

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 Bennet – 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