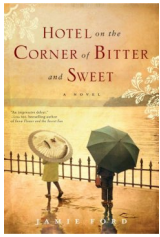


# Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet



[view in catalog](#)

On November 17, author Jamie Ford speaks at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater in Bloomington for the NEA Big Read and the library's biennial Power of Words program. Tickets are free, and can be picked up at the Main Library (at the [Friends of the Library Bookstore](#) or the [Friends office](#)) or [ordered online](#). As he often does, Jamie Ford writes about the clashing and melding of different cultures in his three historical novels: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, *Songs of Willow Frost*, and *Love and Other Consolation Prizes*. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on November 8, 2017

[Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel](#)

[American History](#)

[Coming of Age](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

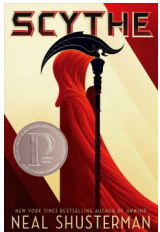
[Fiction](#)

[Multicultural](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Dory L.'s blog](#)

# Scythe by Neal Shusterman



[view in catalog](#)

Death has been defeated and world peace achieved. With the guidance of Artificial Intelligence, humanity has ushered in a utopia?. mostly. In *Scythe*, Neal Shusterman posits that AI has evolved into an omniscient (and omnibenevolent) force called the Thunderhead, through which the world has achieved a true and lasting peace. The Thunderhead controls everything, but unlike many dystopian works, this is a miraculous and profoundly beneficial event. The only power that the Thunderhead does not possess is the ability to take life. That responsibility is assigned to Scythes, who roam the world utilizing quotas to randomly glean (aka kill) in order to keep earth's population in check. [Read more](#)

Posted by Sam O. on January 24, 2017

[Scythe](#)

[Adventure](#)

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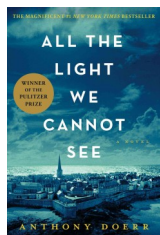
[Coming of Age](#)

[Science Fiction](#)

[Teens](#)

[Sam O.'s blog](#)

# All the Light We Cannot See



[view in catalog](#)

A blind French girl. A brilliant German boy. A locksmith who works at a world-class museum. A French resistance worker who doubles as a housewife. An agoraphobic great uncle who has not left home since the close of the last war, WW1. A Nazi army gem expert who prowls after a world-class jewel that he believes will cure his advanced cancer.

These are the main characters that people this fascinating WWII novel. Tying them all together are radio signals and a blue diamond worth millions.

The novel alternates (mostly) between the points of view of Marie-Laure, a blind girl and Werner, an orphan who teaches himself advanced radio skills. Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six. Just after the German occupation, she and her locksmith father flee Paris, but soon after the Germans take and imprison her father.

A myth surrounds the blue diamond itself. Marie-Laure learned about the diamond early in her life. The myth says that anyone who carries it will have bad luck befall them. Unfortunately, the museum director entrusts the locksmith with this diamond as the Germans enter Paris. He also ordered two other duplicates created to confuse anyone trying to track the diamond. None of the three employees trusted with the diamond know who has the real one. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on July 21, 2014

[All the Light We Cannot See](#)

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[World War II](#)

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[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[Dory L.'s blog](#)[Log in to post comments](#)

Unpublished

## Mud



[view in catalog](#)

There are times when everything in life seems just as clear as... mud. That's doubly true if you happen to spend lots of time scrounging the Mississippi River, which is exactly what the characters in the latest from [Jeff Nichols](#) (director of 2011's shamefully overlooked [Take Shelter](#)) do to get by. Centering on Ellis and Neckbone, two early-teens swamp rats who befriend a fugitive hiding out near their fishing spot, [Read more](#)

Posted by Ryan S. on October 9, 2013

[Mud](#)

[Coming of Age](#)

[Crime](#)

[DVD](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

[Friendship](#)

[Movies](#)

[Relationships](#)

[Sights and Sounds](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[Ryan S.'s blog](#)[Log in to post comments](#)

## Hippie Child: How a Young Boy Helped Parent his New-Age Mom



[view in catalog](#)

Think your childhood was non-mainstream? A little kooky? Perhaps on the bizarre side? Well check out the hand Josh Safran was dealt being born in the early 70s in a commune in San Francisco during the height of Flower Power and the counter-culture.

Safran makes his childhood?first in city communes; later in remote cabins in the mountain wilderness actually sound happy. Credit his mother, Claudia, for that. Highly intelligent, emotionally warm, full of passion for political change and hope for a just world, Claudia imparted to Josh many values. Yet, she also barely kept food on his plate and never gave him a beautiful home. In fact for one three month period, they lived in a visqueen shelter on tree stumps in a rain forest. Yet these are failings of poverty not intent. Much worse were allowing her lovers to abuse him and to threaten them both by driving under the influence of alcohol on icy mountain roads, often in the dark.

The book is sad, poignant, funny, and a surprising page turner from beginning to end. Check out this hook of an opening sentence ?By the time I was ten, I had hitchhiked thousands of miles and befriended hundreds of remarkably strange people.? Here?s a short list of them: Crazy John, Uncle Tony (no blood relation), conniving Bob, deal-making [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 2, 2013

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[Memoir](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

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Unpublished

## Geeking Out on the 80s

Image

The decade was only roughly ten years gone when the BBC (and then US network VH1)

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brought nostalgia for the 1980s to TV with *I Love the '80s* in 2001. America has long been fascinated with looking back on its pop-culture history, but the decade that saw PCs, video games, cable TV, and a variety of musical sub-genres explode maintains a hold on our imaginations. Two of this year's Rosie Award nominees focus on the decade, centered on what has become our true national pastime ? gaming.

[Read more](#)

Posted by Chris H. on July 18, 2013

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## Shine by Lauren Myracle



[view in catalog](#)

Warning: this book contains Serious Issues. You've also been warned that there aren't any angels, zombies, vampires, demons, or changelings. No one has supernatural superhero powers. It isn't set in the future and there has not been an apocalypse. Still interested? Yes! I loved this. Shine by Lauren Myracle is a realistic, gritty and powerful coming of age story that is raw and emotional but also completely worthwhile.

After Cat's friend Patrick is brutally assaulted, marked with a gay slur, and left for dead at a gas station in their hometown of Black Creek, NC she decides to figure out who could have done something so horrible. The sheriff is investigating, but seems sure that it was outsiders - just someone passing through. At face value, this book is a mystery. Cat sets out to interview people who were with Patrick the night of the attack to establish a timeline and she tries to determine motive. Patrick was friends with many people in town who were also uncomfortable to some degree with his homosexuality.

But really the heart of this book isn't so much figuring out who did it, but how the characters come to terms with the resolution. Cat also has to face her own demons in this process. I liked that she wasn't a superhero, but a girl who got kind of messed up and is really trying to do the right thing. [Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on May 6, 2013

[Shine](#)

[Award Winner](#)

[Coming of Age](#)

[Fiction](#)

[LGBTQ](#)

[Realistic](#)

[Teens](#)

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