

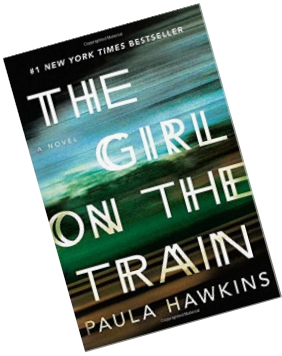
What We're Reading

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v.2, no.1 (October 2015)

Cool nights, shorter days, pumpkined porches, the smell of drying leaves — yep, fall is here. So, too, is another issue of *What We're Reading*, the YCP forum for sharing opinions of books recently read. Whether fiction or non-fiction, print or e, old or new, let us know what books you're reading for fun.

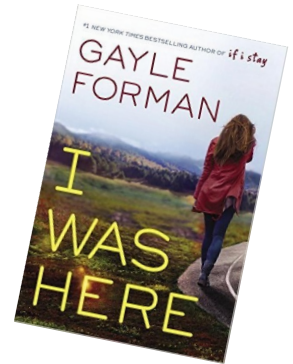


The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins (2015)

This book has been touted as this year's *Gone Girl*; however, I found the book more interesting and subtle as a character study and as a mystery. Rachel, the girl on the train, is not amazing. She is depressed, without man or job; yet she rides the commuter train daily past her old life, which now includes her ex's new wife and baby. When a neighbor disappears, Rachel inserts herself into the investigation but her drinking and fantasies make her an unreliable witness. Using multiple narrators, Hawkins explores memory, taking the reader on a journey to discover what's real and what's fantasy. ~ Suzanne Delle

I Was Here by Gayle Forman (2015)

This is Gayle's newest novel and it is as good as the rest of the books she's written. A girl named Cody finds out that her best friend's suicide may have not been entirely her decision. There are many twists and turns. It deals with a serious topic in a beautiful and realistic way. I highly recommend. ~ Courtney Hengel

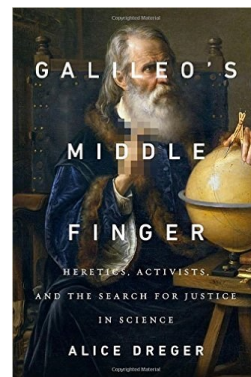


The Changed by A. Michael Marsh (2013)

The Changed is the best I've read in a while. The book nearly gave me Reader's Whiplash! It was intense, suspenseful, and had a very unpredictable plot. We're introduced to a city destroyed by a strange disease. Those who survived the sickness have a bigger problem to deal with. This book follows a young man in his search for his family. He's beaten down by obstacle after obstacle, but as he travels, his alliance grows larger and stronger. Can they fight off their foes? Or will they be forced to join them? ~ Hayley Cosgrove

Galileo's Middle Finger by Alice Dreger (2015)

Alice Dreger's new book is a real page turner. Dreger looks at different recent controversies in medicine and science in order to understand how those outside the "standard" message are treated. Amazing read. (For disclosure, while not mentioned by name, I am part of a group she covers in the last few chapters.) ~ Rory Kraft



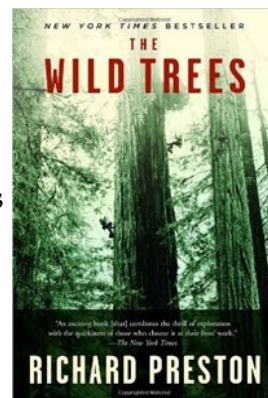
The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah (2015)

This historic novel about two sisters takes place during World War II: the women's war. The Nightingale tells stories of survival, love and freedom. The characters come alive in this narrative which is so captivating you won't be able to put it down. The book is incredibly emotional and will stay with you for a long time. Don't pass it up. ~ Peggy Ericson



The Wild Trees by Richard Preston (2007)

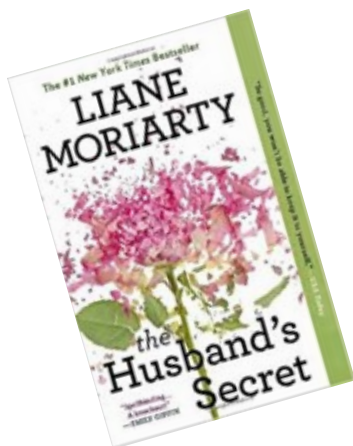
As background for a writing project, and in preparation for a summer journey through the redwood forests of northern California, I decided to re-read one of the great nonfiction narratives of our time. *The Wild Trees* by Richard Preston is a rare book - at times terrifying, always fascinating, and deeply moving. This is a tome that will both entertain and inform - a paean to earth's most majestic botanical specimens. Preston capably weaves spellbinding stories of daring botanists and amateur naturalists along with essentials of the world's tallest organisms into a compelling and awe-inspiring book. After reading, you too, will want to visit these hauntingly beautiful wonders of nature. ~ Tony Fredericks



Angelfall by Susan Ee (2012)

Dystopian novel about the angel apocalypse. Very interesting concept and executed extremely well. This book was fantastic. I didn't expect it to be so good. It pulled me in right from the start and I couldn't put it down. I extra recommend this book if you watch the show *Supernatural* because it includes angels in the book that are mentioned in the show. ~ Courtney Hengel



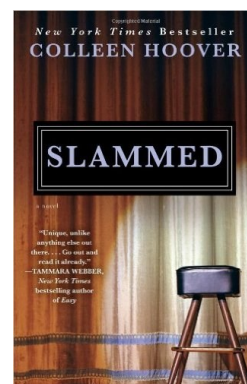


The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty (2013)

This novel begins with short, individual chapters devoted to the three main characters. Cecelia is a very successful Tupperware dealer, busy mother to three daughters, and active in the community and school. Rachel is a part-time secretary at the school. Tess returns to the neighborhood after a marital disruption and enrolls her young son in the school. Threaded throughout the chapters is the understory of the unsolved murder of Rachel's teenage daughter, Janie. Moriarty deftly introduces supporting characters, like Tess's former boyfriend, the school PE instructor, and the voice of Ed, Rachel's husband. As the story progresses, the lives of these three women begin to intersect and overlap, culminating in a suspenseful chapter. There is an epilogue that puts finishing touches on the characters, which I thought was a good way to end the story. ~ Roberta Rishel

Slammed by Colleen Hoover (2012)

This book is a typical boy meets girl and they fall in love story but with a twist. There is a reason why this boy and girl cannot be together. My favorite part of this book was the slam poetry concept that acted as a sub-plot. I loved reading the slams and towards the end of the book I was wanting more. ~ Courtney Hengel



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The next What We're Reading will be published in November. Please submit your reviews of 100 words or less to bjacoby@ycp.edu by November 13.