

Beloit Daily News
November 2016

Another busy year of reading lots of books. Some were books that were just published this year and some were ones that I have been meaning to read for a while now. Old or new, they were all worth the time and effort to read them. Without further ado, I present to you my 8th *Annual Great Books I Read This Year* list.

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande. This eye-opening book was a tough read but one that helped me think through the difficult conversation of end-of-life decisions. (Adult Non-Fiction)

Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson. This graphic novel, about a 12-year old girl who finds her voice through the sport of roller derby, was a 2016 Newbery Honor award book. (Youth Graphic Novel)

Run, Spot, Run: The Ethics of Keeping Pets by Jessica Pierce. Another tough book to read because it brought up questions and assumptions about the relationships we have with our pets and whether keeping them is better for them or for us. (Adult Non-Fiction)

Architecture's Odd Couple: Frank Lloyd Wright and Philip Johnson by Hugh Howard. Two radically different approaches to modern architecture played out through the architects' connections to each other throughout their lives. (Adult Non-Fiction)

Cowed: The Impact of 93 Million Cows on America's Health, Economy, Politics, Culture and Environment by Denis Hayes and Gail Boyer Hayes. That's a lot of cows and their impact, both good and bad, on so many aspects of our American way of life is undeniable. (Adult Non-Fiction)

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein. A very clever book full of puzzles, puns and a plethora of references to the world of literature written for children of all ages. (Youth Fiction)

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman. Cranky, curmudgeonly, and down-right mean at times, Ove isn't your typical hero. But that won't stop you from falling in love with him and the people in his life. (Adult Fiction)

The Humane Economy: How Innovators and Enlightened Consumers Are Transforming the Lives of Animals by Wayne Pacelle. Written by the head of the Humane Society of the United States, this powerful read calls on industries, politicians, and the media to consider animal exploitation and how we can work together to end the suffering of billions of animals. (Adult Non-Fiction)

Real Food, Fake Food: Why You Don't Know What You Are Eating and What You Can Do About It by Larry Olmstead. I will never just grab a bottle of olive oil or a bottle of champagne off of the shelves again and just assume I'm getting what the label says I'm getting. (Adult Non-Fiction)

Hannah's Dream by Diane Hammond. A run-down zoo is no place for Hannah the elephant to spend the remainder of her life, especially with Sam, her caretaker for the past 40 years, retiring. This heart-warming tale is the story of the people in Hannah's life and their struggle to provide a sanctuary for her. (Adult Fiction)

The Book With No Pictures by B.J. Novak. Who needs pictures when the adults reading the book have to read words like BLORK, and GLIBBITY GLOBBITY? Seriously, grab this book and a bunch of kids and let the hilarity ensue! (Youth "Picture" Book)