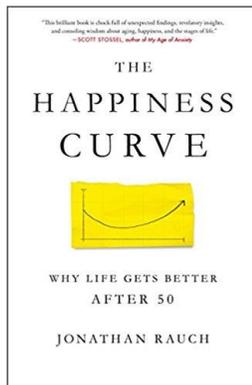


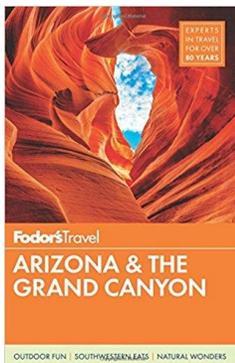
The Winter of Frankie Machine

Why I enjoyed reading this book: This is probably my favorite book Don Winslow has written. Somehow I was rooting for a retired hitman who was being chased by both the cops and the mob. Great characters, intriguing story lines, plus since it takes place in southern California I can imagine scene even better.



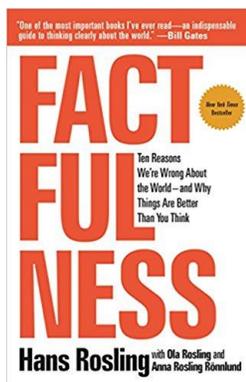
The Happiness Curve: Why Life Gets Better After 50

Why I enjoyed reading this book: Data across various countries and socioeconomic brackets show a steady decline in happiness starting in one's 20's and typically bottoming in their 40's followed by a steady increase in reported happiness as people approach their 50's. The author does a great job of combining research in the fields of economics and psychology along with great story to keep the reader engaged and entertained.



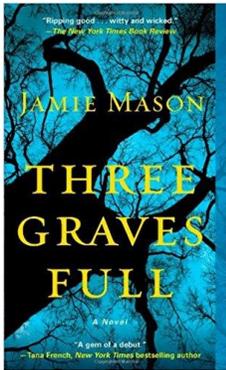
Fodor's Travel Books

Why I enjoyed reading this book: Before we leave for anywhere new, my wife will buy a Fodor travel book for that area. These books do a great job of covering the main attractions as well as uncovering hidden gems. Maps, pictures, restaurant reviews and travel tips are also included in every book.



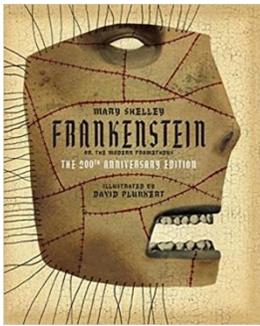
Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think

Why I enjoyed reading this book: I started reading this book because of the review Bill Gates gave of it: "One of the most important books I've ever read – an indispensable guide to thinking clearly about the world." I kept reading this book because it does a great job of showing how the world is getting better (lower infant mortality, less pollution, better worker safety, etc.) and why are brains are biased to hear the negative and ignore the positive.



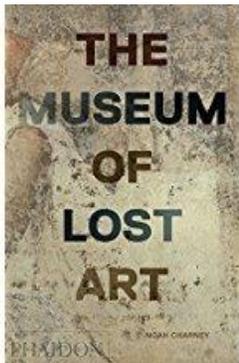
Three Graves Full

Why I enjoyed reading this book: The main character in this book, mild mannered Jason Getty, reminded me of the main character in the Edgar Allan Poe poem, The Raven. In a fit of rage Jason kills someone and buries him in his backyard. Just as the guilt and worry about this start to go away, a landscaping crew uncovers two more graves in his backyard.



Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

Why I enjoyed reading this book: I was intrigued by how different, in action thoughts and feelings, both the creator and the creation were in the book than how they have been portrayed in all the various movies in the 200 years since the book was first published in 1818. I thought I knew the story before I started reading it. I was wrong.



The Museum of Lost Art

Why I enjoyed reading this book: The author argues that our understanding of art history is skewed by survivorship bias and that to understand the art we still have, it's critical to put it in the context of what's been lost. I am neither an artist nor an art lover but the author did a good job of keeping me interested in art and history.