

On My Nightstand - Everything Else



We love books in our house. A trip to the bookstore wasn't a treat, it was a weekly thing for me and my girls. We could never have too many books! But after three moves in six years, we decided to stop toting boxes of books around and keep only our absolute favorites. Here are some of mine. Look for reviews below the carousel.

[amazon

text=Amazon&template=carousel&asin=1599638967,0440212561,1933397837,B00FP14IKC,034553672X,178219763X,0785830588,0062002775,1440574367] Blogging for Writers, by Robin Houghton. Don't let the title fool you, Houghton's book is for anyone serious about blogging, not just writers. This is like a cookbook for blogging. See my review [here](#).

The Forgotten History of America, by Cormac O'Brien. I came across this book while researching *Death and the Informant*. Cormac delivers delicious bits of history in easy-to-read prose and digestible chunks. Plus, he provides great art.

Blind Justice, by Anne Perry. I had the pleasure to meet and listen to this delightful writer speak at the San Francisco Writer's Conference this past February. After I shook her hand, I hustled to the conference book seller and picked this up. Read it all night long instead of practicing my agent pitch. This lady is an inspiration.

Benedict Cumberbatch: The Biography, by Justin Lewis. In 2014, my teenaged daughters introduced me to the BBC series *Sherlock*. We binge-watched one rainy weekend, and I can tell you, when Benedict Cumberbatch bungee-jumped through the window, shook the broken glass off his collar and kissed Louise Brealy, the three of us screamed like it was 1964 and the Beatles had just landed in New York. But he isn't just a stud-puppy (although that's my favorite part). Great biography.

Women Wartime Spies, by Anne Kramer. This was the book that gave me the idea that my murder victim in *Death and the Informant* could actually have been a spy.

Outlander, by Christina Gabaldon. Long before the TV series (which I DVR), I read this book. Three times. She knows how to tell a story. This summer while on a trip, I picked up the Outlander Kitchen cookbook - can't wait to try the Scotch Eggs.

Written in Blood, by Carolyn Graham. I am addicted to all books Carolyn Graham. She paints such a picture of Midsomer that I want to retire there.

Everyday Grain-Free Baking, by Kelly Smith. Life throws us curveballs, and my most recent outside pitch was having to go gluten-free. Smith's cookbook is a savior - so far, every recipe I've tried works.