



# BookMarks!

You've got to read this!

Volume 3, Issue 2

November 9, 2007

## Quick Picks

### BookMarks Check List

Books I want to read:

*Encyclopedia of North Carolina* \*\*\*\*

*How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk* \*\*\*\*

*Going Gray: What I learned about beauty, sex, work, motherhood, authenticity, and everything else that really matters* (star rating N/A)

*The Dog Listener* \*\*\*\*

*Eden's Outcasts* (star rating N/A)

*The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast* \*\*\*\*

*The Future of the Past* \*\*\*\*

*Atlas Shrugged*\*\*\*\* (blog)

*White House Special Handbook* (star rating N/A) (blog)

*The World Without Us*\*\*\*\* (blog)

### Ratings Scale

\* - I would rather determine if generic plastic wrap is better than name brand.

\*\* - The equivalent of being stuck with a port-a-potty on a steamy hot day.

\*\*\* - Like sweet butter on fresh bread.

\*\*\*\* - This book was so good I wrote this review from my yacht using my million dollar pen!

## What Book Has Helped You Learn?

Is there a special book you remember that somehow transformed your life because it gave you new insight into something or someone? Maybe even into yourself? For many people, books hold such power and ability. Whether it's reading the book or because a shared knowledge of the book brings you closer to others. **WIT LIT** is a book club in Charlotte that has seen many transformations in the lives of its members. Although open to the community, many of the members are women in the YWCA's Women in Transition program. Despite their differences, their common love of reading brings them together and they find that they can journey as a group discovering new places and people or learn that perhaps they aren't so different after all. Isn't that the joy of reading? No matter what we take away from it, we can come together in a discussion - like BookMarks! So let's start discussing. .- Gena Craig



**A book has but one voice, but it does not instruct everyone alike. - Thomas Kempis**

### BookMarks:

## The "BookMarks Helps You Learn" Event

Join us to share your love of reading at [CPC Libraries' BookMarks](#) event from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., Friday, November 9, in LRC 404.

If you love books and are always in search of the next great read, you will want to attend this gathering. Kirsten Sikkelee, chief program officer for the YWCA Central Carolinas in Charlotte, will join us to talk about **WIT LIT** (read above)

BookMarks isn't a book club, but rather an easy and fun way to get lots of book recommendations from your fellow booklovers.

Enjoy an atmosphere of fun and get some great book reviews . Drinks and snacks will be provided. Sign up for BookMarks in LearnerWeb for professional development credit.

# Encyclopedia of North Carolina

by William S. Powell, Editor

What balladeer and mother of five children was killed in the infamous 1929 Gastonia textile strike? What Hertford County inventor produced the first machinegun? What NC university town boasts a medieval castle that headquarters a century-old secret society? Where and when did NC's Good Roads Campaign begin? What geographical area of NC is a breeding ground for songbirds returning from the Caribbean and South America? If you couldn't answer these questions, here's an easy freebie any dad-gum Yankee can probably guess: What nutritious delicacy derived from hominy did NC chef Bill Neal mix with shrimp and include in his Southern Cooking cookbook? GRITS, of course! Longtime residents of the Old North State as well as newcomers will be intrigued by the 1314-page Encyclopedia of North Carolina, edited by William S. Powell, professor of history at UNC-Chapel Hill for decades. This encyclopedia represents many years of Powell's own research as well as the efforts of over 500 volunteer contributors. Powell, long ago dubbed the dean of NC history, has created a work for both the dilettante as well as scholar. On a whim, the reader may flip through this bulky tome and discover our state's insect is the honeybee as well as the existence of the Man Will Never Fly Memorial Society, an organization that meets annually, drinks freely, and presents "anti-aviation" awards (Many of its members are pilots). A serious Civil War historian will also find ten pages that exhaustively list, locate, and describe all military installations in the state during that conflict. But who knew the first recorded "mooning" was in 1776 when a Cherokee Indian revealed more than his disrespect to Brig. Gen. Griffith Rutherford while on an expedition against his tribe? That same reader may also be astonished that over a hundred windmills along NC's coastline once ground corn or pumped water. During an idle hour of skimming through Powell's tome, browsers will oftentimes laugh but just as frequently reread an intriguing entry just to ascertain they understand its significance. On occasion, they may be tempted to dog-ear a page to show a friend later. So how about the answers to those initial questions? Labor organizer and balladeer Ella Mae Wiggins was killed during the Gastonia strike. The five men accused of the crime were not convicted. Richard Jordan Gatling patented his weapon in 1862, and the Gatling gun was first used by Union forces in Richmond, VA, in 1863. Ghostly Gimghoul Castle--adjacent to the UNC-Chapel Hill campus--was completed in 1926 by stonemasons from Valdese and continues as the meeting site of a mysterious secret society. The Good Roads Campaign began in 1899 in Asheville. The Great Dismal Swamp provides a breeding ground for all those songbirds. Ain't all this something! The Encyclopedia of North Carolina is a reference book many may desire to have in their homes, but it is a godsend to school and public libraries. (Incidentally, the first NC public library was established in the town of Bath in 1701). —  
**Mike Shinn, Disability Services**

## How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk



By John Van Epp

A terrific book for dating singles--I learned a lot! Basically all the bad relationships a person has have one thing in common--that person. Dr. Van Epp's book has a terrific scale that determines how to find a good partner, how to break bad habits of past relationships, and how to really see a bad partner for who they are, and not who you want them to be. The book gives you the tools you need to judge your partner's character based on compatibility, relationship skills, friends, and patterns from family and previous relationships. I wish I'd read it ten years ago! - Erin Payton,  
**Library Services**

# Going Gray: What I learned about beauty, sex, work, motherhood, authenticity, and everything else that really matters

By Anne Kreamer

A recent review drew me to the book, "Going Gray: What I learned about beauty, sex, work, motherhood, authenticity, and everything else that really matters" by Anne Kreamer. That mouthful is covered in an easily read 200 pages. If a woman (or possibly a man) is getting to the time of life where the hair thing is an issue, she (or he) will find this treatise thought provoking. That "time of life" can, of course, be variable—it comes much sooner to some than others. The author quoted Andrew Weil at the end of her book.

If aging is written into the laws of the universe, then acceptance of it must be a prerequisite for doing it in a graceful way. Yet non-acceptance of aging seems to be the rule in our society, not the exception. A great many people try to deny its reality and progress....Because aging reminds us of our own mortality, it can be a primary stimulus to spiritual awakening and growth.

Then a funny thing happened on the way to the library. In the catalog I found another book with a similar title, "Going Gray, Looking Great!: the modern woman's guide to unfading glory" by Diana Lewis Jewell. Published four years earlier, this book covers some of the same territory as the more recent book, but is more of a how-to rather than of philosophy or why or whether. Jewell's book contains lots of pictures, talk of hair and make-up products, and suggestions of accessories. The two books together cover the subject well—if anyone's asking.—Elaine Kushmaul, **Library Services**

by Alexander Stille

The Future of the Past, by Alexander Stille, is a very readable book about how man's best efforts to preserve the past are failing, and in some instances, causing the opposite effect. It is not a step-by-step manual about how to preserve the past, but rather a warning that, once again, man is a destroyer. Whether through the work on the crumbling Sphinx in Egypt, the loss of the Latin language through onerous lessons, the literal looting of crypts, or destruction of monuments and cities, we are losing the artifacts of the past. Are the computer and the internet the savior of the past? Does having a facsimile of an object retain its intrinsic importance in history enough? Perhaps, but so far, man has yet to create a device or method that stops the destruction. Despite the doom and gloom of the subject, the book is a fascinating read and travels the world for examples for each chapter.—Abby Rovner, **Library Services**

## The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast

by Douglas Brinkley

Douglas Brinkley, a professor of History at Tulane University, chronicles the Katrina disaster with the insight of his first-hand experience of the hurricane and his historian's eye for detail. The book covers the period of Aug. 27 through Sept. 3, 2005, and weaves together many different narratives of survivors and responders from New Orleans and throughout the Gulf Coast. The tales of survival are nothing short of harrowing, while the actions of survivors and responders in the storm's aftermath will alternately amaze and enrage you. Brinkley has put together a remarkable piece of Katrina scholarship, both educational and gripping.—Jennifer Arnold, **Library Services**



## The Future of the Past



Our Website

<http://www1.cpcc.edu/library>

Want to submit a review? Go to

<http://www.cpcc.edu/forms/library/bookreview1.asp>

Check out the

[BookMarks Blog](#)

Want to look at back issues?

Click [here](#).



# THE DOG LISTENER

by Jan Fennell

This is a fascinating book that describes the world of canine communication and provides an easy method for humans to tap into that world in order to effectively communicate the necessary information to one's companion dog that makes everyone involved feel more understood. It is an excellent example of the importance of cultural context for successful communication towards a mutually satisfactory outcome.

This book's message has wide implications for civilization on the whole, not only the doggie-human cross-cultural relationship. Easy to follow program for dog owners that produces instant results that will—seriously---amaze you! Some of the techniques take a little more practice, but there are a couple that work immediately, and it is eye-opening to see how the dynamics shift. Humorous stories illustrate the real life success record of the method, called Amichien Bonding. Both dog lovers and communication junkies will enjoy this read.— Kimberley Balcos, *Library Services*

## Eden's Outcasts

By John Matteson

Fans of the book "Little Women" probably remember how idyllic the family of four girls was. Yes, they had their problems, their ups and downs, but overall it depicted a happy family life. Louisa May Alcott based her famous book on her own family, so there may be an impression that her family matched that in her novel. Reading the book "Eden's Outcasts" will betray a far different reality. The book is a dual biography of Louisa May Alcott and her father Bronson Alcott, who in his day was a well known educator and lecturer. Well known but not necessarily well respected. In some ways he was ahead of his times in educational theories and in some ways he could only be called eccentric. This well researched and detailed telling of their lives gives insight into what made the beloved author the woman she was. - Elaine Kushmaul, *Library Services*

**Also check out these reviews on our blog:**

***Atlas Shrugged*** by Ayn Rand \*\*\*\* - Lisa Clarkson, *ABLE*

***White House Special Handbook*** by Mikhail Kryzhanovsky - Steve Johnson

***The World Without Us*** by Alan Weisman\*\*\*\* - Steve Osler, *Library Services*