

## [Watership Down](#)

9780684836058

Wow. I was blown away by this book. It is no accident that it's considered a Classic. [Read more about Watership Down](#)

Submitted by Kim B. on Mon, 2021-04-19 13:37 [Watership Down](#)

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## [Citizen Kane](#)

883929555222

*Citizen Kane* tells the fictional story of rich newspaper publisher Charles Foster Kane, his rise to power and eventual decline as he shifts from an idealistic publisher/editor into egotist whose power has gone to his head. It was based loosely on the life of William Randolph Hurst, but not loosely enough to suit Hurst. The film pulled few punches and Hurst was not amused at being the subject, even if indirectly of such a movie. *Citizen Kane* almost completely failed at the box office when it was released and even before the production was finished the film was wrapped in controversy. Director and writer Orson Wells was accused by Hurst of the being a communist, and a homosexual, both of which were considered major issues in 1941. Interestingly he also accused Wells of being a womanizer and Socialist as well. As you can see the accusations leveled at Wells were often contradictory and usually untrue. The major newspapers, owned by Hurst refused to review the film or allow it to be advertised in their pages. In fact, no review of *Citizen Kane* appeared in any paper owned by Hurst until the mid- seventies over 30 years after its release. [Read more about Citizen Kane](#)

Submitted by Keith C. on Wed, 2016-08-17 16:38 [Citizen Kane, 70th Anniversary](#)

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## [The Great Race](#)

085391109129

A while back I posted an entry about the 1965 movie *Those Magnificent Men and their Flying Machines*. In that post, I mentioned another film that came out the same year called *The Great Race*. While I am entranced by the old planes in *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying machines*, *The Great Race* is really my favorite of the two. The film stars Tony Curtis as "The Great Leslie," a stereotype 1910 pure as gold hero in white and Jack Lemmon as Professor Fate, a stereotype 1910 pure villain in black and tells the story of their race around the world by automobile. Leslie and Professor Fate are not the only cars racing. The race starts with a much larger pack of automobiles; [Read more about The Great Race](#)

Submitted by Keith C. on Thu, 2016-07-21 13:16 [The Great Race \[Motion picture, 1965\]](#)

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## [Living with a Dead Language](#)

9781101980224

They say that you really learn about a people only when you learn their language. Multiply that for a culture long gone, say, that of the Romans.

This book by a former editor describes her love for Latin-- how she went back to college to study it after thirty-five years in New York City publishing. I can't believe I even picked it up after all my complaints about being forced to take Latin in high school. But the fact that I continued studying the language after the mandatory first two years tells you something.

But this is a book about much more than Latin. It's about following one's passion. Along the way, Ann Patty reveals much about her life. She describes sharing a home with a man entirely opposite herself. Her partner, an arborist, lives for the outdoor life. He hikes and skis, even on the coldest days. She's definitely a city person even though she now lives in upstate New York, often rushing back to the city for cultural events. [Read more about Living with a Dead Language](#)

Submitted by Dory L. on Mon, 2016-07-11 12:54 [Living with a Dead Language: My Romance with Latin](#)  
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## [The Blob \(1958\)](#)

715515011129

If the stories I've heard are true there is a five-gallon bucket somewhere in the United States that contains a batch of red silicone still moist from the 1958 production of *The Blob*. Supposedly it is brought out and displayed at the annual Blobfest in Phoenixville PA where many of the scenes for the movie were shot. *The Blob* is one of many science fiction movies of the 1950's that told of some unknown horror coming from outer space that endangers the world. A lot of these were extremely low budget and featured extremely bad special effects even taking into account the time they were produced. [Read more about The Blob \(1958\)](#)

Submitted by Keith C. on Mon, 2016-05-23 18:25 [The Blob \[Motion picture :1958\]](#)  
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## [Frankenstein – 1931](#)

025193102126

The story of Frankenstein's monster has long been one of the staples of horror. The book *Frankenstein*, written by Mary Shelly, wife of poet Percy Shelly is one of the modern horror stories and is also considered one of the earliest science fiction stories. The 1931 movie *Frankenstein* is very loosely based on Mary Shelly's book. One of the most striking differences being that of the appearance of the monster. In the book the monster begins as an almost handsome and well-spoken man and only turns ugly as his skin begins to rot away due to poor blood circulation. For most of us however Frankenstein's monster is best remembered as the large, groaning brute with a flat head and bolt shaped electrodes sticking out of his neck. *Frankenstein* stars Boris Karloff as the monster and Colin Clive as inventor Henry Frankenstein. [Read more about Frankenstein – 1931](#)

Submitted by Keith C. on Thu, 2015-10-22 13:23 [Frankenstein \(Motion picture : 1931\)](#)

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## [The Wild, Wild, West – Television Series](#)

097368881648

When I was young, maybe too young as I was only eight at the time, my father introduced me to a series of books by an author named Ian Fleming about an English secret agent known as James Bond. Prior to this my heroes were all from world of television. I was enthralled with the “Adventures of Superman,” “Roy Rogers” and “The Lone Ranger.” As you may have noticed two of my favorite heroes were from westerns. James Bond suddenly took precedence over them all. I loved the intrigue and the action in the books. But I still loved my westerns. Then, in 1964 a television western, *The Wild, Wild West*, set in the mid 1800’s appeared about two agents of the newly established U.S. Secret Service; James West and Artmus Gordon. Each episode had the intrigue and mystery of a secret agent like James Bond as well as the special gadgets and gizmos a spy would use and best of all, it was a western. I was hooked. [Read more about The Wild, Wild, West – Television Series](#)

Submitted by Keith C. on Tue, 2015-09-22 10:49 [The Wild Wild West. Season 1, The Complete First Season](#)

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## [Mister Roberts \(1955\)](#)

012569736351

*Mister Roberts* (1955), starring Henry Fonda, is based on the stage play by Frank Nugent. Fonda, who starred in the Broadway play, reprised his role as Lieutenant Douglas Roberts for this film, with an A-list of players supporting him. Jack Lemmon also stars as Ensign Pulver, a role which won him an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor; James Cagney as Captain Morton and William Powell as "Doc" round out the cast. Sadly, the film also ended the longtime friendship and working relationship between Henry Fonda and director John Ford who, in a fit of anger, reportedly sucker punched Fonda in the mouth. [Read more about Mister Roberts \(1955\)](#)

Submitted by Keith C. on Tue, 2015-08-04 11:47 [Mister Roberts \[Motion picture : 1955\]](#)

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## [The Shootist](#)

097360890440

A while ago I wrote about one of my favorite John Wayne Movies, *The Quiet Man*. *The Quiet Man* was a romance and a departure from the War and Western films that John Wayne was most well known for. My second favorite John Wayne film, *The Shootist* is also a departure from his usual role even though it is a western, it is the story of an older gunfighter now battling a greater battle; cancer. Seeking a place to spend his last days, he takes up residence in a boarding house run by a widow who is against everything the gunfighter’s life represents while her teenage son harbors a secret desires to be just like the old shootist .

The cast for *The Shootist* is among the best. Besides "The Duke" as the shootist J.B. Books, the film features Lauren Bacall as boarding house owner Bond Rodgers and Ron Howard as her son Gillom. Despite the film's title you won't find a lot of shoot outs in the film. It's the story a dying man, who wants to die with dignity and perhaps regain a little taste of the life he could have had if his life had not taken the violent turn it did. Yes, John Wayne is still the tough guy, but his view is now tempered as he faces his cancer and the knowledge that there is nothing he can do to win his battle against it. Each character must in the end examine themselves as they are faced with Books' mortality and eventual death.

Submitted by Keith C. on Tue, 2014-10-28 15:41 [The Shootist \[Motion picture: 1976\]](#)

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## [The Quiet Man](#)

9781555269005

John Wayne is one of the most famous and beloved actors of all time. He had an acting style that was uniquely his own. While he is best known for his westerns and war films, my favorite John Wayne film, *The Quiet Man*, falls in neither category. John Wayne plays boxer Sean Thornton returning to his Irish boyhood home from America after retiring from the ring and from fighting altogether after one of his opponents dies from the blows he suffered in their fight. His desire is to return to the simple life he knew as a boy and the town he grew up in. It doesn't take long before he finds love with Mary Kate Danaher (Maureen O'hara), but it is this love that is going to make his life far from simple. [Read more about The Quiet Man](#)

Submitted by Keith C. on Thu, 2014-10-02 12:45 [The Quiet Man \[Motion picture : 1952\]](#)

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