

Zwerin / 2016 Books read

- \* Readable, not believable, OK
- \*\* Good read, interesting, enjoyable
- \*\*\* Well written, excellent plot, recommend

1. Abrahams, Tom - Seditio (A cabal plots to put their man in as POTUS by bombing the Capitol during the funeral for the president. All is thwarted by a young NSA agent who goes against her boss to ferret out the plot. Could use a good editor.)\*
2. Ambroziak, K.P. - The Trinity (The Church of Eve harbors a secret rooted in Genesis of priests who are born for the brotherhood and maidens who as Eve perpetuate the blood line. Confused parentage, abandonment, murder, and homosexuality intertwine. Well written.)\*\*\*
3. Amberg, Jay - Bone Box (Beautifully written. On a hill in Turkey, archaeologists uncover a box with engraved Aramic inscriptions. Inside are bones and two scrolls: one from JC and another from John. Turk officials want the materials. A rep of the sponsoring US org arrives to find out about the dig. A Germany and an Aussie appear to snatch the discovery away. A gay helper takes the bones. Murder and mayhem ensue.)\*\*\*
3. Ames, Dan - Death by Sarcasm (Mary Cooper, P.I., tracks down the killer of her comedian uncle and then of his multiple cronies.)\*
4. Archer, Jeffrey - Only Time Will Tell (Complex 1800s novel about two families. Feh.)
5. Arnold, Carolyn - Sacrifice (Detective Maddie and partner solve the case of the rich man's son's murder.)
6. Barber, Tom - Blackout (Sam Archer is a young member of a counter terror group ARU. Serbian killers looking to avenge the murder of their families by three drunken US-Brit soldiers in Kosovo, have a list of 10 including ARU members. Brutal, but engaging.)\*\*
7. Benedict, John - Adrenaline (Anesthesia doctors at a small hospital are involved in murder to save their jobs. Lots of info about drugs and their effect.)\*
8. Berkom, D. V. - Cargo (Leine Basso, ex-assassin, works for SHEN a rescue agency. She heads to Tanzania to find the daughter of her friend, captive of a sadist who runs a hunt camp for the rich. With the help of Derek, an ex-poacher, she fights and powers herself thru a morass of evil men in the wilds of Africa.)\*\*
9. Boyle, T.C. - The Harder They Come (Brilliantly written, rambling account of a crazy young man whose meds fail him, his father who killed a mugger in Costa Rico, his odd anti-estab girlfriend. No rhyme or reason for the story; no moral. A study in dysfunction.)
10. Box, C.J. - Cold Wind (Missi's 5<sup>th</sup> husband is shot and his body is hung high on a wind turbine. Her arrest for murder puts son-in-law Joe Pickett in motion to discover motive as to why her 4<sup>th</sup> husband would accuse her. Good Wyoming read.)\*\*
11. Box, C. J. - Badlands (Grimstar, ND is brutally cold in Dec. Kyle while delivering papers discovers a bag of cash and drugs at the scene of a rollover. His druggie Mom's S/O decides to take it all, but the Salvador cartel sends killers to recover the stash. Det. Cassie Dewell, a SD newbie, tracks the case.)\*\*

12. Box, C. J. - Savage Run (Joe Pickett and an environmental activist and old flame of Joe's wife Marybeth, named Stewie, confront a cattlemen association's hired killer with a showdown at an impassible canyon named Savage Run.)\*\*
13. Browne, Gretta - A Strange Beginning (From crippled child to noble owner of an English mansion, this is the first in a trilogy on the life of George Gordon Lord Byron.)\*\*\*
14. Bryson, Bill - One Summer: America, 1927 (A rich insight into the events of one of the most interesting times and its people – Coolidge, Hoover, Lindberg, Capone, Ruth, Sarnoff, etc. Great read.)\*\*\*
15. Burrell, Teresa - The Advocate's Felony (Sabre Brown and her PI save her brother from the mob whose boss's daughter is trying to kill him.)\*
16. Burrell, Teresa - The Advocate's Felony (Re-read)\*
17. Burroughs, Debra - The Boat House Secret (Jenessa, a small town reporter, uncovers a murder that happened at a local boat house 20 yrs earlier. In solving it, she discovers her true love and the son she had given up for adoption years ago.)\*
18. Burstein, Dand & Arne De Keijzer - Secrets of the Lost Symbol (Insights into the symbols, codes, and history behind Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol*.)\*\*+
19. Carson, Jeff - Foreign Deceit (Dep Sheriff David Wolf of a small Colo township, travels to Italy to find the man who killed his brother, uncovered the murderer of a local boy who was shoved off a cliff, and loses the town's election for new sheriff to a man who tried to kill him.)\*\*
20. Carter, Scott Wm - The Gray and Guilty Sea (ex NY P.I. living on Oregon coast in seclusion discovers a body washed up on shore. Young girl becomes his obsession as he overcomes his crippled leg, to find the murderer and a newspaper woman as a new love.)\*\*
21. Child, Lee (Reacher is sent to investigate three deaths in a small MS town with an army base. A beautiful sheriff, a midnight train, an only hotel and diner, and military procedure.)\*\*
22. Child, Lee - Make Me (Reacher debarks at Mother's Rest, IA, and takes up the case of a missing PI, a victim of a Deep Internet web site offering suicide assistance.)\*\*
23. Child, Lee - Not a Drill (Picked up by three and driven to virgin forest in northern Maine, Reacher finds a prisoner from Guantanamo who was pushed from a plane. Is this how they dispose of them? Short story.)\*
24. Chiles, Marshal - Your Presentation Is a Joke (Adding humor to speeches. Not funny.)
25. Connelly, Michael - The Black Box (Cold case detective Harry Bosch investigates the death in L.A. of a Dutch woman reporter killed during the riots. His clues begin with the black evidence box.)\*\*
26. Cussler, Clive - The Pharaoh's Secret (Osiris Project to drain the Sarahan aquifer and take control of No Africa involves use of a Black Mist developed in Egypt - a nerve gas made from the skins of hibernating bullfrogs. NUMA forces are charged with finding the antidote and destroying the O.P.)\*\*
27. Devore, Bryan - The Price of Innocence (Ian Lawrence wrote a Ph.D. thesis about organized crime, then went to Germany to destroy it. Brother Frank comes from KS to find him.)\*\*
28. Doerr, Anthony - All the Light We Cannot See (Blind girl, her Papa is a museum key maker, escape Nazis in Paris. Papa dies, she lives with uncle in St Remo. Beautifully written story about love, hate, and treasure found and lost.)\*\*\*

29. Ellsworth, John - Thaddeus Murfee (New lawyer coopted by a Fed Agency to spy against his own boss and then to defend him.)\*\*
30. Ellsworth, John - The Trial Lawyer (DA Killen Erwin married to a slut wife, kills her and gets away with it when wife of the man who slept with Erwin's wife confesses. Trial and preparation, assault of defense lawyer, revenge killings.)\*\*
31. Farner, James - Changing of the Guard I (1820s, Edward, raised by abusive relatives in the poorest part of England, is taught to read by a stranger [Henry], championed by a dowager [Victoria], attends St. John's on scholarship, employed by wealthy Victor only to discover the murderer of his parents who escapes at the end leaving Edward to wonder what next for him and his friends [Theo and Gerty].\*\*\*
32. Flynn, Gillian - The Grownup (A psychic called upon to "cure" a sick home is torn between knowing if the mother or the son is really the sick one. Too short to tell.)
33. Fuller, A.C. - The Anonymous Source (Reporter Alex chases leads on the murder of a billionaire who dies on 9/11. Murders and intrigue lead to the CEO of his newspaper and the exoneration of a street kid falsely accused of murder.)\*\*
34. Gerson, Noel - Daughter of Earth and Water (Bio of Mary Wollcraftstone Godwin Shelly and husband Percy B. Shelley.)\*
35. Goddard, Robert - Long Time Coming (Pre-war a Jewish diamond dealer flees Germany and leaves behind a priceless Picasso. His boat sinks leaving no survivors. Thirty years later, an heir tries to track down the painting and missing diamonds. A thriller with twists.)\*\*\*
36. Goldman, Joel - Final Judgment (Avery Fish is on trial for a body found in his car trunk. Lou Mason his co-religionist lawyer has to work thru old flames and casino owners to defend Fish.)\*\*
37. Goldman, Joel - Stone Cold (Public Defender Alex Stone successful in defending a ruthless killer, kills him after he threatens to rape her lover, Dr. Bonnie. Her trial has her face the same ordeal as that of her many clients.)\*\*
38. Goldman, Joel - Motion to Kill (Lou Mason, new lawyer in small firm, finds his boss murdered and his associates being bumped off one by one. Suspects abound. Beautiful cop, ambitious fem colleague, and illegit offspring round out the readable novel.)\*\*\*
39. Grace, Celina - Hushabye (Rich couple's baby is taken and the nanny murdered. It's the husband's ex who is guilty. Feh.)
40. Grayson, M.D. - Blue Molly (Danny Logan's detective agency is hired by an owner to learn why a gang of Russians want to buy their old bldg in Seattle. Blue Molly is Ecstasy being made and sold from the bldg.)\*
41. Greenwood, Patrice - An Aria of Omens (Ellen runs a tea room in Santa Fe. The tenor at the opera is murdered and so is a young soprano who used to work at Ellen's. With her cop friend Tony, the mystery is solved. Not much of a mystery, but a lovely intro to how a tea house is run.)\*
42. Grisham, John - Grey Mountain (Strip mining in the Appalachian Mtns.)\*\*\*
43. Grisham, John - Rogue Lawyer (Undefendable cases, handled and won)\*\*\*
44. Grumley, Michael C. - Breakthrough (Dolphins talk, aliens occupy the South Pole and steal water, polar ice breaks off. Don't bother.)
45. Harbach, Chad - The Art of Fielding (Henry is a star shortstop until he hits his roomy with an errant throw. College love, lust, homosexuality, a president and his divorced daughter - beautifully written.)\*\*\*

46. Heldt, John A. - *The Journey* (Shelly Preston 48, enters a closet in an old mansion and goes 30 yrs back in time to 1980. In the same city, she meets her parents and herself, and as the new admissions advisor at the H.S., her old friends now all 18. She becomes their advisor, marries a colleague, and is there when Mt. St. Helens erupts.)\*\*
47. Hill, Raven T. - *Cold Justice* (PIs Jake and Annie Lincoln track down a shrink who has been killing his clients.)\*
48. Iversen, Kristen - *Full Body Burden* (the obscenity that was and is Rocky Flats, inept production of plutonium, and the govt agencies that cover up the cancers that result. Must read.)\*\*\*
49. Jaffee, Christina Whitelaw - *Good-bye To the Bay* (Autobio stories of a Scottish lass who becomes a teacher in Germany with good values shared and well written.)\*\*
50. Kagan, Roberta - *A Flicker of Light* (A Shoah novel. Trite.)
51. Kharitonov, Ian - *The Russian Renaissance* (Thriller about stolen treasure and a plot of the Khazak president to take over all of Russia. Confronted by his daughter and a special medical forces officer. Lots of info about Russia, its history, politics, and geography.)\*\*\*
52. Kirsch, Libby - *The Big Lead* (Stella Reynolds lands her first reporting job at a tiny station in MT. Murder, frame-up, and police corruption are uncovered by the station rookie.)\*
53. Laker, Rosalind - *The Silver Touch* (Hester becomes a silversmith of note in the 18<sup>th</sup> c. raising a family of sons to the trade. Complex family relations keep the well-written story moving.)\*\*\*
54. Levine, Paul - *Kill All the Lawyers* (Cynical, funny lawyer in love with his law partner is tormented by a shrink who is a serial killer.)\*\*
55. Levine, Paul - *Lassiter* (Jake Lassiter is coerced by Amy to find out who killed her sister 18 yrs ago. Meyer Lansky, Ben Perlow, Castro, Bautista, porn makers, and the D.A. are all in play.)\*\*
56. Lister, Michael - *Innocent Blood* (An unusual account of a young man obsessed with finding out who the child serial killer was. After H.S. he moves to Atlanta to pursue the crimes and with the help of detectives, solves them.)\*\*\*
57. Locke, Louisa - *Maids of Misfortune* (1876 in S.F., Madam Sybil's client dies in his home. She suspects murder and takes a job as maid in the household to ferret out secrets.)\*
58. Lukeman, Alex - *The Eye of Shiva* (Nick Carter and his team find ancient coins at a terrorist stronghold. Muhgel treasure buried for centuries points to a plot to involve India and Pakistan in a nuke war. Fast paced read.)\*\*
59. Mars, Jack - *Any Means Necessary* (Luke Stone uncovers and defeats a government plot to take over the presidency so as to go to war against Iran.)\*\*
60. Matthews, Jason - *Palace of Treason* (Sequel to *Red Sparrow*, Dominika passes SRV secrets to Nate and CIA special Ops to ferret out a US mole and destroy an SRV psychopath. Putin sells Iran a seismic floor for Natantz that Nate must deal with.)\*\*\*
61. Mattioli, Grace - *Olive Branches Don't Grow on trees* (Sylvia is middle child in a totally dysfunctional family. Alcoholic father and timid mother have separated and Sylvia hopes to bring peace thru the planning of a dinner for the youngest (Vince) who is graduating H.S. Intense relationships make for tense moments. Well written.)\*\*
62. McClendon, Lise - *Plan X* (A newly discovered Shakespeare mms., a bastard son of Prince Phillip, murders so foul.)\*

63. McDonald, M.P. - No Good Deed: Psych Thriller (Mark Taylor buys a camera in Afghanistan that pictures the future. He sees 9/11 just before it happens and calls agencies to warn them. He is taken in as a terrorist and tortured for a year. Upon release he finds love and opportunity to con't to warn and prevent.)\*\*
64. McDonald, Murray - Critical Error (Sen Chas Baker and Spec Ops brother Sam are at the heart of a plot to plant nukes in Israel and the US. Assassinations of persons in power, manipulation by Ben Meir, elder intel chief of Israel, lead on a wild chase to find the Arab terrorists and solve the problem of a YK deadline. Ararat is a long range program to replace the entire populace of Israel. Odd wacko ending, but good read.)\*\*
65. Oleszek, Julie - The Fifth Floor (Anna, the 9<sup>th</sup> of 10 sibs, has a psychotic break when her sister dies. She imagines that she caused her death and spends time on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of a hospital working thru her mental confusion.)\*\*
66. Patterson, Jack - The Warren Omissions (Ex-CIA turned investigative reporter on the trail of info on the JFK murder, is sent to Russia to defuse bombs set by a renegade Russian organization purporting to want a war with the US so as to turn the world back to Communism.)\*
67. Reshef, Yaron - Out of the Shoebox (A lot in Haifa left to a son who must prove his relationship. The accounts of survival by family members. Unnecessary read)
68. Richards, Douglas - Game Changer (Sec Service agent tries to kill his president who killed his wife and kid, only he had no wife. Implanted nanites control thoughts as US and Israeli scientists try to stop the ramifications of a memory tampering rogue scientist. Interesting science lessons.)\*\*\*
69. Robertson, Jo - The Watcher (XXY pervert murders teen girls is hunted by psychiatrist sister of one of his victims.)\*
70. Roth, Phillip - Everyman (The story of a life and the loneliness of its ending.)\*\*
71. Sangster, Rob - Ground Truth (Stanford prof's career careens when his judge father suicides b/c of illegal acts. Jack Strider goes to work for high power SF law firm that sends him to Mexico where he uncovers illegal toxic and nuclear waste dumping that threatens both countries. The ending in which he manages to involve the president is beyond reason. Otherwise good read.)\*\*
72. Saul, Jonas - The Warning (Sarah Roberts communes with her dead sister via automatic writing. They are looking for Vivian's killer.)\*
73. Siegel, Sheldon - Final Verdict (Lawyer Mike Daley and wife Rosie take the case of a dying man framed of murdering a big shot from Silicon Valley behind an adult movie theater.)\*\*
74. Siegel, Seth - Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water Starved World (Excellent description of how a tiny arid nation became the most water abundant exporter of this natural resource and how it helps over 150 nations today to solve their water crises.)\*\*\*
75. Sloane, Bianca - Killing Me Softly (Tracy Ellis marries a controlling pharmacist who kills her doppelganger, IDs her as Tracy, and drugs Tracy to make her believe she is someone named Paula and the one who killed Tracy. She then becomes his Stepford like wife until her sister takes up the challenge of reconstructing her "death.")\*\*\*
76. Swigart, Rob - The Delphi Agenda (Lisa, chosen as the Pythia after predecessor's assassination, must find the 3000 yr old Delphic Oracle's document while holding off the secret Dominican Order that seeks to eliminate the Oracle's age-old influence.)\*\*

77. Turk, A. - First Do No Harm (Grisham wannabe tells a good story about a Jewish lawyer who sues two doctors and a hospital for malpractice in a small Tennessee town.)\*\*
78. Urquhart, Rachel - The Visionist (Abused by father who burns to death in a fire she caused, a young girl and her damaged kid brother are placed by mother in a Shaker commune. Her visions ennoble the community. Set in the 1860s. Beautifully written.)\*\*\*
79. Wier, George - The Last Call (Beautiful lady has taken \$2 million from TX mobster and needs Bill Travis' help to stay alive. Uggg)

Yes, there are 80, because #3 appears twice.

#### Ambroziak, K.P. - The Trinity

The Church of Eve harbors a secret rooted in Genesis of priests who are born for the brotherhood and maidens who as Eve perpetuate the blood line. Confused parentage, abandonment, murder, and homosexuality intertwine. Jacob's ordination is sealed with blood when Father Brentwood's body is discovered, murdered in the narthex during the ceremony. Jacob doesn't believe a man as saintly as him can have enemies so deadly. But when a pregnant Rebecca is found crying over the body, he realizes he may not have known his mentor as well as he thought. Or perhaps it is the Order into which he is newly inducted that proves the greater mystery. Taken into the fold, Jacob uncovers a plot more sacrilegious than the heterodoxy they preach, and redemption is as elusive as the head of the Trinity. Well written.

#### Amberg, Jay - Bone Box

On a hill in Turkey, archaeologists uncover a box with engraved Aramic inscriptions. Inside are bones and two scrolls: one from JC and another from John. Turkish officials want the materials. A representative of the sponsoring US org arrives to find out about the dig. A German and an Aussie appear to snatch the discovery away. A gay helper takes the bones. Murder and mayhem ensue. Beautifully written.

#### Grisham, John - Rogue Lawyer

It's Grisham; nuff said? Undefendable cases, handled and won. Fun read.

#### Kharitonov, Ian - The Russian Renaissance

Constantine can no longer hide in Europe. As he discovers a century-old secret, he must flee back to Moscow, chased by assassins. Only one man can save him. Eugene Sokolov: an officer in the world's most elite rescue unit, a martial arts legend... and Constantine's brother. They face

an enemy unlike any other. In a game run by a KGB spymaster, the fate of Russia will depend on their survival. Thriller about stolen treasure and a plot of the Khazak president to take over Russia opposed by his daughter and a special medical forces hero. Lots of info about Russia, its history, politics, and geography.

#### Laker, Rosalind - *The Silver Touch*

In 1761 Hester Bateman became the first woman to register her own silver hallmark. But how did an illiterate orphan, sent to work in her half-brother's tavern in the Strand, become recognized as one of England's finest silversmiths? Rosalind Laker imaginatively traces Hester's journey from rags to riches, obscurity to renown against the backdrop of 18th Century London. From the moment flame-haired Hester meets John Bateman, a goldsmith's apprentice, both of their lives change forever. Hester ignites a passion in John that threatens to unsettle his lofty aspirations, for John is already engaged to his Master's daughter and Hester's pregnancy could spell the end to all his professional ambitions. The resolution to Hester and John's star-crossed love is only the beginning of a story of determination and struggle. An evocative slice of London life and one spirited woman's journey to success against the odds. Complex family relations keep the well written story moving.

#### Matthews, Jason - *Palace of Treason*

(Sequel to *Red Sparrow*) Russian spy Dominika Egorova and CIA agent Nate Nash redux. Captain Dominika of the Russian Intelligence Service despises the oligarchs, crooks, and thugs of Putin's Russia—so she is also working for the CIA. Her “sparrow” training in the art of sexual espionage further complicates the mortal risks she must take, as does her love for her handler Nate Nash—a shared lust that is as dangerous as treason. As Dominika expertly dodges exposure, she deals with a murderously psychotic boss, survives an Iranian assassination attempt, and tries to rescue an arrested double agent – while having to stave off Putin's threatening flirtations. Dominika passes SRV secrets to Nate and CIA special Ops to ferret out a US mole and destroy an SRV psychopath. Putin sells Iran a seismic floor for Natantz nuclear site that Nate has to deal with. Very entertaining read.

#### Siegel, Seth - *Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water Starved World*

Excellent description of how a tiny arid nation became the most water abundant exporter of this natural resource and how it helps over 150 nations today to solve their water crises. A must read.

#### Sloane, Bianca - *Killing Me Softly*

On a bitterly cold January evening, Tracy Ellis went for a jog along Chicago's snowy lakefront and disappeared. Her body was discovered days later, her beautiful face bashed in with a rock. Police determine her brutal death to be a mugging gone wrong and drop the matter into their cold case files. Over a year later, Tracy's sister, Sondra, a documentary filmmaker, thanks to a chance encounter with a man from Tracy's past sends Sondra searching for answers about the secrets from her sister's life that may have led to her death. As she struggles to uncover what happened

to Tracy, she's launched into a tangled web of deceit and danger that put her on a collision course with life and death.

Urquhart, Rachel - The Visionist

Abused by her father who burns to death in a fire she caused, a young girl and her damaged kid brother are placed by mother in a Shaker commune. Her visions ennoble the community. She befriends Sister Charity, is queried by Elder Sister Agnes, and is ultimately rescued by the fire inspector and grandfather's attorney. Set in the 1860s. Beautifully written.