



Biographies and Memoirs

Angela's Ashes – Frank McCourt - Wearing rags for diapers, begging a pig's head for Christmas dinner and gathering coal from the roadside to light a fire, Frank endures poverty, near-starvation and the casual cruelty of relatives and neighbors--yet lives to tell his tale with eloquence, exuberance and remarkable forgiveness. **BIO McCourt**

The Bookseller of Kabul – Asne Seierstad –This book tells about a bookseller, Shah Muhammad Rais, and his family in Kabul, Afghanistan. It takes a novelistic approach, focusing on characters and the daily issues that they face. **NF 958.1 Seierstad**

Call the Midwife: A true story of the East End in the 1950's – Jennifer Worth - This is a memoir and the first in a trilogy of books describing her work as a district nurse and midwife in the East End of London during the 1950s. **NF 305.5 Worth**

Cleopatra: A life – Stacy Schiff
The Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer brings to life the most intriguing woman in the history of the world: Cleopatra, the last queen of Egypt. **NF 932 SCH**

A Dream Called Home – Reyna Grande - An inspiring account of one woman's quest to find her place in America as a first-generation Latina university student and aspiring writer determined to build a new life for her family one fearless word at a time. **BIO Grande**

Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India, and Indonesia – Elizabeth Gilbert – The memoir chronicles the author's trip around the world after her divorce and what she discovered during her travels. **NF 910.4 GIL**

Educated – Tara Westover – Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home. **BIO Westover**

The Glass Castle – Jeannette Walls – What is so astonishing about Jeannette Walls is not just that she had

the guts and tenacity and intelligence to get out, but that she describes her parents with such deep affection and generosity. Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms. **BIO Walls**

The Happiness of Pursuit: Finding the Quest that will Bring Purpose to your Life – Chris Guillebeau – When he set out to visit all of the planet's countries by age thirty-five, compulsive goal seeker Chris Guillebeau never imagined that his journey's biggest revelation would be how many people like himself exist--each pursuing a challenging quest. **NF 158.1 Guillebeau**

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius – Dave Eggers – It chronicles his stewardship of younger brother Christopher "Toph" Eggers following the cancer-related deaths of his parents. **NF 973.9 Eggers**

The Hiding Place – Corrie Ten Boom - Corrie Ten Boom stood naked with her older sister Betsie, watching a concentration camp matron beating a prisoner. "Oh, the poor woman," Corrie cried. "Yes. May God forgive her," Betsie replied. And, once again, Corrie realized that it was for the souls of the brutal Nazi guards that her sister prayed. Here is a book aglow with the glory of God and the courage of a quiet Christian spinster whose life was transformed by it. A story of Christ's message and the courageous woman who listened and lived to pass it along -- with joy and triumph! **NF 940.53 Ten**

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis – J.D. Vance - Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The disintegration of this group, a process that has been slowly occurring now for more than forty years, has been reported with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck. **NF 305.56 Vance**

Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body – Roxane Gay Roxane details the horrific abuse that was the catalyst for her weight gain and outlines clearly and painfully what it means to be a woman of size in today's world. It is both an admission of how her size has kept her safe, and how it has imprisoned her. She perfectly captures the strange mix of visibility and invisibility that she faces as a sizable woman living here and now. **NF 306.4 GAY**

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou – This book captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. **BIO Angelou**

The Invisible Thread – Laura Schroff – Stopping was never part of the plan...She was a successful ad sales rep in Manhattan. He was a homeless, eleven-year-old panhandler

on the street. He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back. And she continued to go back, again and again. They met up nearly every week for years and built an unexpected, life-changing friendship that has today spanned almost three decades. **NF 974.7 Schroff**

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier – Ishmael

Beah – The devastating story of war through the eyes of a child soldier. Beah tells how, at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and became a soldier.

NF 966.404 BEA

Look me in the eye: My life with Asperger's– John Elder

Robison – Look Me in the Eye is the moving, darkly funny story of growing up with Asperger's at a time when the diagnosis simply didn't exist. This is the story of Robison's journey from his world into ours, and his new life as a husband, father, and successful small business owner.

BIO Robison

The Magnolia Story – Chip and Joanna Gaines

The Magnolia Story is the first book from Chip and Joanna, offering their fans a detailed look at their life together. From the very first renovation project they ever tackled together, to the project that nearly cost them everything; from the childhood memories that shaped them, to the twists and turns that led them to the life they share on the farm today.

BIO Gaines

Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to

Survive – Stephanie Land - Maid explores the underbelly of upper-middle class America and the reality of what it's like to be in service to them. "I'd become a nameless ghost," Stephanie writes about her relationship with her clients, many of whom do not know her from any other cleaner, but who she learns plenty about. As she begins to discover more about her clients' lives-their sadness and love, too-she begins to find hope in her own path.

BIO Land

My Story – Elizabeth Smart

In this memoir, Elizabeth Smart reveals how she survived and the secret to forging a new life in the wake of a brutal crime. On June 5, 2002, fourteen-year-old Elizabeth Smart, the daughter of a close-knit Mormon family, was taken from her home in the middle of the night by religious fanatic Brian David Mitchell and his wife, Wanda Barzee. Elizabeth was kept chained, dressed in disguise, repeatedly raped, and told she and her family would be killed if she tried to escape. After her rescue on March 12, 2003, she rejoined her family and worked to pick up the pieces of her life.

NF 364.154 Smart

Night – Elie Wiesel – Night is a work by Elie Wiesel about his experience with his father in the Nazi German concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald in 1944–1945, at the height of the Holocaust toward the end of the Second World War. **BIO Wiesel**

Running with Scissors – Augusten Burroughs This is the true story of a boy whose mother (a poet with delusions of Anne Sexton) gave him away to be raised by her

psychiatrist, a dead-ringer for Santa and a lunatic in the bargain. Suddenly, at age twelve, Augusten Burroughs found himself living in a dilapidated Victorian in perfect squalor. The doctor's bizarre family, a few patients, and a pedophile living in the backyard shed completed the tableau. Here, there were no rules, there was no school. The Christmas tree stayed up until summer, and Valium was eaten like Pez. And when things got dull, there was always the vintage electroshock therapy machine under the stairs....

BIO Burroughs

Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the creator of Nike – Phil

Knight – The memoir chronicles the history of Nike from its early struggles to its evolution into one of the world's most recognized and profitable companies.

BIO Knight

A Stolen Life: a memoir – Jaycee Dugard

– On 10 June 1991, eleven-year-old Jaycee Dugard was abducted from a school bus stop within sight of her home in Tahoe, California. It was the last her family and friends saw of her for over eighteen years. Dugard's memoir is written by the 30-year-old herself and covers the period from the time of her abduction in 1991 up until the present. In her stark, utterly honest and unflinching narrative, Jaycee opens up about what she experienced, including how she feels now.

BIO Dugard

Tuesdays with Morrie – Mitch Albom

– This is about a series of visits Albom made to his former sociology professor Morrie Schwartz, as Schwartz gradually loses his life to ALS.

NF 378.1 ALBOM

A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the

Appalachian Trail – Bill Bryson - After years of living in Britain, celebrated travel writer Bill Bryson returns to New Hampshire. But instead of retiring, the 60-year-old announces he's going to hike over two thousand miles along the Appalachian Trail. **NF 917.4 Bryson**

When Breath Becomes Air – Paul Kalanithi – At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. **NF 616.9 Kalanithi**

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail –

Cheryl Strayed – This is a 2012 memoir by American author Cheryl Strayed, describing her 1,100-mile hike on the Pacific Crest Trail in 1995 as a journey of self-discovery. The book reached No. 1 on the New York Times Best Seller list, and was the first selection for Oprah's Book Club. **BIO Strayed**

The Year of Magical Thinking – Joan Didion

– Joan Didion explores an intensely personal yet universal experience: a portrait of a marriage—and a life, in good times and bad—that will speak to anyone who has ever loved a husband or wife or child. **BIO Didion**

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank -

Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the horrors of Nazi

occupation forces, hid in the back of an Amsterdam office building for two years. This is Anne's record of that time. She was thirteen when the family went into the "Secret Annex," and in these pages, she grows to be a young woman and proves to be an insightful observer of human nature as well.

BIO Frank

Autism in Heels: The Untold Story of a Female Life on the Spectrum – Jennifer Cook O'Toole - At the age of thirty-five, Jennifer was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, and for the first time in her life, things made sense. From her own struggles and self-discovery, she has built an empire of empowerment, inspiring women the world over to realize they aren't mistakes. They are misunderstood miracles.

NF 616.85 O'Toole

Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey through his son's Meth Addiction – David Sheff – Before Nic Sheff became addicted to crystal meth, he was a charming boy, joyous and funny, a varsity athlete and honor student adored by his two younger siblings. After meth, he was a trembling wraith who lied, stole, and lived on the streets. His father instinctively researched every avenue of treatment that might save his son and refused to give up on Nic.

NF 362.2SHE

Born Standing Up: A Comic's Life – Steve Martin - By 1978, comedian Steve Martin was a super-star in the world of stand-up, and in 1981, he retired from it completely. His funny and touching memoir details—in his own words—"why I did stand-up and why I walked away." It also candidly recounts his strained relationship with his father, his earliest jobs working at Disneyland, the honing of his craft, his stint on Saturday Night Live, and the resulting isolation and loneliness of his success.

BIO Martin

Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness – Susannah Cahalan - One day in 2009, twenty-four-year-old Susannah Cahalan woke up alone in a strange hospital room, strapped to her bed, under guard, and unable to move or speak. A wristband marked her as a "flight risk," and her medical records—chronicling a month-long hospital stay of which she had no memory at all—showed hallucinations, violence, and dangerous instability. In this swift and breathtaking narrative, Susannah tells the astonishing true story of her inexplicable descent into madness and the brilliant, lifesaving diagnosis that nearly didn't happen.

BIO Cahalan

A Cave in the Clouds: A Young Woman's Escape from ISIS – Badeeah Hassan Ahmed

Captured by ISIS, her bravery and faith became her pathway to freedom. Since her escape, Badeeah has brought her harrowing story of war and survival to the world's stage, raising awareness about the little-known acts of genocide against her culture and the strength of a people unknown to many around the world. **BIO Ahmed**

I am Malala: The Girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban – Malala Yousafzai - When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and

fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York.

BIO Yousafzai

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster – Jon Krakauer - The May 1996 disaster on Mount Everest took the lives of five climbers and greatly impacted the lives of everyone on the fateful expedition—journalist Jon Krakauer was one of the mountaineers to make it out alive. His account of the events were not without controversy, but the personal narrative stands on its own as a vividly told, haunting tale.

NF 796.5 Krakauer

Lab Girl – Hope Jahren – Lab Girl is a book about work, love, and the mountains that can be moved when those two things come together. It is told through Jahren's remarkable stories: about her childhood in rural Minnesota with an uncompromising mother and a father who encouraged hours of play in his classroom's labs; about how she found a sanctuary in science. Yet at the core of this book is the story of a relationship Jahren forged with a brilliant, wounded man named Bill, who becomes her lab partner and best friend. Their sometimes rogue adventures in science take them from the Midwest across the United States and back again, over the Atlantic to the ever-light skies of the North Pole and to tropical Hawaii, where she and her lab currently make their home.

BIO Jahren

Let's Pretend this Never Happened: (A Mostly True Memoir) - Jenny Lawson - Jenny Lawson is the writer behind popular blog The Bloggess and author of two bestselling memoirs—one of which, Let's Pretend This Never Happened, details her eccentric upbringing by a taxidermist father with a propensity for bringing home roadkill. This is an amazingly hilarious, uplifting, and bizarre read for anyone who needs the reminder that fitting in is overrated.

BIO Lawson

Lion – Saroo Brierley - At only five years old, Saroo Brierley got lost on a train in India. Unable to read or write or recall the name of his hometown or even his own last name, he survived alone for weeks on the rough streets of Calcutta before ultimately being transferred to an agency and adopted by a couple in Australia. This is the miraculous and triumphant story of Saroo Brierley, a young man who used Google Earth to rediscover his childhood life and home in an incredible journey from India to Australia and back again...

NF 362.73 Brierley

Love Warrior – Glennon Doyle Melton - After finding out about her husband Craig's infidelity, bestselling author and mom-of-three Glennon Doyle Melton was faced with this question from Craig: "I just need to know if you can really know me and still love me." It turned out to be a question she needed to ask God and herself as well in this powerful memoir about love and self-discovery.

NF 306.89 Mel

The Memory Palace – Mira Bartok – Mira Bartok grew up with a very talented but very ill mother who suffered from schizophrenia, but after a 1990 incident in which her mother cuts her with broken glass, Bartok and her sister, Rachel, make the decision to flee. After a 17-year estrangement, Bartok is in an accident that causes memory loss, leading her to reconnect with a mother who is now homeless and dying of stomach cancer. The heartbreaking and moving story deals with forgiveness, physical and emotional healing, and the complexities of mother-daughter relationships.

BIO Bartok

Men We Reaped: A Memoir – Jesmyn Ward

In five years, Jesmyn Ward lost five young men in her life-to drugs, accidents, suicide, and the bad luck that can follow people who live in poverty, particularly black men. Dealing with these losses, one after another, made Jesmyn ask the question: Why? And as she began to write about the experience of living through all the dying, she realized the truth-and it took her breath away.

NF 813.6 Ward

My Beloved World – Sonia Sotomayor - The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. Now, with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting Justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself.

BIO Sotomayor

My Life in France – Julia Child - "To think it has taken me 40 years to find my true passion (cat and husband excepted)," Julia Child once wrote to her sister-in-law. When she arrived in France in 1948, she could neither speak French nor cook, but this famed chef with a personality as big as her 6-foot-2 frame was determined to master both in this charming story of her culinary beginnings.

BIO Child

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft – Stephen King

Regardless of whether Stephen King's brand of horror is your cup of tea, his book on the craft of writing and his own experiences—from his stacks of rejection letters he had collected by the age of 14 to his struggles with his first published book, *Carrie*, to his fight for life after being hit by a car in 1999—is a necessary volume for every writer.

NF 813 Kin

The Stone Crusher: The True Story of a Father and Son's Fight for Survival in Auschwitz – Jeremy Dronfield

- In 1939, Gustav Kleinmann, a Jewish upholsterer in Vienna, was arrested by the Nazis. Along with his sixteen-year-old son Fritz, he was sent to Buchenwald in Germany, where a new concentration camp was being built. It was the beginning of a six-year odyssey almost without parallel. They helped build Buchenwald, young Fritz learning construction skills which would help preserve him from extermination in the coming years. But it was his bond with his father that would ultimately keep them both alive.

BIO Kleinmann

The Sun Does Shine: How I found life and freedom on death row – Anthony Ray Hinton

Anthony Ray Hinton was poor and black when he was convicted of two murders he hadn't committed. For the next three decades he was trapped in solitary confinement in a tiny cell on death row. *The Sun Does Shine* throws light not only on his remarkable personality but also on social deprivation and miscarriages of justice. Ultimately, though, it's a triumphant story of the resilience of the human spirit.

NF 364.6 Hinton

This Boy's Life: A Memoir – Tobias Wolff - Separated by divorce from his father and brother, Toby and his mother are constantly on the move, yet they develop an extraordinarily close, almost telepathic relationship. As Toby fights for identity and self-respect against the unrelenting hostility of a new stepfather, his experiences are at once poignant and comical, and Wolff does a masterful job of re-creating the frustrations and cruelties of adolescence. His various schemes — running away to Alaska, forging checks, and stealing cars — lead eventually to an act of outrageous self-invention that releases him into a new world of possibility.

BIO Wolff

Unshattered: Overcoming Tragedy and Choosing A Beautiful Life – Carol J. Decker

On June 10, 2008, Carol Decker walked through the hospital doors a healthy woman with flu-like symptoms and early labor contractions. Three months later, she returned home a blind, triple-amputee struggling to bond with a daughter she would never see. This book can give others the perspective and strength to pick up the pieces of their own tragedies and choose a life of healing, purpose, and joy--a beautiful life.

NF 617.5 Decker