

A few Books of Interest  
and diverse Literary Merit,  
mostly Novels;  
among them hearty Specimens of  
the Short Novel, History into Novel,  
the Opening of The West, the Prison Novel,  
Novel-into-Film, the Novel of War, Adventurous Prose,  
and the incontrovertibly good Read;  
including sundry Counsels on the Lucubration of  
such Works, by Those who should know but may Not;  
withal a Miscellany of Thrillers, Mysteries,  
Romans Noirs, Policiers, Classics, Plays, Tracts and Trash  
-- not omitting Histories of Science --  
supplemented by Accounts  
of Travel into strange & unknown Places  
and Stories of the Sea;  
by Authors Indispensable & Otherwise,  
in no other than alphabetical Order,  
as Recalled by  
Jim Nisbet.

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Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*, *The Monkey Wrench Gang*

Kobo Abe, *The Woman in the Dunes*\*\*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Double asterisks indicate a novel associated with at least one motion picture, with but cavalier regard to merit; followed by title in brackets if changed from original. Thanks to Barry Gifford and Steve Fagin for knowledgeable suggestions. Errors and lapses in taste the fault of Jim Nisbet entirely.

Ryunosake Akutagawa, *Rashomon\*\**, *Hell Screen*, *Kapa*  
 Nelson Algren, *The Man with the Golden Arm\*\**  
 Eric Ambler, *A Coffin for Dimitrios*  
 Kent Anderson, *Sympathy for the Devil*  
 Raymond Andrews, *Appalachee Red*  
 Jane Austen (in chronological order), *Sense and Sensibility\*\**,  
*Pride and Prejudice\*\**, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma\*\**, *Northanger*  
*Abbey*, *Persuasion\*\**  
 James Baldwin, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, *Notes of a Native Son*, *The Fire*  
*Next Time*  
 Arturo Barera, *The Forge*, *The Track*, *The Clash*  
 Georges Bataille, *Blue of Noon*, *Story of the Eye*  
 Charles Baudelaire, *Les Fleurs du mal*, *Paris Spleen*  
 George Baxt, *A Queer Kind of Death*  
 Samuel Beckett, *Murphy*, *Malloy*, *Malone Dies*, *The Unnameable*, *Endgame*  
 Marc Behm, *The Eye of the Beholder*  
 Saul Bellow, *Seize the Day*  
 Simone de Beauvoir, *She Came to Stay*  
 Lucia Berlin, *So Long*, *Safe at Home*, *Where I Live Now*  
 Georges Bernanos, *The Diary of a Country Priest*  
 A.I. Bezzerides, *Thieves' Market\*\** [>> *Thieves' Highway*], *The Long Haul\*\** [>>  
*They Drive by Night*]  
 Heinrich Böll, *The Clown*  
 Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*  
 Malcolm Braly, *On the Yard\*\**  
 Kate Braverman, *Lithium for Medea*  
 Lothar-Güther Bucheim, *Das Boot*  
 Paul Buck, *The Honeymoon Killers\*\**  
 Charles Bukowski, *Post Office*, *Women*, *Factotum*  
 W. R. Burnet, *Little Caesar\*\**, *Asphalt Jungle\*\**, *High Sierra\*\**  
 James M. Cain, *Serenade\*\**, *The Postman Always Rings Twice\*\** [>> 3, including  
*Ossessione*], *Double Indemnity\*\**, *Mildred Pierce\*\**  
 Ferdinando Camon, *The Fifth Estate*, *Life Everlasting*, *Memorial*  
 Albert Camus, *The Stranger\*\**

Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*\*\*

Forrest Carter, *Watch for Me on the Mountain, Gone to Texas*\*\* , *The Vengeance Trail of Josey Wales*\*\* [ $\gg$  *The Outlaw Josey Wales*], *The Education of Little Tree*

Joyce Cary, *The Horse's Mouth*\*\*

Vera Caspary, *Laura*\*\*

Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop, My Antonia, On Writing*

Blaise Cendrars, *Moravagine, The Astonished Man, Planars, Lice*

Michael Chabon, *Memories of Pittsburgh*

Raymond Chandler, *The Long Goodbye*\*\* , *The Big Sleep*\*\* *Farewell, My Lovely*\*\* [ $\gg$  3, including *Murder, My Sweet* and *The Falcon Takes Over*]

Henri Charierre, *Papillon*\*\*

Apsley Cherry-Garrard, *The Worst Journey in the World*

Walter Van Tilberg Clark, *The Ox-bow Incident*\*\*

Joseph Conrad, *Lord Jim, Youth, The End of The Tether, Typphoon, etc etc*

Harry Crews, *A Feast of Snakes*

Mike Davis, *City of Quartz*

Philip K. Dick, *The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*\*\* [ $\gg$  *Blade Runner*]; *Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said, The World Jones Made, A Scanner Darkly, The Shifting Realities of Philip K. Dick*

Alfred Döblin, *Berlin Alexanderplatz*\*\*

Alexandre Dumas, fils, *The Lady of the Camellias*

Alexandre Dumas, pere, *The Count of Monte Cristo*\*\* , *The Three Musketeers*\*\* , *The Man in the Iron Mask*\*\* [ $\gg$  3]

Vito Dumas, *Alone Through The Roaring Forties*

Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man*

Richard Ellmann, *James Joyce*

J. Henri Fabre, *Souvenirs Entomologiques* [currently excerpted as *The Insect World of J. Henri Fabre.*]

John Fante, *Ask the Dust, Brotherhood of the Grape*

Rainer Werner Fassbinder, *Plays*\*\* [ $\gg$  *Kastelmacher, The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*]

William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying; The Unvanquished; Absalom, Absalom!; The Hamlet; Light in August; Intruder in the Dust; Flags in the Dust* [aka Sartorius], *The Sound and the Fury, Pylon\*\** [>> Tarnished Angels]

Beppe Fenoglio, *Ruin*

Richard P. Feynman, *Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!, What do You Care What Other People Think?*

Gustave Flaubert, *Madam Bovary* [>> 2]

Theodore Fontaine, *Effi Brest\*\**

E.M. Forster, *Aspects of the Novel*

Ernest J. Gaines, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman\*\**

John Gardner, *The Art of Fiction*

Leonard Gardner, *Fat City\*\**

Jean Genet, *Our Lady of the Flowers, Miracle of the Rose, The Thief's Journal, Querelle\*\*, Funeral Rites, The Maids, The Balcony*

William Gibson, *Neuromancer*

Barry Gifford, *Wild at Heart\*\*, The Devil Thumbs a Ride, The Phantom Father*

C.C. Gillispie, *The Edge of Objectivity*

David Goodis, *Black Friday, Dark Passage\*\*, Nightfall\*\*, Street of No Return, The Blonde on the Street Corner\*\*, Cassidy's Girl, Behold This Woman*

Robert Graves, *I, Claudius\*\*, Claudius the God\*\**

Zane Gray, *Nevada, Riders of the Purple Sage*

Graham Greene, *The Third Man\*\*, The Quiet American\*\**

Linda Greenlaw, *The Hungry Ocean*

François Guérif, *Du Polar*

William Lindsay Gresham, *Nightmare Alley\*\**

John Howard Griffin, *Black Like Me*

Vasily Grossman, *Life and Fate*

A.B. Guthrie, Jr., *The Big Sky\*\**

John Guzwell, *Trekka Around The World*

Rider Haggard, *King Solomon's Mines\*\*, She\*\**

Tomalin & Hall, *The Strange Last Voyage of Donald Crowhurst*

Ian Hamilton, *Writers in Hollywood*

Dashiell Hammett, *Red Harvest, The Maltese Falcon\*\*, The Thin Man\*\**

Knut Hamsun, *Hunger\*\**

Peter Handke, *The Goalie's Anxiety at the Penalty Kick\*\*, The Afternoon of a*

Writer, *The Weight of the World*  
 G.H. Hardy, *A Mathematician's Apology*  
 Sterling Hayden, *Wanderer, Voyage*  
 W.L. Heath, *Violent Saturday\*\**  
 Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea\*\**, *For Whom the Bell Tolls\*\**, *A Movable Feast*, *A Farewell to Arms\*\**  
 Chester Himes, *Crazy Kill*, *Cotton Comes to Harlem\*\**, *The Real Cool Killers*, *A Rage in Harlem*, *If He Hollers Let Him Go*, *The Heat's On*  
 Patricia Highsmith, *Ripley's Game\*\** [>> *The American Friend*]  
 Geoffrey Holmes [aka Daniel Manwaring], *Raise My Gallows High\*\** [>> *Out of the Past*]  
 Homer, *The Odyssey*  
 J.K. Huysmans, *A Rebours*, *La Bas*  
 Gary Indiana, *Horse Crazy*  
 Carl Jung, *Psychology and Religion*  
 Sebastian Junger, *The Perfect Storm*  
 Theodore J. Kaczynski, *The Unabomber Manifesto*  
 Alvin Karpis, *On the Rock*  
 Mary Karr, *The Liar's Club*  
 William Kennedy, *Legs*, *Billy Phelan's Greatest Game*, *Ironweed\*\**  
 Jack Kerouac, *The Subterraneans\*\**, *October in the Railroad Earth*  
 Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest\*\**  
 Robin Knox-Johnston, *A World of My Own*  
 Choderlos de Laclos, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses\*\** [>> 2]  
 Giuseppe di Lampedusa, *The Leopard\*\**  
 Annie Lamott, *Bird by Bird*  
 T.E. Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom\*\** [>> *Lawrence of Arabia*]  
 Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird\*\**  
 Craig Lesley, *Winterkill*  
 Alan Lomax, *The Land Where The Blues Began*  
 Jack London, *The Seewolf*, *Martin Eden*  
 H.P. Lovecraft, *The Strange Case of Charles Dexter Ward*  
 Malcolm Lowry, *Under the Volcano\*\**  
 Alan LeMay, *The Searchers\*\**  
 Ross Macdonald, *The Zebra-striped Hearse*  
 Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It\*\**

Curzio Malaparte, *Kaputt, Skin*  
 Andre Malraux, *Man's Fate*  
 Jean Patrick Manchette, *The Prone Gunamn, Three to Kill*  
 Nadeshda Mandelstam, *Hope Against Hope, Hope Abandoned*  
 Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude, The Autumn of the  
     Patriarch*  
 Robert Mason, *Chickenhawk*  
 Dan J. Marlowe, *The Name of the Game is Death*  
 Horace McCoy, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?\**  
 John D. McDonald, *The Executioners\*\* [ >> Cape Fear (Twice) ]*  
 William McGivern, *Odds Against Tomorrow\*\**  
 Larry McMurtry, *Horseman, Pass By\*\* [ >> Hud ], Leaving Cheyenne\*\* [ >> Lovin'  
     Molly ], All My Friends Are Going to Be Strangers, The Last Picture  
     Show\*\*, Lonesome Dove\*\**  
 Herman Melville, *Moby Dick\*\*, Bartleby The Scrivener, Billy Budd*  
 Charles Mingus, *Beneath The Underdog*  
 Simon Mitton, *The Crab Nebula*  
 Bernard Moitessier, *The Long Way, Cape Horn*  
 Audie Murphy, *To Hell and Back\*\**  
 Bao Ninh, *The Sorrow of War*  
 Frank Norris, *The Octopus, McTeague\*\* [ >> Greed ]*  
 Kenzaburo Oe, *A Personal Matter*  
 Yuri Olesha, *Envy*  
 John O'Brien, *Leaving Las Vegas\*\**  
 Robert O'Connor, *Buffalo Soldiers*  
 Liam O'Flaherty, *The Informer\*\**  
 Boris Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago\*\**  
 Konstantin Paustovsky, *The Story of a Life*  
 Harry Pidgeon, *Around The World Single-Handed*  
 Procopius, *Secret History*  
 Marcel Proust, *Remembrance of Things Past*  
 Thomas Pynchon, *V, Gravity's Rainbow, Vineland*  
 Derek Raymond (aka Robin Cook), *The Devil's Home on Leave, He Died with His  
     Eyes Open, How the Dead Live, I Was Dora Suarez, Dead Man Upright, Not*

*Till the Red Fog Rises, The State of Denmark*

Ishmael Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo*

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front\*\**

Gerard Reve, *The Fourth Man\*\**

Jean Rhys (in chronological order), *Quartet, After Leaving Mr. Mackenzie,*

*Voyage in the Dark, Good Morning Midnight, Wide Sargasso Sea\*\**

Richard Rhodes, *The Making of The Atomic Bomb*

Francois Sagan, *Bonjour Tristesse\*\*, Scars on the Soul, Those Without  
Shadows, The Unmade Bed*

George Sand, *Horace*

Ed Sanders, *Fame & Love in New York*

Jack Schaefer, *Shane\*\**

Steven Schneck, *The Nightclerk*

Mikhail Scholokhov, *Quiet Flows the Don, The Don Flows to the Sea*

Budd Schulberg, *What Makes Sammy Run, The Disenchanted*

Hubert Selby, Jr., *Last Exit to Brooklyn\*\**

Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions\*\*, Voices of a Summer Day, Evening in Byzantium*

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein\*\**

Glendon Swarthout, *The Shootist*

Josef Skvorecky, *The Bass Saxophone, The Engineer of Human Souls*

Iceberg Slim, *Trick Baby*

Captain Joshua Slocum, *Sailing Alone Around the World*

Miles Smeeton, *Once Is Not Enough*

Muriel Spark, *Memento Mori*

Mickey Spillane, *I The Jury, Vengeance is Mine, Kiss Me Deadly\*\**

Wallace Stegner, *The Mormons, Angle of Repose*

Stendhal, *Le Rouge et le Noir\*\*, Le Chartreuse de Parme\*\*, Leucien Leuwin, La  
Vie de Henri Brulard [cf also his The Abbess of Castro, and try to  
find an edition that has all five pieces in it]*

Gertrude Stein, *How to Write*

John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath\*\**, *East of Eden*, *Of Mice and Men\*\**

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde\*\**

Junichiro Tanizaki, *Diary of a Mad Old Man*, *Some Prefer Nettles*, *The Makioka*

*Sisters\*\**

Walter Tevis, *The Man Who Fell to Earth\*\**

Wilfred Thesiger, *Arabian Sands*, *The Marsh Arabs*

Jim Thompson, *POP 1280\*\** [> Coup de torchon], *The Grifters\*\**, *The Killer*

*Inside Me\*\**, *After Dark My Sweet\*\**, *The Getaway\*\**

John Kennedy Toole, *A Confederacy of Dunces*

Armitage Trail, *Scarface\*\**

Alexander Trocchi, *Young Adam*, *Cain's Book*

B. Traven, *Ghost Ship*, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre\*\**

Gore Vidal, *Myra Breckenridge\*\**

Sandro Veronesi, *Quiet Chaos*

Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*

Evelyn Waugh, *The Loved One\*\**

Eudora Welty, *One Writer's Beginnings*

James Welch, *Winter in the Blood*, *The Death of Jim Loney*, *Fools Crow*

Nathanael West, *The Day of the Locust\*\**, *Miss Lonelyhearts\*\**

Donald Westlake [aka Richard Stark], *The Hunter\*\** [> Point

*Blank*], *The Outfit\*\**

Colin Wilson, *The Mind Parasites*, *The Outsider*, *The Craft of the Novel*

Owen Wister, *The Virginian\*\**

Cornell Woolrich, *Night Has a Thousand Eyes\*\**, *I Married a Dead Man*, *The*

*Bride Wore Black\*\**



Richard Wright, *Native Son*, *Black Boy*

Evgenii Zamiatin, *We* [read and compare with George Orwell, *1984*; Aldous

Huxley, *Brave New World*; and Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*]