

Doug's Reading List 2005 (in parentheses is a rating from 1-10. 1 is worse than awful. 10 is the best ever)

- Jan *The Know It All*, AJ Jacobs – Jacobs reads the Encyclopedia Britannica; what ensues is a grand ride through the words. (9)
My Faith So Far, P. Dodd – Confused about faith, Dodd attends Oral Roberts Univ, and sees the craziness. (7)
Secrets of the Tomb, A. Robbins – The secret societies of Yale are both fascinating and boring. (4)
The Woman Who Walked to Russia, C. Pyres – author tries to track down a lost legend, and doesn't. (3)
Being Human, Macaulay & Barrs – a fine Schaefferian look into our humanity. (7)
- Feb. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, H. Beecher Stowe – for what it was and when it was written, a great book against slavery. (7)
Mary Queen of Scots and the Isles, M. George – Catholic Mary and Protestant Scotland cannot be friends. (6)
We Wish To Inform You..., P. Gourevitch - A gruesome look at the genocide in Rwanda that haunts my soul. (9)
Savage, N. Hazlewood - A tedious tale of S. American Indians who were strut around England blah, blah, blah. (2)
Blankets, C. Thompson - This illustrated novel hits you in the gut with its look at pain, suffering, art, the church and disconnectedness. (10)
- March *The Meaning of Wife*, A. Kingston - With its provocative cover, this book is great to carry around. Inside are plenty of things to think about, though all with a rather negative twist, with a slice of feminism. (7)
Work Excellence, C. Garriott - Chuck writes a great little book to help think about work and its implications for life and worship. (8)
The Queens of Henry VIII, D. Starkey - A LONG (800 pages) look at the fascinating lives of Henry's six wives. Divorced, Beheaded, Died, Divorced, Beheaded, Survived. (6)
- April *The Story of the World, Vol. 1*, SW Bauer - For elementary children, but where was I when this was taught? Oh, wait, it wasn't taught...(8)
Open Embrace, S&J Torode - a short, readable book(let) on rethinking contraception. Helpful. (8)
Science and Faith, J. Collins - my favorite seminary prof lets us in on just one milliliter of his brain and discusses how science and faith interact (and Creation Days!) (9)
TulipoMania, M. Dash - In the 1630s in Holland, a tulip craze swept through Holland where bulbs (and shares of bulbs) were bought and sold like mutual funds. One tulip could go for over \$250,000 in today's money. (5)
- May *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, E Peterson - Peterson quotes abound on every page as he gives us thoughts on following Christ in an instant society. (10)
The History of the World, Vol 2, SW Bauer - Bauer brings us up right about to the Reformation in her read-to-your-kids stuff you don't know yourself book. (8)
For Kirk and Covenant, D Wilson - a good overview of the life and character of John Knox, Scottish Reformer and hell-raiser. (7)
From Grief to Glory, J Bruce - my friend tells to story of key Christians who lost children, and recounts his own grief in losing a son. (8)
Real Sex, L Winner - Lauren tells us why would should pursue faithfulness and chastity in her charming, witty writing, yet this is a do as I say, not as I do/did book. (7)
Dress Her in Indigo, J. MacDonald - A great beach read. MacDonald covers a mediocre story with popping writing and witicisms about life. (7)
The Tolls of Death, M Jecks - I enjoyed Jeck's medieval mystery, and I don't normally like that genre. (7)
- June *Enough*, B McKibben - a look at why limiting our technology might be a good idea (8)
From Gileskirk to Greyfriars - W Scott - Sometimes too general, sometimes too specific overview of Scottish history (5)
Practicing the Presence of God, B Lawrence - Some wise words from long ago on how to treat God as a real person who is actually there throughout the day. (6)
A Theory of Relativity, J Mitchard - Although she mixes her point of view too much, Mitchard tells a nice tale of who can adopt a little girl - second cousin or adopted brother. What does "blood relative" mean? (7)
Cromwell, A Fraser - What a boring book. Boring. Book. (2)
Trans-sister Radio, C Bohjalian - A woman falls in love with a man and then finds out later he is going to have a sex change operation in a few months to become a woman. (6)
Making Kingdom Disciples, C Donahoo - I'm disappointed with this book, and had high hopes. It's too preoccupied with postmodernism. (3)
The Brothers K, DJ Duncan - I read this book while in Germany, practically weeping on the train several times. Pain, sorrow, redemption, laughter. I've got to think about it more, and that's saying something. (10)
Elizabeth & Mary, J. Dunn - Long and thorough, painting the picture of these two women and their interwoven lives. (6)
- July *John Knox*, Cowan - This book is cool because it was written over 100 years ago and is filled with great closer-to-hand knowledge. It's not cool because of its high price. (5)
Elizabeth I, C Haigh - Haigh penetrates Elizabeth's veneer by taking chapters by subject and not timeline. He feels things are quite overstated as to how great they were in those days. (7)
Hurt, C Clark - Clark looks at the abandonment, stress, busyness and cultural idolatry of midadolescents. (8)
Teammates, D Habertstam - I love baseball books and Halbertstam knows how to write them. This one recounts the 50-year friendship of four Boston Red Sox. (7)

Mary Queen of Scots and the Isles, J Guy - Guy's done his research, and presents compelling ideas regarding the Casket Letters and Bothwell. (8)

August *Harry Potter 6*, JK Rowling - One of the better ones, but was it up with such a non-ending? The plot just dies. (7)
Keeping Faith, J Picoult - I enjoyed the drama of a 7-year-old miracle worker who sees God and talks to her. (6)
Confessions of a Tax Collector, R Yancey - If you do or don't pay taxes you should read this book. It's a memoir that reads like a novel. How being a revenue officer brings redemption. (9)
My Sister's Keeper, J Picoult - A daughter is raised to be a donor for her sister, who is perpetually ill. Picoult, pick a point of view. Goodness. (4)
Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs, C Klosterman - Filled with essays about things that matter - The Real World, The Dixie Chicks, Saved by the Bell, Left Behind and much more. (10)
Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places, E Peterson - Wow. What can I say about this book? Very important to me. (10)

Sept *Across Five Aprils*, I Hunt - A coming-of-age Civil War book in which the whole war is put into conversation to a growing boy. Yawn. (2)
The Kite Runner, K Hosseini A story involving the Taliban in Afghanistan, so that's unusual. I was surprised how much I liked it. (7)
Richard III, Shakespeare I don't think this is Will's best, but Richard is one bad dude. (5)
The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, CS Lewis - Not the best in the Narnia series; Lewis seems to piece together various vignettes, but Eustace as the dragon and the last two pages are great. (5)
Henry V, Shakespeare eh... so Henry V wars with France. A lot. Am I missing something? (5)
The Opposite of Fate, A Tan - Tan writes about writing and life in her beautiful prose. (7)

October *The Giant's House*, E McCracken - A librarian falls for a young, growing 8 foot giant. Quirky, strange romance. (8)
Killing Yourself to Live, C Klosterman - CK goes to various sites where famous rockers died. Along the way he muses about life, women, drugs, music and life. (9)
The Stand, S King - SK's 1100 page novel about the restarting of America after the superflu wipeout. Great character development, but rush-to-end resolution. (6)
Colter, R Bass - Bass can write. In this, my first book by him, he writes of his dog, Colter, and how they'd go hunting and touch transcendence. (7)
The Dress Lodger, S Holman - prostitution, body snatchers, the cholera and a baby with its heart outside its body. Somber. (5)

November *Song of Solomon*, T Morrison - Names, mysteries, Life. (9)
Love Medicine, L Erdrich - Mysterious, Indian sadness. (7)
Trinity, L Uris - Irish Catholic Protestant Feuding. (8)

December *The Trumpeter of God*, W Reid - A classic out-of-print biography of Knox. (8)
John Knox, Cowan - Older Knoxian bio, stiffer but informative (6)
England Under the Tudors, GR Elton - All you want to know about Tudor England, and Elton has a certain wit about him. (8)
Set Apart, K Hughes - A call to holiness in our time (6)
Instruments in the Redeemers Hands, T Tripp - The best book on discipleship I've read - connecting with the heart (9)