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RT EDITORS'

BEST BOOKS OF 2015

EDITORS' BEST BOOKS OF 2015 — JENNIFER'S PICKS

Tue, 12/22/2015 - 12:00pm — [RT Book Reviews](#)

With 2015 winding down, the RT editors thought December would be a good time to reflect on what each of us read this year and which books stuck with us long after we finished them. All month long, the editors will be sharing our personal favorites reads of the year, in no particular order. Today RT Editor Jennifer Peters lists her top reads of the year:

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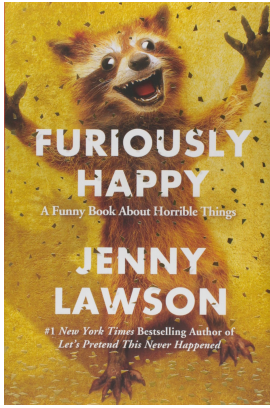
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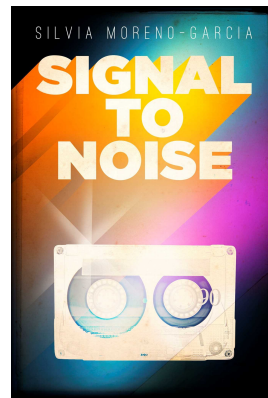
***Furiously Happy* by Jenny Lawson** — This was the best book I read all year — or maybe ever. I'm not exaggerating. This book is incredible, amazing, wonderful, etc. Lawson tackles the topic of mental illness and depression with such aplomb, and I laughed out loud so many times reading about her adventures in being "furiously happy" despite her issues. My face hurt from smiling and laughing so much while reading Lawson's story, yet as soon as I finished the book, I immediately flipped back to the beginning to read all my favorite parts over again.

***Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen* by Mary Norris** — Okay, I admit it: I'm a total grammar geek. I frequently fall in love with people because they can correctly use a semi-colon or know the difference between a hyphen, an em dash and an en dash. So New Yorker copy chief Norris' memoir/grammar guide was a must-read for me. And it was perfection. Norris has a zippy, witty voice that is at once PhD-level brilliant and still totally relatable. Her life is fascinating, and her grammar lessons even more so. I plan to reread this one until my copy falls apart.

***In a Dark, Dark Wood* by Ruth Ware** — The unreliable narrator has been a big hit ever since *Gone Girl*, and it's been thrilling to see other authors' takes on that style. By far the best I've come across, though, is Ware's debut. She pulls you deep into the mystery right from the first line, and she doesn't let up until the very end. There were so many horrifyingly delightful twists and turns, yet it felt entirely plausible, too. My copy of this book has been circulating amongst my friends since I finished it, and at this point, I doubt I'll ever get it back, because everyone who reads it wants at least 10 more friends to read it, too — and they all love it.

***Signal to Noise* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia** — This book came highly recommended by RT's reviews coordinator, Regina Small, and when she raves about a book, I know it's going to be a good one. And she was spot-on with this one. The story is so completely unique and original in a way that I'd never expected, and while it was difficult to love the characters, I found myself rooting for them nonetheless. This one took me by surprise in so many ways, and I never really knew what was going to happen next, but once I started reading, I couldn't put it down.

***Normal* by Graeme Cameron** — I should preface this by saying I hate horror stories. I can't handle being kept up all night, and I scare very, very easily. (Friends, this is not an invitation to try to give me a heart attack, got it? Good!) Yet the past two years, a "horror" story has made it onto my best-of list. And Cameron's, while less horrific, is incredibly thought-provoking. You'll feel sympathy for the devilish anti-hero, and delineating between right and wrong will seem impossible, and you'll love every page of it. This book kept me up all night, but only partially from fear; mostly, I just wanted to know how it would end — while at the same time not wanting it to end at all.



[RT Convention 2016 Recap: A Seat At The Table](#)

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by Helen Hardt



IN THE DARK
by Lila Rose



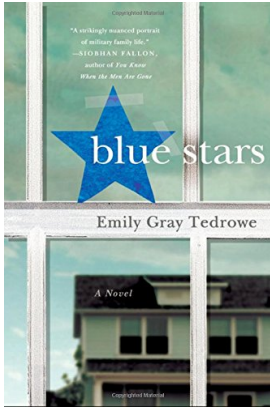
HIS FIRST CHOICE
by Tara Taylor Quinn



THE GOOD FATHER
by Tara Taylor Quinn



SEEK AND FIND
by Dana Mentink



***Blue Stars* by Emily Gray Tedrowe** — I cried a lot reading this book. So much. The amount of research into the veterans healthcare system and conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center that the author did was impressive, but more impressive was her ability to craft relatable three-dimensional characters who so believably lived their stories. I especially related to Ellen, whose not-quite son joins the Marines and later gets wounded; her inability to understand her own feelings and to allow herself to even have feelings about his enlistment and then injury was fascinating and familiar. This was definitely another “I wish I could make everyone read this” title for me.

***Learning to Die in the Anthropocene* by Roy Scranton**— While by day I’m an editor at RT, by night, I’m a writer and editor focused on war and the military. And it’s in that other life that I first encountered Scranton, when he co-edited a collection of short stories about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He’s incredibly brilliant and funny, and has quite a way with words, so I’d been looking forward to his debut book for quite some time, and it did not disappoint. *Anthropocene* is about how climate change impacts us all, and what we have to do to move forward as the world slowly ends around us. He doesn’t present any new evidence or wild ideas, but what he does is make something that seems so impossible to penetrate — the scientific and philosophical debate around climate change — feel relatable and understandable. I’ve now forced this title on numerous friends, all of whom are now eagerly awaiting Scranton’s next book.

***The Knife* by Ross Ritchell** — I maybe read too many books about war, but Ritchell’s tale of a Special Forces unit was one of the most compelling I came across this year. A veteran himself, Ritchell pens a compelling tale of the men who will do anything necessary to complete a mission and the toll that work takes on them and their relationships in and out of the unit. This dark, fast-paced story won’t be for everyone, but I’d consider it essential reading for anyone living in a world that is constantly at war — which is everyone.

***It’s What I Do: A Photographer’s Life of Love and War* by Lynsey Addario** — Are you seeing a trend here now? Okay, so picking a memoir by a photojournalist who is known for her coverage of war and conflict is probably expected, but Addario’s book was definitely unexpected. There was something fascinating about her personal story, though I can’t quite put my finger on why it stayed with me all this time. It was really no different from any other journalist’s memoir, and yet, it stands out. Part of the appeal, I’m certain, is the inclusion of her stunning and at times heartbreaking photography. Anyone as obsessed with the news and how it’s covered as I am will want to read this one.

For a peek at all our editors' picks, go [here!](#)

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ALSO ON RT BOOK REVIEWS

What's the Best Book Cover of the Month? Take the Poll!

1 comment • a month ago

Debs — All of the covers are gorgeous, but Laura Kaye's *Hard Ride* has my vote!

RT 2016 Convention: We Had A Very Twisted Tuesday

1 comment • 13 days ago

Avonna Kershey — Have a great time!

Profiling Love Interests: Cynthia Ruchti's *Song Of Silence*

1 comment • 19 days ago

Cynthia Ruchti — In case anyone is looking for my impossible last name, it's R-u-c-h-t-i, and is pronounced as if the first syllable rhymes with ...

RT 2016 Convention: Thursday Parties Photo Recap!

1 comment • 11 days ago

Denise S — The Keith Milano Memorial Fund was honored to be apart of RT16. We were overwhelmed by the support for the fund and our cause to raise ...

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ROMANCE



The Truth about Victorian Sex
with Melissa Lenhardt

Hump Day Excerpt: Temptations of a
Wallflower

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Hard*

Exclusive Excerpt: Jude Deveraux's *The
Girl From Summer Hill*

MYSTERY



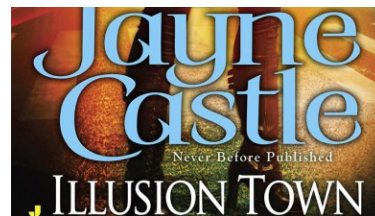
Exclusive Excerpt: Heather
Graham's One-Eyed Jack From
Romantic Times: Vegas

Behind The Scenes: T.M. Causey's *The
Saints Of The Lost And Found* Cover

March 2016 Seal of Excellence

Cover Reveal: Lynn Cahoon's *A Story
To Kill*

PARANORMAL



Cover Breakdown: Jayne Castle's
Illusion Town

We're back in the office after an
awesome convention and ready to get
this week going with an insightful
cover breakdown! We have to admit...

Cover Breakdown: Magic Binds by
Ilona Andrews

Cover Breakdown: Molly Harper's *Big*

YOUNG ADULT



RT Exclusive Excerpt: A Total
Awkward Love Story

Life and Death with Lurlene McDermott

RT 2016 Convention: YA Spooky
Slumber Party

Shadowhunters Recap: S1, E 13:
Morning Star

Shadowhunters Recap: S1, E 12: I

Ye Olde Gambling Hells: A Reading List
by Amy Sandas

Cover Breakdown: Susan Mallery's
Daughters Of The Bride

[More Romance »](#)

February 2016 Seal of Excellence

Exclusive Excerpt: Ann A. McDonald's
The Oxford Inheritance

[More Mystery »](#)

Vamp On Campus

Exclusive Excerpt: Runaway Vampire
by Lynsay Sands

Dear Romanswer: The Seasons of Love

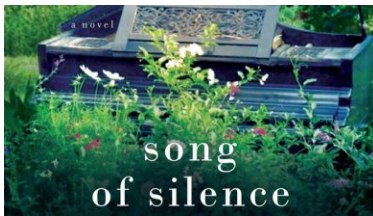
Exclusive Cover Reveal: Cari Z's Where
There's a Will

[More Paranormal »](#)

Cover Breakdown: Alessandra To
Moonshot

[More Young A](#)

INSPIRATIONAL



Profiling Love Interests: Cynthia
Ruchti's Song Of Silence

We romance fans live fo

Fun Facts: Siri Mitchell's Flirtation Walk

Cover Breakdown: Wanda & Jean
Brunstetter's The Missing Will

December 2015 Seal of Excellence

Love and Fiction Collide in James L.
Rubart's The Five Times I Met Myself

2015 RT Reviewers' Choice Award
Nominees — Inspirational, Young
Adult, New Adult and Multicultural

[More Inspirational »](#)

MAINSTREAM



Cover Breakdown: Amy E.
Reichert's Luck, Love & Lemon
Pie

It's Tuesday and we're getting ready to
kick off the first official day here at the
RT Booklover's Convention in Las
Vegas!

Debut Author Spotlight: Catherine
Lowell's The Madwoman Upstairs

January 2016 Seal of Excellence

Exclusive Excerpt: Jacqueline
Sheehan's The Center Of The World

Cover Reveal: Someone Else's Love
Letter by Deborah Blumenthal

Cover Reveal: Lauren Baratz-Logsted's
Falling for Prince Charles

[More Mainstream »](#)

SCIENCE FICTION



Cover Reveal and Giveaway: J.A.
Rock's The Silvers

Feel like a cover reveal, or winning an
e-advanced copy? Who wouldn't?!
Today we're taking a peek at J.A.

Author Q&A: Helen Lowe on
Earthquakes, Prussian Generals and
Rocking on the Porch

Cover Breakdown: Taylor Anderson's
Blood In The Water

2015 RT Reviewers' Choice Award
Nominees — Science
Fiction/Fantasy/Paranormal

Cover Breakdown: Ring of Fire IV by
Eric Flint

July Seal of Excellence

[More Science Fiction »](#)

EROTICA



RT 2016 Convention: Beyon
BDSM: Top Five Tips For Wr
BDSM

The RT Booklovers' Convention is
swing and besides having an absc
amazing time at all the fabulous
parties, we are l

Exclusive Excerpt: Maya Banks's
Dominated

Exclusive Excerpt: Kylie Scott's Di

Sneak Peek: Sylvia Day's One with
Book Trailer

Exclusive Excerpt: Monica Murph
Never Let You Go

Exclusive Excerpt: Violetta Rand's
Possession

[More Erotica »](#)

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