



Bottom Shelf Bookstore News

Dear Volunteer,

Good news! We're open on Saturdays. Traffic has been slow but we expect it to pick up as people become aware of our new hours.

We still have quite a few vacancies on our master calendar, so if you're interested in picking up another shift, please get in touch with Katherine Patterson. If you can't manage an extra shift, you can help by signing up as a sub.

Please encourage your customers to join Friends of Fallbrook. Let them know they can get ten percent off all future purchases and they will get special notifications about events and access to sales. Also, don't miss an opportunity to sell gift cards.

Note that our higher-priced books are now displayed along our library-facing window where they have better visibility. That location is their first stop in the store instead of the top shelf in the back room.

People are traveling again! This issue reflects our awakening curiosity about the rest of the post-Covid world.

Thanks for all your hard work at the Bottom Shelf!



Upcoming Book Store Closures 2022

All dates are subject to change, depending on County policies.

- Memorial Day, Monday May 30th**
- Independence Day, Monday, July 4th**
- Labor Day, Monday, September 5th**
- Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11th**
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24th**
- Holiday Boutique Set Up, Friday, November 25th**
- Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th**
- Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th**
- Day after Christmas, Monday, December 26th**
- New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31st**

Bottom Shelf Day Managers

- Monday/Friday: Lynne Barker**
- Tuesday: Sue Billing**
- Wednesday/Saturday: Debbie Schubarth**
- Thursday: Violet Hulit**

The Armchair Traveler



Can travel be fun again or is it something to dread? Two years ago many of us feared venturing beyond the grocery store. Now, slowly we are being given our whole planet back to explore.

But, say you're not traveling because of the pandemic, world disasters and the global economy, but you want to escape day-to-day monotony. We readers know we can always escape in a book! Here are three titles suggested to read while safe at home but to escape your world — to experience new places, to be inspired and to get a fresh approach.

For new places:

Shantaram by Gregory David Roberts. An epic novel set in Bombay and narrated by an escaped convict. The story is set in burning slums and five-star hotels, prisons, during wars and the filming of Bollywood films. There are mysteries and intrigues, love and torture and betrayal. You'll wish you were there in one chapter and feel grateful you're not in the next. It's a huge novel based on the life of the author.



For inspiration: *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"—the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different?

His answer is that we pay too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way he explains the secrets of software billionaires, what it takes to be a great soccer player, why Asians are good at math, and what made the Beatles the greatest rock band.

For a fresh approach: *Living With a Seal* by Jessie Itzler. Entrepreneur Jesse Itzler will try almost anything. He runs ultra-marathons and owns the Atlanta Hawks. His life is about being bold and risky. So when Jesse felt himself drifting on autopilot, he hired a rather unconventional trainer to live with him for a month—an accomplished Navy SEAL widely considered to be "the toughest man on the planet"!

Living With a Seal is about a great friendship, and Jesse gains much more than muscle. This book ultimately shows you the benefits of stepping out of your comfort zone.

A Short Trip

Did you know that if you travel the short distance from Fallbrook to Temecula, you can end up at the office of Erle Stanley Gardner? Well, it's actually a replica of his office. But it's an authentic copy of his real office.

The exhibit is at the Temecula History Museum, 28314 Mercedes St., Temecula, CA 92590. Gardner's office is tucked away into corner of the second floor. Besides his office, there are other mementos and information that any fan of Perry Mason will enjoy.

Gardner, author and creator of Perry Mason, made his home in Temecula from 1937 to his death in 1970 on his beloved Rancho del Paisano.

For nine years and 271 episodes, beginning in 1957, American audiences were glued to their television sets each week as Perry Mason solved case after case.

He wrote 151 books which sold 325 million copies. The museum owns over 6000 of his photographs and vast collection of memorabilia.

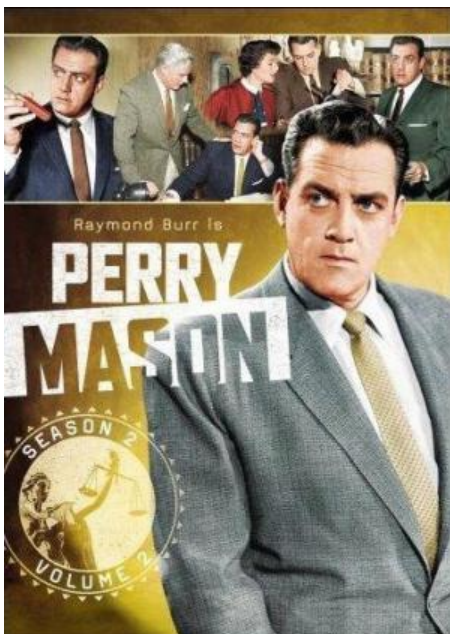
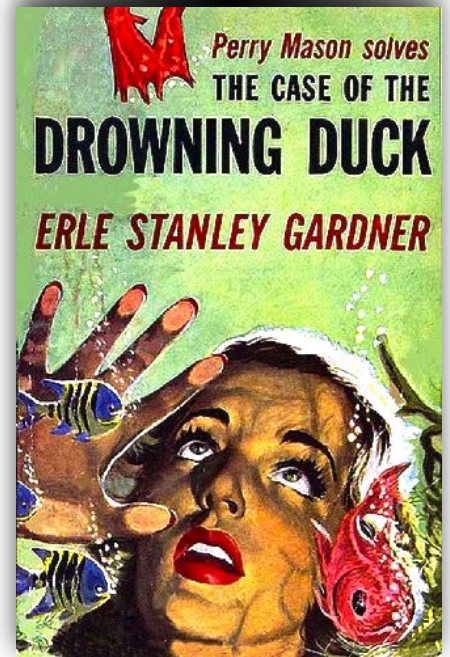
Although best know for Perry Mason he wrote numerous other novels and a series of nonfiction books, mostly



narrations of his travels through Baja and other regions in Mexico.

After he died, his wife moved to Fallbrook and lived there until her death. (My sister likes to tell the story of buying a set of their china at the estate sale of Gardner's wife.)

The permanent display honors Gardner, his Perry Mason legacy and his pride in Temecula Valley.
-Nancy Javier



Left: The original Perry Mason (Raymond Burr)

Right: The HBO reinvented Perry Mason (Matthew Rhys)



The Reese Collection

And a little further from Fallbrook is the Christies Auction House in New York where a major book collection will be on auction May 25th. You can check out all items for sale on the Christies site here:

<https://www.christies.com/auction/auction-20528-nyr/browse-lots>

Don't you wish you had started collecting books when you were just a kid?

It is said that collector, William E. Reese developed a keen eye at a very young age. While in college he found a rare map of Mexico at a rug auction and sold it to Yale to pay for the remainder of his tuition.

He later came across a first draft of the Declaration of Independence. There are only six copies in existence. It's expected to auction for one million dollars.

Reese collected books and maps and other Americana for over forty years of his life. Now his collection will be auctioned off and is expected to bring in about 12—18 million dollars!!

Reese died in 2018 and leaves behind some fabulous items including:

The Declaration of Independence (\$1 million)



The Bloody Massacre

Paul Revere, 1770.

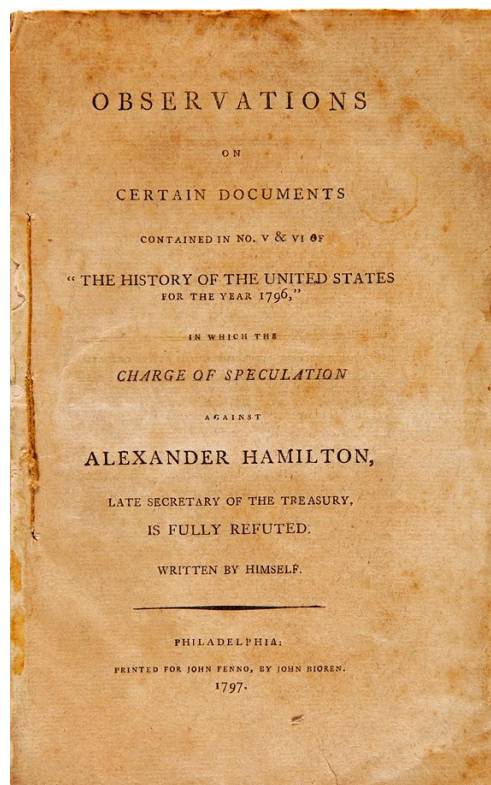
PAUL REVERE (1734-1818). The Bloody Massacre perpetrated in King Street, Boston, on March 5th 1770, by a Party of the 29th Regt. Boston: Engrav'd Printed & Sold by Paul Revere, [March 1770].

Paul Revere's engraving of the 1770 Boston Massacre (\$250,000-350,000)

A first edition copy of "The Travels of Captains Lewis and Clark" (\$40,000 - 60,000)

And a pamphlet by Alexander Hamilton in which he admits to an adulterous affair. It's gone up about ten times since the Broadway hit, "Hamilton."

Start looking for treasures - you might find something valuable in the Bottom Shelf!



Alexander Hamilton describes his affair and admits to paying off a blackmailer. Wrapped in a cloth chemise and half morocco and cloth. slipcase, spine gilt.

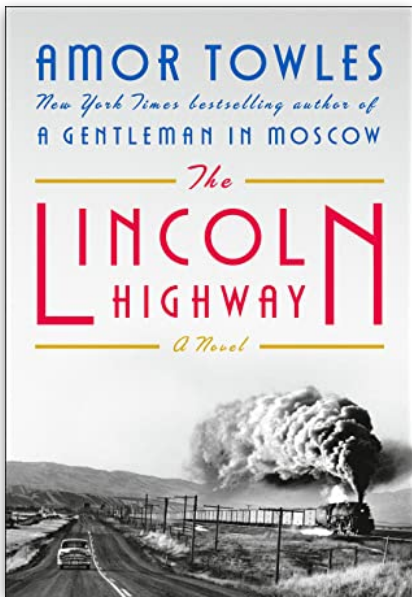
Nancy's Book Review

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles The Lost Continent by Bill Bryson

I've read two road trip books this past month. One I loved and the other not so much.

First, the one I didn't care for. It got lots of rave reviews but I really can't understand why *The Lincoln Highway* is considered so great.

The book is about a teenage boy, Emmett, who has just been let out of a reform school. After his father dies, he decides to take off with his brother and go from Nebraska to San Francisco on The Lincoln Highway to find their mother who had abandoned them in their youth.



The plan gets delayed when Emmett's friend from reform school shows up. He and slow-witted Wooly had escaped and decide to go along with the brothers to California. But first they have other business to attend to.

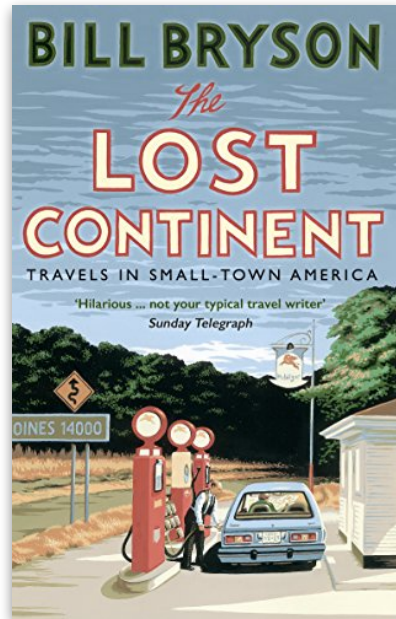
Much adventure and chaos ensues with many more characters introduced.

When are they going on the Lincoln Highway I keep asking myself? I read and read and still no road trip. Just many more silly happenings. It turns out that the road trip promised by the author is just an excuse to espouse his knowledge of mythology and other bits of nonsense.

I loved Amor Towles' previous book, *A Gentleman in Moscow*. This latest book was a real disappointment. But don't listen to me, it seems everyone else in the world loves this book and you might too.

The road trip book that I loved, is *The Lost Continent* by Bill Bryson. He goes on a REAL trip, starting in Iowa and making a complete circle around the U.S. back to Des Moines. Bryson takes off in his old

Chevette with stops in many towns and villages as well as famous landmarks.



He's a real curmudgeon. Doesn't like much of anything he sees. He's especially upset by the modernization of all the towns and sites that he fondly remembers from his youth.

Bryson is one of the few authors that makes me laugh out loud. His grumbles and rants are hilarious. I thoroughly enjoyed his detailed accounts of unfortunate meals, like his dinner at

Chuck's. "I had a meal of gristle and baked whiffle ball."

But there were places he loved—the Grand Canyon and Mount Vernon. He sprinkles in bits of history and interesting stories. I was amazed to learn about a little-known Appalachian group called the Melungeons—part negro and part caucasian and no one has any idea where they came from.

Maybe I'm not intellectual enough to appreciate the philosophy of Towles, but I make no apologies. Just like with art, I know what I like.

-Nancy Javier

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Travel Inspiration Poems

Freedom

by Olive Runner

Give me the long, straight road before me,
A clear, cold day with a nipping air,
Tall, bare trees to run on beside me,
A heart that is light and free from care.
Then let me go! – I care not whither
My feet may lead, for my spirit shall be
Free as the brook that flows to the river,
Free as the river that flows to the sea.



Sleeping Next to the Man on the Plane

by Ellen Bass

I'm not well. Neither is he.
Periodically he pulls out a handkerchief
and blows his nose. I worry
about germs, but appreciate how he shares
the armrest—especially
considering his size—too large
to lay the tray over his lap.
His seatbelt barely buckles. At least
he doesn't have to ask for an extender
for which I imagine him grateful. Our upper arms
press against each other, like apricots growing
from the same node. My arm is warm
where his touches it. I close my eyes.
In the chilly, oxygen-poor air, I am glad
to be close to his breathing mass.
We want our own species. We want
to lie down next to our own kind.
Even here in this metal encumbrance, hurtling
improbably 30,000 feet above the earth,
with all this civilization—down
to the chicken-or-lasagna in their
environmentally-incorrect packets,
even as the woman behind me is swiping
her credit card on the phone embedded
in my headrest and the folks in first
are watching their individual movies
on personal screens, I lean
into this stranger, seeking primitive comfort—
heat, touch, breath—as we slip
into the ancient vulnerability of sleep.

O to sail

by Walt Whitman

O to sail in a ship,
To leave this steady unendurable land,
To leave the tiresome sameness of the
streets, the sidewalks and the houses,
To leave you, O you solid motionless land,
and entering a ship,
To sail and sail and sail!

From The Writer's Almanac, April 26, 2022