

## Maura's Top Favorites – 2009

1. ***A Girl Named Zippy: Growing Up Small in Mooreland, Indiana***, by Haven Kimmel (A surprisingly lovely book – my favorite of the year!)
2. ***Goat Song***, by Brad Kessler (Another gem – just skip the part about the nasty bucks if you're easily grossed out)
3. ***All Roads Lead Me Back To You***, Kennedy Foster (Okay, this is a cowgirl book, but it's set in the Palouse and is above average writing, and I'd read it again just for fun)
4. ***No Place Like Home: News from a Western Life***, by Linda M Hasselstrom (One of my favorite writers and a good friend to boot, who shows how community is not just important it's imperative)
5. ***The Color of Lightning***, by Paulette Jiles (Set in 1887 in north Texas, this is a great follow-up to *Enemy Women*, another favorite)
6. ***The Last Cowgirl***, by Jana Richman (I liked this so much I wrote Jana and told her so. Another great setting, this time in Utah)
7. ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie***, by Mary Anne Shaffer & Annie Barrows (A surprise treat and a very different perspective of the War – you'll be hooked after the first chapter)
8. ***Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time***, by Michael Perry (This was just good old Wisconsin fun to read)
9. ***Gone Tomorrow***, by PF Kluge (I love books about academia, especially when they are well written and in novel form – if you like this try *Straightman*, by Richard Russo a favorite audio book of ours from 2007)
10. ***Her Fearful Symmetry***, by Audrey Niffenegger (I don't know about this book but it's still hanging around in my head so that says something)
11. ***Little Bee***, by Chris Cleave (Another strange book that haunts me)

## Audio Books – MTC (I read these on my solo commutes)

1. ***The Wild Trees***, by Richard Preston – read by George K Wilson (David read this as a book, but I thought it was easier to listen to)
2. ***No Good Deeds***, by Laura Lippman – read by Linda Emond (Cutting myself some slack and getting lost in some good old fashioned mysteries)
3. ***The Uncommon Reader***, by Alan Bennett – read by the author (A little gem I stumbled on)
4. ***Skeletons at the Feast***, by Chris Bohjalian – read by Mark Bramhall
5. ***About Alice***, by Calvin Trillin – read by the author
6. ***She's Come Undone***, by Wally Lamb – read by Linda Stephens (Nice long engrossing story – the best kind of books for daily commutes)
7. ***A Widow for One Year***, by John Irving - read by George Guidall (Ditto)
8. ***One For the Money & Two for the Dough***, both by Janet Evanovich read by CJ Critt (more escapist reading for the stressed out home builder ☺)

## David 2009 Favorites (Comments by Maura)

1. ***The Hearts of Horses***, by Molly Gloss (We met Molly in Chelan in May when we saw her at a book reading at the local bookstore – it was delightful to hear her read part of this story. David even took some good photos of Molly and I had time to chat her up a bit)
2. ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie***, by Shaffer & Barrows
3. ***Where Rivers Change Directions***, by Mark Spragg (A delightful non-fiction story about growing up outside of East Yellowstone)
4. ***The Color of Lightning***, by Paulette Jiles
5. ***Her Fearful Symmetry***, by Audrey Niffenegger
6. ***The Wild Trees***, by Richard Preston
7. ***The Heartsong of Charging Elk***, by James Welch
8. ***The Road***, by Cormac McCarthy
9. ***Goat Song***, by Brad Kessler
10. ***Wandering Home***, by Bill McKibben
11. ***Pocketful of Names***, by Joe Coomer
12. ***Wildlife***, by Molly Gloss
13. ***Beachcombing for a Shipwrecked God***, by Joe Coomer (If you haven't introduced yourself to Joe Coomer, a Texas transplant to Maine, you are in for a treat. Start at the beginning- *Decatur Road & Kentucky Love* and work your way up to *A Pocketful of Names*. You won't regret it – Trust me)

## Audio Books – Our Favorites (of the ones we listened to together)

1. ***Eleventh Man***, by Ivan Doig – read by Tom Stechschulte
2. ***Cities of the Plain***, by Cormac McCarthy – read by Frank Mueller
3. ***Homeland & Other Stories***, by Barbara Kingsolver – read by Paula Parker
4. ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle***, by David Wroblewski – narrated by Richard Poe
5. ***1,000 Splendid Suns***, by Khaled Hosseini – read by David Baron
6. ***Mudbound***, by Hillary Jordan – read by various narrators
7. ***The Hour I First Believed***, by Wally Lamb – read by George Guidall
8. ***The Map of the World***, by Jane Hamilton – read by CJ Critt & Frank Muller
9. ***Nathan Coulter***, by Wendell Berry – read by Paul Michael
10. ***Narrow Dog to Carcassonne***, by Terry Darlington – read by Steve Hodson
11. ***The English Major***, by Jim Harrison – read by Mark Bramhall
12. ***Art in America***, by Ron McLarty – read by the author (Fun guy, great listening to his New York accent – bonus! it's set in Colorado)
13. ***The Testament***, by John Grishom – read by Frank Mueller