Category: Audiobooks and E-Books

Subcategory: E-Books and Online Reading

Tip: Books-On-Line for You
Books-On-Line has links to (at the time of this writing) 17,191 books you can read online. While you will find that most of the current best-seller links are only "Sample Chapters," virtually everything else if full-text. (This is due to copyrights; read their front page for an enlightening explanation). An outstanding resource, well worth checking out. Books-On-Line

Category: Author, Author

Subcategory: Authors’ Web Sites

Tip: Dick, Philip K.
The official site for the late Philip K. Dick, one of science fiction's most beloved authors.

Tip: Ellison, Harlan
Harlan Ellison is one of science fiction's less describable institutions. Check out Ellison Webderland for all you need to know about the author of I Have No Mouth And I Must Scream.

Tip: Grisham, John
John Grisham was born in 1955 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He received a law degree from University of Mississippi in 1981, and practiced civil and criminal law for almost 10 years in Southaven, Mississippi. His first novel, A Time to Kill, was published in 1988 with little fanfare, but his second novel, The Firm, became one of the biggest selling novels of 1991. He is one of the most popular American writers of courtroom thrillers, and many successful movies have been based on his books.

Tip: McEwan, Ian
Information on Ian McEwan's novels and short stories, as well as links to reviews, are available at the Ian McEwan site.

Tip: Smith, L. Neil
Libertarian science fiction and political author L. Neil Smith has an official web site that includes information on his books and a comprehensive archive of his political essays and speeches.

**Category: Award-Winning Books**

**Subcategory: Children and Teens**

**Tip: Agatha Award Winners, 1992 (Mystery)**

The Agatha Award is given yearly by Malice Domestic to honor the traditional mystery as typified by the works of Agatha Christie. Best Short Story: "Nice Gorilla" by Aaron and Charlotte Elkins, published in "Malice Domestic 1" Best First Novel: "Blanche On The Lam" by Barbara Neely Best Novel: "Bootlegger's Daughter" by Margaret Maron

**Tip: Agatha Award Winners, 2000 (Mystery)**

The Agatha Award is given yearly by Malice Domestic to honor the traditional mystery as typified by the works of Agatha Christie. Best Nonfiction: "100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century" edited by Jim Huang Best Short Story: "The Man in the Civil Suit" by Jan Burke, published in Malice Domestic 9 Best First Novel: "Death on a Silver Tray" by Rosemary Stevens Best Novel: "Storm Track" by Margaret Maron

**Tip: Agatha Award Winners, 2002 (Mystery)**

The Agatha Award is given yearly by Malice Domestic to honor the traditional mystery as typified by the works of Agatha Christie. Best Children's/Young Adult Novel: "Red Card: A Zeke Armstrong Mystery" by Daniel J. Hale and Matthew LaBrot Best Nonfiction: "They Died in Vain: Overlooked, Underappreciated, and Forgotten Mystery Novels" edited by Jim Huang Best Short Story: "The Dog That Didn't Bark" by Margaret Maron, published in "Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine," and "Too Many Cooks" by Marcia Talley, published in "Much Ado About Murder" Best First Novel: "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Julia Spencer-Fleming Best Novel: "You've Got Murder" by Donna Andrews

**Tip: Agatha Award Winners, 2003 (Mystery)**

The Agatha Award is given yearly by Malice Domestic to honor the traditional mystery as typified by the works of Agatha Christie. Best Children's/Young Adult Novel: "The 7th

Tip: Agatha Award Winners, 2004 (Mystery)

The Agatha Award is given yearly by Malice Domestic to honor the traditional mystery as typified by the works of Agatha Christie. Best Children's/Young Adult Novel: "Chasing Vermeer" by Blue Balliett Best Short Story: "Wedding Knife" by Elaine Viets, published in "Chesapeake Crimes" Best Nonfiction: "Private Eye-Lashes: Radio's Lady Detectives" by Jack French Best First Novel: "Dating Dead Men" by Harley Jane Kozak Best Novel: "Birds of a Feather" by Jacqueline Winspear

Tip: Agatha Award Winners, 2005 (Mystery)

The Agatha Award is given yearly by Malice Domestic to honor the traditional mystery as typified by the works of Agatha Christie. Best Children's/Young Adult Novel: "Down the Rabbit Hole" by Peter Abrahams and "Flush" by Carl Hiaasen Best Short Story: "Driven to Distraction" by Marcia Talley, published in Chesapeake Crimes II Best Nonfiction: "Girl Sleuth: Nancy Drew and the Women Who Created Her" by Melanie Rehak Best Novel: "The Body in the Snowdrift" by Katherine Hall Page Best First Novel: "Better Off Wed" by Laura Durham

Tip: Agatha Award Winners, 2006 (Mystery)

The Agatha Award is given yearly by Malice Domestic to honor the traditional mystery as typified by the works of Agatha Christie. Best Children's/Young Adult Novel: "Pea Soup Poisonings" by Nancy Means Wright Best Short Story: "Sleeping With the Plush" by Toni L.P. Kelner, published in "Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine" Best Nonfiction: "Don't Murder Your Mystery" by Chris Roerden Best Novel: "The Virgin of Small Plains" by Nancy Pickard Best First Novel: "The Heat Of The Moon" by Sandra Parshall

Tip: Best Selling Children's Books

While there are lists galore floating around which examine every category of book imaginable, two of the best resources are the archives of either the New York Times or Publishers Weekly. According to the latter, the best-selling children's hardcover books in 2003 were: 1. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, J. K. Rowling 2. The Slippery Slope (A Series of Unfortunate Events #10), Lemony Snicket; illustrated by Brett

**Tip: The National Book Awards**

On March 16, 1950, a consortium of book publishing groups sponsored the first annual National Book Awards Ceremony and Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. Their goal was to enhance the public's awareness of exceptional books written by fellow Americans, and to increase the popularity of reading in general. The National Book Awards have become the nation's preeminent literary prizes, and The National Book Awards Ceremony and Dinner the most important event on the literary calendar. The Awards are given to recognize achievements in four genres: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and Young People's Literature. The Winners, selected by five-member, independent judging panels for each genre, receive a cash award and a crystal sculpture.

**Category: Bits and Pieces**

**Subcategory: Bits and Pieces**

**Tip: Buy and Sell Books through Newsgroups**

If you haven't discovered the online newsgroups yet, get with the program! There are over a hundred English-language newsgroups pertaining to books, and dozens more in the languages of your choice. If you're seeking a place to buy and sell books, check out rec.arts.books.marketplace.

**Tip: Comparison Shopping for Books Online**

Here are my favorite sites when I'm looking for the best price on a particular book, whether it's new or used: EvenBetter -- Choose the category Books and enter a keyword or book title. When it brings up your book, click on the title ... then on the next page click "Start Price Comparison." BookCompare -- A part of the CompareItAll network. Get in touch with the best sellers (and the best prices!). Robo Shopper -- Search by Book Title, Author, or Keyword. Just choose your search, enter a word and hit Go Shop! PriceSearch -- You never know when someone might be having
a sale! Choose the category Books and enter a keyword or two.

Tip: Reading

When reading, always have adequate light. Besides finding a good lamp, keep your reading material at least 12 inches away from your eyes. And take a break from reading every 20 minutes or so to give your eyes a rest. Simply blinking keeps your eyes wet and clears away dust. Try to blink more often when you feel your eyes getting tired.

Tip: Save half on previously owned titles

Looking for last month’s bestseller? Check out Half.com online. They are prompt and reliable, and offer a huge collection of books, CDs, movies, and computer games. All the stuff is rated, so you are unlikely to get ripped off.

Category: Book Care, Conservation and Binding

Subcategory: Caring for Books

Tip: Avoid Sun Fading

Position your bookshelves so that book spines are not in direct sunlight. In tropical and subtropical areas, such as Florida and Hawaii, even indirect sun can fade the ink on the dustjackets to nothing in a few years.

Tip: Dealing with Atmospheric Pollutants

Damage from air-borne pollutants is most evident in old books and in stacks of old papers, where the edges of pages are discolored from acid deterioration while the center portions remain almost white. Certain gases such as sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, and nitrogen dioxide originate from burning fossil fuels and are most serious in industrial areas. As large and expensive filtering devices are necessary for removal, no economical means of protection is available for the small collector. Some of the compounds are not dangerous until combined with other compounds to form acids; for example, sulfur dioxide is catalyzed by other airborne compounds to form sulfur trioxide, which unites with water vapor to form sulfuric acid. Ozone, a pungent gas generated by the interaction of sunlight and nitrogen dioxide from auto exhaust and one which is also prevalent around electric motors and after thunderstorms, causes the oxidation and consequent embrittlement of paper. As dirt and dust carry absorbed pollutants which can be abrasive to books and paper, air in a storage room should be filtered, with frequent changes of filters in the system. Where filtration is not possible, objects can be
stored in closed containers; if used, plastic bags should not be tightly sealed. Exhibit cases which are sealed against dust and dirt should provide air circulation through filters. As stagnant air increases the possibility of mold growth, any material stored in closed containers should be checked frequently. Also, the area should be cleaned and vacuumed regularly to eliminate dust and dirt buildup on any materials.

Tip: Get a Flower Press!
Never use a book you want to keep to press flowers. Natural pigments and oils in the plant can stain the pages, moisture can wrinkle them, and most plants are naturally acidic, which will break down the paper fibers.

Tip: How Light Damages Your Books
Exposure to the ultraviolet rays of sunlight and fluorescent light causes the rapid deterioration of paper, leather and fabrics; similar, but less severe deterioration will occur with exposure to visible light, the rays at the red end of the spectrum being less damaging than those at the blue end. The visible effects of light include: the bleaching or fading of paper; and the yellowing or browning such as rapidly occurs with newsprint. Not immediately visible is the breakdown of fibers into smaller units, causing the paper to disintegrate. Unfortunately, the reactions continue after the source of the problem is removed, although at a slower rate. Other factors being equal, paper stored in complete darkness will last far longer than that which is subjected to light. However, as totally dark storage is not usually practical, other precautions must be taken. Paper should never be stored in direct sunlight or under unshielded fluorescent tubes. Special ultraviolet-filtering materials, such as UF-3 Plexiglas or Acrylite OP-2, may be used to shield windows or fixtures.

Tip: How to Dust Books
You should dust your books at least annually. Do each book individually by removing it from the shelf and holding it tightly closed. Brush the dust away from the top surface and edges with a soft brush, like a drafting brush or wide camel's hair brush. Wipe the covers with a soft, dry cloth.

Tip: Instant bookmarks
Always losing your bookmark? Don't dogear a page, or break the spine of your book by leaving it face down. Peel a little "chunk" from a pad of small sticky notes, and stick it inside the front cover. Then, if you lose the first one, you'll have another handy! Leftovers can just be shifted to the next book.

Tip: Keep Them Clean
Always read your books with clean hands. Best case: don't eat while reading. Reality check: try not to eat greasy foods while reading!

**Tip: Preventing Mold on Books**
Storing books in the correct ranges of temperature and humidity will prevent the growth of mold. However, mold spores are always present in the air and in the dust that settles on books; and, if the recommended conditions are not maintained, the danger of mold growth and damage to documents exists. A relative humidity of 70% combined with high temperatures encourages the growth of mold or mildew, although some molds will grow at temperatures as low as 40- degrees Fahrenheit if the humidity is high. Stagnant air conditions also favor mold or mildew attacks. Once started, mold is difficult to control and serious damage may occur before the condition is detected; prevention is far easier than correction. The environment should be monitored on a regular basis to avoid the conditions favoring the growth of mold. In the initial stages, mold growth may be little more than a nuisance. The visible evidence can be brushed away, and the item can be stored under recommended conditions without further concern. In later stages, mold will digest the material upon which it grows, resulting in staining (foxing) and loss of strength of the material.

**Tip: Protecting Cook Books**
Cook Books tend to get dirty with use in the kitchen. One way to protect them is to use clear Con-Tact(R) "paper" as a book cover. Plastic jackets are nice, but are loose enough for food particles to get underneath. The clear plastic adheres to the book cover so nothing can get under it. It’s clear so you can read the cover. It’s also easy to wipe clean with a damp cloth. Be sure you fold it neatly at the corners, to prevent loosening and peeling. Although it is not normally a good idea to use adhesives on books, cookbooks are a special case.

**Tip: Why Old Books are Stronger**
Paper is an organic material composed of cellulose fibers from plants. Papers made from the Twelfth Century to the middle of the Nineteenth Century were strong and durable, as they were made by hand, generally from cotton or flax (linen) plant fibers, which are low-acid. Hand processing produced longer fibers and thicker, stronger paper. Many books and documents published prior to 1850 are still in excellent condition. Modern paper is generally made from wood fibers which have been mechanically ground to a pulp for newsprint, and then chemically purified for books and writing papers. The fibers are very short. Alum-rosin compounds used as sizing agents generate sulfuric acid under humid conditions, further breaking down the cellulose fibers. Inexpensive modern papers, such as those used in paperback books, have an expected useful life of less than 30 years. Better quality modern papers may contain
recycled cotton or linen fibers ("Rag Content"), making them more durable. Fortunately, the publishing industry has become aware the impermanency of modern papers, and quality books are now frequently printed on "acid-free" stock.

Subcategory: The Home Library

**Tip: Guide to Children’s Health**
The Children’s Hospital Guide to Your Child's Health and Development -- by Alan D. Woolf (Editor) A very useful compendium of information on the health and development of children from birth to adolescence. It's presented in a concise, authoritative format, with clear, simple illustrations. Find it here: Children's Health

Category: Book Reviews

Subcategory: Book Reviews

**Tip: How to Write a Book Review**

When it comes to writing book reviews, there are a few standard elements that always need to be in place. Knowing and having a basic understanding of these elements is the best way to get your book review off to a good start. The first element that is necessary and that should open your review is a short summary of the plot. This can include any ideas or lessons you learned, any main characters, any plot twists that won’t ruin the story, and any other plot elements that may help the reader understand what you are talking about. You can also include a brief biography of the author to help establish credibility and expertise. Next you need to have a basic argument, was the book good or bad, did it meet the goals that were set by the author, did the book make sense, and so on. After you have determined your argument, you need at least three pieces of supporting data to back up your claim. Say for instance you read a book and you said that the main character was too scared and that it hindered the reading of the story, finding three instances in which the main character was scared or unable to do something because of fear would be a great way to support your central argument. Having ample information to help support your argument is very nearly the only way that you can convince your readers that your interpretation is correct or at least well supported. The last thing that you need is a conclusion that wraps up your argument and brings the reader back to the central focus which should always be the book that you are reviewing. This conclusion will tie up your argument, bring readers back to the book, and offer a bit of food for thought for readers to take away from your review.

**Tip: Tips for Becoming a Book Reviewer**
Anyone who loves to read and write needs to look at book reviewing. Few publishers pay for book reviews, though there are magazines and newspapers that may offer payment. In lieu of payment you receive free books. Many of these books are in ARC (advanced reader copy) format and arrive months before they're sold in stores. Finding Reviewer Openings A simple online query using “book reviewer wanted” is all it takes. There are dozens of sites actively seeking book reviewers. Just make sure that you follow through and complete the review as promised. Goodreads.com is a great source for reviewers looking to get started. Authors regularly post review requests there. Create an account and respond to author requests. It doesn't take long before books arrive in your mailbox. Create reviews of products you buy from Amazon.com. If your reviews get enough votes, Amazon may invite you to become a Vine reviewer. With the Vine program, you receive books, food, electronics, and other household items free of charge in exchange for an honest review. Always be Honest The key to book reviewing is honesty. If you read a book that is lousy and create a glowing review to make an author or publisher happy, you're not helping anyone. If a book is horrible, be honest while remaining a positive spin. Don't simply state the book was a waste of money, explain what about the book bothered you – weak characters, too slowly paced, lack of cohesion, poor grammar, etc. As you gain a following, more publishers and authors send you books. Eventually, you receive so many that you can't fit them all in and end up choosing which books do make it to your reading pile. Book reviewing doesn't often pay, but the free books more than make up for it. If you're an avid reader, you'll save hundreds when you're no longer buying books from stores and websites.

Category: Kids, Books and Kids’ Books

Subcategory: Finding Good Books for Children

Tip: The Jungle Book - Rudyard Kipling

Today, most people are more familiar with Mowgli from the Disney movie than from the original book, but "The Jungle Book" is worth giving to any child. The book is a collection of stories, the best known of which feature Mowgli, the Man-Cub rescued from a tiger as an infant, and raised by wolves in the jungles of India. The book also contains "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi," the story of a heroic mongoose, and "Toomai of the Elephants," the story of a young elephant handler. The stories are fables that give moral lessons with a spoonful of sugar, and teach valuable lessons to children.

Tip: Young Reader's Choice Award (North America)

Established in 1940 to promote reading for enjoyment, the Young Reader’s Choice Award recipients are chosen by the children and young adults of Alberta, British
Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Alaska, and Washington. They are nominated, from books published 3 years previously, by librarians, teachers, students and others. The Youth Division goes to a book for grades 4-8. In 1991, a Senior Division (grades 9-12) was added to the awards program.

Category: Libraries Near and Far

Subcategory: Your Local Library

Tip: Internet Public Library

The IPL began as a graduate seminar in the School of Information and Library Studies at the University of Michigan. It has grown into a full-time project, offering the first public library for the internet community.

The Internet Public Library can be found at http://www.ipl.org/.

Category: Mysteries and Thrillers

Subcategory: Mysteries and Thrillers

Tip: Killer Pancake - Diane Mott Davidson

Davidson's intrepid caterer/amateur sleuth, Goldy Schulz, has taken on a new assignment, and Goldilocks Catering is catering the Mignon Cosmetics Low-Fat Luncheon. The job is not without its challenges - low-fat recipes, her assistant Julian's infatuation with one of Mignon's rising stars, and a mob of animal-rights activists protesting the company's testing policies outside of the luncheon. Things take a deadly turn with Julian's girlfriend ends up the victim of a hit-and-run accident before the luncheon begins, and as always, Goldy finds herself drawn into the puzzle. Who ran over the young saleswoman, and why?

Tip: Last Suppers - Diane Mott Davidson

Goldy Bear is about to embark on the happiest day of her life. The amateur sleuth and owner of Goldilocks Catering is about to marry Tom Schulz, the homicide detective that shares her passion for both food and crime-solving. But moments before the ceremony should begin, she receives an urgent call from Tom - when he arrived to pick up the minister, he finds that the rector has been shot. By the time officers arrive on the scene,
the rector is dead, and Tom is missing. Has he been kidnapped by the killer? Or has he gotten cold feet? Goldy once again finds herself trying to untie the knots and find an answer to the puzzle.

Tip: Silent Justice - William Bernhardt

"Silent Justice" is the ninth book in Bernhardt's series featuring Tulsa attorney Ben Kincaid. Against his better judgement, Bernhardt has agreed to represent a group of suburban families in a suit against the massive Blaylock Industrial Machinery Corporation. 11 children in the small community have died from leukemia, and they believe Blaylock is responsible for dumping toxic waste that ends up in the water supply. While Kincaid is trying to make his case, his friend Mike Morelli, Tulsa homicide detective, is trying to unravel a series of murders of former and current Blaylock employees. Are the murders related to the lawsuit, or is a bizarre coincidence?

Category: Publishers and Publishing

Subcategory: Tips for Writers

Tip: Book Printings

Yep, that's what it means. When collectors are looking for first editions, they are really seeking first printings. Subsequent printings are not particularly significant unless the reader is more interested in content than collectibility.

Tip: Tips For Submitting Unsolicited Manuscripts

It pays to do a little research before submitting an unsolicited manuscript to a publishing house. Some publishers don't accept such manuscripts, and submissions received are unceremoniously tossed into the trash. Check out the publishing house online - most will have a page that lists the requirements for submission.

If you hope to have the manuscript returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope which includes sufficient postage with your submissions. Be aware that publishers are under no obligation to return manuscripts. ALWAYS make sure you keep a copy of any manuscript sent out, and keep records as to where it has been submitted. Specify to the publisher if you are submitting to them alone, or to other publishers simultaneously.
Tip: Viking Press

Viking Press is an American publishing company owned by Penguin Books. It was founded in New York City in 1925 by Harold K. Guinzburg and George S. Oppenheim. They chose the original Viking ship logo as a symbol of enterprise, adventure and exploration, and their founding creed stated that the goal was to publish "a strictly limited list of good nonfiction ...with some claim to permanent importance rather than ephemeral popular interest." Over the years, authors at Viking Press have won five Nobel Prizes for Literature, and one Nobel Peace Prize, among the dozens of prizes and awards claimed. Authors that have been published through Viking Press include John Steinbeck, James Joyce, Saul Bellow (one of the Nobel Prize for Literature winners), Jack Kerouac, and J.M. Coetzee.

Category: Rare and Collectible Books

Subcategory: Identifying Collectibles

Tip: How to Identify First Editions - Number Systems

Many modern publishers use a number or letter system to designate first editions. Publishers using this system have numbers or letters similar to 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 or A B C D E where the 1 or the A indicates a first edition. If the 1 is missing as in 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9, then that book is probably a second printing, as designated by the remaining 2. Sometimes you'll find that numbers appear differently or in reverse as in 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1. Regardless of the way the numbers look, you want to spot the 1 or the A.

There are exceptions; for example, Random House will use the words First Edition in place of the number 1. Thus a Random House book stating First Edition starting at the number 2 is first edition, first state book.

Category: Reference and Resources

Subcategory: Grammar & Language

Tip: A Dictionary of Modern American Usage - Bryan Garner

An outstanding book that explains grammar and usage in precise and easy-to-understand language, this volume is dryly witty, organized and up to date, and tuned to both basic usage and advanced nuances. It seems destined to become the language usage reference book of choice.
Subcategory: Reference Works for Students

**Tip: The Oxford Companion to the Year**

Edited by Bonnie Blackburn and Leofranc Holford-Stevens, "The Oxford Companion to the Year" should have a permanent place in every personal reference library. The main body of the book gives historical and folkloric information on every day of the year; the days of the week; months; and seasons; and the major feast days and festivals in many different cultures. Find fascinating information on the making of calendars over the centuries: how our own calendar evolved, with irregular months and leap years, plus the calendars of many other cultures.

**Tip: The Quotable Book Lover - Ben Jacobs**

A collection of some of the most penetrating and insightful quotes about books and their impact on our lives, including chapters on such things as reading, writing, and bookbinding. No bibliophile should pass this one up!

Category: Self Help

Subcategory: Self Help

**Tip: Anger: Wisdom for Cooling the Flames - Thich Nhat Hanh**

Nobel Peace Prize nominee Thich Nhat Hanh tackles one of the strongest human emotions - anger. The Vietnamese monk attempts to put complex ideas into simple packages, and in the book teaches that in the end, to be angry is to suffer, and that it is our responsibility to lessen our own suffering. Our anger begins and ends with ourselves. Many of his suggestions go against some of our popular ideas of anger management. For instance, Hanh says that actions such as punching a pillow, rather than expressing and reducing our anger causes us to actually rehearse our anger.

Category: Spirituality and Religion

Subcategory: Spirituality and Religion

**Tip: Conan Doyle's Wallet: The Secrets Within - Patrick McNamara**
McNamara, a psychic-medium advisor and consultant, says that he has had spirit contacts since he was a child, including the spirit of a man with a moustache and a pleasant smile. He says it was many years later that he realized the spirit that he saw was Arthur Conan Doyle. McNamara believes that Conan Doyle's spirit gave him guidance and support through the years. This spiritual connection encouraged his interest in items from Conan Doyle's estate when they came up for auction in London. He attended the auction and was able to purchase a wallet that had been packed up and left largely untouched since Conan Doyle's death in 1930. In his book, McNamara examines the personal items he found in the wallet and shares the information he obtained from them. He also gives a history of Conan Doyle and the author's belief in spiritualism, as well as discussing his own beliefs. McNamara helps readers understand that how we live our lives on earth determines our path in the afterlife.

Category: Travel, Outdoors and Nature

Subcategory: Travel, Outdoors and Nature

Tip: Frommer's Guides

Frommer's Guides are one of the most popular travel guides series in the United States. It began with a single book by Arthur Frommer, "Europe on $5 a Day." Since then, the series has expanded to include over 350 guidebooks in 14 different categories, including Memorable Walks, For Dummies Travel Guides, Driving Tours, With Kids, and Complete Guides. There is also the Frommers.com website, covering over 4000 destinations.

Tip: Lonely Planet Guide Books

Lonely Planet Publications is one of the largest travel guidebook publishers in the world. There are over 500 titles in print in 8 languages, and the books are aimed largely at backpackers and budget travelers. There is also a website at http://www.lonelyplanet.com/, with a community of over 500,000 members.

Category: True Crime

Subcategory: True Crime

Tip: The Stranger Beside Me - Ann Rule
The introductory book by Ann Rule quickly became a bestseller when it was released in 1980. The story of Ted Bundy was already fascinating to a society unfamiliar with the idea of a serial killer. The fact that Rule was able to present the story from the perspective of a reluctant participant and friend of the accused added an irresistible twist and a personal touch that few other books can claim. Like most who knew Bundy, Rule found it hard to believe that the handsome and charismatic young man that worked with her on the local suicide crisis hotline could also be a cold and calculating killer. "The Stranger Beside Me" details the investigation into the abductions and murders that began in Washington and continued in Bundy's wake through Utah, Colorado, and Florida, where Bundy was convicted and eventually put to death.