

Great Non-fiction reads



Try these fascinating true stories. They put fiction in the shade!

Blue Blood (363.2092CON) by Edward Conlon [check catalog](#)

A Harvard-educated New York police officer tells his story. We follow him from his rookie days on the beat in the South Bronx to highly charged times in Narcotics. This fourth generation officer shows us New York from the underside.

The City of Falling Angels (945.31) by John Berendt [check catalog](#)

Venice is a captivating and elusive city. On January 29th 1996 the historic Fenice Opera House was destroyed by fire. Arson was cited as the cause and Berendt followed the investigation closely, meeting a host of extraordinary characters as he did so.

Climbing the Mango Trees (Biog/Jaffrey) by Madhur Jaffrey [check catalog](#)

The author grew up in a well to do family in Delhi in pre-independence India. She evokes this vanished age brilliantly. Her descriptions of meals and food preparation are especially vivid. There are even some recipes at the end of the book.

Confessions of a Tax Collector (352.44/YAN) by Richard Yancey [check catalog](#)

Ever wonder what goes on inside the IRS? Read this and you'll be sorry you asked! It's a hilarious and disturbing account of one man's tour of duty as revenue officer.

The Devil in the White City (364.1523/LAR) by Erik Larson [check catalog](#)

The glittering World's Fair that took place in Chicago in 1893 had a dark side. Hundreds of people who came to see the wonders on display disappeared. Some of them fell victim to the cruel murderer Dr. H.H. Holmes. This true story takes hold of you and doesn't let go.

The Devil's Teeth (597.33) by Susan Casey [check catalog](#)

The storm-battered Farallone Islands lie thirty miles west of San Francisco. They are home to thousands of noisy seabirds. The ocean around them is inhabited by a large number of great white sharks. This is a fascinating look at these terrifying creatures and those who endure isolation to study them.

Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight (Biog/Fuller) by Alexandra Fuller [check catalog](#)

This is the story of a family of white farmers who lived through the Rhodesian civil war. It is also an unusual and illuminating account of an African childhood.

Flower Confidential (338.175966/STE) by Amy Stewart [check catalog](#)

Did you know that the bouquet of roses that you buy in your supermarket has traveled half way around the world to get there? Discover the fascinating facts behind the flowers and those who grow them.

For Those I Loved (940.5315/GRA) by Martin Gray [check catalog](#)

Martin Gray was 14 years old when he entered the hell of the Warsaw Ghetto. He survived and built a new life in the South of France. Happily married and with four children, can he possibly endure when tragedy strikes?

The Girls Who Went Away (362.8298/FES) by Ann Fessler [check catalog](#)

In the decades before Roe v. Wade thousands of girls who became pregnant were sent away from home to have their babies and usually had no choice but to give them up for adoption. In this book they tell their stories.

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid (Biog/Bryson) by Bill Bryson

Bill Bryson (aka the Thunderbolt Kid) spent his childhood in the middle of the United States, in the middle of the last century. He recreates this era with clarity and with generous helpings of humor. [check catalog](#)

Sala's Gift. My Mother's Holocaust Story (940.5318/KIR) by Ann Kirschner

For more than 50 years Sala Kirschner kept a secret. She had survived five years as a slave in Nazi work camps. In 1991 she gave her daughter Ann letters, photographs and a diary from that era of her life. This is a story of courage and endurance. [check catalog](#)

Stiff (611/ROA) by Mary Roach [check catalog](#)

Not everyone gets buried after they die. Some people leave their bodies to science and other good causes. In this fascinating book we find out how cadavers have been contributing to human advancement for over two thousand years.

The Year of Magical Thinking (Biog/Didion) by Joan Didion [check catalog](#)

One evening the author poured her husband a pre-dinner scotch, got on with mixing a salad and then looked up to find that he was dead. This is a moving and absorbing account of how she dealt with this devastating event, and with her daughter's critical illness. This book is both intensely personal and universal.

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