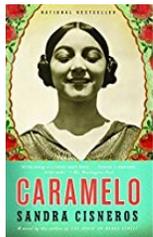


# Book Notes

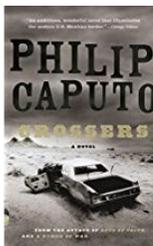
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September/  
October 2018

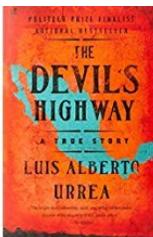
**Tales from the U.S. - Mexico Border**  
The border can be so many different things at once, from a physical line dividing two countries or geopolitical entities to the symbolic, invisible lines that separate different cultures and identities, to one that may mix and blur over time. The following books capture a sense of both the people who live along both sides of the U.S. - Mexico border and those who cross over.



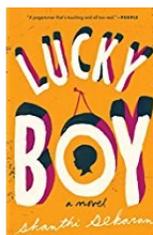
**Caramelo** ( FIC CIS) by Sandra Cisneros - Cisneros writes along the borders where the novel and social history intersect. In this lovingly told and poetic novel, she uses the storytelling art to give the voiceless ones a voice, and to find the border to the past, imbuing the struggles of her family and her countries with the richness of myth.



**Crossers: A Novel** (FIC CAP) by Philip Caputo - After his wife dies in the 9/11 attacks, Gil Castle retreats to his family's century-old homestead in Arizona, on the Mexican border. Violence past and present haunts the story, and as Gil tries to reinvent himself, he comes to understand that he cannot escape his family's savage history.



**The Devil's Highway: A True Story** (304.8 URR) by Luis Alberto Urrea - In 2001, 26 Mexican men and teens attempted to cross a blistering stretch of Arizona desert nicknamed the Devil's Highway. Challenged by the U.S. Border Patrol, murderous vigilantes, and, most lethal of all, the heat, only a dozen survived. The saga sheds light on the challenges of the Mexican immigrant experience, as well as the ironies and ethical dilemmas of the political and economic systems that oppose them.

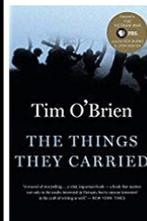


**Lucky Boy** (FIC SEK, LP FIC SEK) by Shanthi Sekaran - Exploring the ways in which dreams and determination can reshape a family, Sekaran transforms real life into a thing of beauty. From rural Oaxaca to Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto to the dreamscapes of Silicon Valley, *Lucky Boy* offers a moving and revelatory look at the evolving landscape of the American dream and the ever-changing

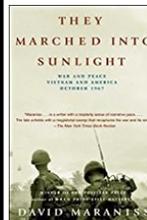
**The Vietnam War**  
The Vietnam War stands as one of the pivotal moments in recent U.S. history, a moment whose lessons we continue to parse and, unfortunately, have rarely taken to heart as a nation. There are an extraordinary number of works both fiction and nonfiction that seek to understand the impact of the war or simply excise the long-festering wounds that resulted. The books below are among the most illuminating and some of the best Vietnam War books.



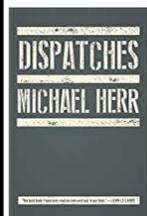
**The Quiet American** (FIC GRE) by Graham Greene - Graham Greene's novel explores the devastating consequences of American exceptionalism and questions American involvement in Vietnam in the 1950's.



**The Things They Carried** (FIC OBR) by Tim O'Brien - In this acclaimed collection of linked short stories, O'Brien carries not only the soldiers' intangible burdens-grief, terror, love, longing--but also the weight of memory, the terrible gravity of guilt. It carries them, though, with a lovely, stirring grace, because it is as much about the redemptive power of stories as it is about Vietnam.

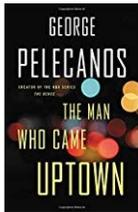


**They Marched Into Sunlight** (959.7MAR) by David Maraniss - Here is the epic story of Vietnam and the sixties told through the events of a few gripping, passionate days of war and peace in October 1967. *They Marched Into Sunlight* brings that tumultuous time back to life while exploring questions about the meaning of dissent and the official manipulation of truth, issues as relevant today as they were decades ago.



**Dispatches** (959.704 HER) by Michael Herr - From its terrifying opening pages to its final eloquent words, *Dispatches* makes us see, in unforgettable and unflinching detail, the chaos and fervor of the war and the surreal insanity of life in that singular combat zone. Michael Herr's unsparing, unorthodox retellings of the day-to-day events in Vietnam take on the force of poetry, rendering clarity

from one of the most incomprehensible and nightmarish events of



### Top Pick in Mystery

**The Man Who Came Uptown** by George Pelecanos - Michael Hudson spends the long days in prison devouring books given to him by the prison's librarian, a young woman named Anna who develops a soft spot for her best student. Anna keeps passing Michael books until one day he disappears, suddenly released after a private detective manipulated a witness in Michael's trial.

Smart and fast paced, *The Man Who Came Uptown* brings Washington, D.C. to life in a high-stakes story of . . . tough choices. . . .

### A Broad View of Politics

With midterm elections coming up in November and one of the most contentious presidential elections in memory in the rear-view mirror, it's no surprise that the number of political books hitting the shelves has skyrocketed. Here are some of the fall's best and most anticipated political nonfiction titles.

**Identity** by Francis Fukuyama - An examination of the history and present iteration of identity politics, this book attempts to define Americans' concept of identity.

**America: The Farewell Tour** by Chris Hedges - In this book, hedges writes that Americans today are xenophobic, addicted to drugs, and miserable. He begs us to wake up!

**How Fascism Works** by Jason Stanley - Stanley identifies the 10 pillars of fascist politics and reminds readers that fascist ideology and tactics can lurk within democracy.

**The Oath and the Office** by Corey Brettschneider - Brettschneider offers a refresher course on the powers of the president as granted by the Constitution.

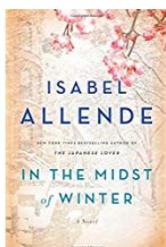
**Beautiful Country Burn Again** by Ben Fountain - Fountain looks to the past to understand our future in this collection of essays. He believes that the 2016 election was a pivotal moment that has led to an identity crisis to the ones prior to the Civil War and the Great Depression.

### Coming Soon to a Theater Near You

**Little Women** - Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. (September)

**The Girl in the Spider's Web** - Based on the novel by David Lagercrantz. (November)

**Mary Queen of Scots** - Based on the biography by John Guy. (December)



### Top Pick for Book Clubs

**In the Midst of Winter** (FIC ADLL, LP FIC ALL) by Isabel Allende - A searing novel about the unexpected bond that arises between three unlikely companions after they become embroiled in a murder. This compelling and timely novel—Allende's

Don't miss these great programs sponsored by Friends of the Hershey Public Library

Based on the Book: Bestseller Cinema Presented by Bill Wine Sunday, October 14, 2018 3:00 p.m.

This presentation will center on the experience of reading a book and then seeing the movie and why people prefer one medium to another.

Bill Wine will analyze the psychological experiences of reading and watching and will discuss the way classic and modern novels have been made into movies. Audience members are encouraged to bring their preferences, opinions, memories and questions.

Woodrow Wilson and the Great War Presented by Neill Hartley Sunday, November 18, 2018 2:00 p.m.

Neill Hartley is president Woodrow Wilson in this captivating and exciting one-man show set in the turbulent days leading up to World War I. This fully staged historical presentation will entertain and educate audiences of all ages. Woodrow Wilson, a former college professor somehow defied the odds and became President of the United States. But early success in office was soon overshadowed as Europe exploded into the most brutal war mankind had ever fought. A world filled with international intrigue, deadly U-Boat attacks and secret diplomatic communiqués that would slowly draw America into war.

See Woodrow Wilson as he struggles to protect democracy and promote peace through the League of Nations. Watch as the president and his advisors work out the details of war. Hear the moving declarations of one of the most famous American orators. Experience first-hand the extraordinary times that shaped our nation then and today. Following the performance, there is a short informational section about the early life of Woodrow Wilson, and the many technological innovations that

