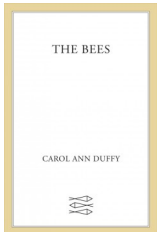


Information, Answers & Reviews

The Bees



[view in catalog](#)

Before we slide into autumn, and the lightning bugs, daddy long legs, and bees disappear, take time to enjoy Carol Ann Duffy's new collection of poems, *The Bees*. No, it has nothing to do with the dark subject of colony collapse. Instead many of these poems center on this communal insect and its work in the world. Other poems are about love and family and the desolation of winter, yet even in these, bees hover over the edges of the poems, providing a small celestial moment of grace and fortitude (especially in those set during cold months.)

Duffy writes lyrical poetry that resonates with imaginative and sometimes unexpected images. Examine how the title poem begins: "Here are my bees / brazen, blurs on paper, / besoted: buzzwords, dancing / their flawless, airy maps."

In this poem she compares bees to words, how they dive deeply into everything and bring back scents that pervade her "shadowed, busy heart, / and honey is art." [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on August 13, 2013

[The bees](#)

[Poetry](#)

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Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter



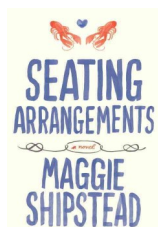
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I will admit to having been both leery and intrigued by the premise of [Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter](#). The idea of one of our historically beloved presidents being turned into [Buffy the Vampire Slayer](#) appalled me. However I like a good vampire film as much as the next person. I also like being surprised. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on August 10, 2013

[Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter](#)
[Adventure](#)
[Civil War](#)
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Wedding Complications



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In *Seating Arrangements*, Winn Van Meter and his family descend upon the family's summer retreat house on the New England island of Waskeke. His pregnant daughter Daphne is about to tie the knot. Bidy, her mother, is deeply involved in final wedding preparations, and Winn finds himself strongly drawn to one of the bridesmaids, Agatha. Meanwhile, Daphne's sister, Livia, who just terminated her own pregnancy, is trying hard to get over a big breakup with Teddy Finn. And to her father's horror, Livia plans to become a marine biologist rather than a lawyer. This lovely, slyly humorous novel is brimming with very believable and flawed characters; it captures the insanity, tension, and chaos of a modern wedding.

Winn, an upper-crust, stoic accountant likes things just so. Imagine his consternation when he arrives a day late for the weekend party to find his spiritual retreat taken over by women: his wife and two daughters, three other bridesmaids, and the alcoholic Aunt Celeste, who sees right through Winn's holier than thou exterior to his traitorous heart. During one pre-wedding party with the new in-laws, she follows him up to the widow's walk and warns him, not to ruin Bidy's weekend. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on August 6, 2013

[Seating Arrangements](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

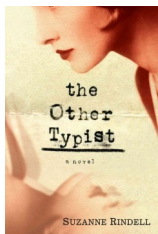
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Those Rollicking 1920s



[view in catalog](#)

Interested in all the hoopla surrounding *The Great Gatsby*? If this new flick has spurned your interest in 1920s New York, *The Other Typist* is the book for you. Talk about unreliable narrators. Rose Baker, a former orphan & Catholic schoolgirl, has joined the new wave of women working where men only used to work?big city police stations.

And even though she is still doing women?s work?stenography & typing--she?s listening to risqué and bad language-spiced stories from speakeasy gangsters and murderers including one serial killer who offs several wives in a row for their money. They each end up drowned in the bathtub, yet he keeps convincing juries that he is innocent.

Strong and stoic as Rose is, she soon becomes mesmerized by the new (somewhat incompetent) typist, Odalie, who is beautiful, rich, and ever so modern. She bobs her hair, wears the new slinky dresses with long beads, and is not afraid to make her own way in the world, including visiting the aforementioned speakeasies. But where does Odalie get her money? And is the daddy who pays her rent really her daddy? [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on August 1, 2013

[The Other Typist](#)

[Female Friendships](#)

[Fiction](#)

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Jeremiah Johnson



[view in catalog](#)

I was once asked what I thought of Robert Redford. My response was immediate. I didn't like him and I thought he was a lousy actor trading on his good looks, though he was certainly a talented director. A short while later the discussion turned to our favorite movies when asked I began naming them: Sneakers, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, The Last Castle, The Sting, The Great Waldo Pepper, The Natural and finally Jeremiah Johnson. There was a sudden pause in the discussion when the person I was talking to said, "Didn't you just say ...?" Read more

Posted by Keith C. on July 31, 2013

Jeremiah Johnson [Motion picture : 1972]

Adventure

Drama

Frontier and Pioneer Life

Movies

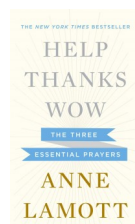
Native American

Sights and Sounds

Information, Answers & Reviews

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Read Alikes for the book *Help, Thanks, Wow: Three Essential Prayers* by Anne Lamott



[view in catalog](#)

[Help, Thanks, Wow](#) is a funny, candid, simple approach to spiritual practice. Lamott uses her unique brand of humor and wisdom to tell hilarious and often wrenching tales about situations in her own life that have inspired her own prayers and inspired her to encourage others to pray anywhere, anytime and any how. More than a prayer manual [Help, Thanks, Wow](#) is a book about getting through life and will inspire readers to think about notions of gratitude, spirituality and faith--all written in Lamott's own particular brand of intelligence, honesty and comedic timing. Think of it--as one reviewer put it--as Cliff notes for spirituality.

Another author who draws on her own experiences as well as intimate conversations with both ordinary and famous figures is Krista Tippett, author of [Speaking of Faith](#). The popular public radio host of the show *On Being* (formerly known as *Speaking of Faith*) has written a book about the conversational journey she has taken on her radio show about religion, meaning, ethics and faith. Readers who have enjoyed Tippett's radio show will be interested in her personal background and her own theological journey. For those who are unfamiliar with Tippett's public radio program this book will introduce the reader to all kinds of people from all walks of religious life including theologians, physicists, nuns, monks and philosophers speaking from a variety of perspectives.

My third read alike is [Hand Wash Cold: Care Instructions for an Ordinary Life](#) written by Karen Maezen Miller is a "reflection on awareness and finding happiness at the bottom of the laundry basket, the love in the kitchen sink and the peace possible in one's backyard." Beautifully written and simply told this book shares the authors ups and downs including a broken marriage, youthful ambition, self-absorption--then into the steady calm of an "ordinary life." The author is a Zen Buddhist priest but as Miller puts it "I'm not the kind of priest you have pictured in your

[Read more](#)

Posted by Bobby O. on July 31, 2013

[Help, thanks, wow : the three essential prayers](#)

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