

BOOK THOUGHTS

BATCH 13
BATCH 13



BY **LINDSAY** WINCHERAUK
BY LINDSAY WINCHERAUK

BOOK THOUGHTS: BATCH 13
BOOK THOUGHTS: BATCH 13

BOOK THOUGHTS

BATCH 13



2

1. ANXIOUS PEOPLE – FREDRIK BACKMAN
2. ALREADY DEAD – DENIS JOHNSON
3. GREEN LIGHTS – MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY
4. LEGENDS OF THE FALL – JIM HARRISON
5. COUNTRY GIRL – EDNA O'BRIEN
6. REIGN MARY KRYGIEL

BLUE = MEMOIR OR BIOGRAPHICAL

BLACK = FICTION

DARK RED = EDUCATIONAL

PURPLE = ESSAY OR STORIES

ORANGE = POETRY

ANXIOUS PEOPLE

FREDRIK BACKMAN



Absolutely *👏* perfectly splendidly *🍴* delicious *😊*

How did the book make me feel/think?

I literally couldn't put this book down. Well, that's a load of hooley – and incontrovertibly a misuse of the word literally. I hate when persons, including me, misuse literally. But, of course, this has nothing to do with the book or my ability to put it down. For my literal statement to be accurate, the book would have to be a never-ending book or somehow fastened to my arms, with me being unable to unfasten. So, perhaps, utterly would have been a better word choice; until it came time to walk. I would say eat, but sometimes I devour food while reading, not paying attention to what I'm stuffing down my gullet. So, until it came time to walk, it made more sense.

I don't read books while walking.

Some people do. That confuses me.

Of course, none of this pertains to the book.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Mr. Backman speaks a language I understand.

"English?"

"Yes," but I mean written words. I laughed out loud, loudly on several pages, guffawed actually, "Is this candy?" "It's an eraser." "Stop eating everything." "I was only asking." And turn the page, I cried, "You love each other until you can't live without each other. And even if you stop loving each other for a little while, you can't... you can't live without each other."

And then, or the opposite of, and then, a rabbit craps, try to get that out of your mind.

Anxious People is now my most-est favourite book!

I couldn't put it down.

I didn't want to put it down.

I wanted more pages.

Backman writes like a friend is reading to you, you never want to let go. This book is close to perfect

I'll leave you with this. How do we know that love is winning: "All the apartments that aren't for sale?"

Helt 🏆 helt utmärkt 🤝 utsökt 😊

Hur fick boken mig att känna/tänka?

Jag kunde bokstavligen inte lägga ifrån mig den här boken. Nåväl, det är en massa tjuvigt - och obestridligen ett ordagrant missbruk av ordet. Jag hatar när personer, inklusive jag, missbrukar bokstavligen. Men det här har förstås ingenting att göra med boken eller min förmåga att lägga ifrån mig den. För att mitt bokstavliga uttalande ska vara korrekt, måste boken vara en oändlig bok eller på något sätt fäst vid mina armar, där jag inte kan lossa. Så, kanske, helt hade varit ett bättre ordval; tills det var dags att gå. Jag skulle säga ät, men ibland slukar jag mat medan jag läser, utan att vara uppmärksam på vad jag stoppar i matstruben. Så tills det var dags att gå var det mer vettigt.

Jag läser inte böcker när jag går.

Vissa människor gör det. Det förvirrar mig.

Inget av detta hör såklart till boken.

OM BOKEN

Herr Backman talar ett språk jag förstår.

"Engelsk?"

"Ja", men jag menar skrivna ord. Jag skrattade högt, högt på flera sidor, guffade faktiskt, "Är det här godis?" "Det är ett suddgummi." "Sluta äta allt." "Jag frågade bara." Och vänd blad, jag ropade, "Ni älskar varandra tills ni inte kan leva utan varandra. Och även om ni slutar älska varandra för en liten stund, så kan ni inte... ni kan inte leva utan varandra."

Och sedan, eller motsatsen till, och sedan, en kanin skiter, försök få bort det ur ditt sinne.

Anxious People är nu min mest favoritbok!

Jag kunde inte lägga ifrån mig det.

Jag ville inte lägga ner den.

Jag ville ha fler sidor.

Backman skriver som att en vän läser för dig, du vill aldrig släppa taget. Den här boken är nästan perfekt

Jag lämnar dig med detta. Hur vet vi att kärleken vinner: "Alla lägenheter som inte är till salu?"

WRITTEN: October 28, 2020

ALREADY DEAD

DENIS JOHNSON



A story about the loneliness of broken live, we can never know.

How did the book make me feel/think?

Denis Johnson had a mercurial capacity to take the most unlikely characters, cretins, broken, unlovable, and then turn them into complex absurdities... living, lost, lonely.

ALREADY DEAD paints a complex picture of the adversities of living in society's far reaches—the fractured dreams of those who can never belong in the norm. A large portion of us. Real. But teetering in the depths of a fantasy nobody would ever want.

Johnson's writing is poetic, transporting readers into an uncomprehending world. What we can all grasp is the beautiful bitterness of loneliness, something that inflicts each one of us from time to time.

"Eventually, we take responsibility," she says, "for having created our world." Indeed, the demons were in his head. Gumdrops in a dream were not gumdrops, but a dream. But as long as you don't wake, they're candy. You can eat them. If they're poison, they kill you. Then you wake, still alive. But in the dream, you're dead.

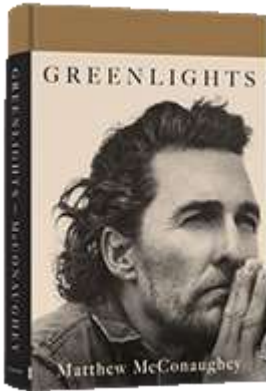
That's how this book made me feel.

RIP DENIS

WRITTEN: 21 December 2020

GREEN LIGHTS

MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY



It's okay to step in crap if you recognize you need to scrape it off your boots and move on.

How did the book make me feel/think?

I watched my father die the day after I turned 25.

I watched my mother die less than 2 years later.

I am a provincial + national champion quarterback (I'm blind in one eye) in football, + I threw the longest touchdown pass in Canadian Junior Football History.

I've travelled to 17 countries.

I have played 2-on-2 basketball with David Duchovny – and beat him.

I've had breakfast with Michael Chiklis.

I brushed past the Dalai Lama.

4 I crashed a motorcycle in Jamaica wearing only shorts and flip-flops – my first time riding a motorbike.

I tried to buy a hotel in Jamaica that led me to Panama during a military coup – something to do with Noriega.

Sixteen years after my mother died, I discovered she wasn't my birth mother, and everything familial in my life had been a lie. This moment trapped me, and I started living it over and over and repeatedly.

In 2016, I met my birth mother for the first time alongside her deathbed – saying goodbye – adding to my baggage.

I have a wonderful, challenging, and fascinating life, and I have a lot of life left.

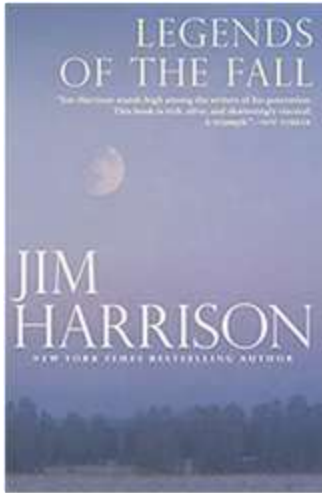
In *Greenlights*, McConaughey shares his life's journey with breathtaking honesty, humour, and subtle, deft wisdom. Instilling in each of us the importance of cherishing moments, placing them in the right compartments, and then moving forward to give yourself and those you love the fullest, most vibrant life experiences. Love is paramount. It's okay to move past the moments you keep living over and over and repeatedly. It is a must that you do.

Thank You, Matthew, for sharing your journey.

WRITTEN: December 3, 2020

LEGENDS OF THE FALL

JIM HARRISON



A riveting + breathtakingly timeless classic, blasting readers into yesteryear.

How did the book make me feel/think?

Harrison writes with deft aplomb, whisking the characters off of the pages so much it feels like they will haunt you throughout each day.

“The Texas girl was lovely, long-limbed, intelligent but far too young to be daffy: she was a house that wanted to be haunted while Miryea, only a few years older, was haunted.”

He writes of times long gone by in his stories, walking lockstep with damaged characters he most surely must have encountered in his previous lives. As I turned the pages, I felt as if it transported me onto the pages alongside him, feeling the pain, sorrow, growth, and joy of these richly flawed humans, much like each of us living in today’s tumultuous times. The characters’ paths in his riveting stories are infinitely different from ours, but are they? We all struggle; we all wish we could control our destinies; what Harrison expounds is perhaps whatever it will be, and we need to simply dive into our existences and merely enjoy the ride.

Try to tell me this, “He was past regretting for the moment how he tracked mud from one part of his life into another.” — are not you + every living being on this spinning rock?

Legends of the Fall is a wondrous literary masterpiece containing three stories that allow us to escape into ourselves and hopefully come out stronger long after I read the last word.

That’s how this book made me feel!

Stay Safe.

Wear a mask.

Be Kind.

WRITTEN: November 19, 2020

COUNTRY GIRL

EDNA O'BRIEN



Edna O'Brien's life is a consummate illustration of what can be!

How did the book make me feel/think?

Edna O'Brien is a writing tour de force.

She hobnobbed with the greats. She drops the names of celebrities + royalty with iridescent aplomb effortlessly. It is a profound testament to how she endured growing up in the time of Irish literary deities.

How could a woman survive and navigate the endless gauntlet of a misogynistic world with such grace and candour?

By allowing her gifts to flow freely in succulent prose, Edna belonged. She didn't knock or kick in the door; she slithered

through and let her unrelenting talent shine through.

Her life is a daunting mystical fairy tale, showcasing a world an infinitely small number of us are ever transported to—from within, she's been to heaven and hell and is undoubtedly on the return journey, sharing with us the beautiful mystery of life along the way.

Edna O'Brien is a consummate illustration of what can be!

We are all blessed to have her share her journey to get on with our own.

That's how this book made me feel.

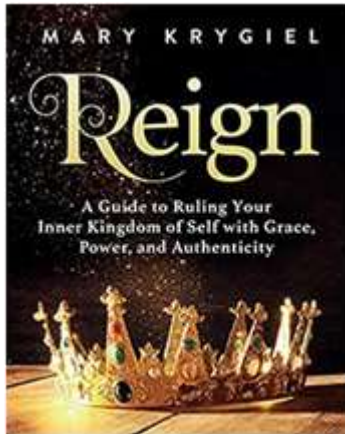
Stay Safe.

Wear a mask.

Be Kind.

REIGN

MARY KRYGIEL



Who are you; really?

How did the book make me feel/think?

The world can be a debilitatingly scary place. Uncertainty abounds.

They bombard us with noise 24/7 – consuming our happiness, fracturing our destiny.

They inundate us daily with COVID, a potential political coup, an opioid crisis, + the gap between ‘have’ and ‘have not’ widening like the San Andreas Fault. Throw in our addictive need to be |dis|connected by portraying a less than an accurate image of self to your ‘followers’ – it sounds a little

cultish. And with this amplification of whom you want others to believe you are, how can it be nothing more than crippling?

We need to slow down. To reflect.

That’s where Mary Krygiel’s **REIGN** enters the fray. This beautifully illustrated book can act as a map to controlling your narrative by allowing the ‘real you,’ lying within, to be revealed.

REIGN is a perfect read for anyone wanting to enrich their personal and professional relationships. For couples who wish to strengthen their bond, it is an unobtrusive guidebook that will give you a better understanding of who you are and why you behave the way you do + insight into what makes your partner tick. *This understanding is priceless.*

The corporate world can act as a conduit to build a strong team by understanding all the components necessary to thrive.

REIGN reminded me of “*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*” without overwhelming.

REIGN also reminded me of “*What Colour is Your Parachute,*” without the tedium, more of a turnkey look into unlocking your destiny.

And “*The Crossroads of Should & Must*” – which, much like **REIGN**, is a must-read if you want to live your ‘most’ entire existence.

Gotta run. I need to reflect on: What benefits might you experience taking a break from social media for a period?

WRITTEN: December 23, 2020