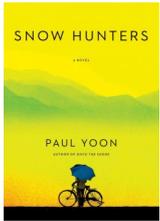


# A North Korean Emigré to Brazil



[view in catalog](#)

Want to read a novel but feeling pressed for time with all the craziness of back-to-school and fall a-coming? If so, try this new one, the highly lyrical *Snow Hunters* by Korean-American Paul Yoon. It tells the story of a North Korean prisoner of war who refuses to return home after the Korean War. Instead the administrators of his prison camp finds him a placement in Brazil. Yohan boards a cargo ship where the sailors befriend him and they set sail for South America.

Yohan arrives at a small unnamed town in the rain as a young girl on a bicycle rides past. She gives him her umbrella. Yohan shelters himself under it as he goes in search of the tailor Kiyoshi who has agreed to give him an apprenticeship.

The former Japanese tailor and Yohan develop a relationship that is at first wordless. Neither speaks the same language. But Kiyoshi is both very kind and very observant. When Yohan wakes in the middle of the night with [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on September 3, 2013

[Snow Hunters: A Novel](#)

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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.

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Posted by Keith C. on August 10, 2013

[Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter](#)

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[Monsters](#)

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[Vampires](#)

## Wedding Complications



[view in catalog](#)

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](#)

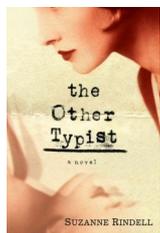
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## Those Rollicking 1920s



[view in catalog](#)

Interested in all the hoopla surrounding *The Great Gatsby*? If this new flick has spurred 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](#)

[Reviews](#)

[Read, Learn, Connect & Create](#)

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## While You're Waiting For? And the Mountains Echoed

Image

Khaled Hosseini's new novel [And the Mountains Echoed](#) tells family stories of loss and love

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from multiple points of view. There is a long waiting list for this book at the library, so here are some ideas for other books you might enjoy reading while you wait.

The obvious first choices are Hosseini's other popular and well received novels [The Kite Runner](#) and [A Thousand Splendid Suns](#). Both stories are set in Afghanistan, the author's native land, and reveal the impact the country's political turmoil has upon its people, while focusing on more intimate stories of friendship and family.

If you have already read Hosseini's other titles you might try [The Moonlit Cage](#) by Linda Holeman. This novel is also set in Afghanistan and follows the difficult life of Darya in the mid nineteenth century in a small village. This is a heart wrenching, yet ultimately redeeming story of a woman discovering her value.

An author that has much of the same appeal as Hosseini is Jhumpa Lahiri. [Read more](#)

Posted by Elizabeth G. on July 31, 2013

[And the Mountains Echoed](#)

[Fiction](#)

[Reviews](#)

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## Madame Tussaud and Read Alikes

*Madame Tussaud*

[Madame Tussaud](#) is a historical fiction book by Michelle Moran based on the real Marie

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Tussaud, a sculptress and museum owner in Paris. Apprenticed by her uncle, Marie learns the art of wax sculpting amid the politics, court intrigue, and massacres leading up to and during the French Revolution. Marie needs the museum to be profitable, but is often torn by personal loyalties and her desire for success. It was really refreshing to read a historical book with a strong female character who does more than sit around in fancy dresses and flirt with famous men. With a little digging, I uncovered a few more books that fit this description - historical fiction with strong women who earn income, love to learn, and are passionate about their careers! [Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on July 9, 2013

[Historical](#)

[Fiction](#)

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## A Guide to the Birds of East Africa



[view in catalog](#)

Every Tuesday at 830 a.m., a group of ardent birders meets at the Nairobi Museum to search for some avian wildlife together. Mr. Malik, a retired businessman and owner of the Jolly Man Manufacturing Club, squeezes bird-watching into his schedule though he does ?have other commitments.?

The leader of the group is the beautiful and charming widow, Rose Mbikwa, who came to Africa from England and never left to her parents? great consternation. Her husband was arrested for political activity and later died in a mysterious light plane accident.

On this day, Rose announces that she is leaving for England for an eye operation. Also a new birder has joined the group, an old school acquaintance of Mr. Malik?s from long-ago. Harry Kahn keeps calling Malik by old nicknames, ones Malik did not like in the old days and likes even less now. Complicating the plot--both really like Rose. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on July 8, 2013

[A Guide to the Birds of East Africa](#)

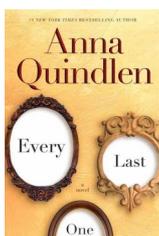
[Fiction](#)

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[Reviews](#)

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## The Perfect Family Until--



[view in catalog](#)

When this compelling novel starts, Mary Beth Lathem?s biggest problem is taking sass from her truculent teenaged daughter, Ruby. The narrative starts at the beginning of Mary Beth?s busy day as she goes through the house waking up her three children, the eldest daughter and two twins, Alex and Max. Mary Beth owns a landscape business but soon you can tell that her family is the center of her life and passions.

Alex is a soccer jock, immensely talented and popular while Max, his fraternal twin, is a computer nerd with social anxiety problems. Glen, Mary Beth?s husband, is an extremely practical and thoroughly unromantic eye doctor--solid as hardwood--though Mary Beth is not necessarily aware of that. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 15, 2013

[Every Last One: A Novel](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

[Fiction](#)

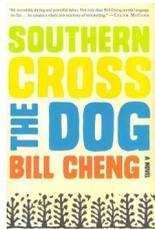
[Friendship](#)

[Reviews](#)

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## Voodoo, Blues, and Wandering after the Great Flood



[view in catalog](#)

This first novel by an Asian-American has already created a lot of buzz. First, it has an intriguing topic: Mississippi after the great flood of 1927. Secondly: the main characters are compelling--they are very poor African-Americans under the yoke of the white inhabitants. Finally, it shows exquisite writing. William Ferris said, "Bill Cheng embraces the region's 1927 flood, voodoo, blues, and race with breathtakingly beautiful prose."

*Southern Cross the Dog* starts with a group of black children playing "Little Sally Water" in the rain--the rain that caused the great flood. Soon the story focuses on the character of Robert, the second born child of Etta and Ellis. Before long, you discover that his family has just suffered an immense tragedy. White vigilantes had hung the oldest son Billy for loving a white girl.

Bill Cheng captures the chaos and hardship after the flood. Dead bodies floated past. Men with boats offered rides but also stole the food and valuable keepsakes of the displaced families. Robert's family began this journey together, but ended up in a refugee camp. Because Etta has lost her mind over Billy's death, she needs constant care. Ellis makes a difficult decision: to send young Robert off with someone to work in another town. Ellis thinks this is the only way all three of them will survive but he mistakenly does not tell his son why he is sending him away. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 4, 2013

[Southern Cross the Dog; A Novel](#)

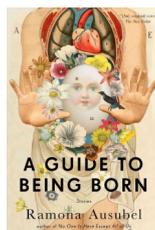
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## Parenthood, Birth, and Other Transformations



[view in catalog](#)

In *A Guide to Being Born*, Ausubel's narrative voice is strong and unique. She takes chances in her fiction yet unlike some modern authors, she still includes distinct narrative threads. You can tell she is an independent-minded author just from the layout of her collection--four sections titled: Birth, Gestation, Conception, and Love. Notice the order of her subjects, the reverse of what you might expect.

I fell in love with the first story "Safe Passage." It begins this way, "The Grandmothers" dozens of them find themselves at sea. This boat full of older women find themselves adrift with hundreds of crates; they open them to see if any of the items will allow them to save themselves. The story is funny, whimsical, and fantastical all at once. Plus, it conceals a deeper level that you won't discover right away. The grandmothers find shipping containers full of yellow roses, and they fill their arms with them despite the fact that the thorns leave blood tracks on their hands.

Another fantasy-rich story is "Chest of Drawers." Toward the end of the wife's pregnancy, her husband suddenly grows live drawers on his chest, a problem that necessitates many medical appointments and tests. Yet, the compartments come in handy for carrying things such as his wife's lipstick and a bunch of tiny diversity dolls. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 30, 2013

[A Guide to Being Born: Short Stories](#)

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