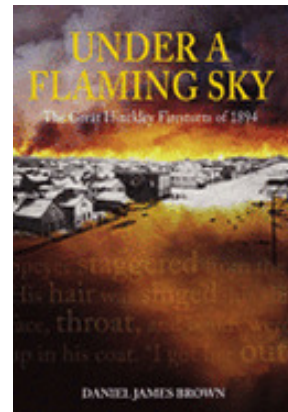


## Staff Picks@ RTDL: February/March 2010

### Under the Flaming Sky: The Hinkley Firestorm of 1894 By Daniel Brown/977.662 BRO

Daniel Brown, whose maternal grandfather survived the fire as an 11 year-old, interweaves the historical, environmental and economic events that led up to the firestorm. Brown gives us insights into the migration patterns of the time and the development of the lumber industry. His account of the fire also includes an in-depth explanation of how firestorms develop and travel. - Beckie

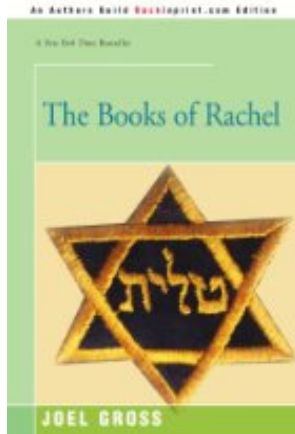


### North and South By Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell/FIC GAS

This is a story with overtones reminiscent of *Pride and Prejudice*: beautiful, smart young woman meets overbearing man; she despises him, he falls for her, and somehow it works out. However, Gaskell goes even further than Austen in using the social mores of the time to add substance to the plot in an engaging way. Far from operating merely as a romance, this novel examines the role of middle class women in 19th century Britain, while also exploring concepts of obedience and authority in intriguing ways. If you like Jane Austen's work, I highly recommend this novel by her contemporary Elizabeth Gaskell.-Kathryn

? Ella Minnow Pea: A  
Progressively Lipogrammatic  
Epistolary Fable?  
By Mark Dunn/FIC DUNN

This is a charming and clever tale that will enchant wordsmiths as the inhabitants of an island are challenged to communicate without the use of a progressively larger and larger number of letters in the alphabet.-Carol

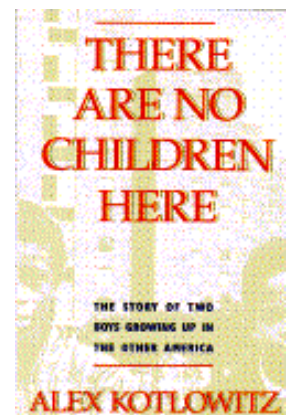


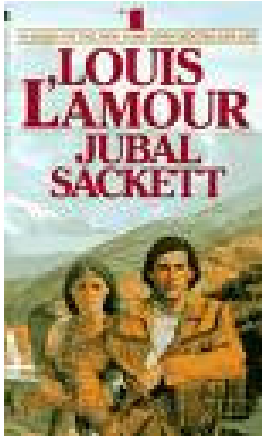
The Books of Rachel  
By Joel Gross/ FIC GRO

I recently re-read this incredible book which traces the history of the Cohen family through a diamond given to the oldest daughter named Rachel. It inspired me to learn about the history of the Sephardic (Spanish) Jews since the Spanish Inquisition. -Dom

There Are No Children Here:  
The Story of Two Boys Growing Up  
in the Other America  
By Alex Kotlowitz/305.23K

This captivating true story showcases the hardships and tribulations of two young boys growing up in the Chicago public housing project and their story will capture your heart .You won't want to put this book down!-Emily





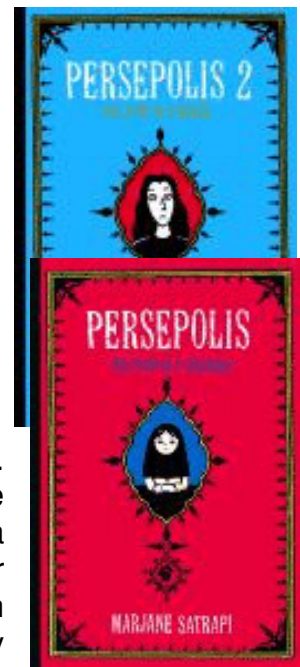
## Jubal Sackett

By Louis L' Amour/FIC LAM

Over the course of 19 novels and 300 years, the Sackett family traveled and traded with the native people of what would become the United States. Jubal Sackett is a loyal friend to most, and an unstoppable force to others. Jubal begins his journey of discovery of the land alone, but soon picks up strong allies and powerful enemies. An explorer at heart, he is always looking toward the horizon as he plans his next journey into the untamed wilds of unsettled America. Rediscover the Ohio River Valley and the mighty Mississippi as Jubal did on foot and in canoes as he hunted game, built shelters, and reused campgrounds that had been used since prehistoric times.-Kendra

## Persepolis: the Story of a Childhood Persepolis 2: the Story of a Return by Marjane Satrapi/Teen Graphic Persepolis

These graphic novels tell the story of Satrapi's experiences as a rebellious young girl in the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution. The simple black and white illustrations eloquently convey the heartbreak as well as, (believe it or not) humor of growing up in a country ruled by a fundamentalist regime. Recommended for fans of graphic novels as well as anyone with an interest in Iranian history or culture. Also, if you enjoy the books, definitely check out the 2007 Academy Award nominated film of the same



name.-Dana



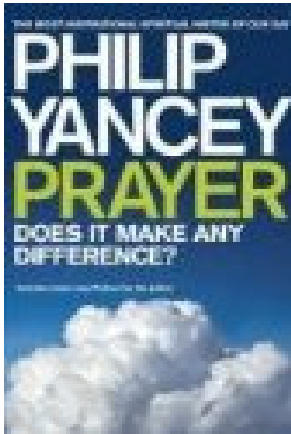
## Threads Magazine

Many of the articles in this trendy fashion sewing magazine are aimed at advanced sewers and those who design their own clothes. Even though I'm not that experienced a sewer, each issue of Threads still provides me with tips, techniques, and inspiration for my own sewing projects. We own issues of this magazine from the past two years.- Christine

## The Writing Class By Jincy Willett/MYS WIL

Writer Amy Gallup teaches a writing class at a Southern California university extension. This semester seems to be like any other. Amy's students are the all-too-familiar cast of characters she encounter every semester, such as "guy who's positive he has a best-seller on his hands" and "groupie who repeats the class just to absorb Amy's wisdom". Then the semester takes an ugly turn. Students begin receiving bizarre phone calls and letters; two are murdered; the university cancels the class. Yet they continue to meet, even though they are all quite sure that one of them is the murderer. This is a darkly funny book with an added benefit: Amy's class lectures serve the readers as a good fiction writing guide, with her student assignments providing examples of good and bad writing.-Brooke





Prayer: Does It Make Any  
Difference?

By Philip Yancey/248.32 YAN

Thoughtful, challenging, and encouraging. Probably the best book I've ever read on the subject.-Peni