

# A Girl Named Zippy Haven Kimmel

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*Notes from a Small Island* Bill Bryson  
2015-06-02 Before New York Times bestselling author Bill Bryson wrote *The Road to Little Dribbling*, he took this delightfully irreverent jaunt around the unparalleled floating nation of Great Britain, which has produced zebra crossings, Shakespeare, Twiggie Winkie's Farm, and places with names like Farleigh Wallop and Titsey.

**Running with Scissors** Augusten Burroughs  
2010-04-01 Now including an excerpt from *Lust & Wonder*, a new memoir coming in March 2016. *Running with Scissors* is the true story of a boy whose mother (a poet with delusions of Anne Sexton) gave him away to be raised by her psychiatrist, a dead-ringer for Santa and a lunatic in the bargain. Suddenly, at age twelve, Augusten Burroughs found himself living in a dilapidated Victorian in perfect squalor. The doctor's bizarre family, a few patients, and a pedophile living in the backyard shed completed the tableau. Here, there were no rules, there was no school. The Christmas tree stayed up until summer, and Valium was eaten like

Pez. And when things got dull, there was always the vintage electroshock therapy machine under the stairs.... *Running with Scissors* is at turns foul and harrowing, compelling and maniacally funny. But above all, it chronicles an ordinary boy's survival under the most extraordinary circumstances.

**The Solace of Leaving Early** Haven Kimmel  
2003 Langston Braverman abandons her academic career to retreat to her parents' attic, until the murder of her childhood friend Alice and an encounter with Amos Townsend, a local preacher, transforms her life.

*Icy Sparks* Gwyn Hyman Rubio  
2001-03-08 A New York Times Notable Book and the March 2001 selection of Oprah's Book Club® ! *Icy Sparks* is the sad, funny and transcendent tale of a young girl growing up in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky during the 1950's. Gwyn Hyman Rubio's beautifully written first novel revolves around *Icy Sparks*, an unforgettable heroine in the tradition of Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird* or Will Treed in *Cold Sassy Tree*. At the age of ten, *Icy*, a bright, curious child orphaned as a

baby but raised by adoring grandparents, begins to have strange experiences. Try as she might, her "secrets"—verbal croaks, groans, and physical spasms—keep afflicting her. As an adult, she will find out she has Tourette's Syndrome, a rare neurological disorder, but for years her behavior is the source of mystery, confusion, and deep humiliation. Narrated by a grown up Icy, the book chronicles a difficult, but ultimately hilarious and heartwarming journey, from her first spasms to her self-acceptance as a young woman. Curious about life beyond the hills, talented, and energetic, Icy learns to cut through all barriers—physical, mental, and spiritual—in order to find community and acceptance. Along her journey, Icy faces the jeers of her classmates as well as the malevolence of her often-ignorant teachers—including Mrs. Stilton, one of the most evil fourth grade teachers ever created by a writer. Called willful by her teachers and "Frog Child" by her schoolmates, she is exiled from the schoolroom and sent to a children's asylum where it is hoped that the roots of her mysterious behavior can be discovered. Here Icy learns about difference—her own and those who are even more scarred than she. Yet, it isn't until Icy returns home that she really begins to flower, especially through her friendship with the eccentric and obese Miss Emily, who knows first-hand how it feels to be an outcast in this tightly knit Appalachian community. Under Miss Emily's tutelage, Icy learns about life's struggles and rewards, survives her first comical and heartbreaking misadventure with romance, discovers the healing power of her voice when she sings, and ultimately—takes her first steps back into the world. Gwyn Hyman Rubio's Icy Sparks is a fresh, original, and

completely redeeming novel about learning to overcome others' ignorance and celebrate the differences that make each of us unique.

*Breaking Night* Liz Murray 2010-09-07  
In the vein of *The Glass Castle*, *Breaking Night* is the stunning memoir of a young woman who at age fifteen was living on the streets, and who eventually made it into Harvard. Liz Murray was born to loving but drug-addicted parents in the Bronx. In school she was taunted for her dirty clothing and lice-infested hair, eventually skipping so many classes that she was put into a girls' home. At age fifteen, Liz found herself on the streets. She learned to scrape by, foraging for food and riding subways all night to have a warm place to sleep. When Liz's mother died of AIDS, she decided to take control of her own destiny and go back to high school, often completing her assignments in the hallways and subway stations where she slept. Liz squeezed four years of high school into two, while homeless; won a New York Times scholarship; and made it into the Ivy League. *Breaking Night* is an unforgettable and beautifully written story of one young woman's indomitable spirit to survive and prevail, against all odds.

**Split** Suzanne Finnamore 2008-04-17  
?Not only funny, it's also fully triumphant...a heartbreaking pleasure to read.?(Elle) Suzanne Finnamore didn't see it coming. Well, she saw some things—for example, a cocktail napkin on which her husband had scribbled a Cole Porter love song and an indecipherable name—but she refused to acknowledge it. She was busy tending to their son and creating the perfect home. Until the night it all imploded. ?I deserve happiness,? he said, which apparently translated into ousting her from his life. At once funny, sad, and

unflinchingly fierce, this memoir will resonate with anyone who has endured the end of a relationship?and come out on the other side changed.

**She Got Up Off the Couch** Haven Kimmel  
2007-02-13 A continuation of the memoir "A Girl Named Zippy" follows the story of her mother, Delonda, who reinvents her life by returning to college and losing fifty pounds, while Zippy continues to work out the dynamic of their nuclear family.

**The Weight of Him** Ethel Rohan  
2017-02-14 "Deeply moving and memorable." –Roxane Gay, author of *Bad Feminist* and *Hunger* "First-time novelist Rohan shows impressive acuity in portraying the many facets of Billy's and his family's grief." -  
-Booklist At four hundred pounds, Billy Brennan can always count on food. From his earliest memories, he has loved food's colors, textures and tastes. The way flavors go off in his mouth. How food keeps his mind still and his bad feelings quiet. Food has always made everything better, until the day Billy's beloved son Michael takes his own life. Billy determines to make a difference in Michael's memory and undertakes a public weight-loss campaign, to raise money for suicide prevention—his first step in an ambitious plan to save himself, and to save others. However, Billy's dramatic crusade appalls his family, who want to simply try to go on. Despite his crushing detractors, Billy gains welcome allies: his community-at-large; a co-worker who lost his father to suicide; a filmmaker with his own dubious agenda; and a secret, miniature kingdom that Billy populates with the sub-quality dolls and soldiers he rescues from disposal at the local toy factory where he works. But it is only if Billy can confront the truth of his pain, suffering, and the brokenness around him, that he and others will be able to realize the

full rescue and change they need. Set in rural, contemporary Ireland, Ethel Rohan's *The Weight of Him* is an unforgettable, big-hearted novel about loss and reliance that moves from tragedy to recrimination to what can be achieved when we take the stand of our lives.

*Slow Motion* Dani Shapiro 2012-09-05 From one of the most gifted writers of her generation comes the harrowing and exquisitely written true story of how a family tragedy saved her life. Dani Shapiro was a young girl from a deeply religious home who became the girlfriend of a famous and flamboyant married attorney—her best friend's stepfather. The moment Lenny Klein entered her life, everything changed: she dropped out of college, began to drink heavily, and became estranged from her family and friends. But then the phone call came. There had been an accident on a snowy road near her family's home in New Jersey, and both her parents lay hospitalized in critical condition. This haunting memoir traces her journey back into the world she had left behind. At a time when she was barely able to take care of herself, she was faced with the terrifying task of taking care of two people who needed her desperately. Dani Shapiro charts a riveting emotional course as she retraces her isolated, overprotected Orthodox Jewish childhood in an anti-Semitic suburb, and draws the connections between that childhood and her inevitable rebellion and self-destructiveness. She tells of a life nearly ruined by the gift of beauty, and then saved by the worst thing imaginable. This is a beautiful and unforgettable memoir of a life utterly transformed by tragedy.

*Kaline Klattermaster's Tree House* Haven Kimmel 2010-04-06 Kaline Klattermaster LOVES his mom. ADORES his mom. But his mom can be, well, a bit forgetful sometimes. A bit lax. A

bit...CRAZY. For instance, she's a bit crazy when she leaves him in the tub for THREE HOURS. Or gives him a chicken leg for breakfast...or forgets that he needs to go to school. AND he's not completely sure his mother understands how time works. She's been even a bit MORE CRAZY since his dad left. So it's a very good thing that the folks in Kaline's tree house are not so crazy. They understand him. They don't mind that he sometimes HAS to play his pretend bugle, and, of course, they are FULL of good advice on how to handle bullies. His mom hints that the tree house is imaginary. Kaline is UNCONVINCED. The New York Times bestselling author of *A Girl Named Zippy* is delighted to introduce Kaline Klattermaster, a little boy who understands the importance of a few good friends -- make-believe OR otherwise.

Glitter and Glue Kelly Corrigan  
2015-02-17 The author of the best-selling *The Middle Place* presents an account of her perspectives on motherhood, which have been shaped by her job as a nanny for a grieving Australian family and her character-testing experiences with her daughters.

The Transcriptionist Amy Rowland  
2014-05-13 "Haunting and provocative . . . Rowland's writing is compelling and masterful." —Delia Ephron, author of *The Lion Is In Once*, there were many transcriptionists at the Record, a behemoth New York City newspaper, but new technology has put most of them out of work. So now Lena, the last transcriptionist, sits alone in a room--a human conduit, silently turning reporters' recorded stories into print--until the day she encounters a story so shocking that it shatters the reverie that has become her life. This exquisite novel, written by an author who spent more than a decade as a

transcriptionist at the New York Times, asks probing questions about journalism and ethics, about the decline of the newspaper and the failure of language. It is also the story of a woman's effort to establish her place in an increasingly alien and alienating world. "The Transcriptionist is suffused with prescient insight into journalism, ethics, and alienation . . . A thought provoking, original work." —New York Journal of Books "Rowland seems that rare thing, the naturally gifted novelist . . . [She] deftly maps a very specific kind of urban loneliness, the inner ache of the intelligent, damaged soul who prefers the company of ideas and words to that of people . . . That urge--to make words holy--is at the heart of this novel's strange, sad beauty." —The Washington Post "The Transcriptionist holds many pleasures . . . [and] can be read through many lenses . . . Rowland plays with the notions of truth and reliability . . . Sharp and affecting." —The New York Times Book Review "A strange, mesmerizing novel . . . about the decline of newspapers and the subsequent loss of humanity—and yes, these are related." —Booklist, starred review "Ambitious and fascinating . . . Disturbing and powerful." —Library Journal "Entering the city Rowland creates, with its tightly strung dialogue and soulful, lonely citizens, is a memorable experience." —The Boston Globe "Unforgettable. Written with such delight, compassion, and humanity it's newsworthy."—Alex Gilvarry, author of *From the Memoirs of a Non-Enemy Combatant*

**A Girl Named Zippy** Haven Kimmel  
2004-06-01 When Haven Kimmel was born in 1965, Mooreland, Indiana, was a sleepy little hamlet of three hundred people. Nicknamed "Zippy" for the way she would bolt around the house, this

small girl was possessed of big eyes and even bigger ears. In a witty and lovingly told memoir, Kimmel takes readers back to a time when small-town America was caught in the amber of the innocent post-war period.

**Second Hoeing** Hope Williams Sykes  
1982-01-01 "Papa'll work her till she drops in the field!" The backbreaking labor of German-Russian immigrants in the sugarbeet fields of Colorado is described with acute perception in Hope Sykes's *Second Hoeing*. First published in 1935, the novel was greeted in all quarters as an impressive and authoritative evocation of these recent immigrants and their struggle to realize the promise of their chosen country.

**Too Long Ago:** David Pietrusza  
2020-11-11 A sardonic expedition into a small-town ethnic childhood and post-World War II America—and how to survive Rust Belt hard times. At last . . . a memoir finally worthy of comparison to the uproariously funny fiction of the great Jean Shepherd, author and narrator of the beloved *A Christmas Story*. Only . . . it's all true. Sometimes . . . sadly true. Award-winning presidential historian and baseball scholar David Pietrusza's witty and wise tale of growing up in the 1950s and 60s, *Too Long Ago* is no *Leave It to Beaver* or *Father Knows Best* episode. It's a unique glimpse into an unjustly ignored and forgotten immigrant experience—Eastern European and devoutly pre-Vatican II Catholic. A tale of a tight-knit Polish community, transplanted from tiny, impoverished Hapsburg-ruled villages to a hardscrabble, hardworking, hard-drinking Upstate New York mill town. It's how the first rust corroded the Rust Belt, sidetracking dreams but not hope. It's a lively saga of secrets and hard times, of insanity, of manslaughter and murder, of war and postwar, Depression and

Recession, racetracks and religions, books and bar rooms, unforgettable personalities and vastly unpronounceable names, of characters and character, of homelessness, of immigration—first to America and then from Rust Belt to Sun Belt—of vices and virtues, and how a sickly, bookwormish boy who loved history and the presidents finally discovered a national pastime and made it his own. Meet *Too Long Ago*'s mesmerizing cast of characters: Depression-ravaged Felix and Agnes Marek, Corporal Danny Pietrusza and his wartime adventures, Uncle Tony Lenczewski and his raided saloon, brutal serial-killer Lemuel Smith, the high-kicking weather-prophet "Cousin George" Casabonne, carpet heiress and OSS operative Gertie Sanford, caught behind-enemy-lines Mary Zaklukiewicz, and the homeless (but not hopeless) Uncle Leo Zack. Alternately sharp-edged and warm-hearted—sometimes shocking and always surprising—*Too Long Ago* is a poignant tour-de-force, a no-stopping-for-breath, coming-of-age narrative, akin to cross-breeding Jean Shepherd's boisterous *A Christmas Story* with Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Russo's gritty semi-autobiographical novel *Mohawk* (set mere miles from *Too Long Ago*) and presenting the genre-bending result in the mesmerizing form of a decidedly non-WASPY rendition of an epic Spalding Gray monolog.

*A Girl Named Zippy* Haven Kimmel  
2002-06-18 The New York Times bestselling memoir about growing up in small-town Indiana, from the author of *The Solace of Leaving Early*. When Haven Kimmel was born in 1965, Mooreland, Indiana, was a sleepy little hamlet of three hundred people. Nicknamed "Zippy" for the way she would bolt around the house, this small girl was possessed of big eyes and even bigger ears. In this witty and lovingly told memoir, Kimmel

takes readers back to a time when small-town America was caught in the amber of the innocent postwar period—people helped their neighbors, went to church on Sunday, and kept barnyard animals in their backyards. Laced with fine storytelling, sharp wit, dead-on observations, and moments of sheer joy, Haven Kimmel's straight-shooting portrait of her childhood gives us a heroine who is wonderfully sweet and sly as she navigates the quirky adult world that surrounds Zippy.

*I Love You, Miss Huddleston LP* Philip Gulley 2009-04-14 With his ear for the small town and his knack for finding the needle of humor in life's haystack, Philip Gulley might well be Indiana's answer to Missouri's Mark Twain. In *I Love You, Miss Huddleston* we are transported to 1970's Danville, Indiana, the everyone-knows-your-business town where Gulley still lives today, to witness the uproarious story of Gulley's young life, including his infatuation with his comely sixth-grade teacher, his dalliance with sin—eating meat on Friday and inappropriate activities with a mannequin named Ginger—and his checkered start with organized religion. Sister Mary John had shown us a flannelgraph of the apostles receiving the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. They looked quite happy, except that their hair was on fire. . . . I was suspicious of a religion whose highpoint was the igniting of one's head, and my enthusiasm for church, which had never been great, began to fade. Even as Kennedy was facing down Khrushchev, Danny Millardo and his band of youthful thugs conducted a reign of terror still unmatched in the annals of Indiana history. With Gulley's sharp wit and keen observation, *I Love You, Miss Huddleston* captures these dramas and more, revisiting a childhood of

unrelieved and happy chaos. From beginning to end, Gulley recalls the hilarity (and heightened dangers) of those wonder years and the easy charm of midwestern life.

*A Girl Named Zippy* Haven Kimmel 2003  
[Walking Through Walls](#) Philip Smith 2008-09-16  
*Running with Scissors* meets *Bewitched* in this irresistible memoir, as Philip Smith describes growing up in 1960s Miami with his decorator father, who one day discovers he has the miraculous power to talk to the dead and heal the sick. After a full day of creating beautiful interiors for the rich and famous, Lew Smith would come home, take off his tie, and get down to his real work as a psychic healer who miraculously cured thousands of people. For his son, Philip, watching his father transform himself, at a moment's notice, from gracious society decorator into a healer with supernatural powers was a bit like living with Clark Kent and Superman. *Walking Through Walls* is Philip Smith's astonishing memoir of growing up in a household where séances, talking spirits, and exorcisms were daily occurrences, and inexplicable psychic healings resulted in visitors suddenly discarding their crutches and wheelchairs or being cured of fatal diseases. While there are benefits to having a miracle man in the house, Philip soon discovers the downside of living with a father who psychically knows everything he is doing. Surrounded by invisible spirits who tend to behave like nagging relatives, Philip looks for ways to escape his mystical home life -- including forays into sex, surfing, and even Scientology. By turns hilarious and profound, *Walking Through Walls* recounts Philip Smith's often bizarre but always magical coming of age in a household that felt like a cross between Lourdes and the set of *Rosemary's Baby*, and shows

how he managed to map out his own identity in the shadow of a father who, truly, loomed larger than life itself.

**Something Rising (Light and Swift)**

Haven Kimmel 2004 When her rakish, gambling father abandons the family, pool hustler Cassie Claiborne must abandon her own dreams to take care of her distant mother and fragile older sister, until she comes up with a way to redeem her life.

**A Girl Named Zippy** Haven Kimmel 2002

The author offers a chronicle of growing up in a small town in America's heartland, offering portraits of her family and her encounters with the complexities of the adult world, romance, and small-town life during the 1960s and 1970s.

**Something Rising** Haven Kimmel

2010-05-11 In her first two books, Haven Kimmel claimed her spot on the literary scene- surprising readers with her memoir, *A Girl Named Zippy*, and winning an outpouring of critical acclaim for her first novel, *The Solace of Leaving Early*. Now, in her second novel, she brings to the page a heroine's tireless quest for truth, love, justice, and the perfect game of 9-ball. Cassie Claiborne's world is riddled with problems beyond her control: her hard-living, pool-shooting father has another wife; her stoic, long-suffering mother is incapable of moving herself mentally away from the kitchen window; her sister Belle is a tempest of fragility and brilliance; her closest friends, Puck and Emmy, are adolescent harbingers of their own doomed futures. Frustrated by her inability to care deeply enough for so many troubled souls, Cassie finds in the local pool hall an oasis of green felt where she can master objects and restrain her emotions. As Cassie grows from a quietly complex girl into a headstrong young woman, she takes on the thankless role of

family provider by working odd jobs and hustling pool. All the while, she keeps her eye on the ultimate prize: wringing suitable justice out of past wrongs and freeing herself from the inertia that is her life. In this ultimately uplifting story, Haven Kimmel reaches deep into the hamstrung souls of her fictional corner of Indiana. Remarkable for its tough tenderness, *Something Rising (Light and Swift)* is an astonishing work of pure heartbreak.

**Goat** Brad Land 2004-02-03 NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE •

This searing memoir of fraternity culture and the perils of hazing provides an unprecedented window into the emotional landscape of young men. Reeling from a terrifying assault that has left him physically injured and psychologically shattered, nineteen-year-old Brad Land must also contend with unsympathetic local police, parents who can barely discuss "the incident" (as they call it), a brother riddled with guilt but unable to slow down enough for Brad to keep up, and the feeling that he'll never be normal again. When Brad's brother enrolls at Clemson University and pledges a fraternity, Brad believes he's being left behind once and for all. Desperate to belong, he follows. What happens there—in the name of "brotherhood," and with the supposed goal of forging a scholar and a gentleman from the raw materials of boyhood—involves torturous late-night hazing, heartbreaking estrangement from his brother, and, finally, the death of a fellow pledge. Ultimately, Brad must weigh total alienation from his newfound community against accepting a form of brutality he already knows too well.

**The Unforgiving Minute** Craig M.

Mullaney 2009-02-19 "The Unforgiving Minute is one of the most compelling memoirs yet to emerge from America's 9/11 era. Craig Mullaney has given us

an unusually honest, funny, accessible, and vivid account of a soldier's coming of age. This is more than a soldier's story; it is a work of literature." –Steve Coll, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Ghost Wars* and *The Bin Ladens* "One of the most thoughtful and honest accounts ever written by a young Army officer confronting all the tests of life." –Bob Woodward In this surprise bestseller, West Point grad, Rhodes scholar, Airborne Ranger, and U. S. Army Captain Craig Mullaney recounts his unparalleled education and the hard lessons that only war can teach. While stationed in Afghanistan, a deadly firefight with al-Qaeda leads to the loss of one of his soldiers. Years later, after that excruciating experience, he returns to the United States to teach future officers at the Naval Academy. Written with unflinching honesty, this is an unforgettable portrait of a young soldier grappling with the weight of war while coming to terms with what it means to be a man.

**The Ride of Our Lives** Mike Leonard  
2006-04-11 Mike Leonard is a lucky man. It's not everyone who gets parents like Jack and Marge. At eighty-seven, Jack is a pathological optimist with an inexhaustible gift of gab. Marge, Jack's bride of sixty years, though cut from the same rough bolt of Irish immigrant cloth, is his polar opposite—pessimistic and proud of it. What was their son, Mike, thinking when he took a sabbatical from his job with NBC News so he could pile these two world-class originals along with three of his grown kids and a daughter-in-law into a pair of rented RVs and hit the road for a month? Mike was thinking that he wanted to give his parents the ultimate family reunion. And so, one February morning, three generations of Leonards set out on their journey under the dazzling Arizona sky.

Thirty minutes later, one of the humongous recreational vehicles has an unplanned meeting with a concrete island at a convenience store. Thus begins the adventure of a lifetime—and an absolute gem of a book. In the course of their humorous, often poignant cross-country tour, from the desert Southwest to the New England coastline, the Leonards reminisce about their loves, their losses, and their rich and heartwarming (and sometimes heartbreaking) lives, while encountering a veritable Greek chorus of roadside characters along the way. The home stretch finds the clan racing back to Chicago, hoping to catch the arrival of the next generation, Jack and Marge's first great-grandchild. Through it all, Mike pieces together a century of family lore and lunacy—and discovers surprising sides to his parents that allow him to see them in a whole new light. Mike Leonard has captivated millions of television viewers with his wry and witty feature stories for NBC's *Today*. Now he brings that same engaging charm and keen insight to the foibles and passions of his own blessedly unique family. By turns uproariously funny and deeply moving, *The Ride of Our Lives* delivers a lifetime of laughs, lessons, and priceless memories. This edition's exclusive DVD features never-before-seen footage from the trip as well as candid family video and photographs.

**The Used World** Haven Kimmel  
2008-06-03 Spending their days at a sprawling Indiana antique mart surrounded by dusty furniture and cast-off clothing, Hazel, Claudia, and Rebekah find their circumstances revitalized by three romances and the unexpected arrival of two babies. By the author of *A Girl Named Zippy*. Reprint. 40,000 first printing.  
**A Tender Struggle** Krista Bremer  
2014-04-22 A Western woman finds love

and struggle with her Libyan husband in a memoir of marriage across a cultural divide: "A sweet and rewarding journey of a book" (Kirkus Reviews). Fifteen years ago, Krista Bremer, a California-bred feminist, surfer, and aspiring journalist, met and fell in love with a man from a very different world. Ismail Suayah was sincere, passionate, kind, and one of eight siblings born in an impoverished fishing village in Libya. Raised a Muslim, Ismail's faith informed his life. When Krista and Ismail made the decision to become a family, she embarked on a journey she never could have imagined: a quest for spiritual and intellectual growth that would open her mind and, more important, her heart. "A bold piece of writing (and thinking) by an incredibly brave woman." –Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat Pray Love* "Utterly absorbing . . . A beautiful book." –Cheryl Strayed, *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Wild*

**Plain Heathen Mischief** Martin Clark 2007-12-18 Of *The Many Aspects of Mobile Home Living*, Martin Clark's first novel, the *New York Times Book Review* wrote, "Like Nick Hornby in *High Fidelity* and Thomas McGuane in *Nothing But Blue Skies*, Clark has produced an oddly stirring portrait of a man in existential disarray." Which–noted Malcolm Jones in *Newsweek*–"made me laugh so hard I fell off the sofa." *Plain Heathen Mischief* ups the existential ante, as Joel King, a defrocked Baptist minister, finds life even more bedeviling once he's served six months for a career-ending crime he might not even have committed. Now his incommunicado wife wants a divorce, the teenage vixen of his disgrace is suing him for a cool \$5 million, a fresh start in Montana offers no hope for ex-cons of any religious persuasion, and the refuge

provided by his sister turns as nasty as his parole officer. Talk about a crisis of faith. On the upside, a solicitous member of Joel's former congregation invites him into a scam that could yield some desperately needed cash, and soon the down-on-his-luck preacher is involved with a flock of charming con men, crooked lawyers, and conniving youth. In a feat of bravura storytelling, Martin Clark ranges from the cross to the double cross, from Virginia to Las Vegas, from jail cells to trout streams, as he follows his Job-like hero through dubious choices and high-dollar insurance hustles to a redemption that no reader could possibly predict. Wildly imaginative, at times comic, at times profoundly sobering, and even more audacious than his wonderfully idiosyncratic debut, *Plain Heathen Mischief* is a spiritual revelation of the first order.

**Where the Heart Is** Billie Letts 2001-04-15 Talk about unlucky sevens. An hour ago, seventeen-year-old, seven months pregnant Novalee Nation was heading for California with her boyfriend. Now she finds herself stranded at a Wal-Mart in Sequoyah, Oklahoma, with just \$7.77 in change. But Novalee is about to discover hidden treasures in this small Southwest town--a group of down-to-earth, deeply caring people willing to help a homeless, jobless girl living secretly in a Wal-Mart. From Bible-thumping blue-haired Sister Thelma Husband to eccentric librarian Forney Hull who loves Novalee more than she loves herself, they are about to take her--and you, too--on a moving, funny, and unforgettable journey to . . . **Where the Heart Is.**  
**Last Day Blues** Julie Danneberg 2013-01-07 Fans of *First Day Jitters* will love spending the last day of school in Mrs. Hartwell classroom. What do teachers do for summer

vacation? Mrs. Hartwell's students worry that their teacher will miss them while they are gone for the summer. The class comes up with a way to make sure Mrs. Hartwell won't be too sad. But Mrs. Hartwell and the other teachers have some plans of their own. Once again Julie Danneberg and Judy Love bring to life the crazy antics of Mrs. Hartwell and her class and show that teachers and students are more alike than we sometimes think.

#### The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio

Terry Ryan 2005-09-02 The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio introduces Evelyn Ryan, an enterprising woman who kept poverty at bay with wit, poetry, and perfect prose during the "contest era" of the 1950s and 1960s. Stepping back into a time when fledgling advertising agencies were active partners with consumers, and everyday people saw possibility in every coupon, Terry Ryan tells how her mother kept the family afloat by writing jingles and contest entries. Mom's winning ways defied the Church, her alcoholic husband, and antiquated views of housewives. To her, flouting convention was a small price to pay when it came to securing a happy home for her six sons and four daughters. Evelyn, who would surely be a Madison Avenue executive if she were working today, composed her jingles not in the boardroom, but at the ironing board. By entering contests wherever she found them -- TV, radio, newspapers, direct-mail ads -- Evelyn Ryan was able to win every appliance her family ever owned, not to mention cars, television sets, bicycles, watches, a jukebox, and even trips to New York, Dallas, and Switzerland. But it wasn't just the winning that was miraculous; it was the timing. If a toaster died, one was sure to arrive in the mail from a forgotten contest. Days after the bank called in the second mortgage on the house,

a call came from the Dr Pepper company: Evelyn was the grand-prize winner in its national contest -- and had won enough to pay the bank. Graced with a rare appreciation for life's inherent hilarity, Evelyn turned every financial challenge into an opportunity for fun and profit. From her frenetic supermarket shopping spree -- worth \$3,000 today -- to her clever entries worthy of Erma Bombeck, Dorothy Parker, and Ogden Nash, the story of this irrepressible woman whose talents reached far beyond her formidable verbal skills is told in The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio with an infectious joy that shows how a winning spirit will triumph over the poverty of circumstance.

**Because You're Mine** Colleen Coble 2017-01-10 Amid the beauty of Charleston, not all is as it seems. When her husband Liam is killed by a car bomb while their Celtic band is on tour in Charleston, singer and Irish beauty Alanna doesn't quite know where to turn. Her father-in-law is threatening to take custody of the baby she carries, but Alanna knows she can't lose the only piece of Liam she has left. Alanna's manager offers her a marriage of convenience to obtain U.S. citizenship and allow her to escape her father-in-law's control. It seems like the perfect solution until she arrives at the family home of her new husband--a decaying mansion with more questions than answers. Strange things begin happening that threaten Alanna's life and the life of her child. Are they merely coincidences? Or is something more sinister at work? A mysterious painting, a haunting melody, and a love stronger than death leave Alanna questioning where darkness ends and light begins.

**Orville** Haven Kimmel 2003 Chained alone in a barn by the couple he thought might give him a good home, a

very ugly stray dog is miserable until a new neighbor, Sally MacIntosh, moves into the little house across the road and he falls in love. 20,000 first printing.

**Miss American Pie** Margaret Sartor 2007-05-29 Gives an account of the author's life from age twelve to eighteen, crafted from diaries, notebooks, and letters, and reflects all the joys and sorrows of growing up in the 1970s.

*The Only Girl in the Car* Kathy Dobie 2010-09-29 The Only Girl in the Car Bookworm and dreamer, Kathy was a young girl with a tender heart, an adventurer's spirit, and a child's terrible confusion about her proper place in the world. As the oldest daughter in a family of six children, she seemed trapped in her role as Big Sister and Mommy's Helper. Then, one day, teetering on the brink of adolescence, hormones surging, she heard someone call her "cheesecake," and suddenly saw her path. "Cheesecake, jailbait, sex kitten"-- the very words seemed to be "doors opening" to a splendid new self. But from the moment she decides to lose her virginity and reels in her prey, a "full-grown man," fourteen-year-old Kathy is headed for trouble. One cold, raw March night some months later, parked in a car with four boys on the outskirts of her small suburban town, she finds it. Though she could never have foreseen the outcome of that night, the "boys in the car could just as well have been Gypsies foretelling my future," she writes. Girls who break the rules in small towns like the one she lived in are expected to pay a very high price for their transgressions--and she did. And yet...this young girl, as scrappy a protagonist as any in our literature, manages to transform her fate. The story of how she came to be in that car, and how she stepped out of it forever altered, to be sure,

yet not forever damaged, is the theme of this extraordinary coming-of-age tale.

**Gossip from the Forest** Sara Maitland 2013 A magical exploration of the ancient landscape of forests and the ancient genre of fairytales, drawing fascinating and surprising connections between the two, by the author of the bestselling *A Book Of Silence*

**Any Bitter Thing** Monica Wood 2010-07-01 Richard Russo has celebrated Monica Wood's fiction as "thoroughly captivating warm and wise and beautifully written," and Andre Dubus III praised it as "luminous and graceful--entertaining yet transcendent." *Any Bitter Thing*, Wood's brilliant new novel, is her breakout book, a timely, gripping, and compassionate tale of family, faith, and deeply hidden truths. One of its greatest strengths is its continuous ability to defy expectations. It's not what you think. It is worse. Lizzy Mitchell was raised from the age of two by her uncle, a Catholic priest. When she was nine, he was falsely accused of improprieties with her and dismissed from his church, and she was sent away to boarding school. Now thirty years old and in a failing marriage, she is nearly killed in a traffic accident. What she discovers when she sets out to find the truths surrounding the accident and about the accusations that led to her uncle's death does more than change her life. With deft insight into the snares of the human heart, Monica Wood has written an intimate and emotionally expansive novel full of understanding and hope.

*Iodine* Haven Kimmel 2008 Living a highly functional if impoverished existence after running away from her abusive home, unconventional college senior Tracey Sue is forced to face her painful past when she falls in

love with a much-older man, prompting her to re-experience a traumatic suppressed memory that makes her realize that much of her present life is a carefully constructed illusion. 40,000 first printing.

**The Orchard** Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry 2022-03-15 Four teenagers grow inseparable in the last days of the Soviet Union—but not all of them will live to see the new world arrive in this powerful debut novel, loosely based on Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. "Spectacular . . . intensely evocative and gorgeously written . . . will fill readers' eyes with tears and wonder."—*Minneapolis Star Tribune*  
Coming of age in the USSR in the 1980s, best friends Anya and Milka try to envision a free and joyful future for themselves. They spend their summers at Anya's dacha just outside of Moscow, lazing in the apple orchard, listening to Queen songs, and fantasizing about trips abroad and the lives of American teenagers. Meanwhile, Anya's parents talk about World War II, the Blockade, and the hardships they have endured. By the time Anya and Milka are fifteen, the Soviet Empire is on the verge of collapse. They pair up with classmates Trifonov and Lopatin, and the four friends share secrets

and desires, argue about history and politics, and discuss forbidden books. But the world is changing, and the fleeting time they have together is cut short by a sudden tragedy. Years later, Anya returns to Russia from America, where she has chosen a different kind of life, far from her family and childhood friends. When she meets Lopatin again, he is a smug businessman who wants to buy her parents' dacha and cut down the apple orchard. Haunted by the ghosts of her youth, Anya comes to the stark realization that memory does not fade or disappear; rather, it moves us across time, connecting our past to our future, joys to sorrows. Inspired by Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry's *The Orchard* powerfully captures the lives of four Soviet teenagers who are about to lose their country and one another, and who struggle to survive, to save their friendship, to recover all that has been lost.  
**America's Boy** Wade Rouse 2006 A journalist remembers his childhood struggles to gain acceptance from the jeans-wearing set, his envy of his admired older brother, his parent's atypical personalities, and the Fourth of July accident that ended his brother's life. 40,000 first printing.