

Doug's Reading List 2004 (in parentheses is a rating from 1-10. 1 is worse than awful. 10 is the best ever)

- Jan *The Five Red Herrings*, D. Sayers – the master of the 30s and 40s mystery had me snoozing. I skipped ahead. (2)
The New Atkins Revolution, Dr. Atkins – carbs bad, proteins good. Trying to lose a few pounds and this makes sense to me. (6)
Harry Potter 3 (Azkabar Something or other), JK Rowling – I'm late in catching the train. She's great at the plot twist. (8)
Middlesex, J. Eugenides – quirky and bizarre, this well-written fictional story of a hermaphrodite had me hooked. (10) Pulitzer Prize.
Harry Potter 4 (Goblet of Fire), JK Rowling – wondering if JKR is getting paid by the word, but still great fun. (7)
Last Act in Palmyra, L. Davis – Falco is a Roman informant in this set-in-the-first century AD mystery. (5)
- Feb *The Gospel for Real Life*, J. Bridges – Jerry brings out the basics of theology for all of life, though he could be a little peppier. (6)
The DaVinci Code, D. Brown – great story, terrible worldview. Point of view writing problems, but super entertaining, and it wasn't on the bestseller list for a year for nothing. This one gets an unprecedented two scores: (8) for entertainment. (1) for screwing people up.
The Writer's Journey, C. Vogler – a book that explains the various archetypes and patterns for great movies and books. (7)
Time to Depart, L. Davis – Davis laboriously plugs through another mystery. I'm not sure if I finished the book. (2)
Harry Potter 5, JK Rowling – the worst of the lot, in desperate need of 300 pages to be cut, must be a set up book for later (5)
- March *American Jesus*, S. Prothero – the subtitle is: How the Son of God Became a National Icon. Profound, sad, scary, useful, insightful (9)
Summerland, M. Chacon – book for kids by Pulitzer Prize winner. Great imagination, story and weaving in of baseball (8)
Good to Great, J. Collins – Collins analyzed companies to find out what they did right. His findings can be used by anyone. (10)
The Five People You Meet in Heaven, M. Albom – a nice little tale that tells how everything in life is connected and a learning op (7)
Darker than Amber, J. MacDonald – my first Travis McGee novel begins with a woman being dropped from a bridge. Good start. (7)
- April *Cracking the DaVinci Code*, Jones/Garlow – A helpful book on the lies in TDCode, and why they are important to expose. (8)
The God of Jesus, S. Patterson – a liberal scholar, Patterson contends that believing in a resurrected Jesus destroys faith. (1, 6)
The Resurrection of the Son of God, NT Wright – 900 pages about Jesus and his cultural milieu. Amazing work. (8)
True Faced, Thrall et al – insightful content about authenticity, but written in a way that put me off for some reason (6)
Redeeming Love, F. Rivers – The Christian romance story of Hosea/Gomer. Great plot, but wish her writing was better. (5)
- May *Ruled Britannica*, H. Turtledove – The Spaniards have England, but Shakespeare saves the day. 200 pages too long. (4)
Jaded, A. Kiesling – Kiesling writes a book about ditching the church to go out on your own (but still love God(?)). (1)
The Face, D. Koonz – incredible thriller I picked up for a beach read. Koonz can make you scared. (8)
The Life of Pi, Y. Martel – man and tiger on a life boat for over 200 days, but this is a spiritual novel, one of the best of the lot (8)
The Hobbit, Tolkien – listened to this while driving back and forth to Florida. The unedited version. (10)
Shepherding a Child's Heart, T. Tripp – best book on parenting there is. Up there on the disciplinemaking list too. (8)
High Five, J. Evanovich – Fun novel following Stephanie Plum's blunderings. Amazing dialogue carries the day. (7)
- June *Odd Thomas*, D. Koonz – incredibly fun, suspenseful read. (9)
The 21 Balloons, W Pene du Bois – quirky little book I read to my kids, having remembered it from my childhood. (6, but fun)
The Blue Nowhere, J. Deaver – techno thriller about a crazed internet hacker. Great plot and twists. (8)
Jayber Crow, W. Berry – I think this may have the best ending chapter I've ever read. Cried twice on the plane. (9)
To the Nines, J. Evanovich – for some reason I like to read about Stephanie Plum and her various adventures. (6)
- July *Under the Banner of Heaven*, J. Krakouer – fascinating tracing of religious zealotry through the Mormons. Couldn't stop. (10)
The Complete Stories of Sherlock Holmes Volume 1, Doyle – I'm just not a mystery man, I guess. (4)
The Master Butcher's Singing Club, L. Erdrich – a haunting tale filled with burial and rebirth themes and relational agony. (8)
Til We Have Faces, CS Lewis –Powerfully vague imagery about the nature of following another. (7)
- August *Memoir of a Geisha*, A. Golden – didn't know much about the life of a geisha and had always wanted to read this book. (9)
The Other Boleyn Girl, P. Gregory – life in the King's court isn't all it's cracked up to be. (8)
Peace Like a River, L. Enger – just as good the second time. A tale of faith, story and miracle. (10)
The Professor and the Madman, Simon Winchester – insane murderer contributes thousands of entries to the Oxford Dictionary. (8)
The Virgin Suicides, J. Eugenides – dreamy and creepy, these five girls do themselves in while voyeuristic boys watch. (6)
- Sept. *Into Thin Air*, J. Krakauer – journalist/climber goes on an Everest expedition where everything goes wrong at 29,000 feet. (9)
Mat Snacks, J. Spates – OU Wrestling coach has compiled a book of short wrestling stories. I enjoyed them even as a bball player. (7)
Skeletons in the Sahara, D. King – a long, slow, dry, tedious journey told in a long, slow, dry, tedious journey. (3)
Ice Bound, J. Nielsen – doctor on the South Pole gets cancer and fights to survive her disease, her conditions, her past. (6)
- Oct *Deep Survival*, L. Gonzalez – great stories and how to survive, but a little too evolutionist for me. (5)
Surviving the Extreme, K. Kamier – a look from a doctor who has been everywhere on how humans adapt and overcome. (6)
Reading Lolita in Tehran, M A. Nafisi – Nafisi taught English through the Islamic revolution and tells her thoughts along the way. (8)
- Nov. *Searching for God Knows What*, D. Miller – annoying lack of pronoun agreement, but is a keeper as it points me to Christ. (10)
5 Commentaries on James, various authors – taught on James this semester and really enjoyed it.
- Dec. *What if Jesus Had Never Been Born*, DJ Kennedy– we sometimes forget how much Jesus has impacted the world for the good. (7)
The Fellowship of the Ring, JRR Tolkien – thought it was time for another romp around the Shire. (8)
Without Sin, S. Klaw – John Humphrey Noyes loved sex, was a Perfectionist and communist and started his own town, Oneida. (8)
Story, R. McKee – read this for my screenwriting class and appreciate his sense of what makes a good film/book/play. (9)
The Heart of a Servant Leader, J. Miller – this man can write some serious letters about the gospel and people. (7)
Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them, A. Franken – I thought I needed to read a liberal-minded book and this did wonderfully. (8)