Subject: Noises Off
Posted by jmeadows on Thu, 07 May 2009 23:30:44 GMT
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Noises Off

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by jmeadows on Thu, 07 May 2009 23:59:45 GMT
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Quote:When I was younger I was one of those sad compulsive people who had to finish any book I started

Oh boy. Me too. I've had to get over that, of course, but sometimes I do wonder about the ghosts of other people's stories floating around my head. Surely there's a delete button somewhere...

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Robin on Fri, 08 May 2009 00:01:08 GMT
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YOu find it please let me know!!!!

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by anne_d on Fri, 08 May 2009 03:12:03 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Thu, 07 May 2009 16:59Quote:When I was younger I was one of those sad compulsive people who had to finish any book I started

Oh boy. Me too. I've had to get over that, of course, but sometimes I do wonder about the ghosts of other people's stories floating around my head. Surely there's a delete button somewhere...

Me three. As I've gotten older and more fuzzy-brained impatient and less tolerant of bad writing, I find myself dividing new books into three categories:

1) It's wonderful, so I blast through it, resisting the temptation to read the ending first, then reread it more slowly, savoring the wonderfulness.

2) It's wonderful, so I blast through it, but I peek at the end to make sure my favorite characters will survive unscathed (or at least, I'm prepared for the worst). Then I reread it slowly. This happens very rarely, and mostly with ongoing series.

3) It sucks like a sucky thing, so I read the end to see if the book is worth finishing. Sometimes I go back and read the middle, sometimes I just put it in the donate-to-the-friends-of-the-library pile.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Cecelia on Fri, 08 May 2009 04:22:24 GMT
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I always referred to it as literary crack (as in cocaine), but that may be just because I'm not really of the heroin generation.
Either way, it's mindless ecstasy!

grin Sorry. Terrible drug joke.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by eeralai on Fri, 08 May 2009 04:57:31 GMT
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Gosh, I haven't read her blog or posted since Nov. because I can barely keep up with my own life. But, of course, when I come back she has a gem posted like she always does. The comparison of a writer's style to LEGOS is just how I fear my own writing is but I haven't been able to put it into words. Well, now that the problem has been named so concisely, maybe I can fix it better. Thanks, Robin for putting that into words.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Diane in MN on Fri, 08 May 2009 05:43:17 GMT
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a rather unsatisfactory book and I just wanted to know how it ended. This should be a genre, or at least a category: books you don’t really want to spend the time on but you still want to know what happened.

It's probably impossible to avoid these books if you're a reader. When I get one and reach the point where I know it's not worth the time, I just read the end to see how things come out. I'm usually sorry if I go back and read the middle. I wish this method worked for nonfiction.

But it had sequinned silk bags of scintillating style.

Oooh, speaking of . . . ! I like this metaphor! :)

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 08 May 2009 14:28:38 GMT
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I can't read the end. I just can't. It's not about the end. It's how you get there. If it can't keep my interest, it gets dropped. But to read the end? If I want to know the end, I'll read through the blasted thing.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Alannaeowyn on Fri, 08 May 2009 15:03:14 GMT
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Same as Susan from Athens, here. If I want to read the end I'll read the book.

aside from wanting to snatch them away from this troll of an author who doesn’t appreciate them and do something for them myself.

Fanfiction! :p Only somehow I don't think that's quite the usual approach. :d

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Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Guest on Fri, 08 May 2009 15:34:31 GMT
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Idiot other-owner had thrown the ball toward us which meant that the dog was streaking past about six feet away.

Why are some dog owners so incredibly dense about this sort of thing? I often walk at the one officially off-leash dog park in the county so that Otis has enough room to kick it into gear and

really run. Since he is usually well mannered, this is usually fine*, but we've had more than one encounter with aggressive/possesive dogs whose toys have flown a bit too close. (Otis will not fight over toys, his own or anyone else's, which is a very good thing-there is at least one Jack Russell terrier out there who lived to see the morrow because of Otis' self-restraint.)
Chaos hit the end of his lead first but Darkness had shot round behind me which meant when he hit he was dragging my arm and its attendant shoulder across my back, which is not good for human physiology.
This is why I have avoided retractable leashes like the very plague. He is generally good, but when he isn't, the last thing my 140lb dog needs is momentum. I hope your arms recover. :)

*I haven't been mortified by my lack of influence over his behavior in nearly two days....

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by judith on Fri, 08 May 2009 15:49:52 GMT
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Quote:how did Beethoven write all those symphonies? He not only didn’t have an orchestra on his laptop, he was deaf.
I've probably mentioned here before that somewhere in my head there's bouncing around a story, possibly apocryphal, about some composer, I think Stravinsky, to the effect that he once said there's no need to hear the music; reading the score is sufficient. Sigh. Weird person; other composers probably thought so too.

I was thinking, at the symphony last night, that it must bring incredible joy to the composer to hear the piece finally performed by a full symphony, live. There's simply no comparison to a live performance.

Quote:This is a little like someone learning to post to the trot deciding to enter the Burghley Horse Trials.
Speaking of which, we haven't heard a word about Connie or you riding lately. What's up with that?

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Guest on Fri, 08 May 2009 15:57:02 GMT
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There’s a whole group of authors who fail all plot, style and character considerations, and whom I won’t even pick up in a dentist’s waiting room or off the shelf of a self-catering cottage because if I do I’ll still have to finish, cursing myself for time wasted.

Just when I had managed to master temptation in these situations-at long last and after great personal struggle-, some fiendish individual began stocking a small bookshelf at...the laundromat! The books are awful, terrible drivel, but there I'll be, hypnotized by the whir of a thousand spin cycles, bored out of my mind and feeling slightly sorry for myself (I hate laundry)and I'll give in every time. Every soggy "heroine" and caricature of masculinity is worse that the last, but I just can't seem to force myself to do work when I already have to do laundry, and the few novels that I make time for tend to be devoured long before laundry day...alas.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by AJLR on Fri, 08 May 2009 16:22:19 GMT
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judith wrote on Fri, 08 May 2009 16:49Speaking of which, we haven't heard a word about Connie or you riding lately. What's up with that?
I suspect the ME has taken that particular joy out of Robin's life for the last couple of months, judging by the bits in the recent 'Cuckoo, Cuckoo' blog post. Blasted condition!

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by shalea on Fri, 08 May 2009 17:00:20 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Fri, 08 May 2009 10:28I can't read the end. I just can't. It's not about the end. It's how you get there. If it can't keep my interest, it gets dropped. But to read the end? If I want to know the end, I'll read through the blasted thing.

Precisely. If I'm interested enough to want to know how it comes out, I'm interested enough to arrive there via the scenic route.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by eeralai on Fri, 08 May 2009 18:51:46 GMT
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judith wrote on Fri, 08 May 2009 09:49Quote:how did Beethoven write all those symphonies? He not only didn’t have an orchestra on his laptop, he was deaf.
I've probably mentioned here before that somewhere in my head there's bouncing around a story, possibly apocryphal, about some composer, I think Stravinsky, to the effect that he once said

there's no need to hear the music; reading the score is sufficient. Sigh. Weird person; other composers probably thought so too.

I was thinking, at the symphony last night, that it must bring incredible joy to the composer to hear the piece finally performed by a full symphony, live. There's simply no comparison to a live performance.

I believe you are right about Stravinsky. Some people can think about music the way other people think about language. They did an MRI or some type of brain scan of Wynton Marsalis and it was clear that he thought of music in a completely different way than most humans.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by judith on Fri, 08 May 2009 18:51:48 GMT
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AJLR wrote on Fri, 08 May 2009 12:22judith wrote on Fri, 08 May 2009 16:49Speaking of which, we haven't heard a word about Connie or you riding lately. What's up with that?
I suspect the ME has taken that particular joy out of Robin's life for the last couple of months, judging by the bits in the recent 'Cuckoo, Cuckoo' blog post. Blasted condition!

Ah. Somehow I missed that post. Sorry to hear about it. :(

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by judith on Fri, 08 May 2009 18:54:12 GMT
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eeralai wrote on Fri, 08 May 2009 14:51I believe you are right about Stravinsky. Some people can think about music the way other people think about language. They did an MRI or some type of brain scan of Wynton Marsalis and it was clear that he thought of music in a completely different way than most humans.
Probably a PET scan. Fascinating. I wonder wherein the differences lie?

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Robin on Sat, 09 May 2009 00:32:32 GMT
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Snork! Yes, I do the pre-emptive end-reading thing too. :)

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Robin on Sat, 09 May 2009 00:34:25 GMT
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Diane in MN wrote on Fri, 08 May 2009 01:43a rather unsatisfactory book and I just wanted to know how it ended. This should be a genre, or at least a category: books you don’t really want to spend the time on but you still want to know what happened.

It's probably impossible to avoid these books if you're a reader. When I get one and reach the point where I know it's not worth the time, I just read the end to see how things come out. I'm usually sorry if I go back and read the middle. I wish this method worked for nonfiction.

[

SO DO I.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Robin on Sat, 09 May 2009 00:36:16 GMT
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Hmm. Just so long as you're aware that fanfiction is forbidden for McKinley stories. Of course *I'm* not a troll . . . :)

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Robin on Sat, 09 May 2009 00:40:40 GMT
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Yes, this actually makes sense to me. I can't DO it, mind you, but I can kind of guess at what it might be like. This music lesson thing has SO revolutionised my relationship with music. It is a little like standing shackled to the wall while there's a feast laid out at the other end of the room, but I'm finding it exhilirating to know the feast is *there* even if I'm not invited. :)

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by kfoster2047 on Sat, 09 May 2009 03:47:05 GMT
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With the exception of mysteries, I have always read the last page or two of a book to decide if I

want to buy it. I need a satisfactory ending - not necessarily happy, but satisfactory. For some reason :), this appalls many people. But I don't read to find out what happens as much as how it happens and to immerse myself in the world where it is happening

---

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Diane in MN on Sat, 09 May 2009 06:09:09 GMT
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kfoster2047 wrote on Fri, 08 May 2009 22:47With the exception of mysteries, I have always read the last page or two of a book to decide if I want to buy it. I need a satisfactory ending - not necessarily happy, but satisfactory. For some reason :), this appalls many people. But I don't read to find out what happens as much as how it happens and to immerse myself in the world where it is happening

I am bad, too, and do this when skimming an unknown book in a bookstore so see if I want it. I think that if you are the kind of person who re-reads fiction, this is not an unnatural thing to do, because it's the characters and story that matter more than the element of suspense. And I agree with you that endings need not be "happy" if they are satisfactory; the ending just has to be right for the book.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Kathy_S on Sat, 09 May 2009 13:02:20 GMT
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Yes, my normal book-shopping method involves reading both the first few pages and the ending. I have to REALLY trust an author, not to read the ending first. And yes, that goes for mysteries, too.

Plot really isn't that high on my list of criteria for a good read -- and if it's not something I'm going to want to reread, why buy it?

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Robin on Sat, 09 May 2009 22:58:19 GMT
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Yes, I'm in this camp, more or less, but I don't *automatically* read the ending. I read the first few pages, yes, and then I hit one or two random pages in the middle. Reading the ending is sometimes a kind of tie-breaker: do I want this or don't I?

But surely some of the rest of you have developed the ability to read the ending without, uh, reading the ending? :) It's like being able to look up just the ONE crossword answer you want without seeing any of the other ones in the same grid. I am quite capable of reading the ending--oh, even of a murder mystery--and finding out, for example if x or y is still alive and/or happy and managing to miss who the murderer is. My other trick which I admit has got easier as I get older and crumblier is reading the ending and ticking the mental 'yes' box . . . AND THEN FORGETTING WHAT I READ so I can read the book from the beginning without a clue, beyond that it's been vetted and it's okay.

Of course I make mistakes. But not so many. :)

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by b_twin_1 on Sat, 09 May 2009 23:07:35 GMT
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I hardly EVER read the ending first. Just lately there have been a couple of looooong books where I have peeked to make sure the protag was still alive... :p

---

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Erika in Colorado on Sat, 09 May 2009 23:40:26 GMT
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Ahhhh! I could never read the ending of anything first!!! I like the not knowing. In fact, I hate knowing the ending of a book so much, that I'm afraid to look at glossaries etc. that are in the back for fear that I might accidentally catch a glimpse of some part of the end. And if there's a chance in the book that a character might die or go away, I can't even stand to catch a glimpse of their name while getting my bookmark out of those later pages; it spoils the suspense! I'm one of those who says that your first time should be special. That doesn't make rereadings any less enjoyable because I know the end, because then it's a different experience and it's more like looking back on the memory of those events (whereas the first time is more like living through the events).

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by blondviolinist on Sun, 10 May 2009 00:35:28 GMT
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Robin wrote on Sat, 09 May 2009 18:58

But surely some of the rest of you have developed the ability to read the ending without, uh, reading the ending? :) It's like being able to look up just the ONE crossword answer you want without seeing any of the other ones in the same grid. I am quite capable of reading the ending--oh, even of a murder mystery--and finding out, for example if x or y is still alive and/or happy and managing to miss who the murderer is.

Oh, yes! I definitely do this. Sometimes I'll just scan pages to make sure a particular name appears near the end.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Diane in MN on Sun, 10 May 2009 03:47:09 GMT
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Robin wrote on Sat, 09 May 2009 17:58My other trick which I admit has got easier as I get older and crumblier is reading the ending and ticking the mental 'yes' box . . . AND THEN FORGETTING WHAT I READ so I can read the book from the beginning without a clue, beyond that it's been vetted and it's okay.

Yes, and of course this process is enhanced if you bring the book home, put it on the "to-be-read" shelf, and then forget about the whole thing until six or eight months or more have gone by. No worries about remembering the ending and spoiling the suspense THEN. :)

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by judith on Sun, 10 May 2009 15:28:37 GMT
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Erika in Colorado wrote on Sat, 09 May 2009 19:40Ahhhh! I could never read the ending of anything first!!!I'm in this camp. If I get bored with a book, I just stop reading it, or I skim it to the end. I'm reading some non-fiction now, and the parts of it that bore me I just skip or skim.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Robin on Sun, 10 May 2009 23:11:36 GMT
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Oh good. goofiness shared is much more fun. :)

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Robin on Sun, 10 May 2009 23:12:21 GMT
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SNORK. In practise I certainly do this but I had never really THOUGHT about it in these terms. :)

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by EMoon on Sun, 10 May 2009 23:37:57 GMT
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I became a fast reader, and therefore ran out of reading material--which made me a re-reader of things I liked. It wasn't until I started writing enough to cut into my reading time that I quit finishing stuff I hated. And it wasn't until I was writing a lot more (and seeing some of it in print) that I became hyper-critical about other writers' work.

This is not good (for me) because--as a fast reader--I have vast libraries of stuff I now abhor firmly glued to my mental shelves. Whenever I'm stuck or depressed, these things twinkle at me from their places, reminding me that I once read them avidly and hinting that my own writing will be permanently informed by the literary quality of, for instance, The Bobbsey Twins at the Seashore.

At the same time, I'm fiercely resistant (to the point of bared teeth) to those who try to pry me away from a book I still love, no matter its faults. I have a friend, a much better writer than I am, who years ago told me I must never read any more inferior works. "Life is too short to read bad books," she said. I promptly went home and wallowed in a Doc Savage, in the same way that programs on weight loss and dieting send me straight to the freezer (or store, if necessary) for Blue Bell ice cream.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Melissa Mead on Mon, 11 May 2009 00:42:46 GMT
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I find that after I read something longer than a short story, the "voice" lingers in my head for about half an hour, and I have to wait for the effect to fade.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by holmes44 on Mon, 11 May 2009 01:07:05 GMT
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Melissa Mead wrote on Sun, 10 May 2009 20:42I find that after I read something longer than a short story, the "voice" lingers in my head for about half an hour, and I have to wait for the effect to fade.
me too,if it is a really good book i can hear it for month.it pops up at the oddest times.lol

---

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Melissa Mead on Mon, 11 May 2009 01:52:41 GMT
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It's not just me? Cool!

And after hanging out here (or reading Discworld) I "think footnotes" for a while.

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Robin on Mon, 11 May 2009 23:21:40 GMT
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Oh dear. I'm mostly on pretty good terms with Bad Books I Have Loved. That was then, this is now . . . *then* they gave you something you liked/needed/enjoyed. It's okay. There are certainly books I wouldn't reread unless at gunpoint, and books I'm deeply embarrassed that I did once love . . . but if I loved them, I loved them. *It's okay.* And funny stuff can be, you know, nourishing. I also think that what I call Good Trash is important and *necessary*. If you only ever read the Encyclopedia Britannica and Plato, you're going to be a dull prig, you know? Doc Savage is great. All that ridiculous energy going nowhere. Sounds like a perfectly worthwhile afternoon off to me. :)

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by Bratsche on Mon, 11 May 2009 23:39:07 GMT
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I drive my husband absolutely bonkers with the way I re-read some of my very favorite books (definitely including yours, Robin!!). I often start at the beginning for a bit, then skip to the last few chapters, then go back to where I was toward the beginning and read from there to the end again. When he grumbles (good-naturedly) about it, I tell him it's like telling a favorite story -- you don't always start at the same point, so sometimes you backtrack to fill in details.

I, too, skip to the ends of new books that I somehow started reading but don't think are worth finishing. However, when I'm reading something that either grabs me immediately or that is by a

favorite author (<waves at Robin>), I won't skip to the end so that I'll be able to savor the story the whole way through the first time. Thereafter, of course, my regular re-reading skipping comes into play.

At any rate, I enjoy seeing that I'm not the only one who reads in hopscotch fashion sometimes.

Wendy

Subject: Re: Noises Off
Posted by blondviolinist on Tue, 12 May 2009 00:23:29 GMT
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Bratsche wrote on Mon, 11 May 2009 19:39

At any rate, I enjoy seeing that I'm not the only one who reads in hopscotch fashion sometimes.

About half the time I'm rereading The Two Towers, I'll read the first half and skip all of the second half except the parts with Faramir, and the very last bit after Shelob's attack.

The first four or five times I read C. S. Lewis's That Hideous Strength, I skipped all the parts with Mark Studdock, because I though he was a boring prig.