

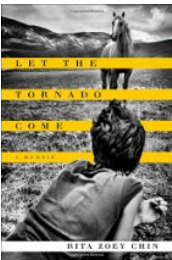
# LISA'S RAVES AND FAVES

## GERE BOOKSTALK - OCTOBER 20, 2014



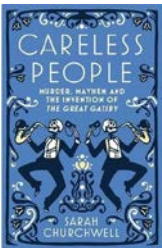
[Love and Terror on the Howling Plains of Nowhere: A Memoir](#), by Poe Ballantine  
[eBook format only]

One day in 2006, the author's neighbor, Steven Haataja, a math professor from the local state college disappeared. Ninety five days later, the professor was found bound to a tree, burned to death in the hills behind the campus where he had taught. No one, law enforcement included, understood the circumstances. Poe Ballantine had never contemplated writing mystery or true crime, but since he knew all the players, the suspects, the sheriff, the police involved, he and his kindergarten son set out to find out what might have happened.



[Let the Tornado Come: A Memoir](#), by Rita Zoey Chin [Biography Chin]

Rita survives her harrowing childhood to become a prize-winning writer and the wife of a promising surgeon. But when she is suddenly besieged by terrifying panic attacks, her past trauma threatens her hard-won happiness and the stable, comfortable life she's built with her husband.



[Careless People: Murder, Mayhem, and the Invention of the Great Gatsby](#), by Sarah Bartlett Churchwell [813 FitYc]

"The Great Gatsby" was first published in 1925, but Fitzgerald set the novel in 1922, when he and Zelda returned to New York. Fitzgerald was planning his new novel and he wanted to do something different - it would take him two years to finish Gatsby and, in a way, this is a biography of a novel. For, in this book, the author cleverly takes us through the time that Scott and Zelda spent in New York - the events that influenced him and the eighteen months he spent in Great Neck, just outside the city



[I'll Drink to That: A Life in Style, with a Twist](#), by Sally Halbreich [Biography Halbreich]

Eighty-six-year-old Betty Halbreich is a true original. A tough broad who could have stepped straight out of Stephen Sondheim's repertoire, she has spent nearly forty years as

the legendary personal shopper at Bergdorf Goodman, where she works with socialites, stars, and ordinary women off the street. She has helped many find their true selves through clothes, frank advice, and her own brand of wisdom.



[The Girl on the Golden Coin: A Novel of Frances Stuart](#), by Marci Jefferson [Jefferson]

In 1660, the Restoration of Stuart Monarchy in England returns Frances Stuart and her family to favor. Frances discards threadbare gowns and goes to gilded Fontainebleau Palace, where she soon catches the Sun King's eye. But Frances is no ordinary court beauty—she has Stuart secrets to keep and her family to protect. King Louis XIV turns vengeful when she rejects his offer to become his Official Mistress. He sends her to England with orders to seduce King Charles II and help him form an alliance with England. The Queen Mother likewise orders Frances to become her son's mistress, in the interest of luring him away from the Protestant mistress he currently keeps.



[The Little Girl Who Fought the Great Depression: Shirley Temple and 1930s America](#), by John Kasson [Biography Temple]

What distinguished Shirley Temple from every other Hollywood star of the period—and everyone since—was how brilliantly she shone. Amid the deprivation and despair of the Great Depression, Shirley Temple radiated optimism and plucky good cheer that lifted the spirits of millions and shaped their collective character for generations to come. Distinguished cultural historian John F. Kasson shows how the most famous, adored, imitated, and commodified child in the world astonished movie goers, created a new international culture of celebrity, and revolutionized the role of children as consumers.



[The Hidden White House: Harry Truman and the Reconstruction of America's Most Famous Residence](#), by Robert Klara [975.3 Kla]

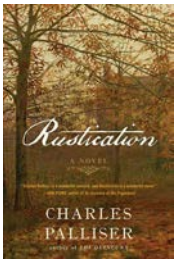
In 1948, President Harry Truman, enjoying a bath on the White House's second floor, almost plunged through the ceiling of the

Blue Room into a tea party for the Daughters of the American Revolution. A handpicked team of the country's top architects conducted a secret inspection of the troubled mansion and, after discovering it was in imminent danger of collapse, insisted that the First Family be evicted immediately. What followed would be the most historically significant and politically complex home-improvement job in American history.



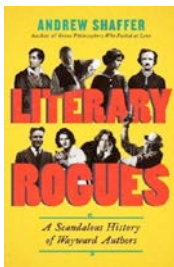
**[Return to Wake Robin : One Cabin in the Heyday of Northwoods Resorts](#), Marnie Mamminga [917.75 Mam]**

In a series of evocative remembrances accompanied by a treasure trove of vintage family photos, Mamminga takes us to Wake Robin, the cabin her grandparents built in 1929 on Big Spider Lake near Hayward, on land adjacent to Moody's Camp. Along the way she preserves the spirit and cultural heritage of a vanishing era, conveying the heart of a place and the community that gathered there.



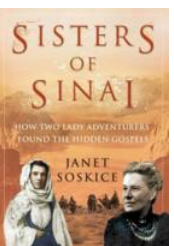
**[Rustication](#), by Charles Palliser [Palliser]**  
Sent down from Cambridge in disgrace, 17-year-old Richard Shenstone retreats to an ancient, crumbling house on the edge of a marshy bay occupied by his recently widowed mother and his enigmatically secretive sister.

As he records, a series of confusing and increasingly terrifying happenings in his journal, the reader is initially left to wonder how much of the story is real and how much of it is fueled by Richard's opium-impaired imagination.



**[Literary Rogues : A Scandalous History of Wayward Authors](#), by Andrew Shaffer [809.9 Sha]**

Brimming with fascinating research, *Literary Rogues* is part nostalgia, part literary analysis, and a wholly raucous celebration of brilliant writers and their occasionally troubled legacies.



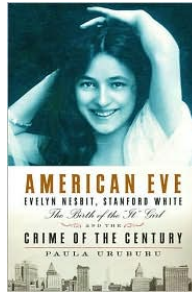
**[The Sisters of Sinai](#), by Janet Soskice [225.092 Sos]**

Agnes and Margaret Smith were not your typical Victorian scholars or adventurers. Female, middle-aged, and without university degrees or formal language training, the twin sisters nevertheless made one of the most important scriptural discoveries of their time: the earliest known copy of the Gospels in ancient Syriac, the language that Jesus spoke.



**[The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher: A Shocking Murder and the Undoing of a Great Victorian Detective](#), by Kate Summerscale [364.152 Sum]**

In June of 1860 three-year-old Saville Kent was found at the bottom of an outdoor privy with his throat slit. The crime horrified all England and led to a national obsession with detection, ironically destroying, in the process, the career of perhaps the greatest detective in the land.



**[American Eve](#), by Paula Uruburu [Biography Nesbit]**

Evelyn Nesbit was known to millions as the most photographed woman of her era. Women wanted to be her. Men just wanted her. But when Evelyn's life of fantasy became all too real and her insanely jealous millionaire husband, Harry K. Thaw, murdered her lover, New York City architect Stanford White, the most famous woman in the world became infamous as she found herself at the center of the "Crime of the Century" and a scandal that signaled the beginning of a national obsession with youth, beauty, celebrity, and sex.



**[Savage Girl](#), by Jean Zimmerman [Zimmerman]**

Jean Zimmerman's new novel tells of the dramatic events that transpire when an alluring, blazingly smart eighteen-year-old girl named Bronwyn, reputedly raised by wolves in the wilds of Nevada, is adopted in 1875 by the Delegates, an outlandishly wealthy Manhattan couple, and taken back East to be civilized and introduced into high society.