

Information, Answers & Reviews

Arsenic and Old Lace



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Mortimer Brewster's aunts Abby and Martha are two of the kindest, most loving women you could ever hope to meet. They are always willing to help others and always seemed to have a kind word for everyone. They raised Mortimer and his brothers Jonathan and Teddy from a young age. Mortimer has developed into a well-rounded young man who works for the city's paper reviewing the theatre. Brother Teddy, while harmless, suffers from the delusion that he is President Theodore Roosevelt. Brother Jonathan, well, the less said about him the better. He was the type of child who enjoyed pulling the wings off of flies and the legs off of spiders. The fun begins when Mortimer is excitedly preparing to share the good news of his coming engagement to the girl next door rather unexpectedly finds a dead body in the window box seat of his Aunts' home. Later that same night his brother Jonathan returns home after a long absence; who after numerous face changing surgeries looks a great deal like the actor Boris Karloff. With him comes an alcoholic plastic surgeon and another dead body. Meanwhile, Teddy seems to be digging body sized locks for the Panama Canal in the basement. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on July 9, 2016

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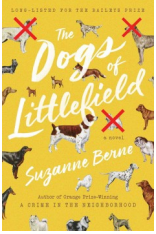
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The Dogs of Littlefield



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Something is happening to the dogs of Littlefield, Mass. Is someone poisoning them or does the blame fall on something more supernatural? A cast of delightful, small-town characters suffers through this travesty as circumstance and personality pit one against each other.

It begins with the posting of warnings: pet-owners should not let their dogs roam free in the park. The signs start off politely, then denigrate into meaner advice: "Leash your beast or else." Then a white bull-mastiff is found poisoned in the park woods. Soon the aldermen schedule a meeting to discuss two diametrically-opposed proposals: ban all dogs from the park, or create a leash-free area for the dogs to play and have freedom.

Littlefield, long on the top ten list of best small communities to live in America, appears to be coming apart in myriad ways. Most of the teens and adults have therapists. The veneer of social niceness quickly disappears. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 21, 2016

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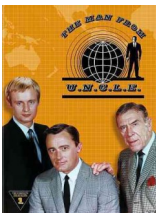
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The Man From U.N.C.L.E. (Television Series)



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The 1960's was the time of the "Cold War" and the "Iron Curtain." Both of these terms were indicative of our relationship with Russia during those years. We may not have been in a shooting war, but we were very much at odds with them in terms of our political philosophies and both countries were very much concerned that these differing political philosophies would spread or worse contaminate their own people. So it is surprising that one of the most popular spy shows on television in the sixties featured an organization made up of agents from many different countries with no regard to the political affiliation or beliefs of their home countries. In fact, the organization's two top agents and their best team consisted of American agent Napoleon Solo (Robert Vaughn) and Russian agent Illya Kuryakin (David McCallum). The series was known as "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and it was popular enough to spawn several made-for-TV movies, a spin-off series known as "The Girl from U.N.C.L.E.," and an attempted movie reboot in 2015. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on June 21, 2016

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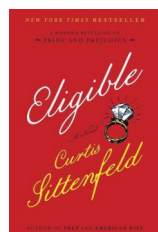
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Eligible



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What do jogging, hate sex, cross fit gyms, and reality TV have to do with Jane Austen? Don't be so 19th century. So what if Austen is rolling over in her grave. Sittenfeld has made a delightful pastiche of *Pride and Prejudice*, much more to my fiction-reading tastes than *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

In this reimagined version of the classic, it's 2013 and the Bennet family has relocated to a spider-infected old Tudor in an upscale neighborhood of Cincinnati. Country club lunches, anyone?

The five unmarried daughters still ground the story although all of them have turned very 21st century. Even Mrs. Bennet has been modernized, she's now a shopaholic busybody. However, she still remains in determined pursuit of worthy husbands (rich, upper class) for her daughters. Jane and Liz have flown the nest for New York City where gentle Jane teaches yoga, and Liz, writes for the entertainment mag, *Mascara*. She also sleeps with her married boyfriend. At thirty-nine, Jane has given up on finding a man, and has begun *in vitro* fertilization treatments in the hopes of having a child. Alas, no wedding bells in the offing for both Jane and Liz. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 13, 2016

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Those Magnificent Men and their Flying Machines



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In 1965, there were two racing comedies released both of them set during the first 10 years of 1900's. The more popular of two was *The Great Race*, which was about an around the world automobile race; the second was *Those Magnificent Men and their Flying Machines*, about an air race between London and Paris in very early and flimsy aircraft. While I will admit there is something special about *The Great Race* and it certainly had more stars who were known in the United States, *Those Magnificent Men and their flying Machines* had something the other did not ? History.

What do I mean by history? First of all, there is the light-hearted review of man's attempts to fly featuring the comic skills of Red Skelton mixed with historic footage of some of the more outrageous of man's attempts and failures to fly before the opening credits. You are not likely to see more historical film footage of man's failed attempts to fly in another movie. But of even greater interest to someone like me is that every plane used in the film was a recreation of a historic airplane from the birth of aviation. In a few cases, they added some safety devices or a small change was made to better protect the pilots, but the planes did fly, or, at least, those that were supposed to fly did, and they were actually flown for the movie's footage. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on June 8, 2016

[Those magnificent men in their flying machines \[Motion picture : 1965\]](#)

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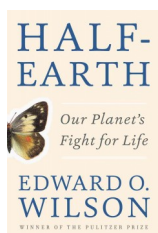
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Half-Earth: our Planet's Fight for Life



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The central premise of this book is that in order to save many of the world's species, humankind has to do something truly radical, that is, create wildlife and nature preserves over half the earth. Renowned entomologist and conservationist, Edward O. Wilson, presents in this book many examples of how interconnected life is in on our planet, and then makes a clarion call to save it. As someone who has actively worked for conservation for decades, Wilson is very knowledgeable.

He points out that of all the fauna and flora now on earth, we know only 20% of them at most at the species level. And much less about how they work together to maintain this web of life. To

learn all these species, even were they to survive, would take at least a couple more centuries.

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Posted by Dory L. on June 6, 2016

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