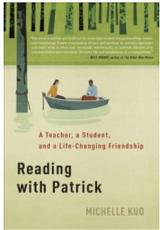


## Reading with Patrick



[view in catalog](#)

Everyone has heard about the talented, super-smart teachers who work for the [Teach for America](#) program. But why do many of these new teachers only stay for a year or two and then move on? In *Reading with Patrick*, compelling and emotionally resonant memoir, Michelle Kuo, a Harvard-educated Asian American, relates her two years teaching in poverty-torn Helena, Arkansas, a delta town close to the Mississippi state line that has lost nearly all of its industry. Kuo also describes her parents' great expectations for her career, and their deep disappointment when she takes a low-paying position in education. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 9, 2018

[Reading with Patrick](#)

[African American](#)

[Friendship](#)

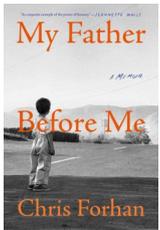
[Memoir](#)

[Multicultural](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Dory L.'s blog](#)

## My Father Before Me: A Memoir



[view in catalog](#)

The story of a man's life always includes his father?and even more so when the father takes his own life. In this moving memoir, a poet and professor describes growing up in a big Catholic family in Seattle during the 1960s. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 19, 2017

[My Father Before Me: A Memoir](#)

[Memoir](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Dory L.'s blog](#)

## Bleaker House: Chasing My Novel to the End of the World



[view in catalog](#)

Say you've just finished your graduate degree in writing from Boston College, and a rich donor provides you with funds to travel anywhere in the world. Where do you pick? Tahiti, Paris, Buenos Aires? For British citizen Nell Stevens, it's none of the above. Instead, she chooses the remote Falklands Islands, where South America meets Antarctica?in June, which is winter there.

In Stanley, the Falklands' capital, Nell researches the archives for her first novel, and also meets some of the less-than-friendly Falklanders there. After a few weeks, Nell hops a plane for even more remote Bleaker Island, about which a writer friend quips, "Oh, you're writing *Bleaker House*." [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on August 2, 2017

[Bleaker House: Chasing My Novel to the End of the World](#)

[Adventure](#)

[Fiction](#)

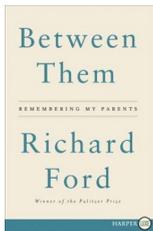
[Memoir](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

[Information, Answers & Reviews](#)

[Dory L.'s blog](#)

## Between Them: Remembering My Parents



[view in catalog](#)

It's a life-changing experience in adulthood when you begin to see your mother and father as individuals, separate from their parenting roles.

Richard Ford wrote a memoir of his father decades ago, as well as one of his mother, penned more recently. Now, in this joint memoir, he again remembers his parents, Parker and Edna, who both grew up in Arkansas. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on July 10, 2017

[Between Them: Remembering My Parents](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

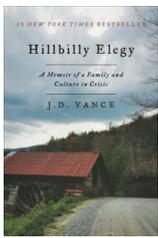
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[Dory L.'s blog](#)

## Hillbilly Elegy



[view in catalog](#)

Many in the media and politics keep trying to figure out why our new President attracts so many Rust Belt and Appalachian voters. This memoir of a young man's coming of age in both regions may offer some insight.

At only thirty-one, J.D. Vance admits he's way too young to have penned a memoir. He hasn't done anything extraordinary (though he did graduate from Yale Law School, a major accomplishment for a kid from a single-parent home in a working-class town in Ohio, where many did not finish high school).

Vance writes most vividly of Jackson, his dirt-poor but beautiful ancestral home in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. He also describes his people: a great-grandmother who once killed someone, and his own Mamaw who often threatens to do the same to her husband when he comes home drunk. In fact, J.D. relates, one night he saves his Pawpaw after Mamaw poured gasoline over him and lights a match. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 23, 2017

[Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis](#)  
[Memoir](#)

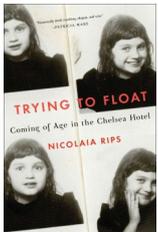
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## Trying to Float: Coming of Age in the Chelsea Hotel



[view in catalog](#)

Can't say when the last time I read a book written by a seventeen-year old, but this memoir by a high school student was touching and well-written despite Nicolaia Rips' youth. Growing up in New York's famed Chelsea Hotel gives one a head start, at least when it comes to knowing interesting characters.

The Chelsea's fame reached its ascendancy in the 60s and 70s with noteworthy residents: Leonard Cohen, Robert Mapplethorpe, and Patsy Smith, who wrote her own memoir about it, *Just Kids*.

First Nicolaia describes how she came into being. Her mom was a globe-trotting artist, and her dad had zero interest in raising a child, but somehow the artist got pregnant, and the couple began a new way of life. Though not immediately.

While pregnant, her Mom traveled through Europe and along the Silk Road in Asia. Her dad, a non-practicing lawyer and writer, stayed in New York and added a psychiatrist's office to his daily rounds of coffee shops. He also denied that he was the father, accusing a gay friend for parenting the child.

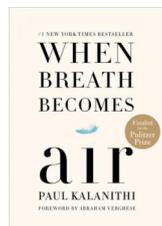
However, once Nicolaia was born, he came around and warmly embraced being a dad, but still the family remained footloose, decamping for several years in Italy, and then roaming North Africa and India, before returning to NYC and the Chelsea Hotel. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 24, 2016

[Trying to Float: Coming of Age in the Chelsea Hotel](#)  
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[Dory L.'s blog](#)

## When Breath Becomes Air



[view in catalog](#)

As a young neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi had the difficult task of preparing patients and their families for death. As a brain surgeon his patients included everyone from young children with epilepsy, to teens shot in the head during gang violence, to people of all ages suffering from brain tumors.

Then there was the man who spoke only in numbers. He enunciated well, and spoke with a conversational lilt to his words yet no one understood him. The numbers signified nothing, and left him feeling more alone.

Unlike many doctors, Dr. Kalanithi enjoyed the challenge of discussing death with his terminally-ill patients. His undergraduate and graduate studies of philosophy and literature helped him make these talks both meaningful and helpful while always being cognizant of where the patient and family were coming from in their understanding of the patient's condition.

But then in his last year as a resident when he was the chief neurosurgery resident at Stanford, he woke one day with intense back pain. He had a checkup but nothing serious showed, so he flew to upstate New York for a reunion with dear friends that he had long been anticipating. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on March 14, 2016

[When Breath Becomes Air](#)

[Nonfiction](#)

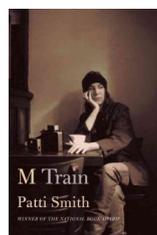
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## M Train



[view in catalog](#)

This absorbing new memoir by artist, poet, performer, and rock star Patti Smith provides a personal take on her daily life: her dreams, philosophical musings, friendships and myriad exotic journeys. Favorite black jacket, check. Watch cap, check. Black coffee at Café ?Ino, check.

Unlike *Just Kids*, which focused on her past, her life with artist Mapplethorpe in the famous Chelsea Hotel, in this book the past and present intertwine. Coffee, the connecting themes.

Appropriately enough, it begins with a dream. One of many that thread through the book. Next Patti describes her trip to French Guiana in the 70s. After her husband promised her a trip anyway in the world. Patti--idiosyncratic as always--chose the place where French writer Genet was imprisoned. They were almost jailed themselves on the way back when their driver was caught ferrying a man in the trunk

to the airport. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on January 14, 2016

[M Train](#)

[Writing](#)

[Nonfiction](#)

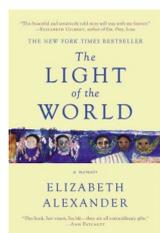
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## The Light of the World



[view in catalog](#)

You might recall Elizabeth Alexander?she read the poem at President Obama?s first inauguration. This memoir by the prize-winning poet covers a much more private, interior space. It tells the story of her love, marriage and family, and especially the jagged rent in her life caused by her husband?s death.

The first chapter queries where the actual story begins. Is it the beautiful April morning in Hamden, Connecticut when Fircr Ghebreyesus returns to his younger son Simon?s trundle bed, saying, ?This is the most comfortable bed I have ever slept in.?? Is it when Fircr ran out of the house to buy three dozen lottery tickets on a hunch, wanting the win the lottery for Elizabeth? Or is it way back in ?61 when two women on opposite sides of the earth become pregnant, one carrying a first-born girl, another carrying a later-born son?

The couple met in a New Haven coffee shop; Fircr came over and introduced himself. He was a chef who had escaped from war-torn Eritrea, Africa at age sixteen. He became a refugee in Sudan, Germany, Italy and finally, the States. Torn from his family for many years, he ended up in New Haven and in the 90s began painting.

He later said he would never marry a woman who did not honor and love her parents. Luckily, Elizabeth more than fit that bill. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on November 1, 2015

[The Light of the World: A Memoir](#)

[Memoir](#)

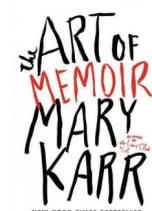
[Family Relationships](#)

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## The Art of Memoir



[view in catalog](#)

Mary Karr is known for her series of memoirs about her difficult childhood. In this new book about how

to write a memoir, she quotes from some of the best works in the genre including McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, Nabokov's *Invitation of a Memory*, and *Wild: from Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* by a former student of hers, Cheryl Strayed.

What exactly is a memoir? The name is very descriptive. It's a work based on memory. But it's not the same as an autobiography for it concentrates on a specific period of life and is centered by a theme. For instance, Jeanette Winterson's *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* chronicles a teenager's adoption into a strict fundamentalist family, her adopted mom's mistreatment of her, and her eventual rebellion from this way of life. It's a memoir about a young woman discovering her true self.

Karr has plenty of what she considers the prime ingredient for a memoir: voice. She defines voice as "not just a manner of talking, it's an operative mindset and way of perceiving." You could describe Karr's voice as sassy, informal, sometimes even, badass. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 7, 2015

[The Art of Memoir](#)

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