

Sue William Silverman's (www.suewilliamsilverman.com)

CONTEMPORARY CREATIVE NONFICTION READING LIST (updated 4/06)

Illness, Accident, Grief

A. Manette Ansay, *Limbo: A Memoir*
 Harold Brodkey, *This Wild Darkness: The Story of My Death*
 Anatole Broyard, *Intoxicated by My Illness*
 Joan Didion, *The Year of Magical Thinking*
 Andre Dubus, *Broken Vessels, Meditations from a Moving Chair*
 Hope Edelman, *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss*
 Kenny Fries, *Body, Remember*
 Temple Grandin, *Thinking in Pictures*
 Lucy Grealy, *Autobiography of a Face*
 Evan Handler, *Time on Fire: My Comedy of Terrors*
 Ann Hood, *Do Not Go Gentle: The Search for Miracles in a Cynical Time*
 Roger Kamenetz, *Terre Infirma*
 Jamaica Kincaid, *My Brother*
 Kay Jamison, *An Unquiet Mind*
 Natalie Kusz, *Road Song*
 Mindy Lewis, *Life Inside*
 Audre Lorde, *The Cancer Journals*
 Nancy Mairs, *Carnal Acts; Waist-High in the World: A Life Among the Nondisabled*
 Christopher Noel, *In the Unlikely Event of a Water Landing: A Geography of Grief*
 Reynolds Price, *A Whole New Life*
 Sue William Silverman, *Love Sick: One Woman's Journey Through Sexual Addiction*
 Patricia Stacey, *The Boy Who Loved Windows*
 William Styron, *Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* (how not to write a memoir)

Family & Relationships

Laurie Alberts, *Fault Line*
 Max Apple, *Roommates: My Grandfather's Story; I Love Gootie: My Grandmother's Story*
 Paul Auster, *The Invention of Solitude*
 Peter Balakian, *Black Dog of Fate*
 Jane Bernstein, *Loving Rachel*
 Mary Clearman Blew, *All But the Waltz: Five Generations in the Life of a Montana Family*
 Francine Cournos, *City of One*
 John Daniel, *Looking After: A Son's Memoir*
 Patty Dann, *The Baby Boat: A Memoir of Adoption*
 Dave Eggers, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*
 Nora Eisenberg, *The War at Home*
 Kathleen Finneran, *The Tender Land*
 Nick Flynn, *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*
 Patricia Foster, *All the Lost Girls: Confessions of a Southern Daughter*
 Dorothy Gallagher, *How I Came into My Inheritance*
 Gail Hosking Gilberg, *Snake's Daughter: The Roads in and Out of War*
 Vivian Gornick, *Fierce Attachments*
 Adam Hochschild, *Half the Way Home: A Memoir of Father and Son*
 Susan Jacoby, *Half-Jew*

Bret Lott, *Fathers, Sons, Brothers: The Men in My Family*
 Rebecca McClanahan, *The Riddle Song and Other Rememberings*
 Karen McElmurray, *Surrendered Child: A Birth Mother's Journey*
 Valerie Miner, *The Low Road: A Scottish Family Memoir*
 Michael Ondaatje, *Running in the Family*
 Molly Peacock, *Paradise, Piece by Piece*
 Sandra Scofield, *Occasions of Sin*
 Sue William Silverman, *Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You*
 Abigail Thomas, *Safekeeping: Some True Stories from a Life*
 Jim Toner, *Serendib*
 Bruce Weigl, *The Circle of Hanh*
 John Edgar Wideman, *Brothers and Keepers*
 Geoffrey Wolff, *The Duke of Deception*
 Tobias Wolff, *This Boy's Life*

Childhood & Coming of Age

James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*
 Phyllis Barber, *How I Got Cultured: A Nevada Memoir*
 Jo Ann Beard, *The Boys of My Youth*
 Jerome Charyn, *The Dark Lady of Belorusse*
 J. M. Coetzee, *Boyhood*
 Judith Ortiz Cofer, *Silent Dancing: A Partial Remembrance of a Puerto Rican Childhood*
 Frank Conroy, *Stop-Time*
 Faith Edise, Nina Sichel, Eds., *Unrooted Childhoods: Memoirs of Growing Up Global*
 James Ellroy, *My Dark Places*
 Alexandra Fuller, *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood*
 Henry Louis Gates, *Colored People*
 Patricia Hampl, *A Romantic Education*
 Tony Hendra, *Father Joe: The Man Who Saved My Life*
 Eva Hoffman, *Lost in Translation*
 June Jordan, *Soldier: A Poet's Childhood*
 Lisa Knopp, *Flight Dreams: A Life in the Midwestern Landscape*
 Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of my Name*
 Mary McCarthy, *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood*
 Frank McCourt, *Angela's Ashes*
 Paul Monette, *Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story*
 Vladimir Nabokov, *Speak Memory*
 Alberto Rios, *Capirotadas: A Nogales Memoir*
 Richard Rodriguez, *Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez*
 Lynne Sharon Schwartz, *Ruined by Reading: A Life in Books*
 Kate Simon, *Bronx Primitive*
 Ilan Stevens, *On Borrowed Words: A Memoir of Language*
 Richard Wright, *Black Boy*

Place, Nature, Science

Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*
 Diane Ackerman, *A Natural History of the Senses*
 Susanne Antonetta (Susanne Paola), *Body Toxic; A Mind Apart*

Kim Barnes, *Hungry for the World*
 Rick Bass, *Winter*
 Wendell Berry, *Recollected Essays, 1965-1980*
 Jane Brox, *Here and Nowhere Else: Late Seasons of a Farm and its Family*
 Joanna Burger, *The Parrot Who Owns Me*
 Franklin Burroughs, *Billy Watson's Croker Sack*
 Bruce Chatwin, *In Patagonia*
 Allison Adelle Hedge Coke, *Rock, Ghost, Willow, Deer: A Story of Survival*
 Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek: Teaching a Stone to Talk*
 Ivan Doig, *This House of Sky*
 Ariel Dorfman, *Heading South, Looking North*
 Gretel Ehrlich, *The Solace of Open Space*
 J. H. Fabre, *Social Life in the Insect World*
 Edward Hoagland, *The Courage of Turtles*
 Garrett Hongo, *Volcano: A Memoir of Hawai'i*
 Marcy Houle, *Prairie Keepers*
 Cynthia Huntington, *The Salt House: A Summer on the Dunes of Cape Cod*
 Theresa Jordan, *Riding the White Horse Home*
 William Kittredge, *Hole in the Sky*
 Verlyn Klinkenborg, *The Last Fine Time*
 Ted Kooser, *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps*
 David Lazar, *The Body of Brooklyn*
 William Least Heat Moon, *Blue Highways*
 Barry Lopez, *Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in Northern Landscape*
 Nancy Lord, *Beluga Days*
 Norman MacLean, *A River Runs Through It*
 Michael Martone, *The Flatness and Other Landscapes*
 Peter Mayle, *A Year in Provence*
 John McPhee, *Coming into the Country*
 Harry Middleton, *The Earth is Enough*
 Kathleen Norris, *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*
 John Price, *Not Just Any Land: A Personal & Literary Journey into the American Grasslands*
 Bill Roorbach, *Temple Stream: A Rural Odyssey*
 Dana Sachs, *The House on Dream Street: Memoir of an American Woman in Vietnam*
 Alix Kates Shulman, *Drinking the Rain*
 Mark Spragg, *When the River Changes Direction*
 Robert Stepto, *Blue as the Lake: A Personal Geography*
 Celia Thaxter, *An Island Garden*
 Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*

New Journalism, Immersion, History, Social, Political, Religious, Spiritual, Feminist, etc.

Faith Adiele, *Meeting Faith: The Forest Journals of a Black Buddhist Nun*
 Ricardo Ainslie, *Long Dark Road* (about the James Byrd racially inspired murder)
 Steve Almond, *Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America*
 Mark Curtis Anderson, *Jesus Sound Explosion*
 Victoria Armour-Hileman, *Singing to the Dead: A Missioner's Life Among Refugees from Burma*
 Bill Ayers, *Fugitive Days*
 Barrie Jean Borich, *My Lesbian Husband: Landscapes of a Marriage*
 Lady Borton, *Sensing the Enemy*

C.D.B. Bryan, *Friendly Fire*
 Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*
 Dalton Conley, *Honky*
 Rosemary Daniell, *Confessions of a (Female) Chauvinist*
 Joan Didion, *Slouching Toward Bethlehem*
 Beverly Donofrio, *Looking for Mary (Or, The Blessed Mother and Me)*
 Gretel Ehrlich, *Questions of Heaven: The Chinese Journey of an American Buddhist*
 Eduardo Galeano, *Soccer in Sun and Shadow*
 William Gass, *On Being Blue: A Philosophical Inquiry*
 Mikal Gilmore, *Shot in the Heart*
 Melissa Fay Greene, *Praying for Sheetrock*
 Sebastian Haffner, *Defying Hitler*
 Jim Harrison, *Off to the Side*
 Tom Hayden, *Irish on the Inside: In Search of the Soul of Irish America*
 Robin Hemley, *Invented Eden: The Elusive, Disputed History of the Tasaday*
 John Hersey, *Hiroshima*
 Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*
 Eva Hoffman, *After Such Knowledge: Memory, History, and the Legacy of the Holocaust*
 Sebastian Junger, *A Perfect Storm*
 Kazuko Kuramoto, *Manchurian Legacy: Memoirs of a Japanese Colonialist*
 Thomas Keneally, *Schindler's List*
 Tracy Kidder, *Among Schoolchildren and House*
 Jon Krakauer, *Into Thin Air*
 Anne Lamont, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*
 Bernard Lefkowitz, *Our Boys*
 Beverly Lowry, *Crossed Over*
 Norman Mailer, *The Executioner's Song*
 Nancy Mairs, *Ordinary Time: Cycles in Marriage, Faith, and Renewal*
 Pablo Neruda, *Memoirs*
 Kathleen Norris, *The Cloister Walk*
 Tillie Olsen, *Silences*
 Mary Rose O'Reilly, *Barn at the End of the World: The Apprenticeship of a Quaker, Buddhist Shepherd*
 Susan Orlean, *The Orchid Thief*
 Caryl Phillips, *The Atlantic Sound*
 Mary Roach, *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*
 Randy Shilts, *And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic*
 Natalia Rachel Singer, *Scraping by in the Big Eighties*
 Susan Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others*
 Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*
 Susan Tiberghien, *Circling to the Center: One Woman's Encounter with Silent Prayer*
 Studs Terkel, *Working*
 Tom Wolfe, *The Right Stuff; The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, etc.*

Experimental Forms

John D'Agata, *Halls of Fame*
 David B., *Epileptic*
 Italo Calvino, *The Road to San Giovanni*
 Elias Canetti, *The Agony of Files: Notes and Notations*
 E. M. Cioran, *All Gall is Divided*
 Inga Clendinnen, *Tiger's Eye*

Dennis and Vicki Covington, *Cleaving: The Story of a Marriage* (husband-wife collaboration)
 Seamus Deane, *Reading in the Dark*
 Nick Flynn, *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*
 Robin Hemley, *Nola: A Memoir of Faith, Art, and Madness*
 Brian Lennon, *City, An Essay*
 Primo Levi, *The Periodic Table*
 Pat Mora, *House of Houses*
 Donald Morrill, *The Untouched Minutes*
 Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*
 James Richardson, *Vectors: Aphorisms and Ten-Second Essays*
 Richard Rodriguez, *Days of Obligation*
 Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood; Embroideries*
 W. G. Sebald, *The Emigrants; The Rings of Saturn*
 Bob Shacochis, *Domesticity: A Gastronomic Interpretation of Love*
 Art Spiegelman, *Maus I and II (A Survivor's Tale)*
 Lawrence Sutin, *A Postcard Memoir*
 Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*
 Peter Trachtenberg, *7 Tattoos: A Memoir in the Flesh*

Personal Essay & Anthologies

Jill Bialofsky and Helen Schulman (eds.), *Wanting a Child*
 Brenda Miller, *Season of the Body*
 Becky Bradway, ed., *In the Middle of the Middle West: Literary Nonfiction from the Heartland*
 Janet Burroway, *Embalming Mom: Essays in Life*
 Bernard Cooper, *Maps to Anywhere*
 John D'Agata, ed., *The Next American Essay*
 Charles D'Ambrosio, *Orphans*
 Toi Dericotte, *The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey*
The Eloquent Essay: An Anthology of Classic & Creative Nonfiction
 M.F.K. Fisher, *Among Friends*
 Patricia Foster, *Just Beneath My Skin: Autobiography & Self-Discovery*
 Daniel Francis, ed., *Imagining Ourselves: Classics of Canadian Non-Fiction*
 Ian Frazier, *On the Rez*
 Kenny Fries (ed.), *Staring Back: The Disability Experience from the Inside Out*
 William Gass, *On Being Blue*
 Albert Goldbarth, *Many Circles*
 Vivian Gornick, *Approaching Eye Level*
 Steve Harvey, *Bound for Shady Grove*
 Emily Hiestand, *Angela the Upside-down Girl*
 Pico Iyer, *Falling off the Map*
 Judith Kitchen, *Distance and Direction; Short Takes: Brief Encounters with Contemporary Nonfiction*
 Ted Kooser, *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps*
 David Lazar, *The Body of Brooklyn*
 Phillip Lopate, *Against Joie de Vivre; Portrait of My Body*
 Rasunah Marsden, *Crisp Blue Edges: Indigenous Creative Non-fiction*
 Brenda Miller, *Season of the Body*
 Naomi Shihab Nye, *Never in a Hurry: Essays on People and Places*
 Cynthia Ozick, *Fame & Folly, Quarrel & Quandry, and Metaphor & Memory*
 Molly Peacock (ed.), *The Private I (on privacy)*
 Scott Russel Sanders, *Staying Put*

Marjorie Sandor, *The Night Gardener*
 Mimi Schwartz, *Thoughts from a Queen-Sized Bed*
 David Sedaris, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*
 David Shields, *Remote: Reflections on Life in the Shadow of Celebrity*
 Gerald Stern, *What I Can't Bear Losing*
 Michael Steinberg, *Still Pitching*
 Ira Sukrungruang, *Scoot Over Skinny: The Fat Nonfiction Anthology*
 Abigail Thomas, *Safekeeping*
 Robert Vivian, *Cold Snap as Yearning*
 Lawrence Weschler, *Vermeer in Bosnia*
 E. B. White, *One Man's Meat*
 Virginia Woolf, *Moments of Being; The Death of the Moth and Other Essays*

Humor

Stephen Akey, *College*
 Robert Benchley, *Benchley Beside Himself*
 Dinty Moore, *The Accidental Buddhist*
 S. J. Perelman, *Most of the Most of S. J. Perelman*
 David Sedaris, *Naked*
 James Thurber, *My Life and Hard Times*

Journals & Letters

Genevieve Jurgensen, *The Disappearance: A Primer of Loss*
 Carl H. Klaus, *My Vegetable Love: A Journal of a Growing Season*
 Jean Rhys, *The Letters of Jean Rhys*, Selected & Edited by Francis Wyndham & Diana Melly
 Rainer Maria Rilke, *Letters on Cezanne and Letters to a Young Poet*
 May Sarton, *Journal of a Solitude*
 Leslie Marmon Silko & James Wright, *The Delicacy and Strength of Lace: Letters Between
 Leslie Marmon Silky & James Wright*
 Anne Truitt, *Prospect: The Journal of an Artist*

Occupational Memoirs

Sylvia Ashton-Warner, *Teacher*
 Ted Conover, *Newjack: Guarding Sing-Sing*
 Pat Conroy, *The Water is Wide*
 Robert Cowser, *Dream Season: A Professor Joins America's Oldest Semi-Pro Football Team*
 Gail Griffin, *Calling: Essays on Teaching in the Mother Tongue*
 Ben Hamper, *Rivthead*
 Thomas Lynch, *The Undertaking*
 Susan Neville, *Iconography: A Writer's Meditation*
 Danielle Ofri, *Singular Intimacies: Becoming a Doctor at Bellevue*
 Louise Rafkin, *Other People's Dirt: A Housecleaner's Curious Adventures*
 Ruth Reichl, *Tender at the Bone: Growing up at the Table*
 Oliver Sacks, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*
 Richard Seltzer, *Mortal Lessons: Notes on the Art of Surgery; Confessions of a Knife*
 Frank Vertosick, *Why We Hurt; The Natural History of Pain*

On and About Writing (not just nonfiction)

Robert Atwan, ed., *The Best American Essays* (published annually)
 Judith Barrington, *Writing the Memoir: From Truth to Art*
 Gayle Brandeis, *Fruitflesh: Seeds of Inspiration for Women Who Write*
 J. O. Cofer, Marilyn Kallet, eds., *Sleeping With One Eye Open: Women Writers & the Art of Survival*
 Judith Ortiz Cofer, *Woman in Front of the Sun: On Becoming a Writer*
 Rosemary Daniell, *Secrets of the Zona Rosa: How Writing (and Sisterhood) Can Change Women's Lives*
 Scott Edelman, *The Indispensable Writer's Guide*
 Jon Franklin, *Writing for Story*
 Bonnie Friedman, *Writing Past Dark*
 Philip Gerard, *Creative Nonfiction*
 Philip Gerard, Carolyn Forché, ed., *Writing Creative Nonfiction*
 Natalie Goldberg, *Writing Down the Bones*
 Vivian Gornick, *The Situation and the Story*
 Patricia Hampl, *I Could Tell You Stories* (memoir & craft)
 Robin Hemley, *Turning Life into Fiction*
 Judith Kitchen, Mary Paumier Jones, *In Short: A Collection of Brief Creative Nonfiction*
 Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*
 Betsy Lerner, *The Forest for the Trees: An Editor's Advice to Writers*
 Phillip Lopate, ed., *The Art of the Personal Essay*
 Rebecca McClanahan, *Write Your Heart Out*
 Brenda Miller, Suzanne Paola, *Tell it Slant*
 Dinty Moore, *The Truth of the Matter*
 Joyce Carol Oates, *First Person Singular*
 Bill Roorbach, *Writing Life Stories: How to Make Memories into Memoirs*
 Michael Steinberg (ed.), *The Fourth Genre: Contemporary Writers Of/On Creative Nonfiction*
 Mimi Schwartz, *Writing True*
 Monica Wood, *The Pocket Muse: Ideas & Inspirations for Writing*
 William Zinsser, ed., *Inventing the Truth: The Art and Craft of Memoir*

Literary Journals specifically for Nonfiction

Fourth Genre: Explorations in Nonfiction (<http://msupress.msu.edu/FourthGenre/>)
Creative Nonfiction (www.creativenonfiction.org)
River Teeth, Department of English, Ashland University, Ashland, OH 44805
Brevity (750 words or less--www.creativenonfiction.org/brevity/brevity.html)
Tiny Lights: A Journal of Personal Essay (www.tiny-lights.com)
Double-Take/Points of Entry (www.pointsofentry.org)
Seneca Review (lyric essays), Hobart-William Smith College, Geneva, NY 14456