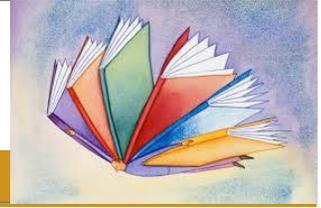


# RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2015



Welcome to the November 2015 issue of *RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER*

**In this issue:** Recommended Reads

“Read the Book-Watch the Movie”

This Month: What’s in the Library Folder on the RTC Cloud?

Nobel Prize winners in Literature

SPECIAL: Checkout books over the Winter Break!

## Recommended Reads from the RTC community

### ***Beyond the Sky and the Earth: A Journey into Bhutan* by Jamie Zeppa**

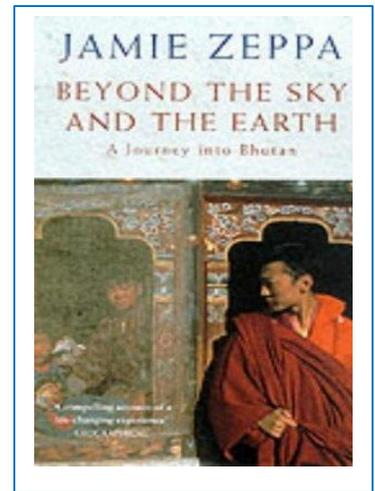
Reading *Beyond the Sky and the Earth* as a foreigner new to Bhutan, Jamie Zeppa’s writing reads like a letter from a good friend. From leaving the comforts of home to discovering the small details that make Bhutan a fascinating and intriguing Himalayan kingdom, she writes with clarity and reflection.

As she adjusts to her new world, she notes that “there is a difference between arrival and entrance. Arrival is physical and happens all at once. The train pulls in, the plane touches down, you get out of the taxi with all your luggage. You can arrive in a place and never really enter it; you get there, look around, take a few pictures, make a few notes, send postcards home. When you travel like this, you think you know where you are, but, in fact, you have never left home. Entering takes longer. You cross over, slowly, in bits and pieces. [...] It is like awakening slowly, over a period of weeks. And then one morning, you open your eyes and you are finally here, really and truly here. You are just beginning to know where you are.”

Many may arrive in Bhutan, but only those who take the time to look really enter. Those who read this book are gently awakened over chapters that explore everything from packed regional bus journeys to the excitement and wonder of school children. This memoir is a treat and a firm step in the direction of entrance over arrival; an adventure through Bhutan through the eyes of a young, naive, and enthusiastic traveler. **Jessica Emory, Orientation to College Instructor**

**Location: Main**

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#### Quotes:

*“I wanted to throw myself into an experience that was too big for me and learn in a way that cost me something.”*

*“I used to wonder what was on the other side of mountains, how the landscape resolved itself beyond the immediate wall in front of you. Flying in [to Bhutan] from the baked-brown plains of India this morning, I found out: on the other side of mountains are mountains, more mountains and mountains again.”*

## ***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave written by Himself***

After reading the essay, "How I Learned to Read and Write," for a Reading Club selection, it made me want to read more of Douglass' writing. Growing up in America, I of course, knew **OF** Frederick Douglass, but... I had never read anything before **BY** Frederick Douglass.

The *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, first published in 1845, satisfied my thirst, while whetting my appetite for more. The narrative, which covers the years through his escape, is scantily over 100 pages (although I highly recommend reading the other accompanying material, making it about 150 pages in all).

Douglass was born to a slave mother and an unknown father, very likely his white master. Shortly after his birth, his mother was sold. While still a young boy, Douglass was sent to work in Baltimore. At first, Mrs. Auld, his new mistress, is kind and gentle. She teaches him the ABCs and a few words, but upon her husband's disapproval and his admonishment, "If you give a nigger an inch, he will take an ell. A nigger should know nothing but to obey his master-to do as he is told to do", her attitude dramatically changes.

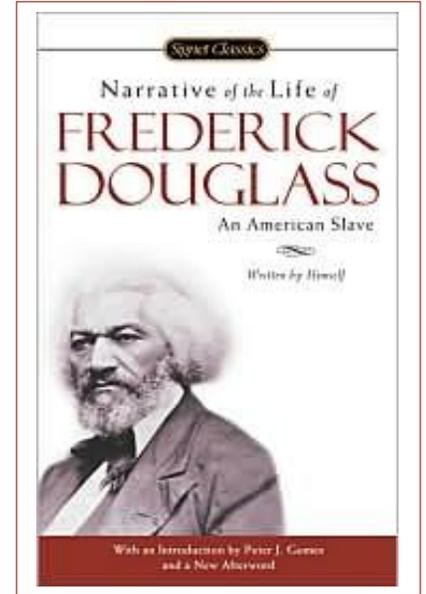
Douglass writes, "Slavery proved as injurious to her as it did to me. When I went there, she was a pious, warm and tender-hearted woman. There was no sorrow or suffering for which she had not a tear.... Slavery soon proved its ability to divest her of those heavenly qualities. Under its influence, the tender heart became stone and the lamblike disposition gave way to tiger-like fierceness."

From this incident, however, Douglass learns a most important lesson. For the first time, he comes to realize how it is that the white man keeps the slave in his place and skillfully finds ways to teach himself how to read.

In his narrative, Douglass describes the injustices, the hardships, and the beatings he witnessed and received while a slave. We learn what drives him as a teenager to plan his escape and shed the bonds of his enslavement. This is a reflective, inspiring memoir of a determined youth who later becomes a powerful orator and abolitionist. **Amrita McKinney,**

**Librarian**

**Location: Main**



### Quotes

*"My long-crushed spirit rose, cowardice departed, bold defiance took its place; and I now resolved that, however long I might remain a slave in form, the day had passed forever when I could be a slave in fact. I did not hesitate to let it be known of me, that the white man who expected to succeed in whipping, must also succeed in killing me."*

*"We were all ranked together at the valuation. Men and women, old and young, married and single, were ranked with horses, sheep, and swine. There were horses and men, cattle and women, pigs and children, all holding the same rank in the scale of being, and were all subjected to the same narrow examination."*

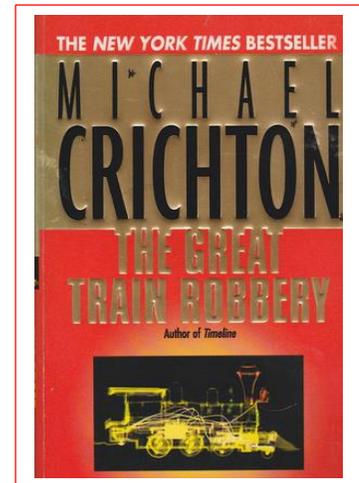
*"For of all slaveholders with whom I have ever met, religious slaveholders are the worst. I have ever found them the meanest and basest, the most cruel and cowardly, of all others."*

## The Great Train Robbery by Michael Crichton

Focused on one of the most well-known thefts in history, *The Great Train Robbery* is a page-turning adventure through Victorian England. It is the story of a "singular gentleman... Edward Pierce, and for a man destined to become so notorious that Queen Victoria herself expressed a desire to meet him - or, barring that, to attend his hanging - he remain an oddly mysterious figure."

This story doesn't elaborate on the details of Pierce's heritage, but it does dissect a marvelous scheme including a daring prison escape, men dressed as women, tigers, keys, false love affairs, and more. All of these efforts focused on boosting a large shipment of gold. While the details of this scam have come to light and are elucidated throughout the story, don't assume that those involved were apprehended. You must read the entire story to learn of the cunning of Pierce and his team, and how all of the pieces landed in the end. **Jessica Emory, Orientation to College Instructor**

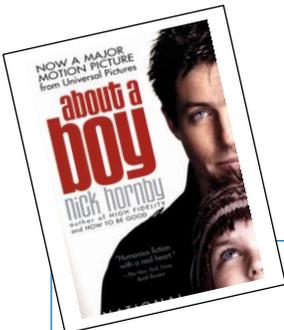
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Quotes:

"Thus, by dawn of November 13, 1854, Edward Pierce had the first of the four keys he needed. He immediately directed his attention to obtaining the second key."

"England's railroads grew at such a phenomenal rate that the city of London was overwhelmed, and never managed to build a central station"



## Read the book, watch the movie!

My daughter introduced me to Hornby a few years ago. *About a Boy* – the book and the movie – are often much the same and yet surprisingly different. For me, Hugh Grant is a perfect Will and Nicholas Hoult as Marcus is the perfect misfit and traumatized 12 year old boy, dealing with a suicidal mom, bullies, and his first crush. Although Marcus in the movie doesn't wear glasses and although the book and movie diverge on the popular music Will introduces to Marcus (Nirvana vs. Rap) as well as the development and outcome of Marcus' and Ellie's relationship – both versions seem equally plausible. The book is a light, pleasant read and the movie an entertaining watch. It would be hard for me to say which I liked best – I liked them both.

**What about you?**

## **This Month:**

### **The RTC Cloud**

#### **What's in the Library PUBLIC Folder for you?**

#### **Did you know...**

#### **You can find**

Past exam papers in all programs (2011 to previous semester)

Back issues of the Kuensel (from 2011 to the present)

Access information for databases: OARE, HINAHL, AGORA, ARDI

Lots of information in folders about:

Ecotourism

Environment Issues

Literature

Philosophy

Political Science

Service Marketing

Water Issues

**Bhutan - specific info and articles – such as:**

Agriculture, Arts, Cultural Heritage, Development Issues, Economic Climate, Environment, Folktales and Mythology, Forestry, Gov't Documents, GNH, Health Issues, Language issues

And much more

## The Nobel Prize for Literature

Since 1901, the Nobel Prize has been awarded to individuals (and couples) for their contributions to humanity in the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, and Peace. The awards are announced each October and the ceremony is held each year on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economics (in memory of Nobel) was added in 1969. The 2015 Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded to the Belarusian author, Svetlana Alexievich.

The man responsible for establishing the Nobel Prize is Alfred Nobel, an interesting, somewhat controversial figure; a man riddled with contradictions. Nobel was a gifted chemist and inventor. In 1866, Nobel invented his most famous invention: dynamite and the detonator cap to set it off. Dynamite significantly increased the speed and efficiency of mining and reduced the cost of blasting rocks during the building of tunnels and roads. Nobel continually sought to (and did) improve the blasting power of his explosives.

During his lifetime, Nobel registered over 350 patents in various countries. He invented such things as artificial silk and leather. He owned more than 90 factories, all which manufactured explosives and ammunition. And yet... Nobel considered himself to be a pacifist.

In 1892, Nobel wrote the following words to his friend, Bertha von Suttner, an Austrian pacifist:

*"My dynamite will sooner lead to peace than a thousand world conventions. As soon as men will find that in one instant, whole armies can be utterly destroyed, they surely will abide by golden peace."*

In 1895, Nobel drew up his will leaving most of his fortune to the establishment of a prize. There is uncertainty as to why Nobel made this decision. A prominent speculation is associated with the death of his brother, Ludvig in 1888. French newspapers erroneously reported Ludvig's death as if it was Alfred's. The headlines read: "Le Marchand de la Mort est Mort" (The Merchant of Death is Dead). Perhaps, fearing this to be his legacy, Nobel chose a more lasting and favorable way to be remembered.

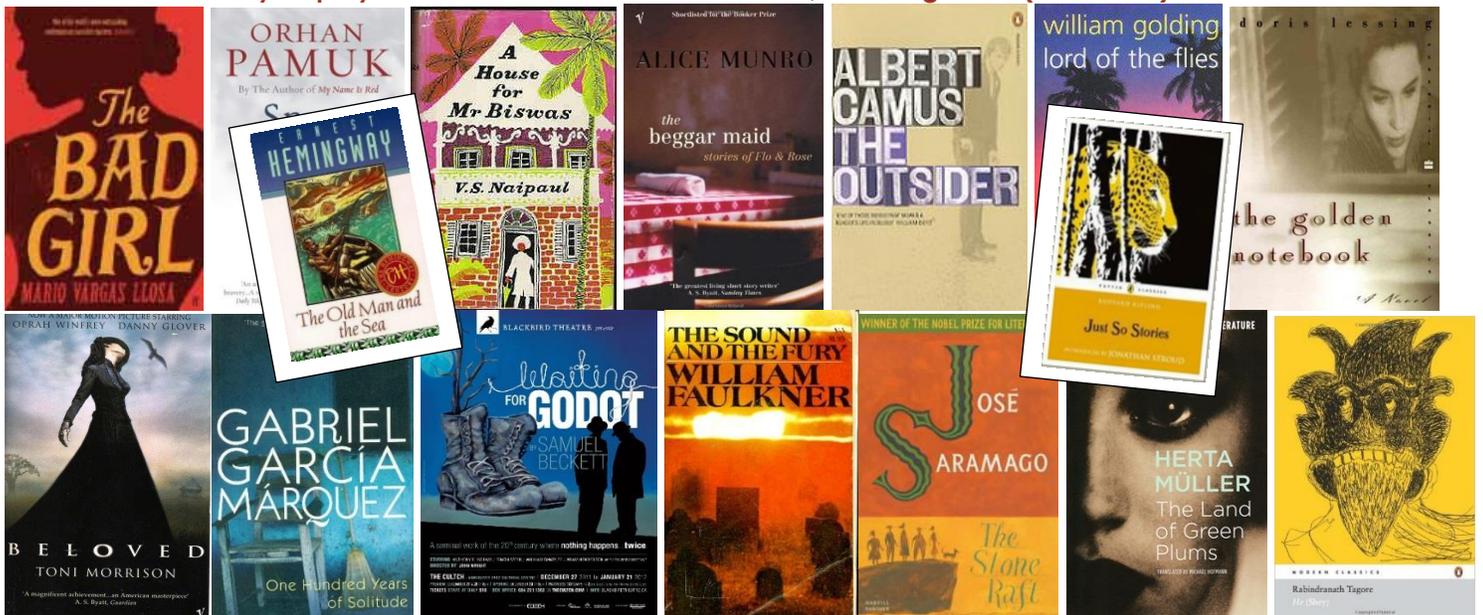
Unfortunately, Nobel's prediction that dynamite would prevent wars was a bit naïve. His dynamite was to be used during WWI causing great destruction and loss of human life.

### Nobel Prize for Literature – Did you know?

- 108 Nobel Prizes in Literature have been awarded
- 14 women have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Rudyard Kipling, at 42, was the youngest winner
- Doris Lessing, at 88, was the oldest

Click [here](#) to learn more about Alfred Nobel and Nobel Prize winners, past and present.

Come see our library display of Nobel Prize winners in literature, featuring these (and more) authors and works.



## Check Out Books Over the Break!

To encourage reading over the semester break, the Library is allowing each RTC member to check out up to **TWO** books during this time. All books checked out from 30 Nov. will be due back on 29 Feb. 2016

**Please, please, please** treat the books with tender loving care and be sure to remember to bring them back with you!

And just maybe.... Some of you might be inspired to write a book recommendation. We hope so!

## Want to read even more...

Don't forget we have thousands of books (and hundreds of movies) on the Media Sharing Space. You can download these to read and watch over the break.

The Library  
wishes all students  
the very best on your finals!  
And to all a very inspiring winter  
break and a Happy New Year.