small**

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Roy Peter Clark, one of America's most influential writing teachers, draws writing lessons from 25 great texts. Where do writers learn their best moves? They use a technique that Roy Peter Clark calls X-ray reading, a form of reading that lets you penetrate beyond the surface of a text to see how meaning is actually being made. In *THE ART OF X-RAY READING*, Clark invites you to don your X-ray reading glasses and join him on a guided tour through some of the most exquisite and masterful literary works of all time, from *The Great Gatsby* to *Lolita* to *The Bluest Eye*, and many more. Along the way, he shows you how to mine these masterpieces for invaluable writing strategies that you can add to your arsenal and apply in your own writing. Once you've experienced X-ray reading, your writing will never be the same again.

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