

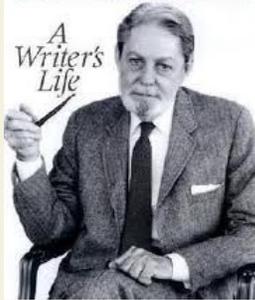
SHELBY FOOTE

Shelby Foote: A Writer's Life

C. Stuart Chapman

B FOOTE

For a biographer Shelby Foote is a famously reluctant subject. In writing this biography, however, C. Stuart Chapman gained valuable access through interviews and shared correspondence, an advantage Foote rarely has granted to others. Born into Mississippi Delta gentry in 1916, Foote has engaged in a lifelong struggle with the realities behind his persona, the classic image of the southern gentleman. His polished civil graces mask a conflict deep within. Foote's beloved South is a changing region, and even progressive change, of which Foote approves, can be unsettling. In letters and interviews, and in his writings, he often waxes nostalgic as he grapples to recover the grace of an earlier time, particularly the era of the Civil War.

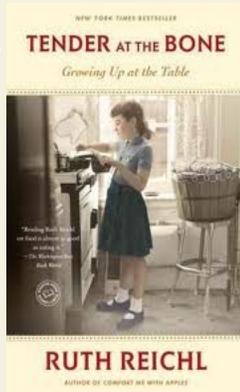


Tender At The Bone

Ruth Reichl

641.5 R

At an early age, Ruth Reichl discovered that "food could be a way of making sense of the world... If you watched people as they ate, you could find out who they were." Her deliciously crafted memoir is the story of a life determined, enhanced, and defined in equal measure by a passion for food, unforgettable people, and the love of tales well told. Beginning with Reichl's mother, the notorious Queen of Mold, Reichl introduces us to the fascinating characters who shaped her world and her tastes, from the gourmand Monsieur du Croix, who served Reichl her first soufflé, to those in Berkeley who championed the organic food revolution in the 1970s. Spiced with Reichl's infectious humor and sprinkled with her favorite recipes, this is a witty and compelling chronicle of a culinary sensualist's coming-of-age.

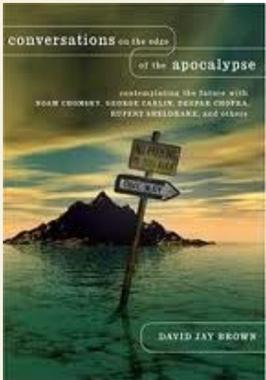


Conversations On The Edge Of The Apocalypse

David Jay Brown

081 B

In his latest interview collection, David Jay Brown has once again gathered some of the most interesting minds of today to consider the future of the human race, the mystery of consciousness, the evolution of technology, psychic phenomena, and more. The book includes conversations with celebrated visionaries and inspirational figures such as Ram Dass, Noam Chomsky, Deepak Chopra, and George Carlin. Part scientific exploration, part philosophical speculation, and part intellectual rollercoaster, the free-form discussions are original and captivating, and offer surprising revelations.

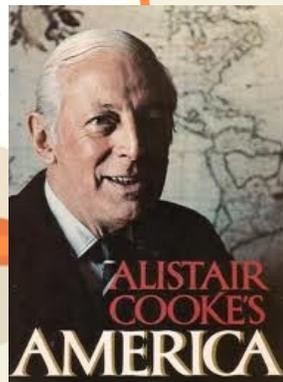


Alistair Cooke's America

Alistair Cooke

973 C

A British reporter who lived in the U.S. for decades, Cooke's Letters from America ran on the BBC for over a half century. Cooke also presented a popular television series in the early 1970s (America: A Personal History of the United States). Originally published in 1973 after the TV series aired, this book is an affectionate and idiosyncratic (but not uncritical) look at American history and character, from the first Native American inhabitants of the continent through to the 1960s. An outsider's view of the U.S. written at a time when the country was more optimistic and sure of itself than it is today, this book will captivate readers—especially those who are encountering Cooke's writing for the first time.



CREATIVE NONFICTION:

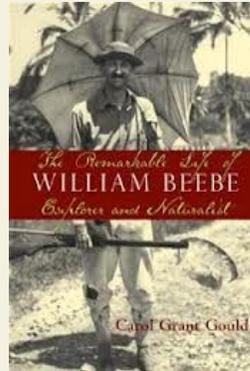
True Stories Can Be More Interesting Than Fiction

The Remarkable Life of William Beebe: Explorer and Naturalist

Carol Grant Gould

B BEEBE

From the Galapagos Islands to the jungles of British Guiana, from the Bronx Zoo to the deep seas, Beebe's biography is a riveting adventure. A best-selling author in his own time, Beebe was a fearless explorer and thoughtful scientist who put his life on the line in pursuit of knowledge. The unique glimpses he provided into the complex web of interactions that keeps the earth alive and breathing have inspired generations of conservationists and ecologists. This exciting biography of a great naturalist brings William Beebe at last to the recognition he deserves.

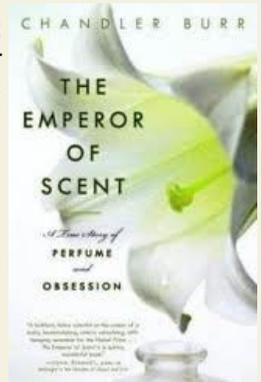


The Emperor of Scent

Chandler Burr

612.8 B

The Emperor of Scent tells of the scientific maverick Luca Turin, a connoisseur and something of an aesthete who wrote a bestselling perfume guide and bandied about an outrageous new theory on the human sense of smell. Drawing on cutting-edge work in biology, chemistry, and physics, Turin used his obsession with perfume and his eerie gift for smell to turn the cloistered worlds of the smell business and science upside down, leading to a solution to the last great mystery of the senses: how the nose works.



Strapless: John Singer Sargent and the Fall of Madame X

Deborah Davis

759.13 D

The story behind the legendary John Singer Sargent painting that propelled the artist to international renown but condemned his subject to a life of public ridicule. "Madame X" was actually 23-year-old Virginie Gautreau. All the leading artists wanted to paint her, but it was Sargent, a relative nobody, who won the commission. Unveiled at the 1884 Paris Salon, Gautreau's portrait did generate the attention she craved- but it led to infamy rather than stardom. Sargent had painted one strap of Gautreau's dress dangling from her shoulder, suggesting, to outraged Parisian viewers, either the prelude or the aftermath of sex. Her reputation irreparably damaged, Gautreau retired from public life, destroying all the mirrors in her home so she would never have to look at herself again.

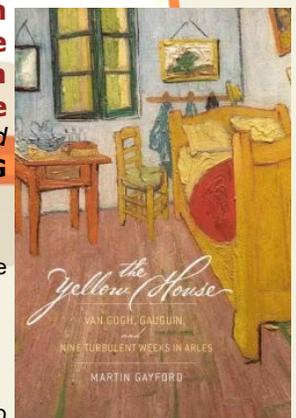


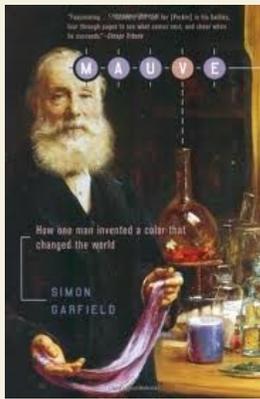
The Yellow House: Van Gogh, Gauguin and Nine Turbulent Weeks in Provence

Martin Gayford

759.9492 G

From October to December of 1888, Paul Gauguin shared a yellow house in the south of France with Vincent van Gogh. They were the odd couple of the art world- one calm, the other volatile- and the denouement of their living arrangement was explosive. Making use of new evidence and Van Gogh's voluminous correspondence, Martin Gayford describes not only how these two hallowed artists painted and exchanged ideas, but also the texture of their everyday lives.



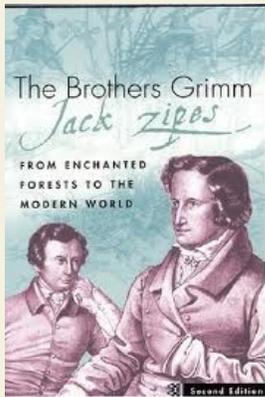


Mauve
Simon Garfield
666.257 G

Before 1856, the color in our lives- the reds, blues, and blacks of clothing, paint, and print- came from insects or mollusks, roots or leaves; and dyeing was painstaking and expensive. But in 1856 18-year-old English chemist William Perkin accidentally discovered a way to mass-produce color in a factory. Working on a treatment for malaria in his London home laboratory, Perkin failed to produce artificial quinine. Instead he created a dark oily sludge that turned silk a beautiful light purple. Mauve became the most desirable shade in the fashion houses of Paris and London, but its importance extended far beyond ball gowns. It sparked new interest in industrial applications of chemistry research, which later brought about the development of explosives, perfume, photography, and modern medicine.

George Sand: A Woman's Life Writ Large
Belinda Jack
B SAND

A fascinating exploration of the life of George Sand- whose brilliant writing, radical politics, and unorthodox personality made her a legendary figure in her own time and forever after. Born Aurore Dupin in 1804, Sand became France's best-selling writer, rivaled in her day only by Victor Hugo- yet she was known as much for her excessive life as for her plays, stories, and enduring novels. The daughter of a prostitute and an aristocrat, great-granddaughter of the King of Poland, Sand grew up acutely aware of social injustice and prejudice. Convent-educated, she became a mischievous, flamboyant rebel at the center of French intellectual life, and her long, troubled romance with Chopin was just one of her many affairs with both men and women.

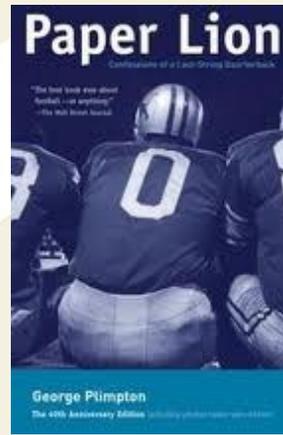
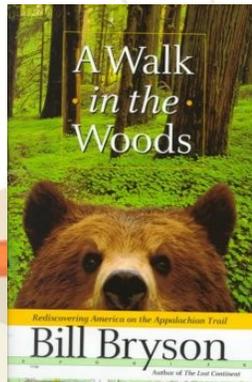


The Brothers Grimm
Jack Zipes
430.9224 Z

Most of the fairy tales that we grew up with we know thanks to the Brothers Grimm. Jack Zipes, one of the more astute critics of fairy tales, explores the romantic myth of the brothers as wandering scholars, who gathered "authentic" tales from the peasantry. Bringing to bear his own critical expertise as well as new biographical information, Zipes examines the interaction between the Grimms' lives and their work. He reveals the Grimms' personal struggle to overcome social prejudice and poverty, as well as their political efforts- as scholars and civil servants- toward unifying the German states.

A Walk in the Woods
Bill Bryson
917.404 B

Stretching from Georgia to Maine, the Appalachian Trail offers some of America's most breathtaking scenery. After living in England, Bill Bryson moved back to the U.S. and decided to reacquaint himself with his country by walking this uninterrupted "hiker's highway." Before long, Bryson and his infamous walking companion, Stephen Katz, are stocking up on supplies as they prepare for a walk that is both amusingly ill-conceived and surprisingly adventurous. Showcasing Bryson at the height of his comic powers, we join the duo as they risk snakebite and hantavirus trudging through swollen rivers and traipsing up mountains while developing a new reverence for cream sodas and hot showers. But Bryson also uses his acute powers of observation to conjure a poignant backdrop of silent forests and sparkling lakes.

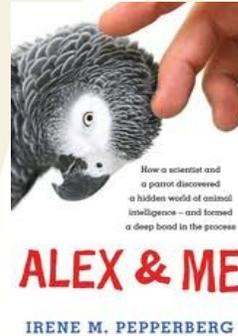
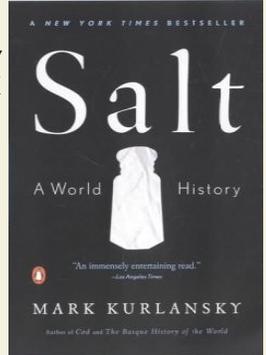


Paper Lion
George Plimpton
796.332 P

In the mid-'60s, Plimpton joined the Detroit Lions at their pre-season camp as a 36-year-old rookie quarterback wannabe, and stuck with the club through an intra-squad game before the paying public a month later. What resulted is one of the funniest and most insightful books ever written on the game; 30 years later it remains a major model of what was then blossoming into New Journalism. Plimpton's breezy style wonderfully captures the pressures and tensions rookies confront in trying to make it, the hijinks that pervade the atmosphere when 60 high-strung guys are forced to live together in close quarters, and the host of rites and rituals with which football loves to coat itself.

Salt: A World History
Mark Kurlansky
333.856 K

The only rock we eat, salt has shaped civilization from the very beginning, and its story is a glittering, often surprising part of the history of humankind. A substance so valuable it served as currency, salt has influenced the establishment of trade routes and cities, provoked and financed wars, secured empires, and inspired revolutions. Populated by colorful characters and filled with an unending series of fascinating details, *Salt* is a supremely entertaining, multi-layered masterpiece.



Alex & Me
Irene M. Pepperberg
636.6 P

On September 6, 2007, an African Grey parrot named Alex died prematurely at age 31. His last words to his owner, Irene Pepperberg, were "You be good. I love you." What would normally be a quiet, private event was, in Alex's case, headline news. Over the 30 years they worked together, Alex and Irene became famous- pioneers who opened a window into the hidden world of animal minds. When Irene and Alex first met, birds were not believed to possess any potential for language, consciousness, or anything comparable to human intelligence. Yet, over the years, Alex proved he could add, sound out words, and understand concepts like bigger and smaller. He was capable of thought and intention. The fame that resulted was extraordinary. Yet there was a side that never made the papers. They were emotionally connected. Alex missed Irene when she was away. He loved to dance. When he became bored by the repetition of his tests, he would play jokes on her. Alex and Irene stayed together through thick and thin- despite sneers from experts, extraordinary financial sacrifices, and a nomadic existence from one university to another.

In Search Of Nature
Edward O. Wilson
113 W

Biologist Edward O. Wilson has been observing humans and nature in a career in biology that spans more than four decades. For the last 10 years or so, he has labored to alert us to the dangers we face due to the decline in the "diversity of life, which we are so recklessly diminishing through species extinction." The essays in *In Search of Nature* range widely. He gives us tales of nature's boundless variety with creatures like the reservoir ant and the cookie cutter shark and with a discussion of the importance of taxonomy.

