



Read a Life: A Booklist of Memoirs

by Bonnie Bradford 6/11

Better than fiction, more fun than biographies, memoirs are the **best** way to read a life.

=place hold on audiobook version of this title



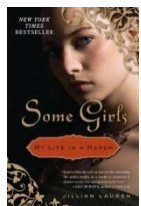
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FREE FOR ALL

By Don Borchert

Call #: 020.92 Bor

The library used to be a place for the bookish and the studious—no longer. Here's a ringside seat for the spectacle of mayhem and absurdity that is business as usual at the public library today. Also try [Quiet, Please](#) or [Running the Books](#).



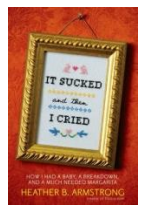
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SOME GIRLS

By Jillian Lauren

Call #: 306.74 Lau

18-year-old theater school dropout Jillian meets a "casting director," who tells her a rich businessman in Asia would pay a pretty American girl \$20,000 to spice up his parties. Jillian spends the next 18 months in Brunei, in the harem of Prince Jefri, the Sultan's brother.



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IT SUCKED AND THEN I CRIED

By Heather B. Armstrong

Call #: 306.874 Arm

Heather tells the heartfelt, often irreverent, but honest story of her battle with postpartum depression and all the other minor details of pregnancy and parenthood that no one cares to mention.



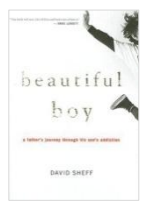
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PASSING FOR THIN

By Frances Kuffel

Call #: 362.196 Kuf

Frances Kuffel is at the airport waiting to be picked up by her brother, when he strides right past her without a glimmer of recognition. Jim had last seen her when she was 188 pounds heavier. The story of a woman reclaiming her body and her life.



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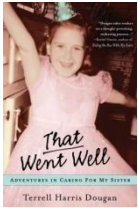
BEAUTIFUL BOY

By David Sheff

Call #: 362.299 She

A father's story of his son's descent into meth addiction. In heartbreaking detail, Sheff describes how Nic became addicted and the drug's impact on his once-happy family. Also try [Tweak](#) to read Nic's side of the story.





THAT WENT WELL

By Terrell Harris Dougan

Call #: 362.309 Dou

An entertaining memoir of the joy, pain, hope, anger, and laughter Terrell has experienced while caring for her special needs sister, Irene. Also try [Riding the Bus With My Sister](#).

[Place hold](#)



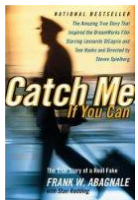
DOWN AROUND MIDNIGHT

By Robert Sabbag

Call #: 363.124 Sab

Late on June 17, 1979, Air New England flight 248 crashed into the woods, leaving nine survivors. This is the story of one of those survivors, striving to come to terms with what can never be forgotten.

[Place hold](#)



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

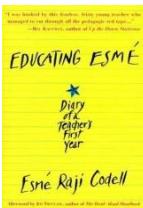
By Frank Abagnale

Call #: 364.163 Aba

Improbable impersonations, sneaky swindles and poseur performances, all perpetrated by a teenage high school drop-out. [Check out the movie](#).



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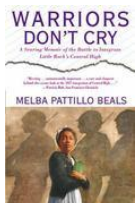
EDUCATING ESME

By Esme Raji Codell

Call #: 372.11 Cod

The funny, hip, uncensored diary of a first year teacher in a Chicago public school. Welcome to the *real* world of teaching!

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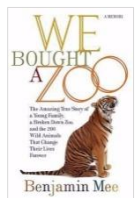
WARRIORS DON'T CRY

By Melba Pattillo Beals

Call #: 379.263 Bea

At just 16, Melba Pattillo became a soldier on the front lines of a civil rights battle when she was chosen as one of the teenagers integrating Little Rock's Central High School. A truly harrowing story. Another Little Rock Nine memoir: [A Mighty Long Way](#).

[Place hold](#)



WE BOUGHT A ZOO

By Benjamin Mee

Call #: 590.734 Mee

The amazing true story of a young family, a broken down zoo, and the 200 wild animals they must now care for. Also try [My Seven Years in Captivity](#).

[Place hold](#)



SICKENED

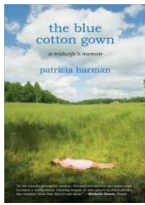
By Julie Gregory

Call #: 616.858 Gre

From early childhood, Julie was continually X-rayed, medicated, and operated on—in the vain pursuit of an illness that was created in her mother's mind. Munchausen by proxy syndrome is a rare, but often fatal form of child abuse.

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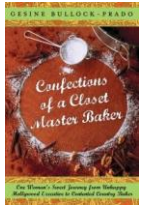
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THE BLUE COTTON GOWN

By Patricia Harman

Call #: 618.2 Har

Despite Patsy's personal troubles, this nurse-midwife devotes herself to her patients' well-being in all aspects of their lives, enabling her to hear their personal stories. Try the sequel, [Arms Wide Open](#).



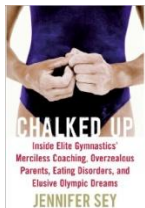
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CONFECTIONS OF A CLOSET MASTER BAKER

By Gesine Bullock-Prado

Call #: 641.185 Bul

Gesine's journey from awkward Hollywood insider to master baker. The ingredients of her story will appeal to anyone who has ever considered starting over from scratch. More tales from the kitchen: [Under the Table](#) and [Cooking and Screaming](#).



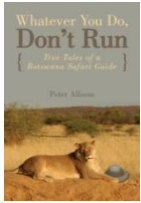
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CHALKED UP

By Jennifer Sey

Call #: 796.44 Sey

Dreams of gold-medal glory led Jennifer Sey to gymnastics, but early success meant ignoring her physical and mental well-being. When her parents and coaches lost sight of her best interests, Jennifer had no choice but to redefine her life and save herself.



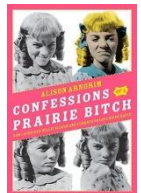
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WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T RUN

By Peter Allison

Call #: 916.883 All

A safari guide in Botswana presents funny tales about his encounters with big cats, elephants, hippos, and other unpredictable animals. Sometimes the small ones are the worst! Try the sequel, [Don't Look Behind You](#).



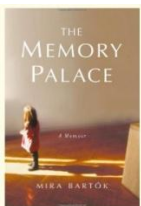
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CONFESSIONS OF A PRAIRIE BITCH

By Alison Arnglim

Call #: 92 Arnglim

Nellie Oleson dishes the dirt on her life on *Little House on the Prairie*. More *Little House* memoirs: [The Way I See It](#) by Melissa Anderson and [Prairie Tale](#) by Melissa Gilbert.



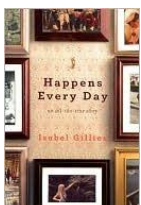
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THE MEMORY PALACE

By Mira Bartok

Call #: 92 Bartok

"People have abandoned their loved ones for much less than you've been through," Mira is told at her mother's memorial service. A memoir about the capacity for forgiveness, despite what exists—or is lost—between a mother and daughter. Also try: [Swallow the Ocean](#) or [You Don't Look Like Anyone I Know](#).



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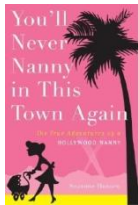
HAPPENS EVERY DAY

By Isabel Gillies

Call #: 92 Gillies

Isabel Gillies had a wonderful life, then her husband announced that he was leaving her and their sons. "Happens every day," she was told. More stories of healing after divorce: [How to Sleep Alone in a King-Size Bed](#) and [Drunk, Divorced, and Covered in Cat Hair](#).





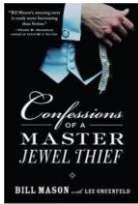
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YOU'LL NEVER NANNY IN THIS TOWN AGAIN

By Suzanne Hansen

Call #: 92 Hansen

A small-town girl's stint as a nanny for celebrities reveals the hilarious happenings in the diaper trenches of Hollywood.



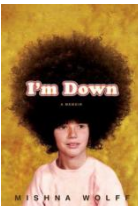
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CONFESSIONS OF A MASTER JEWEL THIEF

By Bill Mason

Call #: 92 Mason

While maintaining an outwardly conventional life, Bill charmed his way into the inner circles of high society and stole more than \$35 million worth of fabulous jewels—mainly for the thrill.



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I'M DOWN

By Mischna Wolff

Call #: 92 Wolff

"You couldn't tell my father he was white. Believe me, I tried," writes Mischna. And so, her father, a white man who truly believed he was black, began his crusade to make his white daughter Down. Also try [Hypocrite in a Poufy White Dress](#).



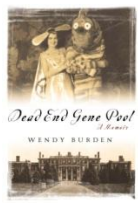
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THE PRIZE WINNER OF DEFIANCE, OHIO

By Terry Ryan

Call #: 920 Ryan

Evelyn Ryan kept poverty at bay and her large family afloat by entering contests wherever she found them. Graced with appreciation for life's hilarity, this mother of 10 turned every financial challenge into an opportunity for fun and profit.



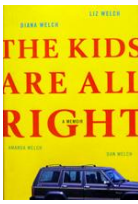
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DEAD END GENE POOL

By Wendy Burden

Call #: 929.209 Bur

The great-great-great-great granddaughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt gives a grand tour of the world in which she grew up—a world of wealth and WASP-ish peculiarity. The rich certainly are different. More stories of growing up privileged: [We Used to Own the Bronx](#), [A Charmed Life](#), and [Thrumpton Hall](#).



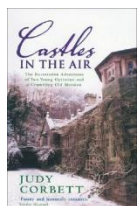
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THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT

By Diana Welch and Liz Welch, with Amanda Welch and Dan Welch

Call #: 929.209 Wel

This is a poignant, harrowing story of unbreakable sibling bonds despite wrenching loss and subsequent separation. Though growing up separated, taking a few disastrous turns along the way, these four eventually came out right side up.



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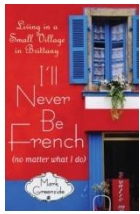
CASTLES IN THE AIR

By Judy Corbett

Call #: 942.925 Cor

When Judy and Peter caught sight of Gwydir Castle in the wilds of north Wales, they had little idea of the dramas that restoring a 16th century castle would involve. Also try [The Guynd](#).





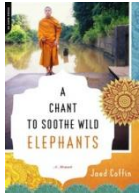
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I'LL NEVER BE FRENCH (NO MATTER WHAT I DO)

By Mark Greenside

Call #: 944.108 Gre

When Mark is dragged by his girlfriend to a tiny village in Brittany, his life changes. He doesn't speak the language or know how things are done, but Mark realizes he has finally come home. Also try [A Year in Provence](#) or [The Olive Farm](#).



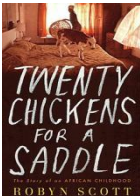
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A CHANT TO SOOTHE WILD ELEPHANTS

By Jaed Coffin

Call #: 959.304 Cof

At the age of 21, Jaed, who is half Thai, half American, left college and America to be ordained as a Buddhist monk, encountering problems of cultural displacement and ethnic identity.



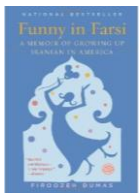
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TWENTY CHICKENS FOR A SADDLE

By Robyn Scott

Call #: 968.83 Sco

The Scotts are truly one of the most unusual families you're likely to meet. Living in Botswana, Robyn's eccentric parents and fun-loving siblings create a life of daily adventure. More tales of living in Africa: [Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight](#) and [Rainbow's End](#).



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FUNNY IN FARSI

By Firoozeh Dumas

Call #: 979.49 Dum

A family recently emigrated from Iran, humorously grapples with American traditions, culture, and the English language (hot dogs, hush puppies, French fries?!). Try the sequel, [Laughing Without an Accent](#).

