# THE WELL-FORMED HEADS’

LIST OF MEETINGS

8/22/2024

6/97: Angela's Ashes, Frank McCourt (JDI)

Pizza and Irish beer.

SDC 9, 9; JLSC 5, 5; JDI 8, 8; CAK absent; EWK 8, 8; JCL 7, 7; DRR 7, 7; JMS 9, 9; WTT 7, 7.

8-reader avg=7.50; trued 6-reader avg=7.67

7/97: Edison: Inventing the Century, Neil Baldwin (JCL)

Smarties, Lite beer, sharp cheddar cheese and Smart popcorn.

SDC 2, 2; JLSC 4, 4; JDI 4, 4; CAK 0, 0; EWK 4, 4; JCL 6, 6; DRR 1, 1; JMS 4, 4; WTT 2, 2.

9-reader avg=3.00; trued 7-reader avg=3.00

8/97: Suttree, Cormac McCarthy (DRR suggestion; JLSC host)

Box Turtle Brown beer, soiled watermelon, catfish dip and goldfish crackers.

SDC absent; JLSC 8, 8; JDI 7, 7; CAK 7, 8; EWK 7, 7; JCL 4, 5; DRR 9, 9; JMS absent; WTT 6, 7.

7-reader avg=7.07; trued 5-reader avg=7.20

9/97: The Painted Bird, Jerzy Kozinski (SDC)

Eastern European sausages, mustards and breads, sauerkraut, pickled beets, cookies, Stolichnaya Vodka, beer.

SDC 7, 8; JLSC 8, 8; JDI 6, 7; CAK absent; EWK DNR; JCL absent; DRR 6, 6; JMS DNR; WTT 7, 6.

5-reader avg=6.90; trued 3-reader avg=6.83

10/97: The Crying of Lot 49, Thomas Pynchon (DRR suggestion; EWK host)

Bugles, Thurn and Taxis beer.

SDC 4, 4; JLSC 6, 6; JDI 5, 5; CAK absent; EWK 8, 7; JCL absent; DRR 8, 8; JMS 5, 7; WTT absent.

6-reader avg=6.08; trued 4-reader avg=6.10

11/97: Galapagos, Kurt Vonnegut (WTT)

Sushi, Swedish meatballs, wings, chocolate turtles and quail eggs (Jordan almonds).

SDC 6, 7; JLSC 7, 7; JDI 8, 8; CAK 9, 9; EWK 9, 9; JCL 8, 8; DRR 7, 7; JMS 7, 8; WTT 9, 9.

9-reader avg=7.89; trued 7-reader avg=7.93

12/97: Another Roadside Attraction, Tom Robbins (WTT suggestion; JMS host)

Stuffed mushrooms, assorted crostini, sausage in red sauce w/mushrooms.

SDC 5, 6; JLSC 2, 2; JDI 4, 5; CAK absent; EWK absent; JCL 8, 8; DRR 7, 7; JMS 6, 6; WTT 8, 8.

7-reader avg=5.88; trued 5-reader avg=6.20

1/98: Cold Mountain, Charles Frazier (JDI suggestion; CAK host)

Biscuits, ham, pork rinds, fried okra, Greenshields beer, Rebel Yell bourbon.

SDC 7, 7; JLSC 8, 8; JDI absent; CAK 7, 7; EWK 8, 8; JCL 8, 9; DRR 6, 6; JMS 7, 7; WTT absent.

7-reader avg=7.36; trued 5-reader avg=7.40

2/98: Plays Well With Others, Allan Gurganus (DRR)

NY style pizza, shrimp, pineapple upside-down cake, Chilean champagne, Neptune 66 beer, Big City Porter.

SDC 4, 4; JLSC 6, 6; JDI 6, 6; EWK 7, 7; JCL absent; DRR 6, 6; JMS absent; WTT DNR.

5-reader avg=5.80; trued 3-reader avg=6.00

3/98: God’s Little Acre, Erskine Caldwell (JMS suggestion; JDI host)

Ham biscuits, black-eyed peas, cheese grits and shrimp, Corona and Dos Equis beer.

SDC 6, 6; JLSC 7, 7 (via telephone); JDI 7, 7; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR 6, 6; KS 7, 7; JMS 9, 9; WTT 8, 8.

7-reader avg=7.14; trued 5-reader avg=7.00

4/98: 1984, George Orwell (DRR suggestion; Beach; JCL midnight shoot-up)

Joe’s red sauce, Thom’s version, Brandon Silva’s meatballs, Cele’s shrimp boil and cornbread, Thom’s garlic broccoli, Cele’s pancakes and Kevin’s leftovers omlettes, list of beer and wine and liquor too long to remember.

SDC 8, 8; JLSC 9, 9; JDI 5, 5; EWK absent; JCL 7, 7; DRR 8, 8; KS 9, 9; JMS 7, 7; WTT 5, 4.

8-reader avg=7.19; trued 6-reader avg=7.33

5/98: A Canticle for Liebowitz, Walter M. Miller (JLSC suggestion; JCL host)

Communion wafers and wine, bagels, lean pastrami, cheese and sauerkraut, Monastic beer.

SDC 7, 8; JLSC absent; JDI 7, 7; EWK 7, 7; JCL 7, 7; DRR 5, 4; KS 5, 6; JMS 7, 7; WTT 8, 8.

8-reader avg=6.69; trued 6-reader avg=6.83

6/98: Ringworld, Larry Niven (SDC’s dad’s suggestion (but blame JCL); JLSC host)

Rings (pretzel, onion, gummi savers), food bricks (thick rye crackers w/garlic hummus), various beers.

SDC 5, 4; JLSC 5, 5; JDI (from flat on his back) 6; EWK 7, 7; JCL 9, 8; DRR 4, 3; KS absent; JMS 6, 5; WTT 7, 6.

8-reader avg=5.80; trued 6-reader avg=5.75

7/98: A Hundred Years of Solitude, Gabriel Garcia Marquez (KS suggestion; SDC host)

Wings, dirt, bean dip, hot sauce, goldfish, bananas, oranges, candy animals, garlic aoli (it is Celes house), lemonade, Corona, champagne.

SDC 6, 7; JLSC 8, 8; JDI 7, 7; EWK 7, 7; JCL 6, 6; DRR 8, 8; KS 9, 9; JMS 6, 7; WTT 9, 9.

9-reader avg=7.44; trued 7-reader avg=7.43

8/98: A Confederacy of Dunces, William Kennedy Toole (KS)

Jambalaya, crayfish, hot dogs, cornbread, hurricanes, Dixie beer.

SDC 6, 6; JLSC 6, 7; JDI 6, 6; EWK 7, 7; JCL 9, 9 by phone; DRR 6, 6; KS 7, 7; JMS 6, 6; WTT 7, 7 on a Big Chief tablet in crayon.

9-reader avg=6.72; trued 7-reader avg=6.50

9/98: The Old Gringo, Carlos Fuentes (JLSC suggestion; EWK host)

Chips and salsa, killer burritos, Corona and Dos Equis beer, tequila shots.

SDC 5, 5; JLSC absent; JDI 6, 6; EWK 6, 7; JCL 3, 3; DRR 7, 6; KS 4, 4; JMS 6, 6; WTT 3, 3.

8-reader avg=5.00; trued 6-reader avg=5.00

10/98: Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter, Mario Vargas Llosa (JMS suggestion; WTT host).

Chips and salsa, carne asada burritos, fresh sausage, black beans, spicy ricy, Polar beer, Guiness ale.

SDC (iib) 5, 5; JLSC (Latin American hijinks) 6, 6; JDI (often tedious) 5, 5; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR (too autobiographical) 5, 5; KS (entertaining, but?) 5, 5; JMS absent; WTT (too long, confusingly funny) 6, 5.

6-reader avg=5.25; trued 4-reader avg=5.20

11/98: The Sun Also Rises, Ernest Hemingway(SDC suggestion; SDC host for JMS)

Smoked trout, sausage and mushrooms in red sauce, French bread, British beer, Sangre de Toro wine in a bota or glass, Pernod and hats, marvelous hats.

SDC (loyalty, fealty, lost) 9, 9; JLSC (bloody sublime) 9, 8; JDI (short, cogent, unfinished) 7, 8; EWK (traveloge, fine, interaction) 7, 7; JCL (stank like ripper) 3, 4; DRR (tight-lipped emotion) 7, 7; KS (poetic, tight, unrewarding) 6, 7; JMS (classical, romantic, afficionado) 9, 10; WTT (vivid) 8, 9.

9-reader avg=7.44; trued 7-reader avg=7.71

12/98: Demian, Herman Hesse (JCL suggestion; DRR host)

Black Forest ham, German sausages and sauerkraut, pretzels, deviled eggs, angel food cake, German beer.

SDC (“my blood whispers”) 7, 7; JLSC absent; JDI (longwinded quasi-psycho drabble) 4, 4; EWK (true coming-of-age) 8, 8; JCL (should’ve gotten laid) 8, 8; DRR (methodical) 6, 7; KS absent; JMS absent; WTT (overly self-indulgent) 6, 6.

6-reader avg=6.58; trued 4-reader avg=6.70

1/99: Double Whammy, Carl Hiaasen (WTT suggestion; JCL host)

Bass, goldfish, gummy worms, cheese and crackers, Moon Pies, Rocky Road cake, Bass Ale, Pete’s Strawberry Blonde.

SDC absent; JLSC (high end sleaze) 4, 4; JDI absent; EWK (bizarre) 5, 5; JCL (small-town, small-minds insights) 8, 8; DRR (entertaining, formulaic, predictable) 5, 5; KS (funny, entertaining, formulaic) 6, 6; JMS (mildly entertaining lunker) 5, 5; WTT (ribald) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=5.71; trued 5-reader avg=5.60

2/99: Slaughterhouse 5, Kurt Vonnegut (WTT suggestion; JDI host)

Roast beef sandwiches, quiche, German beer, Guiness, pistachios.

SDC (healthy Hitler humor) 8, 8; JLSC (not quite Sirens) 6, 6; JDI (curious, jumpy, revealing) 7, 7; EWK (wildhack, war sucks) 4, 5; JCL 6, 6; DRR (pithy aimless pacificism) 7, 8; KS (adroit, salient, inverted) 8, 8; JMS (life, death, so-it-goes) 7, 7; SS (death, time, high school) 6, 6; WTT (rapturous, epiphanic) 10, 10.

10-reader avg=7.00; trued 8-reader avg=6.94

3/99: Catch-22, Joseph Heller (JLSC)

Sausages, cheese, hummus, dates, hard-boiled eggs from Malta, Egyptian chocolate-covered cotton, various beers.

SDC (brilliant moments camouflaged) 7, 7; JLSC (great American novel) 8, 8; JDI (odd, disjointed mirth) 5, 6; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR (hilarious, too long) 6, 6; KS (literary vertigo) 8, 8; JMS (brilliant, genius, maze-creation) 8, 8; SS (absurd, hilarious, sobering) 8, 8; WTT in absentia 6, 6.

8-reader avg=7.06; trued 6-reader avg=7.17

4/99: A Rumor of War, Philip Capuyo (SDC suggestion; beach; WTT slept through dinner)

Joe’s red sauce on FRESH pasta and stuffed mushrooms that Thom slept through, Brandon Silva’s jambalaya, Kevin’s squash stir-fry, Cele’s pancakes and Thom’s orange French toast, list of beer and wine and liquor too long to remember.

SDC (stand the-f\_\_\_ by) 7, 8; JLSC (314 thank God) 6, 7; JDI (Chapter 16 quote) 9, 9; EWK (gory scary true) 7, 7; JCL (bloody little mess) 6, 6; DRR (gritty real war) 7, 7; KS (visceral eloquent) 8, 8; JMS DNR; SS in absentia (Canada looks good) 8, 8; WTT (torturous) 5, 5.

9-reader avg=7.11; trued 7-reader avg=7.14

5/99: Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer (JCL suggestion; SS host [at Adams *Mountain*, get it?])

Nachos, wings, pot-stickers, yak-chip cookies, various beers.

SDC (sherpas, sauce, sorrow) 7, 7; JLSC (better them than we) 8, 8; JDI (breathtaking, absorbing, injudicious) 7, 7; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR (enthralling machosism) 6, 6; KS (cold) 5, 5; JMS absent; SS (why die high?) 6, 6; WTT (journalistically raw) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=6.57; trued 5-reader avg=6.60

6/99: The Ginger Man, J.P. Donleavy (KS suggestion; JMS host)

Smoked salmon, cheese and crackers, bruschetta, stout and other Irish and British beers.

SDC (me broker’s arse) 6, 6; JLSC (poor man’s Joyce) 4, 5; JDI (not quite finished) 6, 6; EWK (gasman bad poetry) 7, 7; JCL absent; DRR (poor Joyce stream-of-unconscious) 4, 4; KS (delightfully lecherous sod) 7, 6; JMS (lecherous Irish comedy) 6, 7; SS absent; WTT (too close to home) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=5.94; trued 6-reader avg=6.08

7/99: A Regular Guy, Mona Simpson (JLSC suggestion; EWK host)

Veggies and dip, apples and caramel dip, fruit salad, cheese and crackers, cherries, hard cider, Newcastle and Corona.

SDC (what’s the point?) 4, 4; JLSC (Silicon Valley vibes) 7, 7; JDI (waste of time) 3, 3; EWK (sensitive guy—not!) 4, 4; JCL (reflection and reminiscing) 6, 6; DRR in absentia (disjointed, poorly researched) 3, 3; KS absent; JMS (not very interesting) 4, 4; SS (pretentious literary blather) 4, 4; WTT absent.

8-reader avg=4.38; trued 6-reader avg=4.17

8/99: Ironweed, William Kennedy (EWK suggestion; KS host).

Italian sausage, peppers and onions in red sauce, red wine and beer.

SDC (touching wrist slasher) 6, 6; JLSC (a bum’s dream) 7, 8; JDI (truth requiring handling) 8, 8; EWK (colorful cold) 7, 8; JCL absent; DRR in absentia (abridged Suttree) 8, 8; KS DNR; JMS (telescoping life-and-death, Albany-style) 7, 8; SS (redemptive haunting pathos) 8, 8; WTT (terrestrial depression) 7, 8.

8-reader avg=7.50; trued 6-reader avg=7.67

9/99: Short Cuts, Raymond Carver (KS suggestion; DRR host)

Trout and potatoes, pizza, cinnamon rolls, whiskey, scotch, Sierra Nevada Pale Ale and Red Hook ESB.

SDC (I can’t decide) 6, 7; JLSC absent; JDI by phone from the field of dreams 8, 9; EWK (bars are trouble) 6, 7; JCL (bizarre normal Everyman) 7, 8; DRR (slices of odd-realism) 7, 8; KS (tightly packed realism) 8, 9; JMS (tasty insipid slices) 7, 8; SS via email (visceral, unsettling real) 8, 8; WTT (gripping reality fits) 8, 8.

9-reader avg=7.61; trued 7-reader avg=7.64

10/99: Elvis, Jesus and Coca Cola, Kinky Friedman (WTT)

Hairy steak burritos, mashed potatoes, pork pies, chips and salsa, pretzels, Jameson’s Irish whiskey, Guiness, Amstel Light and Sierra Nevada Pale Ale.

SDC (sucking head wound) 6, 6; JLSC absent; JDI (lighthearted quasi-lame non-literary) 4, 5; EWK absent; JCL (tiresome lingo exercise) 3, 4; DRR (kinky inside jokes) 4, 4; KS (clever dispassionate unfocused) 4, 5; JMS absent; SS (light humorous entertainment) 5, 5; WTT (quick fun tv series?) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=4.93; trued 5-reader avg=4.80

11/99: Under the Volcano, Malcolm Lowry(DRR suggestion; JDI host)

Beef and chicken enchiladas, black beans, chips and salsa, pistachios, tequila, mescal and many Mexican beers.

SDC (just couldn’t man) DNF; JLSC (worth the work) 6, 6; JDI (perfect inappropriate moments) 3, 3; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR (synchronistic self-indulgent isolation) 7, 7; KS (bottomless collosal boredom) 2, 2; JMS DNR; SS absent; WTT (unengaging sottish ramble) 1, 1.

5-reader avg=3.80; trued 3-reader avg=3.67; trued average of those who read the entire book=NA.

12/99: A Prayer for Owen Meany, John Irving (JDI suggestion; JCL host)

[Lady]fingers, cheese and crackers, chips and salsa, M&M’s and beers.

SDC (perverted faith journey) 8, 8; JLSC (big Rube Goldberg doink) 6, 6; JDI (faith or fate?) 9, 9; EWK absent; JCL (struggle of faith) 7, 8; DRR (too much Meaneying) 5, 5; KS (warm endearing ponderous) 6, 6; JMS (faith New England television) 7, 8; SS (fate; fabulous faith) 8, 8; WTT (not a day-in-the-life) 7, 8.

9-reader avg=7.17; trued 7-reader avg=7.21

1/00: The Shipping News, E. Annie Proulx (JCL suggestion; SS host)

Wavey’s wings, cheese and crackers, chips and salsa, fruit and beers.

SDC (meaty chick book) 7, 7; JLSC absent; JDI (life goes on) 7, 7; EWK (hope knots watermen) 8, 8; JCL (tight knots unsnarled) 8, 8; DRR (arrrrrr love) 7, 7; KS absent; JMS (sparse hardscrabble nautical) 7, 7; SS (anthropologic humanistic serenity) 7, 7; WTT absent.

7-reader avg=7.29; trued 5-reader avg=7.20

2/00: The Moviegoer, Walker Percy (JLSC suggestion; SDC host)

Exquisite grillade and grits, Rollos, popcorn, Maker’s Mark bourbon, red wine and beer (Dixie and Voodoo).

SDC (breathakingly uninspiring masterpiece) 5, 5; JLSC via email (angst, alienation, existentialism (and the search for epiphany!) 8, 8; JDI absent; EWK (continual rotation) 6, 6; JCL absent; DRR (searching for a life) 5, 5; KS (desperate existential rotations) 6, 6; JMS (spinning, malaise, listening) 6, 6; SS (alive not living OR difficult, confusing, absorbing) 6, 6; WTT absent.

7-reader avg=6.00; trued 5-reader avg=5.80

3/00: ‘Tis, Frank McCourt (SDC suggestion; JLSC host)

Juicy, delicious cheeseburgers, home fries, lemon meringue pie, Guiness, Harp and Kaliber.

SDC (introverted, inebriate, quasi-immigrant) 7, 7; JLSC (‘tis ‘taint) 4, 4; JDI (Cobb was right!) 5, 5; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR (och aye, enough) 4, 4; KS (loved Angela’s Ashes, will skip this one); JMS in absentia (sequel) 6, 5; SS via email (‘tis enough already) 5, 5; WTT (‘tis enough already) 5, 5.

7-reader avg=5.07; trued 5-reader avg=4.90

3/24-26/00: The Reader, Bernhard Schlink (SS suggestion; beach; Stormy gets broken in)

Bruschetta, mozzarella, peppers, prosciutto, spinach w/garlic, pasta w/Joe’s red sauce and sausages, chicken stir-fry, beer and tequila, etc.

SDC (nazi nookie novella) 5, 6; JLSC (Nazis in love) 5, 4; JDI (sexy, philosophical, thought-provoking) 6, 6; EWK (pride, young love) 6, 6; JCL DNF; DRR (zaftig reading) 7, 6; KS (distant bankrupt morality) 5, 6; JMS (understanding? condemnation? both?) 6, 6; SS (concentrated cocentric coercion) 7, 7; WTT (post-coital letdown) 7, 6.

9-reader avg=5.94; trued 7-reader avg=6.00

5/00: Farewell to Arms, Ernest Hemingway (JMS suggestion; JMS host)

Gorgonzola, chicken piccata, brushcetta w/Joe’s red sauce and sausages, vermouth and Italian vino.

SDC (ugly American redeemed) 8, 8; JLSC (fortunately, she died) 6, 6; JDI (like a whore) 6, 6; EWK (“good girl”) 7, 6; JCL (better than before) 6, 6; DRR (fine unrefined rain) 6, 6; KS (sparsely furnished nuggets) 6, 5; JMS (war with wine) 8, 8; SS in absentia (Papa’s the man) 7, 7; WTT in absentia (monotonous tedium) 4, 5.

10-reader avg=6.35; trued 8-reader avg=6.38

6/00: Ulysses, James Joyce (EWK host)

7/00: A Gathering of Old Men, Ernest Gaines (EWK suggestion; JLSC host)

Bojangles fried chicken, Cajun beans, dirty rice, peanuts, Moon Pies, RC Cola and beer (including Negro Modelo and Honey Brown Ale).

SDC (What Charlie Seen?) 6, 6; JLSC (made for TV) 5, 5; JDI (perfect mini-series or I did it) 5, 5; EWK (pride, family, revenge) 7, 7; JCL absent; DRR in absentia (shallow execution) 5, 5; KS (predictable conundrum) 6, 6; JMS (shi[f]ting racial perpective) 6, 6; SS (ebony and ivory) 6, 6; WTT (segregated, on purpose?) 7, 6.

9-reader avg=5.83; trued 7-reader avg=5.79

8/00: The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven, Sherman Alexie (WTT suggestion; DRR host)

Hotdogs, french fries, beef jerky, smoked salmon, marinated green beans, tomato and commodity cheese salad, Coors Light and Red Hook ESB.

SDC (Say yah-hey, Willie) 6, 6; JLSC (red dead frybread) 6, 6; JDI in absentia (conflicted cultural rehashing) 6, 6; EWK (vision drunken fancydancer) 5, 5; JCL absent; DRR (no reservations rambling) 5, 5; KS (hopeful hopeless hilarious) 8, 8; JMS (Spokane reservation chi) 6, 6; SS (slamdunk fancydancer) 8, 8; WTT (gripping melodic poignancy) 8, 8.

9-reader avg=6.44; trued 7-reader avg=6.43

9/00: The Rings of Saturn, W.G. Sebald (DRR suggestion; KS host)

Pretzels, veggies and dip, albino knockwurst, sauerkraut and schizo beer (German? English?).

SDC (travelogue for zzzzzz) 4, 3; JLSC (quintessential something) 9, 9; JDI absent; EWK (much about nothing) 7, 7; JCL (manifest destiny deconstructionism) 6, 7; DRR in absentia (wonderment, despair, outrage) 7, 7; KS (mesmerizing depression) 4, 4; JMS (odds and sods) 2, 4; SS (enigmatic disturbing melancholy) 7, 7; WTT DNF 5, 5.

9-reader avg=5.78; trued 7-reader avg=5.79

10/00: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, J.K. Rowling (JDI suggestion; SDC host)

Dragon’s breath 13-bean chili, roast turkey buzzard sandwiches, boiled dragon eggs, pumpkin pasty pie, Berty Bott’s every flavor beans, Boddington’s Pub Ale, John Courage Ale, Bass Ale, Coors Light, crème soda.

SDC (boyhood revisited) 7, 8; JLSC (whopping good yarn) 6, 7; JDI (fun, fantasy, fantastic) 8, 8; EWK in absentia 7, 7; JCL recovering from a quidditch mishap; DRR in absentia 5, 5; KS 5, 6; JMS (muggle mythology for minors) 6, 6; SS in absentia (a cute book) 6, 6; WTT (epiphany-lacking emotive pablum) 5, 3.

9-reader avg=6.17; trued 7-reader avg=6.21

11/00: Stranger in a Strange Land, Robert A. Heinlein (JCL suggestion; JCL host)

Honey Buns, angel food cake, cheese cake, DNA water, Maker’s Mark, Christian Brothers brandy, wine, beer.

SDC (grok-n-korg) 8, 8; JLSC (low-brow hippie scifi) 6, 6; JDI (catenative assemblage o’ philosophy) 7, 7; EWK (brotherhood is fullness) 8, 9; JCL (babe-a-licious) 8, 8; DRR (deep pulpy fullness) 7, 7; KS absent; JMS (grok, cusp, water) 7, 7; SS in absentia (erotic biblical allegory) 6, 6; WTT on sabbatical.

8-reader avg=7.19; trued 6-reader avg=7.17

12/00: The Poisonwood Bible, Barbara Kingsolver (SS suggestion; JDI host)

Chicken, mgwansi beans, manioc, blood oranges (actually, pink grapefruit), Devil’s Elbow IPA, Belgian White beer, Dixie Blackened and Crimson Voodoo beer.

SDC (tree eyes v. Jesus) 7, 8; JLSC (Rachel rules) 8, 8; JDI (things fall apart) 8, 8; EWK present but abstaining; JCL absent; DRR (evol amen enema) 5, 6; KS (journeys of relativity) 8, 8; JMS (tsal semoc tsrif) 8, 8; SS (technicolor black & white) 8, 8; WTT on sabbatical.

7-reader avg=7.57; trued 5-reader avg=7.90

1/01: Little Big Man, Tom Berger (SDC suggestion; SS host)

Mary’s Cincinnati puppy chili, buffalo grass salad, biscuits, cornpone, whiskey and assorted beers.

SDC (native chi, death) 8, 8; JLSC (better read instead) 7, 7; JDI absent; EWK (medicine, mysticism) 7, 7; JCL absent; DRR (deep shallow yarn) 7, 7; KS (melody harmony practicality) 8, 9; JMS (good day to die) 7, 7; SS (heap good medicine) 7, 8; WTT on sabbatical.

7-reader avg=7.43; trued 5-reader avg=7.30

2/01: Chang and Eng, Darin Strauss (KS suggestion; JLSC host)

Pad Thai, In satay, Thai tofu wonton, Sing Ha and assorted other malt beverages.

SDC (Mekong double-dong) 5, 5; JLSC (silk sow’s ear) 6, 6; JDI (memory has 2 faces) 4, 4; EWK absent; JCL (Chang-Eng, double-bore) 4, 4; DRR (double trouble) 5, 5; KS (cartilage equals anguish) 6, 6; JMS (just not me (or me)X2) 4, 4; SS (better after aging) 5, 5; WTT on sabbatical.

8-reader avg=4.88; trued 6-reader avg=4.83

3/01: To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee (JMS)

Italian bread w/pesto, chicken parmagiana, meatloaf, carrots, beer, wine and whiskey.

SDC (epiphany of choice) 8, 9; JLSC (surnamed dogs) 9, 9; JDI (better than Meaney) 8, 8; EWK (gentlemen society prejudice) 8, 8; JCL (pure inspirational morality) 8, 8; DRR (Oscar material) 6, 7; KS (Atticus for President) 8, 8; JMS (mournful Southern song) 9, 9; SS (Dixie innocence distilled) 7, 8; WTT on sabbatical.

9-reader avg=8.06; trued 7-reader avg=8.14

3/24/01: Devil in a Blue Dress, Walter Mosley (JLSC suggestion; beach; cigarette girl)

JD’s potato chip chicken and mashed potatoes, Joe-Steve’s HEAVENLY lasagna, beer, wine, beer, tequila, beer, etc.

SDC (muted violence, zebra-sex) 6, 6; JLSC (poor man’s blood) 7, 7; JDI (Mouse da man) 7, 7; EWK (excellently sleazy, smokey) 8, 7; JCL (pulp jive fiction) 5, 5; DRR (noir nookie novella) 5, 5; KS absent; JMS ((L.A. noir fatale) 6, 6; SS (I’s one confused nigger) 6, 5; WTT on sabbatical.

8-reader avg=6.13; trued 6-reader avg=6.08

5/01: Zorba the Greek, Nikos Kazantzakis (EWK suggestion; DRR host)

Assorted olives and Middle Eastern pies (spinach, meat, cheese), tabouli, stuffed grape leaves, hummus, pita, Athenian beer, ouzo.

SDC (dancing brutish folly) 6, 7; JLSC (mighty mythic man) 6, 6; JDI (lovers brothers life) 5, 6; EWK (dance instructor needed) 9, 9; JCL absent; DRR (old man Demian) 5, 6; KS absent; JMS (week-old macadamia cookies) 5, 6; SS (living life large) 7, 7; WTT absent.

7-reader avg=6.43; trued 5-reader avg=6.20

6/01: The Elementary Particles, Michel Houellebecq (DRR suggestion; EWK host)

Assorted French cheese, Napoleans and French whine.

SDC (Einstein meets Guccione) 6, 6; JLSC (ennui, non epiphany) 3, 3; JDI via email (not mental, genetic) 7, 7; EWK (French phallic fantasy) 5, 5; JCL (subatomic salacious spurt-fest) 7, 7; DRR (twisted sexistential angst) 7, 7; KS (inconsistent intellectual masturbation) 3, 3; JMS absent; SS (enigmatic pseudo-scientific pornobabble) 6, 5; WTT absent.

8-reader avg=5.44; trued 6-reader avg=5.58

7/01: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court, Mark Twain (KS)

White bread, assorted monthly meats and English cheeses, Imperial cookies and ales.

SDC (Sammy sacks Saxons) 7, 8; JLSC (comic class assasin) 7, 7; JDI (½ The Prince, ½ futurism) 6, 6; EWK (drowned by superstition) 9, 9; JCL (melodious meandering merriment) 10, 10; DRR (olde egotistical satire) 6, 7; KS (damn the facts) 8, 9; JMS absent; SS (steel encased prophecy) 7, 7; WTT (standard-setting) 6, 6 on the 7-point scale, which translates to 8, 8.

9-reader avg=7.72; trued 7-reader avg=7.64

8/01: House of Sand and Fog, Andre Dubus III (JDI)

Falafel, kibbeh, tabouli, stuffed grape leaves, hummus, pita, tacos, margaritas, Anchor Steam, Corona and other beer.

SDC (stomach splooge and tension) 6, 6; JLSC (exquisitely excruciating) 5, 5; JDI (intense cultural base) 7, 7; EWK (obsession ad nauseum) 4, 4; JCL (death is release) 5, 5; DRR (lost page-turner) 5, 5; KS (fast-drying ink) 4, 4; JMS (California-dreaming gone bad) 6, 6; SS (blues-tinged noir) 6, 6; WTT (retribution monotonously delivered) gray on the unexplained color scale, which, based on comments, translates to 1, 1.

10-reader avg=4.90; trued 8-reader avg=5.13

9/01: A Pirate Looks at Fifty, Jimmy Buffett (WTT)

Buffalo wings, cheeseburgers, margaritas and beer.

SDC absent; JLSC (stoner’s travelogue) 3, 2; JDI (self-indulgent self-agrandizing dreck) 2, 2; EWK (one-sided conversation) 3, 3; JCL DNR; DRR (flighty myopic fisher) 3, 3; KS absent; JMS absent; SS (really really sucks) 1, 1; WTT (pretty self-involved) deep blue on the unexplained color scale, which, based on comments, translates to 2, 2.

6-reader avg=2.30; trued 4-reader avg=2.30

10/01: Lost Boys, Orson Scott Card (JCL)

Western NC barbeque, cole slaw, candy bars, Nerds and assorted fine beers.

SDC (dreadfully engaging bore) 6, 5; JLSC (Godmaker Mormon spank) 6, 6; JDI (great short story) 3, 3; EWK (family insight troubling) 9, 8; JCL (beautiful sucker punch) 8, 8; DRR (long lost storyline) 4, 4; KS (prophecy or hope?) 4, 3; JMS (personal intensity) 6, 5; SS in absentia (second rate King) 4, 4; WTT absent.

9-reader avg=5.33; trued 7-reader avg=5.21

11/01: Sometimes a Great Notion, Ken Kesey (SS)

Viv’s pizza and salad and assorted fine beers.

SDC (one mo’ time) 6, 7; JLSC (weakness in strength) 8, 8; JDI (vanity and vexation (*of the*) spirit) 8, 8; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR (Wakonda wild (*sui*)cide) 8, 9; KS DNF; JMS (long winding road) 6, 7; SS (brilliant sprawling manly) 9, 9; WTT absent.

6-reader avg=7.75; trued 4-reader avg=7.80

12/01: Portnoy’s Complaint, Philip Roth (SDC)

Hamburgers, French fries, matzoh balls, cored apples and beers.

SDC (Cele run a-schmuck) 7, 7; JLSC (the “guilt” cage) 5, 5; JDI (his mother’s son) 5, 6; EWK (serves him right?) 6, 7; JCL (neurotic kosher spankfest) 6, 6; DRR (oy vey schliemlwurst) 4, 4; KS (goyim, goyim, come) 7, 7; JMS (sordid shikse search) 7, 7; SS (misogyny made fun!!) 5, 5; WTT absent.

9-reader avg=5.89; trued 7-reader avg=6.00

1/02: Catcher in the Rye, J.D. Salinger (JMS)

Grilled cheese and hummus sandwiches, chips and salsa, and beers.

SDC (slumming of sage) 8, 9; JLSC (whiner in the rye) 7, 8; JDI (teenage angst w/attitude) 7, 8; EWK (descriptive as hell) 7, 8; JCL absent; DRR (Caulfield’s complaint) 5, 6; KS (crystal clear malaise) 9, 9; JMS (sinners/saints, innocence/adulthood) 10, 10; SS in absentia (peachy pubescent angst) 6, 6; WTT in absentia (kinda blue finality) 9, 9.

9-reader avg=7.83; trued 7-reader avg=7.86

2/02: Henderson the Rain King, Saul Bellow (JLSC)

Ghanaian stew, rice, flatbread, chinchin (denture wearers, be cautious!), frogs and worms, and beers, including Tusker.

SDC (Ignatius physicality, fear pottage) 6, 6; JLSC (Zorba in Africa) 5, 5; JDI in absentia (so heavy) 4, 4; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR (unusually expanded behind) 5, 5; KS in absentia (wretched book) 3, 3; JMS (lion king) 7, 6; SS (Zorba the African) 5, 4; WTT absent.

7-reader avg=4.86; trued 5-reader avg=4.90

3/02: Band of Brothers, Stephen Ambrose (EWK)

White and other bean stew, SoS, camouflage dip, chocolate bars, St. Pauli Girl and Heinecken beers, schnapps.

SDC (hell’s Hershey highway) 5, 5; JLSC (boys were men) 6, 6; JDI (shootin’ and lootin’) 5, 5; EWK (The Bert, er Best, Generation) 6, 6; JCL (hunt for hummers) 6, 6; DRR (“what it cost”) 4, 4; KS (more connective tissue) 5, 4; JMS (War is Winters) 5, 5; SS (partially compelling kaleidoscope) 5, 5; WTT absent.

9-reader avg=5.17; trued 7-reader avg=5.21

3/02: The Body Artist, Don DeLillo (DRR @ beach)

DRR’s chili and Kratt salad, Old frittatas, Cele/Ice piatti (bruschetta, tuna-stuffed eggs, prosciutto-wrapped asparagus, polenta, lamb, etc.), beer, wine, Herradura Reposado tequila, etc.

SDC (pornography in pastel) 4, 5; JLSC (autistic auto-eroticism) 7, 7; JDI (art sex aggression) 6, 8; EWK (don’t touch it) 8, 8; JCL (Got narrative?) 3, 5; DRR (aphasic evocative enigma) 8, 9; KS (scrambled life) 6, 7; JMS (birds voices hair) 6, 7; SS (shattered 3-D mirror) 7, 7; WTT absent.

9-reader avg=6.56; trued 7-reader avg=6.71

5/02: Off the Record, David Menconi (KS) [with the author as special guest, and our host repeatedly reminding all not to pull our punches]

Pizza, grilled veggies, salad, cheese puffs, pretzels, assorted beers

SDC (see Michelle naked) 6, 6; JLSC (music death day) 5, 5; JDI (historical popculture trainwreck) 5, 5; EWK (bizarre gardening accident) 5, 5; JCL (just say HO!) 6, 6; DRR (well spun) 5, 5; KS (patently patterned greed) 5, 6; JMS absent; SS (great VH1 series) 5, 5; WTT absent.

8-reader avg=5.31; trued 6-reader avg=5.25

6/02: The Stranger, Albert Camus, trans. Matthew Ward (JDI @ pool)

Pita, humus, tabouli, chicken salad, stuffed grape leaves, olives, assorted beers, a nice white Capri

SDC (indifference invites institutionalization) 6, 7; JLSC (original ennui victim) 7, 7; JDI (thinking man’s Hemingway) 6, 7; EWK (indifference on trail[sic]) 6, 7; JCL (fucked-up Freudian frog) 6, 7; DRR (brilliant first step) 8, 9; KS absent; JMS (thoughts or actions) 6, 8; SS (nevermind whatever not!) 7, 8; WTT (unipointed pessimism) 6, 6.

9-reader avg=6.89; trued 7-reader avg=6.79

7/02: A Man in Full, Tom Wolfe (JCL; EWK host)

Bratwurst, ham biscuits, potato salad, chips, pretzels, shortbread, assorted beers

SDC (Elizabeth inda butt) 5, 6; JLSC in absentia (latter day Dickens) 5, 5; JDI (greed pain equanimity) 6, 6; EWK (cracker meets Zeus) 8, 8; JCL (skewer the peach) 8, 8; DRR (observant entertainment) 6, 6; KS absent; JMS absent; SS (southern fried gumbo) 6, 6.

7-reader avg=6.36; trued 5-reader avg=6.30

8/02: The Plague, Albert Camus, trans. Stuart Gilbert (SS)

Burgers, dogs, salads, chips, bean dip, fruit, assorted beers

SDC (death by narration) 6, 7; JLSC (dead people naked) 6, 6; JDI (monotonous sensational pestilence) 6, 7; EWK (buboes, sinners, saints) 7, 9; JCL DNF; DRR (let’s swim together) 8, 8; KS (massively oozing buboe) 8, 8; JMS absent; SS (everything DOES matter) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=7.14; trued 5-reader avg=7.10

9/02: The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho, trans. Alan Clarke (SDC)

Hummus and pita, lamb kabobs, lentil mush, tabouli salad, olives, yogurt-covered almonds, Pyramid beer, Spanish wine

SDC (Papa goes Portuguese) 8, 8; JLSC in absentia (Jonathan Livingstone Bunghole) 2, 2; JDI (life’s simple lessons) 8, 9; EWK in absentia (where’s my oasis?) 7, 7; JCL (monkey inspired maktub) 7, 7; DRR (lead to . . . . dead) 4, 4; KS (Bullwinkle meets Rama Das) 6, 6; JMS (it’s all in the journey) 7, 7; SS (heart, soul and intellect) 6, 7.

9-reader avg=6.22; trued 7-reader avg=6.50

10/02: Love in the Time of Cholera, Gabriel Garcia Marquez (JMS)

crostini, eggplant parmagiana, salad, bread, bakery cookies, Spanish wine

SDC (constipated whorehouse heart) 8, 8; JLSC (trip without stopping) 9, 9; JDI from Tupelo (better than 100) 8, 8; EWK DNF; JCL absent; DRR in absentia (infinite love) 7, 8; KS (love lust elegance) 7, 8; JMS (cholera love tapestry) 7, 8; SS absent.

6-reader avg=7.92; trued 4-reader avg=7.90

11/02: The Naked and the Dead, Norman Mailer (JLSC)

barbeque, hush puppies, fried okra, Vienna sausages, gefilte fish, assorted beers, including Low Down Brown, Dead Guy Ale and Sapporo

SDC (fuggin’ ordinary war) 6, 6; JLSC (Freudian phallic fugging) 8, 8; JDI ((I got) nuttin’ but inadequacies) 4, 4; EWK (band of bastards) 7, 7; JCL (constricting aimless hierarchy) 7, 7; DRR (casual ugly attrition) 6, 6; KS absent; JMS (deconstructing Sammie) 6, 6; SS (kill more Japs) 5, 6.

8-reader avg=6.19; trued 6-reader avg=6.25

1/03: A Fine Balance**,** Rohinton Mistry (EWK, JCL host)

Indian food from Royal Palace and assorted beers

SDC (castration nation sensation) 6, 6; JLSC absent; JDI absent; EWK (yaar, great quilting) 8, 8; JCL (South Asian Leviathan) 8, 8; DRR (Dickensian Libra epic) 6, 6; KS (rambling civics lesson) 6, 6; JMS absent; SS (really frickin’ depressing) 6, 6.

6-reader avg=6.67; trued 4-reader avg=6.60

2/03: Blindness**,** Jose Saramago, trans. Giovanni Pontiero (DRR)

Capital Creations pizza, white and Road Dog beer, Portugese wine, port

SDC (feature length Twilight Zone) 8, 9; JLSC DNR; JDI (invisible (to the) naked eye) 8, 9; EWK (plague of truth) 6, 7; JCL (richly documented decay) 8, 9; DRR (existential vertiginous angst) 8, 9; KS (white nightmare) 8, 8; JMS absent; SS (inside out insight) 9, 9.

7-reader avg=8.21; trued 5-reader avg=8.40

3/03: Life of Pi, Yann Martel (JDI)

Turtle soup, mixed meat-balls in blood sauce, salad, Canadian beer and India Pale Ale

SDC (bestial love testament) 6, 6; JLSC (as with God) 5, 6; JDI (irrational fantastic extra-ordinary) 6, 6; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR (half-baked lemon meringue) 4, 4; KS absent; JMS DNR; SS absent.

4-reader avg=5.38; trued 2-reader avg=5.75

3/03: When You Ride Alone, You Ride with Bin Laden, Bill Maher (KS; beach)

Herr Cobb’s assorted wursts w/sauerkraut, gherkins and radishes, Silva McMuffins w/egg, Cele apps (buffalo mozzarella and pimento wrapped in salami, etc.), chicken over polenta, Joe and JD’s fresh pasta in “gravy”, Cele salad, Monkey breakfast meat and “Freedom” toast, beer, wine, Green Lights, etc.

SDC (well formed opinions) 7, 8; JLSC (Goebbels goes Gumby) 7, 7; JDI (just watch it) 6, 8; EWK absent; JCL (self-righteous sarcastic call-to-action) 5, 6; DRR (rambling “right” rhetoric) 5, 5; KS (intellectual monkey spank) 9, 9; JMS (marketing madness f-you) 6, 6; SS (lambs to slaughter) 10, 10.

8-reader avg=7.13; trued 6-reader avg=7.00

5/03: Resurrection Day, Brendan DuBois (JCL)

Atomic chili with cheese, chips and salsa, and U.S. beer (Liberty Ale, etc.)

SDC (post thermonuclear nookie) 6, 6; JLSC (retro apocalyptic Camelot) 4, 4; JDI absent; EWK (British Empire rebuilding) 6, 6; JCL (nuclear war nightmares) 6, 6; DRR (Dead Kennedys rock) 5, 4; KS absent; JMS absent; SS (cardboard characters unite!) 3, 4.

6-reader avg=5.14; trued 4-reader avg=5.30

6/03: Atonement, Ian McEwan (SS)

Chips and carrots with onion dip, pork sandwiches, apple pie and beer

SDC (sweet wet note) 7, 7; JLSC (writing one’s redemption) 8, 7; JDI in absentia (fictional meta story) 7, 8; EWK (youthful hyperbole rushed) 8, 8; JCL DNF; DRR (precious irrelevant atonement) 6, 7; JMS (Gee, I’m hungry) DNR; SS (Ceecee ride me) 8, 8.

6-reader avg=7.42; trued 4-reader avg=7.50

7/03: A Day No Pigs Would Die, Robert Newton Peck (SDC)

Crispini and humus, pig to DIE for, German potato salad, shakers (including “Pinkies”) and beer

SDC (young Hemingway shaken) 6, 6; JLSC (weaseled dog nutmeats) 6, 6; JDI absent; EWK (lean teen masculeen) 7, 7; JCL absent; DRR (D in English) 5, 6; JMS absent; SS in absentia (hog tied heaven) 5, 5.

5-reader avg=5.90; trued 3-reader avg=5.83

8/03: The Sound and the Fury, William Faulkner (JMS)

Dilsey’s pot stickers, drumsticks, lettuce wraps and Asian noodle salad, and assorted Jobeers

SDC (fraternal maidenhead lobotomy) 5, 6; JLSC (time conquered) 9, 9; JDI absent; EWK (heard my watch) 6, 7; JCL DNR and couldn’t stay awake; DRR (enduring temporary dust) 7, 9; JMS (streams of Southern fragments); SS DNF but contributed!

5-reader avg=7.10; trued 3-reader avg=7.00

9/03: The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat,by Oliver Sacks (JLSC)

Kebabs, stuffed grape leaves, chicken salad, hummus, tabouli and pita, and assorted beers including Breakdown IPA, Left Hand Porter and Brooklyn Lager

SDC (any phantom members?) 5, 5; JLSC (body & soul) 7, 7; JDI (dog with tics) 3, 3; EWK (philosophy without proprioception) 4, 4; JCL (neurology for dummies) 7, 7; DRR (agnoneurosoulodispascopia) 3, 2; JMS in absentia (not very memorable) 3, 4; SS (Freud’s feeble follow-up) 4, 4.

8-reader avg=4.50; trued 6-reader avg=4.42

10/03: Cry the Beloved Country, by Alan Paton (EWK)

African chicken stew, salad, spicy cheese ball, maize cakes, golden desserts and assorted beers including Dutch Brown Ale with the psychotic bird thing on the label

SDC (sigh, the deflated heads) 6, 6; JLSC absent; JC (pendantic, er pedestrian balanced insightful) 7, 7; JDI (bondage of fear) 7, 7; EWK (Paton saves Africa) 9, 9; JCL absent; DRR (read fear well) 7, 7; JMS absent; SS (did not resonate) 6, 6.

6-reader avg=7.00; trued 4-reader avg=6.90

11/03: Disgrace, by J.M. Coetzee (DRR)

Capetown lamb, rice, veggies and humus, South African wine, brownies and assorted beers including Dutch Brown Ale with the psychotic bird thing on the label, and two kinds of Dog Beer (and tequila)

SDC (euthanized Don Juan) 7, 7; JLSC (rape and reconciliation) 6, 7; JC (disappointed confused baffled) 7, 6; JDI (an armed philosopher) 8, 8; EWK (old dogs can) 6, 8; JCL (dog man’s violations) 6, 6; DRR (dis graceful life) 7, 8; JMS (to the dogs) 7, 8; SS (compelling complex metamorphoses) 8, 9.

9-reader avg=7.17; trued 7-reader avg=7.14

12/03: Seabiscuit, by Laura Hillenbrand (JDI)

Red and green horsemeat enchiladas, carrots, celery and dip, and assorted beers including Rolling Rock (horse on the label), Killian’s Red (another horse label) and Corona (and mezcal)

SDC (hung like Cougar) 6, 6; JLSC (came from behind) 7, 7; JC (win, place, show) 8, 8; JDI (a PBS special) 6, 6; EWK (racing form annotated) 4, 4; JCL (unfit for dog food) 3, 3; DRR (engaging horse’s tale) 5, 5; JMS (fine horse tail) 6, 6; WS (put away wet) 6, 6; SS (slice of Americana) 5, 6.

10-reader avg=5.65; trued 8-reader avg=5.69

1/04: Crime and Punishment, Fyodor Dostoyevsky (JCL)

Borscht, pickled and smoked fish, black bread, zucchini bread, crab cakes, vodka and assorted beers

SDC (my words sucksky) 6, 7; JLSC (yada yada (yada)) 6, 6; JC (depression is Dostoyevsky) 6, 6; JDI (temperament reflects everything) 5, 5; EWK absent; JCL (over-rationalized misanthrope’s redemption) 7, 8; DRR (feverish fateful submission) 5, 6; JMS DNF; WS (split-personality superman confession) 8, 8; SS (toomuchkovich soapoperamanov psychodramailov) 6, 6.

8-reader avg=6.31; trued 6-reader avg=6.25

2/04: Ten Little Indians, by Sherman Alexie (SS)

Spokane chicken, rice, salad with the fixin’s mixed in, French (fry) bread and assorted beers

SDC (dances with words) 7, 7; JLSC (homoerotic circle jerk) 7, 7; JC absent; JDI absent; EWK (salvation in tragedy) 7, 8; JCL (Spokane spirit vision-quest) 8, 8; DRR (unevenly evocative, enit?) 6, 6; JMS absent; WS (modern Indian window) 5, 6; SS (refreshing universal humanity) 8, 8.

7-reader avg=7.00; trued 5-reader avg=7.10

3/04: The Bridge of San Luis Rey, by Thornton Wilder (SDC)

Llama stew, rice, salad, chips and salsa, Brother Juniper martinis, Cuscean beer

SDC (twang yeeaaah splatter) 7, 8; JLSC (amores de lejos son dependejos) 9, 9; JC absent; JDI (between faith and facts) 5, 6; EWK absent; JCL (bridge to nowhere) 3, 3; DRR (exquisite existential restraint) 8, 9; JMS DNR; WS (usefulness-2, piety-3, goodness-0) 5, 4; SS (bittersweet cautionary tale) 6, 7.

7-reader avg=6.36; trued 5-reader avg=6.50

3/04: Cannery Row, John Steinbeck (JMS; beach; “Brotherhood of the Rabbit” cups)

JD’s marinated pork loin, rice and zucchini; JD’s breakfast frittata; Cele’s rubbed, sticky ribs, mac and cheese and fatback green beans; marinated shrimp, Eyetalian steak a la Cele, garlic sautéed spinach, spinach and mushroom stuffed shells and meatballs and sausage in Joe’s sauce; green lights, etc.

SDC (in the can) 7, 9; JLSC in Annasentia (whiskey and wry) 7, 7; JC absent; JDI (pathology of life) 7, 8; EWK (hobo morality) 8, 8; JCL (human wine jug) 10, 10; DRR (watch the parade) 6, 7; JMS (making dew bayleaf) 8, 9; WS (smells like beauty) 8, 9; SS (hit the spot) 8, 8.

9-reader avg=8.00; trued 7-reader avg=7.93

5/04: The Da Vinci Code, Dan Brown (JC)

pizzas, tomatoes with and without mozzarella, salad, French bread, crab dip, garlic asparagus with horseradish blue cheese dip, English beers, French and Italian wines

SDC (theologian’s Encyclopedia Brown) 7, 7; JLSC (the horizontal cruxifiction) 5, 5; JC (veritas liberitam facit) 9, 9; JDI (symbols and words) 5, 5; EWK (faded whoresmell) 8, 8; JCL (Holmes meets Cleese) 7, 6; DRR (use the word) 6, 5; JMS (Mithras Nicaea transmogrification) 8, 8; WS (Fox’s 24 Vatican-style) 7, 7; SS in assentia (provocative yet pedestrian) 6, 6.

10-reader avg=6.70; trued 8-reader avg=6.63

6/04: All the King’s Men, Robert Penn Warren (WS)

Bullock’s ‘que, green beans, slaw, hush puppies, fries and fried chicken, Jim Beam and assorted Southern beers

SDC (believe the dream) 8, 8; JLSC (fathers, b-b-bustahds and the Great Twitch) 9, 9; JC absent; JDI in absentia (greedy delicious quagmire) 9, 9; EWK (it’s the nuts) 8, 8; JCL (Twitch da bitch) 7, 7; DRR (it did explode) 8, 9; JMS DNR; WS (brilliant multi-layered tragedy) 10, 10; SS (sublime human foibles) 8, 9.

8-reader avg=8.50; trued 6-reader avg=8.50

7/04: A Fan's Notes, Frederick Exley (JLSC)

Pork loin, sauerkraut, tomato salad, peanuts, popcorn, Oreos, vodka presbyterians and assorted beers, including Uncle Nut and Breakdown IPA

SDC (one’s own work) 8, 8; JLSC (Exley’s ashes) 7, 7; JC (depressed literate mind) 6, 7; JDI (pretty fucking good) 7, 7; EWK absent; JCL (not a pro) 1, 2; DRR (whiny Cuckoo’s Nest) 4, 4; JMS absent; WS honeymooning; SS in absentia (disturbingly engaging journey) 6, 7.

7-reader avg=5.79; trued 5-reader avg=6.20

8/04: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Tennessee Williams (EWK)

Fried chicken, hoppin’ John, green beans w/fatback, sweet potatoes (or are those yams?), biscuits, Jack Daniels and assorted beers

SDC (reluctant cat liquor) 7, 7; JLSC in alohasentia (gay Southern gothic) 5, 6; JC (Bigdaddy’s Southern drool) 6, 5; JDI DNR; EWK (heads against wall) 7, 7; JCL DNR; DRR (grand Southern tragedy) 7, 6; JMS DNR; WS (missing Newman Taylor) 6, 6; SS DNR.

6-reader avg=6.25; trued 4-reader avg=6.30

9/04: Hopscotch, Julio Cortazar, trans. Gregory Rabassa (DRR)

Matambre, French bread and cheese, olives, Argentine wine and assorted beers, including New World Porter, Peroni and Murphy’s

SDC (malignantly shitty story) 4, 4; JLSC (pseudo-Euro existential wannabe) 4, 5; JC absent; JDI absent; EWK DNR; JCL absent; DRR (no f’ing snow) 7, 7; JMS DNR; WS absent; SS (some redeeming qualities) 6, 6.

4-reader avg=5.38; trued 2-reader avg=5.25

10/04: Middlesex, Jeffrey Eugenides (JDI)

Beef and chicken kebabs, hummus, pita, Greek salads and olives, stuffed grape leaves, Wicked and Green Light beers, ouzo

SDC (when Harry is Sally) 7, 7; JLSC (the art of “becoming”) 7, 7; JC absent; JDI (superior Aegean confusion) 9, 9; EWK (fatalistic Greek freak) 8, 8; JCL (Honey, where’s the Beav?) 8, 8; DRR (unsatisfying crocus poke-us) 5, 5; JMS (ambiguous Greek grilled Pulitzer) 6, 6; WS (thumbs, plumbs, a crocus) 8, 8; SS (inbred Motown lowdown) 6, 6.

9-reader avg=7.11; trued 7-reader avg=7.13

11/04: Wind, Sand and Stars, Antoine de Saint Exupery (JCL)

Assorted French and other cheeses, bread, crackers, fruit and wine from around the world (and beer)

SDC in absentia (café tea or moi) 7, 7; JLSC (high plane drifter) 6, 6; JC (flowery first flight) 6, 6; JDI (taking a step) 6, 6; EWK (view from above) 5, 6; JCL (life lived passionately) 7, 7; DRR (flighty French philosophizing) 5, 5; JMS absent; WS absent; SS absent.

7-reader avg=6.07; trued 5-reader avg=6.10

12/04: Journey to Ixtlan, Carlos Castaneda (SS)

Power meat, stuffed ‘shrooms, medicinal salad, chili, biscuits and corn pone, assorted Mexican beers

SDC (well hung peyote dung) 6, 7; JLSC (seeing and being) 7, 7; JC (pass peyote please!) 5, 5; JDI (wandering whiney wierd) 3, 3; EWK (power trip) 7, 8; JCL (timid vision quest) 6, 6; DRR (hen’s ass hallucinations) 3, 3; JMS DNR; WS DNF; SS (take me there) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=5.63; trued 6-reader avg=5.75

1/05: Stones from the River, Ursula Hegi (SDC)

Beer soup, schnitzel, fried potatoes, kraut, schnapps und German beers

SDC (Mini-me’s wet dream) 7, 7; JLSC (Seehund deschtuppen Trudizwerg) 7, 7 JC DNR; JDI in absentia (Anne Frank redux) 6, 6; EWK (brachenstraffenstarvin-marvinbratwurstshawnstucker short story) 7, 7; JCL (lederhosen schtuppen der chosenones) 8, 8; DRR (a schwein balance) 6, 5; JMS DNR; WS (zwergenkuchen) 7, 7; SS (monochrome midget madness) 6, 5.

8-reader avg=6.63; trued 6-reader avg=6.67

2/05: The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath (JMS) [with Joe’s special bylawarcania guest Tom Spagnardi, who supported his big bro with scores of 8, 8]

Sauerbraten mit gravy, potatoes, carrots and kraut, biscuits and fig sauce, Scotch und German beers

SDC (Papa possessed poontang) 8, 8; JLSC (bride of Holdenstein) 7, 7; JC (the poet’s bowl) 6, 6; JDI (simultaneous shock therapy) 7, 7; EWK absent; JCL (not my fault) 6, 6; DRR (Plathetic pining pussy) 5, 5; JMS (beautiful trapped indecision) 9, 9; WS (Eisenhower era Awakening) 6, 7; SS (upper crust kookoo) 6, 7.

9-reader avg=6.78; trued 7-reader avg=6.75

3/05: Lord Jim, Joseph Conrad (WS; beach; new pool)

Clams Guillermo and shrimp boil with pone; JD’s breakfast frittata; Cele’s bruschetta, fresh pasta in Joe’s sauce, lamb shanks a la Cele with polenta ragout and asparagus wrapped in prosciutto and provolone; green lights, bloody Marios, etc.

SDC (queef on reef) 7, 7; JLSC DNF; JC absent AGAIN; JDI (coward courage countenance) 5, 6; EWK (one of us) 7, 8; JCL (pride in the Pacific) 6, 7; DRR (profound unfathomable blue) 9, 9; JMS DNR (but he sure writes a tender love note!); WS (guilty heroic seamen) 7, 7; SS (colonialsim’s last hurra) 7, 8.

7-reader avg=7.14; trued 5-reader avg=7.10

4/05: Anthem, Ayn Rand (JC)

Steaks, potatoes (from a bag), green beans, chips, salsa and guacamole (from a bag), American beers and wine (47 pound rooster)

SDC late/DNR; JLSC (comic book manifesto) 3, 4; JC (the Objectivist Manifesto) 7, 7; JDI (S[elf] + C[hoice]=E[go]) 8, 8; EWK (ego hero) 7, 7; JCL (leggo my ego) 7, 7; DRR (I am I) 7, 7; JMS late/DNR; WS (I, me, mine) 4, 4; SS absent.

7-reader avg=6.29; trued 5-reader avg=6.50

5/05: Chronicles, Volume One, Bob Dylan (JLSC)

Shrimp, turkey, chips and salsa, olives, cheese and crackers, assorted beers, including Dixie, Rolling Rock (“It’s like a rolling stone.”) and He’Brew

SDC (Sun Pie’s Woody) 5, 5; JLSC (dickhead on autostroke) 7, 7; JC (Don’t do drugs!) 5, 4; JDI (BEATO or PWAC) 3, 3; EWK (diary of an icon) 3, 3; JCL DNR; DRR (Kettle of Fish) 3, 3; JMS absent; WS (time-challenged porous landscape) 7, 7; SS in absentia (stick to lyrics) 4, 4.

8-reader avg=4.56; trued 6-reader avg=4.42

6/05: East of Eden, John Steinbeck (EWK)

Brisket, mashed potatoes, bread, salad, strawberry parfait, Pernod, California wine and assorted beers, including Pete’s Wicked Ale and Murphy’s

SDC (John Steinbeck Holmes) 9, 9; JLSC (mother may I) 9, 9; JC (remember our dying) 9, 10; JDI in absentia (Lee is God) 8, 8; EWK (timshel curse/salvation) 9, 9; JCL (wish I finished) 7, 7; DRR (timshel Abra cadabra) 9, 9; JMS DNR; WS absent; SS (men missing mothers) 7, 8.

8-reader avg=8.50; trued 6-reader avg=8.58

7/13/05: The Tin Drum, Gunter Grass (DRR)

Smoked eel, bratwurst, kielbasa, kirsch and assorted beers, including Little Kings and Spaten

SDC DNR; JLSC DNR enough to score; JC absent; JDI absent; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR unwilling to be the only one with words and score; JMS DNR; WS DNR; SS absent.

1-reader avg=pointless; trued (1)-reader avg=incalculable

8/3/05: Gilead: A Novel, Marilynne Robinson (JCL)

Steaks, veggies and dip, cheese and crackers, slaw and bread, red wine

SDC in absentia (Lynches Smoke Dope) 5, 5; JLSC in absentia (Midwest Idyll) 7, 7; JC absent; JDI absent; EWK (struggle for forgiveness) 6, 6; JCL (reverent wisdom revealed) 8, 8; DRR (speaking to Edward) 5, 5; JMS absent; WS absent; SS (dominus vobis cum) 6, 6.

6-reader avg=6.17; trued 4-reader avg=6.00

8/31/05: Looped, Andrew Winston (JDI) [with the author present]

Pork roast, potato salad, martinis and assorted beers

SDC (“Soap” without Crystal) 6, 7; JLSC (Tales of the Windy City) 6, 6; JC absent; JDI (well formed year) 7, 7; EWK (. . . makes you stronger) 7, 7; JCL (deep dish peepshow) 5, 5; DRR (soap in the Loop) 5, 5; JMS (modern multi-tasking mosaic) 6, 6; WS (frame clan time) 7, 7; SS (threads to nowhere) 6, 7.

9-reader avg=6.22; trued 7-reader avg=6.25

11/05: Don Quixote, Miguel Cervantes, trans. Edith Grossman (SS)

Dulcinea’s heavenly chile verde with tortillas, cheese and rice, Spanish salad, assorted Spanish red wine (including a temperanillo from La Mancha) and assorted beers (including Corona)

SDC (Wile E. Quixote) 6, 6; JLSC (blowing up dogs) 7, 7; JC (Spain’s de (la) mentia) 8, 8; JDI (enchanted tale of repetitiveness) 6, 6; EWK in absentia (Blueprint for Batman) 5, 5; JCL (gran cojones) 8, 8; DRR (postmodern Don QuieMote) 6, 7; JMS (a class a classic) 7, 7; WS (stooges in Medieval Spain) 7, 7; SS (passionate heartfelt timeless) 9, 8.

10-reader avg=6.90; trued 8-reader avg=6.94

12/8/05: The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (SDC)

Fried po’k chops, side meat beans, greens and taters, biscuits, turtles, grapes of wrath punch, whisky and assorted Californian beers

SDC (Granpa’s boy toy) 9, 9; JLSC (dust bowl exodus) 7, 7; JC (bowl a’ grits) 6, 6; JDI from Indy (literary redneck roadtrip) 8, 8; EWK (lost connections) 8, 9; JCL (anti-Rand manifesto) 7, 7; DRR (East’s poor relations) 5, 5; JMS (killer blue-collar radicalism) 8, 9; WS (I to we) 10, 10; SS (eat ma dust) 7, 8.

10-reader avg=7.65; trued 8-reader avg=7.69

1/06: Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe (JMS)

Mock yams (really stuffed shells in Joe’s sauce, with meatballs and sausages), salad, bread, wine, scotch and Hogarten bier

SDC (yam-a-lama Mandingo Dong) 7, 7; JLSC (learning Missionary style) 7, 7; JC absent; JDI from Kauai (all about family) 7, 7; EWK (tribal simplicity lost) 6, 6; JCL (imperialism happens) 7, 7; DRR (surface of darkness) 5, 6; JMS (Ron Brown’s legacy) 8, 8; WS (minimalist Nigerian tragedy) 7, 7; SS (tribal death throe) 6, 7.

9-reader avg=6.67; trued 7-reader avg=6.69

2/06: Beloved, Toni Morrison (WS)

Barbeque, fried chicken, green beans, slaw, hush puppies and fries, Green Light and Blue Moon beers

SDC (Harriet Tubman Bates) 7, 8; JLSC (knocked down blues) 7, 7; JC absent; JDI DNR; EWK (spirit love community) 7, 8; JCL absent; DRR (colored American pieces) 8, 8; JMS DNR; WS (chasing slavery’s ghost) 7, 8; SS absent.

5-reader avg=7.50; trued 3-reader avg=7.50

3/06: Self-made Man: One Woman's Journey into Manhood and Back, Norah Vincent (JC)

Sushi and stir-fry, assorted beers and wine

SDC (bull dyke bullshit) 5, 4; JLSC (bitch switches snitches) 5, 5; JC (lesbian literary diatribe) 4, 4; JDI (masked male misogyny) 6, 6; EWK DNR; JCL (bull dyke fantasy) 5, 5; DRR (Venus is Mars) 4, 4; JMS absent; WS absent; SS (gender fender bender) 6, 6.

7-reader avg=4.93; trued 5-reader avg=4.90

4/06: Carter Beats the Devil, Glen David Gold (JLSC @ beach)

JD and Jimbo’s grilled steaks, sweet taters and salad; JD’s scrambles and breakfast meat X2; Cele’s mom’s mac ‘n’ cheese, green beans and 8-hour ribs; rigatoni and meatballs in Joe’s sauce, salad and garlic bread; green lights, bloody Marios, tequila, cups, lists, categories, etc.

SDC (he said Harding) 6, 6; JLSC (hat-pulled screenplay) 8, 8; JC (magic f’ing cooler) 6, 6; JDI (illusion delusion collusion) 8, 8; EWK in absentia (The Houdini Code) 8, 8; JCL (missed erection) 8, 8; DRR (historical slight-of-hand) 6, 6; JMS DNR; WS DNR; SS (vintage techno talltale) 6, 6.

8-reader avg=6.75; trued 6-reader avg=6.67

5/06: On the Road, Jack Kerouac (EWK)

Bourbon/honey meatballs w/rice, salad, bread, red wine, assorted beers (Anchor Steam, Brooklyn Brewery, Corona)

SDC (Cele-Joe’s butt child) 8, 8; JLSC (beginning of us) 9, 9; JC (Steinbeck on crack!) 7, 7; JDI (there’s always more) 6, 7; EWK (wild man worship) 7, 8; JCL (stream of bullshit) 3, 3; DRR (enormous dangle longing) 5, 6; JMS (Hemingway meets Beat) 8, 8; WS (life on the edge) 8, 8; SS (let’s go Daddy-o) 5, 7.

10-reader avg=6.85; trued 8-reader avg=7.06

6/06: Appointment in Samarra, John O’Hara (DRR)

“The $2.50 meal,” filet mignon, creamed spinach, bacon dip, rolls, ginger ale and rye, Rolling Rock beer

SDC in absentia (engagement in Mahrearah) 8, 8; JLSC (fin de siecle) 6, 7; JC absent; JDI (men are weak) 7, 7; EWK (ironic Fitzgerald sitcom) 7, 8; JCL (Anthem’s flip side) 7, 8; DRR (interconnected facades ripped) 7, 8; JMS (agree with Papa) 8, 8; WS (sex, highballs, Cadillacs) 8, 9; SS in absentia (wound up tight) 7, 7.

9-reader avg=7.50; trued 7-reader avg=7.50

7/06: Devil in the White City, Eric Larson (JDI at LKG)

Ridgeway cantaloupe w/prosciutto, marinated pork loin, Jude’s cheesy potatoes, tomatoes and mozzarella, martinis, Pabst Blue Ribbon beer

SDC (holocaustic American beauty) 7, 7; JLSC absent; JC in absentia (Gilded Age duplet) 7, 7; JDI (desire to control) 6, 6; EWK absent; JCL absent; DRR (American psycho history) 6, 6; JMS (tale of 2 cities) 6, 6; WS absent; SS in absentia (Slaughterhouse 6) 7, 7.

6-reader avg=6.50; trued 4-reader avg=6.50

8/06: Lolita, by Vladimir Nabokov (JCL)

Rubbed pork loin, tabouli, couscous, pita, chips and salsa, tomatoes and mozzarella, Ephemere and assorted other nymphet beer

SDC (makin’ veal squeal) 8, 9; JLSC in absentia (Ode [on a] Broken Urn) 7, 7; JC (intelligent pedophiliac treatise) 6, 6; JDI absent; EWK (drunken linguistic orgy) 7, 8; JCL (bitter taste of satisfaction) 5, 7; DRR (claws and wings) 8, 9; JMS absent; WS (Hum’s chum and Dolores’ clitoris) 7, 8; SS (fascination, possession, obsession) 8, 8.

8-reader avg=7.38; trued 6-reader avg=7.42

9/06: The Corrections, by Jonathan Franzen (SS)

Hummus, pita sandwiches, salad and assorted beers, Belgian and otherwise

SDC (didactic colon cleansing) 7, 7; JLSC (I stand corrected) 6, 7; JC (fix the Beaver) 9, 9; JDI (they’re all alike) 7, 7; EWK (f\*d up family) 5, 7; JCL DNR; DRR (dysfunction junction) 6, 6; JMS absent; WS absent; SS (nuclear family war) 7, 8.

7-reader avg=7.00; trued 5-reader avg=6.90

11/06: A Clockwork Orange, Anthony Burgess (SDC)

Olives, Italian bread, pasta w/Cele sauce, salad, milk plus, red wine and assorted beers, Belgian and otherwise

SDC (on my oddieknockie) 9, 9; JLSC (Cele is gay) 9, 9; JC (bolshy soddy cal) 6, 6; JDI (coming of age) 7, 7; EWK (psychological music) 8, 8; JCL (raging Orwellian coming-of-age) 7, 7; DRR (sex, droogs and Ludwig van) 6, 7; JMS (in and/or out) 8, 8; WS (zoobies, groodies and yarbles) 8, 8; SS (pan-handle, plesk, tashtook) 8, 8.

10-reader avg=7.65; trued 8-reader avg=7.71

1/07: The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald (JMS)

Shrimp, wienies, olives, Italian bread and cheese, Julie’s luscious loin, salad, Canadian beers and gin rickeys

SDC (loves me not) 9, 9; JLSC (Papa don’t preach) 6, 6; JC absent; JDI (cars, drinks, babes) 6, 7; EWK (tragic love) 7, 8; JCL (upward mobility fable) 6, 7; DRR (precious empty glitter) 6, 7; JMS (auto mobil automobile) 9, 9; WS (ashes of American dream) 9, 9; SS (“It’s just personal”) 8, 8.

9-reader avg=7.56; trued 7-reader avg=7.57

2/07: Winesburg, Ohio, Sherwood Anderson (WS)

Chili with all the fixin’s, jalapeno corn pone, salad and assorted beers

SDC (half strong) 7, 7; JLSC (pyramids of truth) 8, 8; JC (What the f\*\*k?!) 6, 7; JDI (statis and metamorphosis) 8, 8; EWK present but unaccounted for; JCL in absentia (stupid little town) 6, 6; DRR (confused by womanhood) 7, 8; JMS (isolated suburban wasteland) 6, 8; WS (small town alienation) 7, 8.

8-reader avg=7.19; trued 6-reader avg=7.25

3/07: Embers,Sandor Marai (JC)

Chips, salsa and guacamole, tortellini with wieners and Portobello sauce, Italian veggies, bread, Hungarian wine and assorted beers

SDC DNR; JLSC absent; JC (Krisztina’s krazy kats) 8, 8; JDI (pent up emotions) 6, 7; EWK DNR; JCL absent; DRR (smoldering wasted lives) 6, 7; JMS absent; WS absent.

3-reader avg=7.00; trued 1-reader avg=6.50

4/07: Personal writings at the beach (Cele brought absinthe from France and I can’t feel my ears)

JD’s beef tenderloin a poivre with blue cheese sauce and Cele’s red wine risotto; Cele’s mom’s mac ‘n’ cheese, green beans and 8-hour ribs; Billy’s garlic clams and Joe’s homemade lasagna; green lights, wine, absinthe, beer, Billy’s bloodies, etc., etc.

5/07: Kavalier & Clay, Michael Chabon (JLSC)

Hebrew National polish sausages, German potato salad, sauerkraut, rice pudding, Menage a trois wine and assorted beers, including Magic Hat and Brooklyn Ale.

SDC absent; JLSC (Superhero subliminates superego) 7, 8; JC absent; JDI (heroes, captives, escapists) 9, 9; EWK (masturbatory intensity of concentration) 8, 8; JCL (Holy matzaoh, Yidman) 8, 8; DRR in St. Barthsia (cabinet of mysteries) 6, 7; JMS absent; WS absent.

5-reader avg=7.70; trued 3-reader avg=7.83

6/07: The Road, Cormac McCarthy (EWK)

Stuffed mushrooms, canned pears, apples, roast loin, potatoes, salad, apple pie a la mode and assorted beers.

SDC (Hannibal’s dream vacation) 7, 8; JLSC (The Sun Never Rises) 6, 6; JC (literary road warrior) 7, 8; JDI (borrowed time) 9, 9; EWK (carry the fire) 8, 9; JCL (whispered final wish) 7, 7; DRR (existential elegiaic endurance) 9, 9; JMS (to what end?) 7, 8; WS (Blindness for boneheads) 5, 6.

9-reader avg=7.50; trued 7-reader avg=7.56

7/07: Americana, Don DeLillo (DRR)

Chips and dips, cheeseburgers, cole slaw, potato salad, green salad, martinis for the first arrivals, assorted beers including PBRs, De Lisio Quarterback red wine, Jim’s homemade limoncello, Spontaneous Abortions.

Boat ridin’, swimmin’ and too much fun and not enough readers to bother with discussion! But, after the fact: SDC DNR; JLSC (Editing Room Floor) 7; JC (Thinking Man's Kerouac) 5; JDI () ; EWK DNR; JCL DNR; DRR (powerful chaotic images) 6; JMS (Technicolor Boat Christening) DNR; WS () .

8/07: The Tender Bar, J.R. Moehringer (JCL)

Stuffed figs, green salad with figs, Smelly burgers, potato salad, ice cream and pound cake with strawberries and what else but figs, Mark’s Manhassets and assorted beers.

SDC (Brokeback fountain) 8, 8; JLSC in absentia chasing Sydney at Yale (bitches, bastards & booze) 6, 6; JC DNR (but contributed considerably to the discussion of family and fathers); JDI in absentia and with tearful fare-thee-wells (“hiding from life”) 7, 7; EWK (distraction disillusionment distilled) 8, 8; JCL (shadow of the father) 7, 7; DRR (memories Mets & Manhassets) 6, 6; JMS DNR; WS DNR.

6-reader avg=7.00; trued 4-reader avg=7.00

9/07: Breakfast at Tiffany’s, Truman Capote (SDC)

Cele Tomato's Mean Red Sauce with High End Box Pasta (JMS: “vintage slow-cooked aged extremely rustic tomato sauce with braised beef base with more layers than the michelin man AND the gd best store-bought box pasta I have ever tasted in my life.  In fact, it was the best pasta I have ever tasted that didn't make my own damn self.”), sauteed spinach and garlic with mushrooms and shredded carrots and Go-Lightly sugar-free hard candies, martinis, wine and beers.

SDC (ball me politely) 8, 8; JLSC in absentia (Knickerbocker knicker bonker) 7, 7; JC (lunch at Fred’s) 6, 6; JDI in absentia (words to come) 6, 6; EWK absent; JCL (iconic Capote story) 6, 7; DRR in absentia (What’s in a name?) 7, 7; JMS (mean reds, NYC, martinis) 8, 8; WS absent.

7-reader avg=6.93; trued 5-reader avg=6.90

10/07: The Americans: The Democratic Experience, Daniel Boorstin (JMS)

Sauerbraten with potatoes and red cabbage, pretzels, Linzer torte and Spaten.

SDC (Menace to variety?) 6, 7; JLSC (mass-producing the heritage) 4, 5; JC (American exceptionalism explained) 6, 6; EWK DNR (Joe’s sauerbraten rocks!); JCL absent; DRR (New Americanism) 5, 5; JMS (unifying invention and consumption) 9, 9; WS (wranglers, prospectors and . . . lawyers?) DNR all he was assigned, 7, 7.

6-reader avg=6.33; trued 4-reader avg=6.30

11/07: The Virginian, Owen Wister (SS)

Caesar salad, Blazing Saddles baked beans, onion rings, grilled carne and assorted beers.

SDC (Billy the bard) 5, 5; JLSC on the phone while getting his package installed by the cable guy (“Smile when you say that.”) 9, 9; JC (Daddy may I) 5, 6; EWK (man’s gotta do . . .) 7, 9; JCL (early American soul) 7, 8; DRR (lucky American morality) 7, 8; JMS absent; WS absent; SS (refreshingly wonderful read) 8, 9.

7-reader avg=7.29; trued 5-reader avg=7.40

12/07: The Awakening, Kate Chopin (WS)

spinach salad, jambalaya, bread, truffles and assorted beers, including Abitas.

SDC (Solitary Edna’s Xanadu) 7, 8; JLSC (broken bird blues) 7, 7; JC (Feminism’s dawn swim) 5, 8; EWK (Edna’s a trollop) 4, 5; JCL absent; DRR (“attempted to penetrate”) 8, 9; JMS (born again) 7, 9; WS (independence = solitude) 8, 9; SS in absentia (First Chick Flick?) 5, 6.

8-reader avg=7.00; trued 6-reader avg=7.08

1/08: The Portable Walt Whitman, ed. Michael Warner (JC)

Chips and salsa and guacamole from a bag, sauted spinach, sourdough bread, steaks, taters, wine and assorted beers.

SDC (“stern, acrid, large”) 8, 8; JLSC (All American avatar) 6, 7; JC (my intellectual apotheosis) 8, 8; EWK absent; JCL (adhesiveness every line) 6, 7; DRR (Literatus of afflatus) 6, 8; JMS (Turn me on!) 6, 8; WS (spirit O’American democracy) 7, 9; SS (of me I sing) 7, 8.

8-reader avg=7.31; trued 6-reader avg=7.33

2/08: The Rabbit Factory, Larry Brown (JLSC)

Memphis ribs, dry rubbed and wet, slaw, beans, salad, mescal, bourbon and assorted beers, including Flying Dog.

SDC (That’s all folks!) 6, 7; JLSC (dog day afterpoon) 5, 5; JC DNR; JDI dialed in Tuesday and Wednesday (midsouth cluster f+@k) 5, 5; EWK (people = animals) 5, 5; JCL (white trash parade) 7, 6; DRR (Rabbit reflux) 4, 4; JMS in fluentia in (Celespeakerphone) Frenchia (Sex, Dogs & Memphis) 6, 6; WS absent; SS (scars & bars) 8, 7.

8-reader avg=5.69; trued 6-reader avg=5.67

3/08: The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini (EWK)

Chicken chowder, salad, naan, baba ghanoush, baklava and assorted beers.

SDC (The Bung Plunger) 8, 8; JLSC (Hazzara ho’ down) 6, 6; JC absent; JDI absent; EWK (You cannot run) 8, 8; JCL (Taliban tail gunners) 10, 10; DRR (Khomeini more times) 6, 6; JMS absent; WS DNF (Baba’s black sheep); SS (canned Afghan redemption) 6, 7.

6-reader avg=7.42; trued 4-reader avg=7.30

4/08: Personal writings at the beach

Joe’s clam pasta; Cele’s mom’s mac ‘n’ cheese, green beans and 8-hour ribs; “Big Night” timpani; green lights, wine, green and red absinthe, beer, etc., etc.

5/08: Blood Meridian, Cormac McCarthy (DRR)

Chips and salsa, refried beans, guacamole, beef jerky, tortillas and jalapeno goat, scorpion mescal, Jarritos sodas, Coronas, Kidd Lager and Dead Guy Ale.

SDC (Chihuahua trauma drama) 8, 9; JLSC (better red (and) dead) 7, 8; JC (evil, violent (in the) end) 6, 7; JDI absent 8, 8; EWK (they rode on) 7, 8; JCL (anti-Christ violent hero) 8, 9; DRR (meridians of chaos) 9, 9; JMS (dark Shakespearean Western) 8, 9; WS expecting any day and therefore grounded; SS in absentia (lend me an ear) 9, 9.

8-reader avg=8.11; trued 6-reader avg=8.19

6/08: Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future, Bill McKibben (JCL)

Local tomatoes with mozzarella and basilico, local rib eyes, grilled zucchini and summer squash, polenta, baby potatoes and tarragon, assorted local beers.

SDC (more sucks ass!) 6, 7; JLSC absent; JC (deep throat consumption) 6, 6; JDI absent; EWK (deep throat economy) DNR; JCL (post-autistic economics) 7, 7; DRR (nerd seeking community) 6, 6; JMS (resonation to the max) DNR much; WS at home with the baby; SS in absentia (pity the children) 6, 7.

5-reader avg=6.40; trued 3-reader avg=6.33

7/08: Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe (SDC)

Cooper’s barbeque and fried chicken with all the fixin’s, pork rinds, Pickaninny Punch, and assorted black and white beers.

SDC (Mandingo messiah mellerdrammer) 8, 8; JLSC (Mammy’s myths & mulattos) 5, 6; JC absent; JDI absent; EWK (Harriet’s missionary position) 7, 8; JCL (economic empire erosion) 5, 6; DRR (galvanizing stereotyping tract) 5, 6; JMS (historically important agenda) 6, 6; WS at home with the baby; SS (Obama’s mama’s happy) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=6.43; trued 5-reader avg=6.40

8/08: Neuromancer, William Gibson (JMS)

Julie’s balls with onions and peppers on sub rolls, cherry tomato and mozzarella salad, Linzer tort and macaroons, assorted beers of the world.

SDC (eccentric bright orchestra) 6, 7; JLSC (back to (the) future) 7, 7; EWK (pre-Neo matrix) 6, 6; JCL (The Matrix anticipated) 5, 6; DRR (dark cyber-montage) 5, 5; JMS (cracklin’ good scifi) 7, 7; WS at home with the baby; SS (flip into Zion) 6, 6.

7-reader avg=6.14; trued 5-reader avg=6.20

9/08: Finn, Jon Clinch (SS)

Mary’s catfish, dirty rice, Hoppin’ John, biscuits and cornpone, fruit salad, Jim Beam 40-rod whiskey, assorted beers including Hell’s Belles and Negro Modelo.

SDC (Heart of Darkyness) 7, 8; JLSC (Mississippi miscegenation myth) 7, 7; EWK (stately inspired flow) 9, 9; JCL (cryin’ ‘bout spilt milt) 9, 9; DRR (Who’s yer mammy?) 6, 7; JMS (huckleberry) 7, 7; WS at home with the baby; SS (big balls brilliant) 8, 8.

7-reader avg=7.71; trued 5-reader avg=7.70

10/08: Watchmen, Alan Moore (JLSC)

Gunga Diner’s finest, with assorted beers, including Labatt’s Blue and one with an owl on the label.

SDC (Vaginazilla) 7, 7; JLSC (diversions, deceptions and determination) 6, 6; JDI, aka Dr. Manhattan, from Mars (framed washed-up ketchupstain) 5, 5; EWK absent; JCL (wussies in underpants) 6, 6; DRR (pulp science fiction) 6, 6; JMS (second generation pulp) 7, 7; WS at home with the baby; SS in absentia (not my thing) 6, 6.

7-reader avg=6.14; trued 5-reader avg=6.20

11/08: In Cold Blood, Truman Capote (EWK)

Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans and biscuits, Nancy’s chairy pie a la mode, and assorted beers, including Dead Guy Ale and sweet wine beer.

SDC in absentia (Hitchcock Goes 4-H) 7, 7; JLSC (“faggots pf scorn”) 8, 8; JDI in absentia (“Bumped my head”) 8, 8; EWK (two M’Naughty boys) 7, 7; JCL in absentia (vapid supercilious voyeurism) 5, 5; DRR (“breed of Cain”) 5, 5; JMS absent; WS in his triumphant return (Coenesque Americana noir) 8, 8; SS in absentia (Robert Blake did it) 8, 8.

8-reader avg=7.00; trued 6-reader avg=7.17

12/08: The Good Soldier, Ford Maddox Ford (DRR)

Bratwurst, spaetsle, potato pancakes, creamed spinach, German and Swiss cheese, assorted German beers, and German Riesling.

SDC (insomniac’s wet dream) 6, 6; JLSC (apologetic asexual ass) 6, 6; JDI in absentia (eight four everyone) 6, 6; EWK (woodless square Dowell) 5, 5; JCL (tragic turgid turd) 4, 4; DRR (“queer shifty thing”) 7, 7; JMS (get on with it) 4, 4; WS absent; SS (shuttlecocks over Nauheim) 6, 6.

8-reader avg=5.50; trued 6-reader avg=5.50

1/09: Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's, John Elder Robison (JCL)

Chili, chips, baked taters, salsa (the dog loved it!) and salad, assorted beers, including Golden Monkey, Pranqster and Saranacs.

SDC (I like blowjobs!) 6, 6; JLSC (self autism) 3, 4; JDI in absentia (get over yourself) 4, 4; EWK (nerds of a feather) 8, 8; JCL (rock & roll rainman) 8, 7; DRR (make your point) 3, 3; JMS absent; WS absent; SS in absentia (Units unite!) 6, 6.

7-reader avg=5.43; trued 5-reader avg=5.40

2/09: The Quiet Man and Other Stories, Maurice Walsh (SDC)

Shepherd’s pie, assorted beers, including Guiness and Boddington’s, and O’Cellihan’s warm Irish punch.

SDC (another small taste) 7, 7; JLSC (shares of happines) 7, 7; JDI absent; EWK (A man’s world) 6, 6; JCL (saints & demons) 6, 7; DRR your delinquent secretary (Erin go braghless) 6, 6; JMS DNR; WS (breaking the O’Danahers) 6, 6; SS absent.

6-reader avg=6.42; trued 4-reader avg=6.40

3/09: The Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer (WS)

Mead and assorted English ales, English cheeses, cabbage cooked with marrow bone, mutton and pear erse.

SDC (slutton for pornishment) 6, 7; JLSC (rhythmic ribald roguery) 6, 7; JDI absent; EWK (bawdy beats hypocrisy) 7, 7; JCL (14th century Eminem) 8, 8; DRR in absentia (poesy yclept mygrayne) 3, 3; JMS (olde English porn) 6, 6; WS (Chaucer’s nether eye) 8, 8; SS (immortal fart hilarity) 6, 7; CW (lyrical, significant, narcoleptic) 6, 7.

9-reader avg=6.44; trued 7-reader avg=6.57

04/09: Beach

05/09: Go ‘Canes!!!

06/09: After Rain, William Trevor (JMS)

Joey’s stellar gravy, sausages and ziti, green salad and garlic bread, assorted beers and Italian and French wine.

SDC absent; JLSC (children of Bloom) 6, 6; JDI from Joisey (Result: life happening) 8, 8; EWK (other people’s vision) 7, 9; JCL (introspective character sketches) 7, 6; DRR (beautiful elegiac pictures) 7, 7; JMS (wonderfully receding humanity) 7, 8; WS DNR, but contributed to the discussion; SS absent; CW (intelligent tedious wordsturbation) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=7.44; trued 5-reader avg=7.10

07/09: Felicia’s Journey, William Trevor (JDI)

Lake-itizers, grilled rib-eyes, Jude’s cheesy potatoes, green beans, blueberry-peach crisp (or cobbler?), double-shaken martinis and Argentine cabernet sauvignon.

SDC read wrong book but was a great sergeant-at-arms; JLSC (auto erotic virgin) 7, 7; JDI (I want you) 8, 8; EWK absent; JCL (verbal sweet nothings) 6, 6; DRR (not what seems) 8, 8; JMS DNR; WS absent; SS absent; CW (mundane melancholy minutia) 5, 5.

5-reader avg=6.80; trued 3-reader avg=7.33

08/09: The Collector, John Fowles (SS)

Burritos, salad, chips and salsa, assorted beers.

SDC (fresh green shootiness) 8, 8; JLSC (depraved new world) 6, 6; JDI absent; EWK (how lotteries corrupt) 6, 7; JCL DNR; DRR (lameducking New People) 5, 5; JMS absent; WS absent; SS (truly troubling titillation) 8, 8; CW (I’ma creepy voyeur) 8, 8.

6-reader avg=6.92; trued 4-reader avg=7.13

09/09: The Optimist's Daughter, Eudora Welty (JLSC)

Virginia ham sandwiches, fried chicken, hush puppies and “pies three deep,” and assorted beers including Dead Guy Ale.

SDC (the lucky hand) 8, 8; JLSC (gone with the whine) 8, 8; JDI absent; EWK (got to fly) 8, 8; JCL (Mt. Salus hillbillies) 6, 6; DRR (lies, memory, family) 6, 7; JMS absent; WS absent; SS in absentia (I'm not sold) 5, 5; CW absent.

6-reader avg=6.92; trued 4-reader avg=7.13

10/09: The Trial, Franz Kafka (EWK)

Bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato salad and German chocolate cake, and assorted German beers.

SDC on honeymoon; JLSC (bad dream rising) 6, 7; JDI absent; EWK (bureaucracy as disease) 7, 8; JCL (hopeless anti-Roark) 7, 7; DRR (hopeless impotent) 4, 5; JMS absent; WS absent; SS (nightmarish cautionary parable) 7, 7; CW (very Kafkaesque) 8, 8.

6-reader avg=6.83; trued 4-reader avg=7.13

11/09: Tropic of Cancer, Henry Miller (DRR)

Pate, French cheeses, cornichons, French bread, drunken pheasant, baked tomatoes, artichoke salad, Anjou (rose and red) and French beer.

SDC (pre-lay bidet soufflé) 6, 7; JLSC (chewing the psychologic pud) 9, 9; JDI absent; EWK (old country travelogue) 5, 6; JCL (hopeless poon hound) 4, 4; DRR (books dreams cunts) 8, 8; JMS absent; WS absent; SS (THIS BOOK ROCKS) 10, 10; CW (open raincoat corrupting fiction) 6, 7.

7-reader avg=7.07; trued 5-reader avg=7.10

12/09: The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood (JCL)

Chips and salsa, deviled eggs and fiesta chicken chowder, and assorted beers, including Scarlet Ale, Angry Angel and Horndog and St. Pauli Girl.

SDC (worst threesome ever) 6, 7; JLSC absent; JDI absent; EWK (next natural resource?) 6, 8; JCL (estrogen dystopia) 5, 8; DRR (speculative feminist future) 5, 6; JMS (theocratic dystopian objectification) 7, 8; WS absent; SS (collective memory loss) 6, 7; CW (feminist f\*ing Fountainhead) 4, 6.

7-reader avg=6.36; trued 5-reader avg=6.40

1/10: Three Felonies a Day, Harvey A. Silverglate (CW)

Cheese, grapes and bread, boeuf bourgignon, green salad and chocolate cake, and assorted wines and beers.

SDC absent; JLSC DNR; JDI in absentia (why, why, why?) 1, 1; EWK (prosecutorial misconduct) 5, 5; JCL (Beantown circle jerk) 5, 5; DRR (circular rant) 2, 2; JMS absent; WS absent; SS (dander not raised) 4, 5; CW (better than Einstein) 7, 6.

6-reader avg=4.00; trued 4-reader avg=4.13

2/10: Sons and Lovers, D.H. Lawrence (WS)

British cheeses, crackers and bread, Irish butter, colliers’ stew, ginger snaps and assorted beers, including Samuel Smith’s Oatmeal Stout (from Tadcastle), Boddington’s and Mother’s something.

SDC (Paul is gay) 6, 8; JLSC absent; JDI in absentia () 6, 6; EWK (incest is best) 7, 8; JCL in absentia (effeminate empty shell) 8, 8; DRR (painful, human love) 7, 7; JMS DNR; WS (Mommy’s big salami) 7, 8; SS absent; CW (26,000 little words) 8, 7.

7-reader avg=7.21; trued 5-reader avg=7.30

3/10: Personal writings at the beach (DRR organized)

NY strips with blue cheese, Caesar salad and cabs; DRR’s avocado soup with shrimp and goat cheese, Phillipino ribs and sautéed spinach; Cele’s timpano; green lights, wine, absinthe, beer, etc., etc.

4/10: The Haj, Leon Uris (SDC)

Hummus sliders and Middle Eastern beer at Sawmill Tap Room.

SDC (Laurence of Disturbia) 6, 7; JLSC absent; JDI in absentia (trust no one) 6, 6; EWK (Arabs are Klingons) 6, 7; JCL absent; DRR (Zionist propaganda mini-series) 4, 4; JMS in absentia (religion spawns hate); WS absent; SS in absentia 6, 6; CW (Bickering Brawling Brothers) 7, 7.

6-reader avg=6.00; trued 4-reader avg=6.10

5/10: A Separate Peace, John Knowles (JMS)

Hot dogs with all the fixings, chips, potato salad and German and Japanese beers.

SDC (a splendid bore) 6, 6; JLSC (heart of darkness) 7, 7; JDI absent; EWK (Finny’s failed fantasy) 7, 9; JCL (killed my innocence) 6, 8; DRR (ignorant human heart) 6, 8; JMS (war and rivalry) 8, 9; WS (responsibility vs. innocence) 9, 9; SS (high school confidential) 7, 8; CW (Bromance, admiration, envy) 7, 8.

9-reader avg=7.50; trued 7-reader avg=7.50

6/10: Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen (SS)

Grilled brats, potato salad, baked beans, fruit salad. Bass Ale and Flat Tire beers

SDC absent; JLSC absent; JDI in absentia (Gone with the Wind) 7, 7; EWK (long boring ball) 4, 5; JCL (crack and coinage) 8, 8; DRR in absentia(liveliness of mind) 7, 7; JMS absent; WS absent; SS (window to past) 7, 7; CW (what women want) 6, 6.

6-reader avg=6.58; trued 4-reader avg=6.70

7/10: Survivor, Chuck Palahniuk (JDI)

Homemade pesto with sausage and cheese, killer guac, shrimp, risotto, pork and summer veggies, Jude’s caramel brownies, martinis, etc., Mark West pinot noir, beer and Laphroig

SDC (F\*ing crash already!) 6, 6; JLSC (anti-Christ gets laid) 8, 8; JDI (tines down) 8, 8; EWK (sociopathic Martha Stewart) 8, 8; JCL (little monkey hands) 6, 6; DRR (predeterministic hilarious quickie) 6, 6; JMS absent; WS absent; SS absent; CW (sociopathic cinematic jism) 6, 7.

7-reader avg=6.93; trued 5-reader avg=6.90

8/10: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Stieg Larsson (JLSC)

Caviar on cheese toast with hard-boiled egg, Swedish Cobb-balls, pickled herring, smoked salmon, potato salad, ice cream w/blueberries, Absolut and assorted beers, including Hell’s Belle

SDC (Cobain meets Fleming) 8, 8; JLSC (doppel-Vanger ganger-banger) 6, 6; JDI absent; EWK (What, no mask?) 7, 7; JCL (WSJ with porn) 7, 7; DRR (freakin’ frozen froken) 6, 5; JMS DNR; WS absent; SS (lost in translation) 6, 5; CW (coffee, sex, torture (repeat)) 9, 9.

7-reader avg=6.86; trued 5-reader avg=6.80

9/10: Brave New World, Aldous Huxley (EWK)

Egg casserole, New Mexican chips and salsas, fruit, and assorted beers

SDC (dystopic Foridan slip) 8, 9; JLSC (What’s the problem?) 6, 7; JDI (Linda’s left-hand turn) 8, 8; EWK (infernal consumption injun) 9, 9; [Eli Kratt (Shakespearean vs. dystopian) 7, 7;] JCL (decline and fall) 8, 8; DRR (“I like inconveniences”) 6, 6; JMS in absentia (Utopia . . . Not) 9, 9; WS absent; SS (Mustapha's Massive Muscle) 8, 9; CW (pure genius) 8, 9.

9-reader avg=8.00; trued 7-reader avg=8.06

10/10: Pale Fire, Vladimir Nabokov (DRR)

Zemblan “Try the pork” kebabs over egg noodles, red slaw, Sierra Nevada Pale Ale and assorted IPA’s.

SDC (acrid ungroomed gobbledygook) 4, 5; JLSC (Russian nesting dolls) 6, 6; JDI absent; EWK DNR; JCL (puckish pretentious pederasty) 6, 6; DRR (“accidents and possibilities”) 8, 8; JMS DNR; WS absent; SS absent; CW (allusion, confusion, pretension) 5, 7.

5-reader avg=6.10; trued 3-reader avg=6.00

11/10: A Man's Life, Mark Jenkins (JCL)

Katmandu stew, burgers, fries, sautéed veggies and assorted beers, including Dead Guy Ale and Fat Tire.

SDC (blue babe’s balls) 7, 7; JLSC (too high) 6, 6; JDI in absentia (more than adventure) 8, 8; EWK (I’m a wuss) 6, 7; JCL (nothing left to take away) 8, 8; DRR (macho wanderlust) 5, 5; JMS DNR; WS absent; SS (soldier of opportunity) 7, 8; CW (adrenaline ADD actualization) 7, 8.

8-reader avg=6.94; trued 6-reader avg=7.08

12/10: Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls (CW)

With spouses!

Cheesy asparagus rolls and cream cheese chutney apps with Veuve Clicquot, roast pork loin, green salad, zucchini and summer squash and potatoes dauphinoise, selected French red wines, German chocolate cake and pie.

SDC absent; JLSC in absentia (Rosemary’s ashes) 7, 7; JDI in absentia (strength through adversity) 6, 6; EWK (bent by wind) 7, 7; JCL using a recycled box (Jethro goes to Gotham) 6, 6; DRR (pathetic pathological parenting) 5, 6; JMS absent; WS absent; SS (bunch o’ BS) 6, 7; CW (interesting life) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=6.43; trued 5-reader avg=6.50

1/11: The Unbearable Lightness of Being, Milan Kundera (WS)

Rubbed pork loin, brussels sprouts and potatos, Pilsener Urquel and Magic Hat #6.

SDC (Oedipally, pornosophically lovely) 8, 9; JLSC (lyrical libidinous epic) 8, 8; JDI absent; EWK absent; JCL (The Prague Schwing) 7, 8; DRR (the ambiguous truth) 8, 8; JMS (life = heavy suitcase) 8, 8; WS (bowlers, boners, Beethoven) 7, 9; SS in absentia (modern metaphor marathon) 6, 6; CW (attached detachment) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=7.86; trued 6-reader avg=7.67

2/11: True Grit, Charles Portis (SDC)

LaBoeuf Bourgignon, white beans, corn dodgers and honeycake, rattlesnake cocktails, young Bordeaux, black lager and Old Thumper beer

SDC (Who’s your Mattie?) 8, 8; JLSC (propriety in Hell) 9, 9; JDI in absentia (workin' fer woman) 5, 5; EWK (spunky meets grumpy) 6, 7; JCL (autistic Annie Oakley) 6, 6; DRR (a sandy bikini) 5, 5; JMS (one-eyed Western snakes) 7, 7; WS (seeking Cele’s sofky) 6, 7; SS (Mattie matters most) 7, 7; CW (tough little bitch) 9, 10.

10-reader avg=6.95; trued 8-reader avg=6.88

3/11: The Maltese Falcon, Dashiell Hammett (JMS)

Black bean and chicken burritos w/fixings, chips and assorted Mexican beers (and delicious tall blue tequila later!)

SDC (fags and O’Shag) 7, 8; JLSC (dames, dicks, dreams) 7, 7; JDI in absentia (play the sap) 7, 7; EWK (bird w/o Bogey) 7, 8; JCL absent; DRR (flip the bird) 4, 4; JMS (figure, blackbird, Maltesefalcon) 8, 8; WS (Spade and neutered) 7, 8; SS (Who’s the worst?) 6, 7; CW (fun fucking book) 8, 8.

9-reader avg=7.00; trued 7-reader avg=7.13

4/11: Personal writings in the mountains (guest appearance by videographer KS)

DRR’s Tunisian rubbed ribeyes, Caesar and carrot salads, boules and stinky cheese with cabs; JD’s ham, spinach and egg “tits;” Cele’s mom’s mac ‘n’ cheese, green beans and 8-hour ribs; Chip’s breakfast souflees; 6-1/2 hour small plates—Cele’s crostini with crab, avocado and tomatoes, Billy’s garlic gambas; Cele’s tequila wings, sausage-stuffed mushrooms and artichokes Romana, Chip’s fried calamari, Cele’s crostini with prosciutto, mozzarella, red pepper and balsamic, and Cele’s braised short ribs over polenta; green lights, wine, martinis, beer, Billy’s bloodies, etc., etc.

5/11: Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe, Edgar Allan Poe (SS)

A Decent into the Maelstrom, The Facts in the Case of Mr. Valdemar, The Imp of the Perverse, The Island of the Fay, Man that was Used Up, Mesmeric Revelation, The Premature Burial, The Purloined Letter, The Mystery of Marie Roget, The Raven, The Masque of the Red Death, The Tell-Tale Heart, The Cask of Amontillado, The Murders in the Rue Morgue, The Fall of the House of Usher, The Gold Bug, The Pit and the Pendulum, Annabel Lee, The Oval Portrait

Mary’s bean and pepper nachos, chips, green salad, fish over rice with oranges and tomatoes and assorted beers (and “cask” of Amontillado, thanks to Chip!)

SDC (unceasing radiation of gloom) 7, 7; JLSC (classic skull buggery) 6, 7; JDI absent; EWK (Holmes before Doyle) 8, 8; JCL (such a bore) 5, 5; DRR (unclose my eyes) 7, 7; JMS DNR but contributed from high school reading; WS absent; SS (anachronistic horror pioneer) 6, 7; CW (brilliant bourgeois berserk) 9, 9.

7-reader avg=7.00; trued 5-reader avg=7.00

6/11: Solo Faces, James Salter (JLSC)

Chateuabriand on baguettes, French cheese, potato and edamame salads, berries and ice cream, and assorted French wines

SDC (Papa goes climbing) 7, 8; JLSC (Hemingway on ice) 8, 8; JDI in absentia (spare bare rare) 7, 7; EWK DNR; JCL (essential manhood) 9, 9; DRR (real struggle’s afterward) 8, 9; JMS absent; WS DNR; SS (melancholy mountain man) 7, 8; CW (UP and down) 6, 7.

7-reader avg=7.71; trued 5-reader avg=7.70

7/11: Let the Great World Spin: A Novel, Colum McCann (JDI)

Tomato, pesto, basil and mozzarella crostini, Oaxacan pork, Jude’s cheesy potatoes, Chinese long beans, Jude’s caramel brownies, beer, martinis and red wine

SDC (Jazz’d’lynn her arse) 8, 8; JLSC (stout poles limp line) 5, 5; JDI (nobody falls halfway) 8, 8; EWK absent; JCL in absentia (five borough symphony) 8, 8; DRR (fragments of order) 6, 6; JMS (Irish Easter-egg hunt) 7, 7; WS (all about tea) 6, 6; SS absent; CW (spinning nowhere) 6, 7.

8-reader avg=6.88; trued 6-reader avg=7.00

8/11: Jesus' Son, Denis Johnson (DRR)

Grilled watermelon with goat cheese and basil, Marrakech rubbed ribeyes, ethanol corn, Italian bread, Walla Walla Syrah and assorted beers, included Toasted Ale and Duck Rabbit

SDC absent; JLSC (Suttree’s criminal brother) 6, 6; JDI from the road (rush then crash) 5, 5; EWK DNR; JCL (pointless tales of depravity) 4, 4; DRR (I’m still alive) 7, 7; JMS absent; WS absent; SS absent; CW (Jesus notso much) 6, 6.

5-reader avg=5.60; trued 3-reader avg=5.67

9/11: Frankenstein, Mary Shelley (EWK)

Fondue, franks, chips, potato salad, iceberg wedges with bleu cheese dressing and bacon, and assorted beers, included Dead Guy Ale and Titan IPA

SDC (power’s bad, umkaaay . . .) 6, 7; JLSC (monster ego) 8, 8; JDI from the road (we are one) 6, 6; EWK (no fem Frankie) 7, 9; JCL (monster morality archetype) 7, 9; DRR (monstrously overwrought invention) 5, 7; JMS (overwrought wretchedness) 5, 7; WS (ambition, alienation, isolation) 7, 7; SS (melancholy monster mash) 7, 8; CW (wretchedus miserablissimus) 5, 6.

10-reader avg=6.85; trued 8-reader avg=6.81

10/11: The Shadow of the Wind, Carlos Ruiz Zafón (JCL)

Tapas, including serrano ham, chorizo, manchego, olives, etc., etc., Cava and Spanish red wine, Barcelonan beer

SDC (cloak and bang her) 7, 8; JLSC (Amores de lejos (son de pendejos)) 7, 7; JDI absent; EWK (praying mantis paradigm) 7, 7; JCL (lyric Catalan wisdom) 9, 9; DRR (mythsterious Barthelonan windowshade) 6, 7; JMS DNR; WS absent; SS in absentia (I like Fermin) 6, 6; CW (Franco’s fault) 7, 9.

7-reader avg=7.29; trued 5-reader avg=7.20

11/11: The Human Stain, Philip Roth (CW)

Soul food, namely ribs, greens, black-eyed peas, mashed potatoes, corn bread, red wine and assorted beers

SDC absent; JLSC (boogie whites!) 7, 7; JDI in absentia (Butt, I digress) 6, 6; EWK absent; JCL (dick for brains) 7, 7; DRR (Who are you?) 7, 8; JMS (classic black tragedy) 7, 8; WS DNF (isms and asms); SS (collective identity crisis) 6, 7; CW (guilty) 7, 8.

7-reader avg=7.00; trued 5-reader avg=7.00

12/11: Lord of the Flies, William Golding (WS)

Piggy (ribs and pulled), slaw, macaroni and cheese, fried okra and assorted beers, including Longboard Ale

SDC (beating your meeting) 7, 8; JLSC (fabric is thin) 8, 8; JDI in absentia (leadership primer) 8, 8; EWK (mutual ululation) 8, 8; JCL (Leviathan island) 7, 7; DRR (“it’s only us”) 7, 7; JMS (green & white fear) 7, 8; WS (Allagorillagan’s Island) 8, 9; SS in absentia (Boyz to beasts) 8, 8; CW (inner demons exposed) 7, 8.

10-reader avg=7.70; trued 8-reader avg=7.69

1/12: The Thin Man, Dashiell Hammett (JMS)

McSorley’s apps (cheddar on saltines with mustard and onion), deli sandwiches (roast beef and turkey with just proper fixin’s), linzer tort, scotch and sodas, and assorted beers

SDC absent; JLSC (lugs, mugs & liquour) 8, 8; JDI absent; EWK (What—no hangovers?) 6, 6; JCL (Depression-era Mad Men) 5, 6; DRR (witty drinking repartee) 6, 6; JMS (sore tight speakeasy) 8, 8; WS (Nick&Nora, NewYork, Nightcaps) 6, 7; SS (DWI, or Detecting While Intoxicated) 5, 6; CW (style) 6, 6.

8-reader avg=6.44; trued 6-reader avg=6.42

2/12: The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood, Homer Pyle (SDC)

Cheese and bread, roasted capons, wild boar and beef pasties, ales and mead

SDC (Gomer’s Odyssey) 8, 8; JLSC (Marry! Merry Marys!) 5, 5; JDI from the road (Do unto others) 7, 7; EWK (yeomen gone wild) 6, 7; JCL (my lusty sack) 7, 7; DRR (Fain, lusty yeomen!) 4, 4; JMS (Sherwood Schwartz’s heroes) 5, 5; WS (queens in Lincoln green) 6, 6; SS (gayest book ever) 7, 7; CW (funny-talkin’ fat f\*\*\*ers) 6, 6.

10-reader avg=6.15; trued 8-reader avg=6.19

3/12: Norwegian Wood, Haruki Murakami(SS)

Teriyaki chicken, tempura veggies, miso(honee) soup, rice and assorted Japanese beers

SDC (mu shu porkin’) 6, 7; JLSC (rubber zori) 9, 9; JDI from the road (Angst Like Godzilla) 6, 6; EWK (Fukashima fucka-shima) DNR; JCL (poke Naoke) 7, 7; DRR (haunting imperfect loves) 7, 7; JMS ([White album]) DNR; WS absent; SS (music, madness, melancholy) 8, 9; CW (indecision and angst) 8, 9.

7-reader avg=7.50; trued 5-reader avg=7.50

4/12: Let Me [OR the Right One] In, John Ajvide Lindqvist (JLSC)

Smoked salmon, cheese, crackers, caviar, Swedish meatballs over egg noodles, blueberries and ice cream, raspberry Stoli, red wine and assorted beers

SDC (Man stroker’s Dracula) 7, 7; JLSC (Oskar fire weiner) 6, 6; JDI absent; EWK absent; JCL (let me quim) DNF; DRR (brooding bloody thriller) 6, 6; JMS absent; WS (I like Jim’sballs) DNR; SS in absentia (did not finish) 5, 5; CW (boners, bullies, blood) 6, 6.

5-reader avg=6.00; trued 3-reader avg=6.00

4/12: Personal writings [in mountains—EWK; thundersnow and Steve Jobs’ house is on the ridge across the valley]

Thursday: Sriracha pimento cheese crostini with pickled jalapenos; 3-beet salad on alfalfa sprouts with Greek honey yogurt; Fried chicken with mashed, celery infused, skin on golden potatoes, and garlic oil braised kale. 2009 8 Spring Mountain (Napa) Chardonnay and 2007 Keenan Spring Mountain (Napa) Cabernet Franc.

Friday: Barbecued chicken and country style ribs; Celemac & cheese; and Green beans almandine.

Saturday: Caramelized onion pizza Provençal with sautéed shrimp; Spring minestrone with chicken meatballs and fennel & radicchio salad with orange zest and toasted almonds; Bacon and mushroom/roast garlic butter wrapped beef tenderloin roast; Rosemary roasted baby creamer potatoes; 2007 Tyrus Evan Walla Walla Syrah, 2007 Domaine Serene Evenstad Reserve pinot noir (Oregon), 2007 Marquis Phillips 9 Shiraz McClaren Vale, and Alex Gambal Pinot Noir Les Deux Papis (Burgundy); AND as an added bonus for those of us that hung in late, Chip's Pan Fried Glazed Donuts and Ice Cream for dessert were absolutely KILLAH!!

Also Chip’s breakfast feasts; Bacon Bloody Billy’s, Joe’s delectable martinis, Green Lights and other drinks galore.

6/12: The Known World, Edward P. Jones (DRR)

Peanut soup, ham, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, rolls, blueberries a la mode, Manchester ale and Port City (VA) beers (and some brown liquor later)

SDC in absentia (pleasurin’ ole one-eye) 7, 7; JLSC (an unknown world) 7, 8; JDI from Ohio (Massa dead inside-out) 8, 8; EWK (muddled mulatto morals) 6, 7; JCL by phone 7, 7; DRR (map of life) 8, 9; JMS DNF; WS absent; SS (Dis Nigga Free) 5, 5; CW (slavery unplugged) 5, 7.

8-reader avg=6.94; trued 6-reader avg=7.00

7/12: The Art of Fielding, Chad Harbach (JDI)

Roasted nuts, Chilled Curry Zucchini soup, Wisconsin bratwurst wrapped in hamburger wrapped in bacon, grilled, on whole wheat roll (The Blocker), Judy's Oven roasted sweet potato fries, Grilled hearts of romaine salad with fresh tomatoes and oregano, Caramel peanut popcorn baseballs (ice cream "baseballs" with crushed Cracker Jack on the outside), Painkillers (rum, pineapple juice, orange juice and cream of coconut...a specialty of Virgin Gorda, BVI), Harpoon IPA and Harpoon wheat

SDC (Westish faggot fetish) 8, 8; JLSC (call me Ish-female) 5, 5; JDI (everyone has issues) 8, 8; EWK (ambitions interrupted) 7, 8; JCL DNF 8, 8; DRR in absentia (high hard one) 6, 6; JMS DNF; WS (schwing batter batter) 6, 6; SS absent; CW (balls bats butts) 6, 6.

9-reader avg=6.72; trued 7-reader avg=6.75

8/12: Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad (SDC)

English cheese, Congolese peanut and chicken soup, smoked pork shoulder aka “black heart of hippo” with West African barbeque sauce, yams with arugula, dark chocolate, British almonds, “Kurtzhattans,” and British and African beers

SDC (Harlequin bromance) 8, 9; JLSC (black heart moan) 8, 8; JDI (adjective heavy descriptors) 7, 8; EWK (Kurtz is capitalism) 8, 9; JCL absent; DRR (breathe dead hippo) 9, 9; JMS ([Polock joke]) 9, 9; WS (Marlowenin’ onda river) 8, 9; SS (Who’s your daddy?) 8, 8; CW (our rotten core) 8, 9.

9-reader avg=8.39; trued 7-reader avg=8.44

9/12: A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce (JCL)

Weak tea and bread crumbs, Tullamore Dew, shepherd’s pie, white bread, scones and assorted Irish beers

SDC (mortification of touch) 8, 9; JLSC (lift thrust & stability) 7, 8; JDI absent; EWK absent; JCL (alone, quite alone) 7, 8; DRR (priestridden Godforsaken race) 6, 8; JMS (bird has flown) 6, 8; WS (GirlsGoneWild Emerald Isle) 6, 7; SS absent; CW DNR.

6-reader avg=7.33; trued 5-reader avg=7.30

10/12: Rudyard Kipling (CW)

The Man Who Would Be King, Captains Courageous, Gunga din, If, The White Man’s Burden, Mandalay

Assorted apps, including pickled herring, pitas, tabouli, olives and peppers, curry seafood soup, kabobs, Darsey’s apple pie, brown liquor, wine and beers

SDC (manly comfortings) 6, 6; JLSC (white man’s conceit) 4, 4; JDI in absentia (Vexed, Harried, Drifting) 8, 8; EWK in absentia (proper British adventures) 8, 8; JCL (cunnilingadin) 5, 5; DRR (ripping colonial yarns) 6, 5; JMS (rollicking British adventure) 6, 5; WS absent; SS (fish and sips) 5, 5; CW (rip lareef) 7, 6.

9-reader avg=5.94; trued 7-reader avg=5.94

11/12: The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway (WS)

Guacamole, salsa and chips, grilled dorado tacos with black beans and fried plaintains, assorted Latino and fish and beach beers

SDC (call me Santiago) 10, 10; JLSC (to fight again) 8, 8; JDI (lucky or exact) 6, 7; EWK (schizophrenic Santiago’s struggles) 6, 7; JCL (pure simple meditation) 8, 8; DRR (old man cramps) 5, 6; JMS (nothing but skeleton) 9, 9; WS (not many beans) 9, 10; SS (essential skeletal remains) 8, 9; CW (more man shit) 7, 8.

10-reader avg=7.90; trued 8-reader avg=7.94

12/12: Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain (EWK)

Spinach salad with apples and golden raisins, white chicken chili, corn pone, assorted mostly black beers (and Oarsman), Mississippi mud pie

SDC in absentia (Nigger's Justa Word) 9, 9; JLSC having lit out for the territories (river refuge) 8, 8; JDI (a cat convention) 8, 9; EWK (common sense ain’t) 8, 9; JCL (Mississippi mud puppies) 9, 9; DRR (honey pooty smart) 7, 8; JMS (“I’ll go to Hell”) 7, 8; WS (river = freedom) 8, 9; SS in absentia (Rollin' on the River) 6, 6; CW (serialized social criticism) 8, 9.

10-reader avg=7.90; trued 8-reader avg=8.25

1/13: Siddhartha, Herman Hesse (JMS)

Pork tenderloin, rolls, mustards, chopped onions and pickles, roasted baby potatoes, spinach w/garlic, chocolate chip cookies and India Pale Ale and Spaten

SDC (sublime paradoxologies) 10, 10; JLSC (“\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_”) 6, 7; JDI (the circular path) 8, 8; EWK in absentia (Wisdom from experience) 7, 7; JCL (presence nothingness unity) 10, 10; DRR (DIY) 6, 7; JMS (falseness of duality) 9, 9; WS DNF (Om); SS (live, love, learn) 8, 9; CW (Rules? No rules!) 8, 9.

9-reader avg=8.22; trued 7-reader avg=8.25

2/13: The Dog Stars, Peter Heller (SS)

Ham, beans, mac and cheese, fruit salad, and assorted dog beers (Flying Dog, etc.)

SDC (the new normal) 7, 7; JLSC (a lovely apocalypse) 5, 5; JDI (fishing for life) 7, 7; EWK (I am ashamed) DNR; JCL in absentia but radioed in from Grand Junction (McCarthy with heart) 8, 8; DRR (prepper pee-RIM-eater job) 6, 6; JMS absent to avoid the apocalypse; WS (readable, played, malconcluded) 6, 6; SS (animate the stillness) 7, 8; CW (sillypocalyptic metrosexual consciousness) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=6.69; trued 6-reader avg=6.75

3/13: A High Wind in Jamaica, Richard Hughes (JLSC)

Baked fish, boiled shrimp, veggies, ice cream, rum, Anchor Steam and Jamaican beers

SDC (molestation vacation) 7, 7; JLSC (The children’s hour) 8, 8; JDI (Peter Pan redux) 6, 6; EWK (girls gone psycho) 8, 8; JCL (High Brits in Hispaniola) 6, 6; DRR from Telluride (“crystallizing into myth”) 7, 7; JMS DNR; WS absent; SS in absentia (nicest pirates EVER) 6, 6; CW (acquired taste) 6, 6.

8-reader avg=6.75; trued 6-reader avg=6.67

4/13: Personal writings [in mountains—EWK] (all but DRR had a brewery outing Friday afternoon)

Thursday: Billy’s bacon bleu burgers with salad and cabs.

Friday: Cele apps, then DRR’s grilled basterma in grape leaves, lamb and pistachio kebabs with onion relish, Turkish salad, stuffed peppers, fava beans in tomato sauce, bread and cheese, with temperanillos.

Saturday: Cele’s green eggs and ham, beets, shrimp and home-made corned beef quesadillas, mac and cheese, green beans and chicken with garnachas.

Also Darsey’s pie, Cele’s brined beer turkey; Bacon Bloody Billy’s, Joeyhattans, Green Lights, etc.

5/13: Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel, Ben Fountain (JDI)

Chips and guacamole, turkey, mashed sweet potatoes, succotash, rolls, Jude’s brownies and beers, including Shiner Bock and Negro Modelo

SDC (Faison d’etre?) 6, 7; JLSC DNF; JDI (“Bonemfahreal”) 8, 8; EWK absent; JCL DNS; DRR (America’s Team’s lapdance) 6, 6; JMS absent for the boys’ 10th; WS (“Their reality’s bitch”) 7, 8; SS (crisp, entertaining, effective) 7, 7; CW (pictures characters comics) 5, 3.

6-reader avg=6.50; trued 4-reader avg=6.70

6/13: Moby Dick, Herman Melville (DRR)

Clam chowder, grilled swordfish in garlic marinade, white asparagus in lime sauce, Harpoon and Scrimshaw ales and Boston lagers.

SDC (Dick that swallows) 7, 9; JLSC (white whale moan) 9, 9; JDI on safari; EWK absent; JCL (Yojo=Queequeg’s mojo) 9, 9; DRR (“Reality outran apprehension”) 8, 9; JMS (unseen depths) 6, 8; WS (laborious leviathan life-goal) 7, 8; SS (overhead and underwater) 6, 7; CW (bite-sized epic) 9, 9.

8-reader avg=8.06; trued 6-reader avg=8.1

7/13: Women, Charles Bukowski (SDC)

Seared tuna with olives, big ribeyes with brown sauce, pork shoulder and slaw, vodka 7’s, homemade gin, Menage a Trois red wine, and assorted beers, including Doggy Style and Angry Angel

SDC (Hanky’s ranky panky) 8, 8; JLSC (hyena love tail) 6, 6; JDI (sex, no climax) 5, 5; EWK (luckily, there’s beer) 6, 6; JCL (blood and piss) 2, 2; DRR (hard to finish) 4, 4; JMS in Joisey; WS (fallacious ‘fifties fornication) 6, 6; SS (tumescent tittilating tale) 6, 7; CW (guy porn) 7, 7.

9-reader avg=5.61; trued 7-reader avg=5.69

8/13: The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed out the Window and Disappeared, Jonas Jonasson (JCL, CW host)

Smoked salmon with cream cheese and dill, pickled herring, cheese, sausages and steak, asparagus, creamer potatoes, vodka, red wine and assorted beers

SDC (Forrestson Gumpsson) 6, 5; JLSC (picaresque Gump revisited) 3, 5; JDI (Steves meets Gump) 4, 3; EWK (old Swedish Gump) 8, 8; JCL (Swedish money massage) 7, 6; DRR (Where’s Waldo Silvasson?) 4, 4; JMS in absentia although in-state (entertaining picaro romp) 6, 6; WS (too much dynamite) 6, 7; SS (lost in translation) 3, 5; CW (Carl Hiassenski) 7, 8.

10-reader avg=5.45; trued 8-reader avg=5.44

9/13: Flyboys, James Bradley (CW, JCL host)

Liver pate, assorted cheeses, sushi, London broil, sake and assorted beers

SDC (Jap snack attack) 6, 6; JLSC in Prague read the steamy version; JDI (Happy ending? No!) 4, 4; EWK (educational, before descending) 5, 5; JCL (flying fickle finger-of-fate) 5, 4; DRR (pretty fly . . .) 4, 4; JMS absent; WS DNR; SS (flawed yet riveting) 7, 7; CW (the horror) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=5.36; trued 5-reader avg=5.30

10/13: The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, Junot Diaz (WS)

Chips, salsa and awesome guacamole, chicken tinga tacos with all the fixin’s (beans on the side), Heineken, Presidente, Duck Rabbit Milk Stout and Hogwash growler

SDC (culos & putas & bears!) 6, 7; JLSC (amor de pendejo) 8, 8; JDI from SC (Fire, in English) 8, 8; EWK absent; JCL (colonial Spiderman wannabe) 8, 8; DRR (best footnotes ever) 6, 6; JMS absent; WS (fuku or zafa?) 8, 9; SS on a conference call with Taiwan (Women Always Win) 6, 6; CW (great fuku book) 7, 8.

8-reader avg=7.31; trued 6-reader avg=7.33

11/13: Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison (EWK)

BBQ, slaw, green beans in fatback, yams, addictive oreo things, “Ghost” white whiskey, Double Black whiskey, Dark Truth, Guinness Black, Negro Modelo and winter white beers

SDC (Rinehart of darkness) 8, 9; JLSC (black man’s burden) 9, 9; JDI (behold the invisible) 8, 8; EWK (Oreo twisted, swallowed) 8, 9; JCL (ass struggle) 7, 8; DRR (American’s burden sung) 8, 9; JMS absent; WS (stereotype = blindness) 7, 9; SS (recognition of possibility) 9, 10; CW (Leroy shrugged) 7, 9.

9-reader avg=8.39; trued 7-reader avg=8.38

12/13: Great Expectations, Charles Dickens (SS)

Chili dip, green salad, beef Poor Boys and assorted British beers

SDC in absentia (Ecstatically Unhappy Rhapsody) 8, 8; JLSC (making Pip squeak) 7, 7; JDI (long gentlemanly tale) 7, 7; EWK in absentia (partings welded together) 7, 7; JCL (gay fiction) 8, 8; DRR (self-seeking relations) 5, 5; JMS absent; WS (wery wiwid and wast) 8, 8; SS (redemptive rowboat realization) 8, 8; CW DNF (dialectally delicious).

8-reader avg=7.25; trued 6-reader avg=7.50

1/14: Wise Blood, Flannery O’Connor (JLSC)

Split pea soup, ham, smoked turkey, sweet potatoes, cheeses, Negro Modelo, Hell’s Belle and Angry Angel beers, and 7 Deadly Zins and Temptation zinfandels and Lost Angel Pinot Noir

SDC in absentia (So longa Gonga!!) 7, 7; JLSC (Southern Siddartha) 8, 8; JDI in absentia (Neck Thrust Forward) 7, 7; EWK DNR; JCL (po’ white chronicles) 7, 8; DRR in absentia (dumb beasts) 8, 8; JMS on the phone (blind redemption) 7, 7; WS DNR; SS (enjoyable edgy enigma) 6, 8; CW (too much masterbation) 6, 7.

8-reader avg=7.25; trued 6-reader avg=7.33

2/14: Cosmicomics, Italo Calvino (DRR)

Italian bread and cheese, Caesar salad and “lunar milk” linguini alla carbonara with grilled peppers, chardonnay, Tuscan red wine and Morretti lager and Rossa beers

SDC in absentia (Mesozoic metastrophysic masturbation) 7, 7; JLSC (fables, foibles and photons) 6, 7; JDI in absentia (labyrinth of thoughts) 8, 8; EWK (not short enough) DNR; JCL (Hawking’s hallucinations) 6, 6; DRR (through strange regions) 8, 8; JMS DNR; WS DNR; SS (life explained experimentally) 7, 7; CW (now I know) 6, 7.

7-reader avg=6.86; trued 5-reader avg=6.80

3/14: The Good Lord Bird, James McBride (JDI)

Onion soup with grilled cheese, savory bird breasts and green beens, red wine and assorted beers, including Brown Dog

SDC (brown eye pie) 7, 7; JLSC (little black man) 5, 5; JDI (narrative historical humorous) 8, 8; EWK (little brown onions) 8, 8; JCL DNF (wishinfer Negro Modelo) 8, 8; DRR (Little Nig Man) 6, 6; JMS DNR; WS (my true nature) 6, 6; SS (run, Onion, run) 6, 7; CW (words and scores) 7, 7.

9-reader avg=6.83; trued 7-reader avg=6.88

3/27-30/14: Personal writings [in mountains—EWK]

Thursday: Kratt burgers with cheesy potatoes; Chip’s fried donuts a la mode with Nutella.

Friday: Apps and early dinner at brewpub (where JSC wanted to pee out front).

Saturday: Chip’s breakfast soufflés, Cele’s anti-pasti, beef tenderloin wrapped in homemade pork sausage wrapped in skirt steak wrapped in bacon, with mixed potatoes and spinach, kale and zucchini.

Also assorted beers and wines, Slim Jim Bloody Billy’s, Joeyhattans, Green Lights, etc.

5/14: Madame Bovary, Gustave Flaubert, translated by Lydia Davis (SDC)

French cheese, fried smelt, Roman prawns, spinach salad, grilled pork loin, and assorted French wines, beers and cider

SDC (Is it in?) 8, 10; JLSC DNR; JDI in absentia (endless suffering) 7, 7; EWK DNR; JCL DNR; DRR (“her longing remained”) 6, 6; JMS (Most unromantic) 6, 6; WS (Celerules, Flaubert drools!) 5, 6; SS in absentia (bored to death) 6, 6; CW (self-centered whore) 7, 8.

7-reader avg=6.71; trued 5-reader avg=6.50

6/14: Growing Up, Russell Baker (JCL)

Mama Dip’s fried chicken, okra, cole slaw, biscuits, pone and apple cobbler, Moontini’s and Moonlini’s, and assorted beers

SDC absent; JLSC (rewrite!) 5, 5; JDI (Youth Depression Mimi) 5, 6; EWK absent; JCL (small-town sweet-boy stories) 6, 6; DRR (Mimi me) 5, 5; KS (moments eloquently shared) 7, 7; JMS (American Blue-collar Aspirations) 6, 6; WS DNR; SS (enjoyable familiar forgettable) 6, 6; CW (something witty) 7, 6.

8-reader avg=5.88; trued 6-reader avg=5.83

7/14: Punk's War, Ward Carroll (CW)

Chips, dip, pineapple salsa, cheese and crackers, burgers, cole slaw, beans, Darsey’s favorite tequila, gin and tonics, and assorted beers

SDC (bottom gun) 5, 5; JLSC (chickenshit confession) 6, 6; JDI (good pla(i)n(e) book) 5, 5; EWK (M\*A\*S\*H meets Topgun) 6, 7; JCL (mile high dud) 6, 5; DRR (war’s punk) 4, 4; KS (cardboard at altitude) 3, 4; JMS (Clancy’s Topgun Catch-22) 6, 6; WS absent; SS absent; CW (real deal) 7, 7.

9-reader avg=5.39; trued 7-reader avg=5.44

8/14: Babbitt, Sinclair Lewis (WS)

Bratwurst with onions, shaved Brussels sprouts, cole slaw, potato chips, highballs and assorted beers

SDC (exhorting, cavorting and davenporting) 8, 9; JLSC absent; JDI (lives like hotelrooms) 8, 8; EWK (down the Babbitthole) 8, 8; JCL (tedious satire) DNF; DRR (saddened freed heart) 7, 8; KS (lemmings on hooch) 6, 7; JMS (mid dream search) 8, 9; WS (conformity consumerism, cronyism, Christianity, conflict) 8, 9; SS absent; CW in absentia (what the Dickens) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=7.81; trued 6-reader avg=7.92

9/14: “King Lear”, William Shakespeare (EWK)

English cheeses, breads and crackers, Shepherd’s pie, Union Jack tart and assorted beers, including Rogue Dead Guy Ale

SDC (well forfended place) 9, 9; JLSC (Edmund catches Goneril-a) 8, 7; JDI (the King’s speech) 7, 7; EWK (worst will ever) 8, 8; JCL (for play) 6, 6; DRR (those pelican daughters) 8, 8; KS (crossword puzzle intrigue) 5, 5; JMS in absentia (Oh, untimely death!) 6, 6; WS (madmen lead the blind) 8, 8; SS (Nuncle says “uncle!”) 6, 7; CW (drama drama drama) 8, 9.

11-reader avg=7.23; trued 9-reader avg=7.25

10/14: This Side of Paradise, F. Scott Fitzgerald (JMS, JDI host)

Veuve Cliquot, mushroom crostini, chicken cordon bleu, roasted potatoes, asparagus, French wine and assorted beers, including Flip Side

SDC (myriad soupcon epiphanies) 7, 8; JLSC (conceits, epigrams, ennui) 6, 6; JDI (not Long Island) nor the right book!; EWK (high point of vanity) 7, 8; JCL (paean to egotism) 4, 4; DRR (egotist in perpetuity) 7, 8; KS absent; JMS in absentia (Prelude to a Gatsby) 7, 7; WS absent; SS (did not care) 5, 5; CW (Eliot with style) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=6.44; trued 6-reader avg=6.58

11/14: Spousal dinner at Reynolds’ with 10-book theme and t-shirts, catered by Jacob Boehm/Snap Pea Catering

12/14: The Goldfinch, Donna Tartt (SS)

Vegas chili with all the fixin’s, GREAT bread (3 slices, each, Jimbo), salad, Heinecken mini-kegs

SDC (Tweety and smack) 6, 7; JLSC (the polychrome edge) 7, 7; JDI (relentless irony) 8, 9; EWK (master work hidden) 6, 7; JCL (everybody knows your pain) 8, 8; DRR (“random and impersonal”) 4, 5; KS (relentless relatable prose) 6, 8; JMS in absentia (Moving Pictures) 7, 7; WS absent; SS (“shock and aura”) 8, 9; CW DNR.

9-reader avg=7.06; trued 7-reader avg=7.13

1/15: Zealot, Reza Aslan (KS)

Middle Eastern apps (cheese, olives, hummus), tabouli, rice lamb and turkey casserole, assorted beers

SDC (He was one?) 7, 8; JLSC (theological Rorschach) 6, 7; JDI (bandits prophets messiahs) 5, 7; EWK (“beggars the imagination”) 7, 8; JCL (Book of Revolution) 8, 8; DRR (Who sacrificed what?) 4, 6; KS (clarity of passion) 8, 9; JMS (Jesus had brothers?!?) 8, 8; WS (Tom, Dick and Jesus) DNF; SS (Just stone me) 6, 7; CW (Jesus H Christ!) 6, 8.

10-reader avg=7.05; trued 8-reader avg=7.19

2/15: The Cunning Man, Robertson Davies (JLSC)

Cheese, smoked salmon, bread, crackers, beef stew, asparagus, apple pie, assorted Canadian beers and Canadian Club whiskey

SDC (Anangke panky) 9, 9; JLSC (multiple mocke epiphanies) 7, 7; JDI (“proclaim no shame”) 5, 6; EWK (Hullah’s holistic homily) 8, 8; JCL (“riches of the infinite”) 7, 7; DRR (cunning constipation cure) 6, 7; KS (pithy observation potpourri) 5, 6; JMS DNR; WS DNR; SS in absentia (doctor of pomposity) 6, 7; CW (interestingly dull) 6, 7.

9-reader avg=6.83; trued 7-reader avg=6.81

3/15: Orlando, Virginia Woolf (DRR)

Grilled cheese, ham, Turkish salad, pinot noir (the wine that is both feminine and masculine), and assorted English beers

SDC (Middlesex without nausea) 7, 7; JLSC (meeting-place of dissemblables) 5, 6; JDI (Seinfeld in print) 6, 6; EWK (force of Nature) 7, 7; JCL from his first yoga class, FFS!!! (Siddartha with legs) 2, 2; DRR (oak tree rhapsody) 8, 8; KS (clock sans time) 7, 7; JMS (space time gender) 6, 6; WS (Sex? Yes, please!) 5, 6; SS absent DNF; CW (androgynous pretentionsness) 7, 8.

10-reader avg=6.15; trued 8-reader avg=6.44

4/15: Personal writings [Beach—organized by CW; Cele passes out after making dinner]

Thursday: DRR’s Thai melon gazpacho, pla POW! (monkfish in tamarind sauce) with jasmine rice and Balinese cucumber salad

Friday: Chip’s breakfast soufflés and Darsey’s pie, Cele’s ribs, mac ‘n’ cheese and green beans, accompanied by 2008 Sonoma Coast “Couteaux Nobles” Morlet pinot and 2011 Tikveš Bela Voda from Macedonia, and later Chip’s fried donuts ala mode

Saturday: Silva’s breakfast, Cele’s banh mi sandwiches with home-cured pork belly, brisket and duck stuff, accompanied by 1997 Chateau Beausejour (St. Emilion, Bordeaux) and 2003 Bond Pluribus Napa red.

Also assorted beers, garnish yer own Bloody Billy’s, Kaffir Lime Infused Tanqueray Green Lights, etc.

5/15: The Secret History, Donna Tartt (JDI)

Greek apps (hummus, cheese, pita), lamb, cream cheese potatoes, Greek village salad, gin, scotch and assorted beers (including Dead Guy Ale)

SDC (live without thinking) 7, 7; JLSC (mythanthropes or Homersexuals) 9, 9; JDI (whydunit, inside out) 8, 9; EWK (little Bunny fufu) 9, 9; JCL (Where’s the orgy?) 6, 6; DRR (Geek tragedy) 6, 6; KS (Julian as Buddha) 5, 5; JMS absent; WS (beauty is harsh) 7, 9; SS absent; CW (elite house) 6, 7.

9-reader avg=7.22; trued 7-reader avg=7.25

6/15: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith (SDC)

Ben’s Greasy Smoked Kielbasa with Black Hand Sicilian Skillet Chili (chopped beef, onion, bacon fat, bacon, tapenade, & oregano) on Plight of the Irish Potato Rolls, Uncle Willie’s Sage Horseradish pimento cheese sticks, Cuke/Tomato salad with Jew mustard cilantro dressing, Neeley’s Blueberry Balls and Berrys, Jameson’s, Austrian bubbly pinot and assorted beers (including Brooklyn Brewery)

SDC (survival vs. immortality) 8, 9; JLSC (Brooklyn Hites Report) 5, 5; JDI (Horatio’s American ashes) 7, 7; EWK (growing towards heaven) 7, 7; JCL (Francie’s panties) 7, 7; DRR (teen Hortense Alger) 5, 6; KS (simplicity of soul) 8, 8; JMS (rendered slice of resonance) 8, 8; WS (Williamsburg tenement tales) 8, 8; SS (life is good) 8, 8; CW (red Rong book!) DNR.

10-reader avg=7.10; trued 8-reader avg=7.19

7/15: Wolf Totem, Jiang Rong (JCL)

Grilled rack of lamb chops with pomegranate, olive and goat cheese salsa, friend “millet” cakes with greens, strawberry poundcake a la mode and assorted beers (including Dirty Wolf IPA)

SDC (Meat, meet meat) 7, 8; JLSC (Gasmai hasme pre-come) 7, 7; JDI from Horse Massacre Lake (Arduous Didactic Diatribe) 5, 5; EWK absent; JCL (Asian Al Gore) 7, 7; DRR (halfway to Tengger) 5, 6; KS (interminable grassland redundancy) 3, 4; JMS absent; WS absent; SS in absinotelehell (The Big Life) 7, 7; CW (Wolfie people stuff) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=6.19; trued 6-reader avg=6.42

8/15: Animal Farm, George Orwell (CW)

English cheeses and crackers, pig head, BBQ, grilled chickens, slaw, mashed potatoes, tomato salad, green beans, corn bread, berry parfaits w/whipped cream, Stoli, white and red wine and assorted beers (including People’s Porter and Goose IPA)

SDC absent; JLSC (hogs, dogs and pedagogues) 10, 10; JDI (non-equal stratified symbolic) 8, 8; EWK (Men are pigs!) 7, 8; JCL (1848) 6, 7; DRR (Soooey, commie pig) 6, 7; KS (power unfor-unately corrupts) 8, 9; JMS in absentia (clutching forks and knives) 8, 8; WS (Communist Animalfesto) 7, 7; SS in ab-inotelehell (revolutions work once) 8, 8; CW (Animal Farm) 7, 8.

10-reader avg=7.70; trued 8-reader avg=7.63

9/15: The Good Earth, Pearl S. Buck (WS)

Red eggs, Chinese crackers, wasabi and plain, with duck sauce, Chinese pork ribs, sesame green beans and Chinpotle lime rice, and assorted beers

SDC in absentia (reeking pig-tailed Northerner) 8, 8; JLSC (life is hard) 7, 7; JDI (rules for life) 8, 9; EWK (disorder in the courts) 8, 9; JCL (Puritan morality in China) 7, 8; DRR (as earth turns) 6, 8; KS (injury by lust) 9, 10; JMS absent; WS (The Grapes of Wang) 9, 10; SS in absinotelehell (feast and famine) 7, 7; CW (Wang Wong song) 7, 9.

10-reader avg=8.05; trued 8-reader avg=8.00

10/15: The Things They Carried, Tim O’Brien (EWK)

Chips and assorted salsas, Miso horny chicken wonton soup, chicken-stuffed spring rolls, shit field pudding, and Bitter American beer, Ka-Bar Brown Ale and Freedom IPA

SDC (my Cong’s lip-be-gone) 8, 8; JLSC (big muddy mythology) 6, 6; JDI (scenes and dialogues) 7, 7; EWK (hump was everything) 8, 8; JCL (dose of shit) 3, 3; DRR (faceless grief & responsibility) 8, 8; KS retrieving his trailer; JMS absent; WS absent; SS in absinotelehell (haunting beautiful horror) 9, 9; CW (feel the horror) 8, 8.

8-reader avg=7.13; trued 6-reader avg=7.50

11/15: In Dubious Battle, John Steinbeck (JMS; DRR host)

Sliced apples, cheese and crackers, “beef and beans” blackened flank steak with rosemary bacon white beans, arugula and green apple salad, hard cider, Red Hook IPA, Red Stripe and Red Banshee beer

SDC (prize without efface) 8, 8; JLSC (read and dead) 7, 7; JDI (the long view) 5, 5; EWK in absentia (cows are counter-revolutionary) 7, 7; JCL (wobbly wankers on the warpath) 7, 6; DRR (vision of heaven) 5, 5; KS (justifies the means?) 5, 5; JMS via iPhone (clear-vision and rose-colored glasses) 8, 8; WS DNR; SS (somebody’s making money) 6, 6; CW absent.

9-reader avg=6.39; trued 7-reader avg=6.38

12/15: Spousal dinner at Cele’s, brown and red libations, mushroom soup, salad, pesto Siliciana beef and timpano.

1/16: Destiny of the Republic, Candice Millard (SS)

Cheese dip and fritos, chili, biscuits and wings, and assorted beers

SDC (Soapipedia) 6, 7; JLSC (sacrificial lion) 6, 6; JDI (Mentor for life) 7, 8; EWK (Bliss is ignorance) 8, 8; JCL in absentia (even Titans fall) 7, 7; DRR (probe my wound) 6, 6; KS from the road-pod (well woven gauze) 8, 8; JMS DNR; WS in absentia (verbose thesis paper) 5, 5; SS (ignorance kills progress) 7, 8; CW (what it is) 7, 7.

10-reader avg=6.85; trued 8-reader avg=6.94

2/16: Memoirs of a Shy Pornographer, Kenneth Patchen (KS; Hibernian Pub North Raleigh)

Pub fare and beers

SDC in absentia (weird, smeared, deered) “a befuddled 6,” 6; JLSC (“noise about nothing”) 4, 6; JDI absent DNR; EWK (parturient idiomatic s\*\*t) 4, 5; JCL (retarded Jack Kerouac) DNF; DRR (simpleton’s acid trip) 3, 4; KS from the road-pod (boundless disturbing imagination) 9, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS in absentia (beats me Daddio) 6, 6; CW absent DNR.

6-reader avg=5.58; trued 4-reader avg=5.50

3/16: Go Set a Watchman, Harper Lee (JLSC)

Cooper’s BBQ and fried chicken, hush puppies, etc., and assorted beers, including pale ale, Negro Modelo and Rebel IPA

SDC (Brown v. Atticus) 7, 8; JLSC (song of the South) 7, 7; JDI (matter of balance) 5, 6; EWK (Father knows best) 7, 9; JCL (Oedipus Finch) 7, 7; DRR in Snowmassentia (“idealism” vs. “realism”) 7, 7; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS (Harper kills God) 7, 7; SS (better left unsaid) 6, 7; CW absent DNR.

8-reader avg=6.94; trued 6-reader avg=6.92

4/16: Personal writings (“lightning”) at the beach [Organized by CW]

Thursday: DRR’s cassoulet with confit duck legs and Standard Foods pork garlic sausage, bread, arugula avocado cherry tomato salad with Turkish spice, accompanied by 2009 Xavier Chignon CDP Cuvee Anonyme and Morlet Vineyards Syrah

Friday: Chip’s breakfast fixin’s, Bloody Billy’s, Cele’s 4-month leftover timpano stuffing with new gravy, assorted pizzas, accompanied by 1997 Atreus Brunello di Montalcino and 2011 Leonetti Walla Walla Valley Sangiovese, and later Chip’s fried donuts ala mode

Saturday: Chip’s breakfast souffles, Cele’s pozole, chile verde enchiladas and beans, and both shrimp and pork tacos, accompanied by 2007 and 2008 Maiden Napa Valley red

Also assorted beers, Negronis, Tanqueray Green Lights, KY Ho’s, etc.

5/16: Shikasta, Doris Lessing (DRR)

Pork and Chicken sosatie (kebabs) with Apricots & Onions, Zimbabwean greens (collards with tomatoes and green onions in a peanut sauce), sadza (polenta), Darsey’s pie and assorted beers

SDC absent DNF; JLSC (lost in the 0zone) 4, 4; JDI (dead world scrolls) 5, 5; EWK (galactic Gump dump) 6, 6; JCL absent DNF; DRR (“imaginations on chaos”) 5, 6; KS (less Lessing) 5, 5; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNF; SS (beam me up) 6, 7; CW (unlightened space odyssey) 6, 6.

7-reader avg=5.36; trued 5-reader avg=5.50

6/16: Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant, Anne Tyler (JDI)

Cheese, crackers and carrots, pot roast tacos with home-made pico de gallo, tri-color beans and assorted beers, including Negro Modelo, a Raleigh quartet and Beck’s

SDC absent and score submitted late so not included in spreadsheet (clear as Parcheesi) 5, 5; JLSC on his way to the wedding (Feast or Fami-n-ly) 7, 7; JDI (the absent presence) 8, 8; EWK (extra lucky) 7, 8; JCL (life more ordinary) 6, 7; DRR (make your luck) 6, 7; KS from the forests of the Northwest (sadly common dysfunction) 6, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS DNF; SS (empty calories) 6, 6; CW (woman’s work) 6, 7.

8-reader avg=6.75; trued 6-reader avg=6.67

7/16: The Dirty Parts of the Bible, Sam Torode (SDC)

[See the menu for better descriptions] Pork rinds and Slim Jims, catfish and pork stew, smoked braised pork belly, collards, biscuits and pimento cheese, and pepper shots and assorted beers, including Negro Modelo, Shiner Bock and Sweet Jesus

SDC (myrrh maid mythology) 6, 6; JLSC (shoulda read Ringworld) 3, 3; JDI (a nice story) 5, 5; EWK (superstition ain’t the way) 6, 6; JCL (fucking without frills) 3, 3; DRR (Torode romance) 3, 3; KS from the organic meth farm horror movie set near Lincoln, Nebraska (sans redemption) 1, 1; JMS (apples, snakes, cracked eggs) 6, 6; WS (hobosexual jambalaya mélange) 7, 7; SS (half-baked cover) 5, 5; CW (good guy read) 8, 7.

11-reader avg=4.77; trued 9-reader avg=4.89

8/16: Between the World and Me, Ta-nehisi Coates (JCL)

Mama Dip’s soul food—fried pickles and green tomatoes, flounder gumbo, fried chicken, mashed taters, green beans, biscuits and cornbread, and assorted black and white beers

SDC absent DNR; JLSC absent DNR; JDI (terror of disembodiment) 8, 8; EWK (Is racism racism?) 8, 8; JCL (scales from my eyes) 8, 8; DRR (child of racism) 6, 7; KS home but under the weather (“…isms” en viscera) 8, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS absent (“the essential below”) 8, 8; CW (segregation solution slam) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=7.64; trued 5-reader avg=7.80

9/16: Beautiful Ruins, Jess Walter (CW)

Italian anti-pasti (cheese, bread, crackers, olive oil and balsamic, sardines), pasta alla Darsey, gelato with peaches and animal crackers, Italian red wine and assorted beers, including Peroni and Moretti double bock

SDC (epiphany addict) 8, 8; wedding officiant JLSC absent (More-Than Adequate Read) 7, 7; JDI in LKGsentia (Made for Television) 5, 5; EWK (It’s my story) 7, 7; JCL (The Italian (hand) Job) 8, 8; DRR (flawed humans choose) 7, 7; KS (espresso perfecto) 7, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS (“There you go”) 8, 8; SS (excellent beach read) 6, 7; CW (perfect summer read) 8, 8.

10-reader avg=7.15; trued 8-reader avg=7.31

10/16: Native Son, Richard Wright (WS)

Bullock’s fried chicken, hush puppies, slaw, green beans, baked beans, and assorted beers

SDC (shadows of gray) 8, 8; JLSC DNR; JDI (whiteness blackness blindness) 8, 8; EWK (fear overstated?) 6, 6; JCL (black movement Rand) 8, 8; DRR (fear uppity Biggers) 5, 5; KS DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS (You can’t win) 8, 9; SS DNF; CW (worst sex ever) 8, 9.

7-reader avg=7.43; trued 5-reader avg=7.60

11/16: Deliverance, James Dickey (EWK)

Hot and not sausages with peppers and onions, potato casserole, s’mores brownies, premium Wild Turkey and assorted beers, including Thomas Creek and Sweetwater

SDC (brown-eyed man girl) 6, 6; JLSC (Lord of the fleas) 8, 8; JDI (antifriction) 7, 7; EWK (river to purge-atory) 8, 8; JCL (Lewis’ intentional community) 6, 6; DRR (De River Dance) 6, 6; KS (primal instincts prevail) 6, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS (cornhole on the Cahulawasee) 7, 7; SS in Cubstentia (free . . . in hell) 7, 7; CW in anniversarentia(See the movie) 4, 4.

10-reader avg=6.50; trued 8-reader avg=6.63

12/16: Spousal dinner at Sitti organized by EWK

1/17: Zero K, Don DeLillo (SS)

Bean and cheese dip, chili burritos with rice and fixin’s, and assorted beers

SDC absent DNR; JLSC (Stenmark Seminars Training) 6, 6; JDI absent DNR; EWK (many other questions) 8, 8; JCL (my dystopian hero-zero) 7, 7; DRR (what’s in a name?) 7, 8; KS in absentia (conflict of Convergence) 5, 5; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (the world hum) 8, 8; CW (Danny DeVito haggis) 4, 6.

7-reader avg=6.64; trued 5-reader avg=6.80

2/17: Black Moon, Kenneth Calhoun (KS)

Cheese, crackers, chips and salsa, chili verde with rice and fixin’s, and assorted beers, and Jude’s chocolate cupcakes for Chip’s birthday!

SDC (world without consequences) 7, 7; JLSC (eternally unravelling sleeves) 6, 7; JDI (Insomniacs Blindness) 7, 8; EWK (between the frames) 6, 6; JCL (black poo) 5, 5; DRR (What a nightmare!) 5, 5; KS (veils of awareness) 7, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS present DNR; SS (spaces between events) 7, 8; CW (haggis warm beer) DNF.

8-reader avg=6.44; trued 6-reader avg=6.42

3/17: A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush, Eric Newby (JLSC)

Cheese, crackers, Turkish figs and apricots, walnuts, bread, Irish stew, brussels sprouts, ice cream with mulberries, Tres Picos garnacha, Ouzo and assorted “cold” beers

SDC absent DNR; JLSC (stiff upper lip) 6, 6; JDI (keeper of nothingness) 5, 6; EWK (private delection prohibited) 6, 6; JCL (last imperial gasp) 4, 6; DRR (lookin’ for some Kush) 5, 5; KS (clever Anglo cartoon) 4, 4; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS absent DNF; CW (idiosyncratic island race) 8, 7.

7-reader avg=5.57; trued 5-reader avg=5.50

4/17: The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne (DRR)

Roasted goose, stuffing, grilled spaghetti squash with seared red peppers, proscuitto and micro-greens, bitter salad (arugula, grilled radicchio and romaine), red velvet cake, pinot noir and assorted beers, including red IPA, Hell’s Belle’s and bitter beer

SDC (hidden things revealed) 7, 8; JLSC (west of Eden) 7, 7; JDI from Austin (own your talisman) 7, 7; EWK (boundary of morals) 8, 8; JCL from Austin (Hester the molester) 7, 7; DRR (true irony) 8, 9; KS via Facetime from the mountains (pregnant with metaphor) 8, 9; JMS absent DNR; WS (The sin also rises) 4, 6; SS in absentia (timeless archaic eloquent) 7, 7; CW (Puritan soap opera) 9, 9.

10-reader avg=7.45; trued 8-reader avg=7.56

5/17: The Underground Railroad, Colson Whitehead (JDI)

Chips and salsa and guac, potato chip jerk chick thighs, ribs, salad and brownies, Negro Modelo and Lagunitas IPA

SDC absent DNR; JLSC (the unknowable world) 6, 6; JDI (ever has been) 8, 9; EWK (If it’s July . . .) 8, 8; JCL (America original sin) 9, 9; DRR (the Grand Delusion) 5, 6; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS (SHE NEVER WAS PROPERTY) 7, 8; SS (enslaved in fear) 7, 8; CW (slavery artfully described) 10, 10.

8-reader avg=7.75; trued 6-reader avg=7.75

6/17: Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, Hunter S. Thompson (SDC)

Shrimp cocktail, smoked salmon, club sandwiches, mescal(ine) shots, grapefruit punch and assorted beers

SDC (cornhole objectivity’s bunghole (bitch!)) 8, 9; JLSC (spirit and flesh) 8, 8; JDI absent DNR for Natasha’s arrival; EWK in absentia (humping the dream) 4, 4; JCL absent DNR; DRR (survival trip now) 6, 6; KS (deliciously decadent Americana) 7, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS (Kerouac Bukowski Borat) 8, 8; SS (twisted ‘60’s requiem) 7, 7; CW (Andy Warhol Written) 8, 8.

8-reader avg=6.94; trued 6-reader avg=7.17

7/17: Intruder in the Dust, William Faulkner (CW)

Cheese and apples, watermelon feta mint apps, grilled chicken, greens, mashed potatoes, tomato salad, banana pudding, mint juleps and assorted beers

SDC absent DNR; JLSC (just don’t stop) 8, 8; JDI (with enough ones) 7, 7; EWK loved Light in August; JCL absent DNR; DRR (Atticus unabridged) 8, 8; KS (D[id]N[ot]Faulkner, enlighten me); JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS from Michigan (DNF, W[ill]NF, D[one]W[ith]F[aulkner]F[or]G[ood]) 4, 4; CW (short story expanded) 6, 7.

5-reader avg=6.70; trued 3-reader avg=7.17

8/17: Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury (WS)

Chips, montaguacamole and salsa, chili, Millie’s pillies, kerosene shots and assorted beers, including Sweetwater 420 and Torch

SDC (magic garment ride) 8, 8; JLSC (Clarisse’s ashes) 6, 7; JDI (responsibility & consequences) 7, 7; EWK (motion, not moving) 9, 9; JCL absent (rediscovered classic) 9, 9; DRR (smoke, no fire) 5, 5; KS (hounds of fear) 6, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS (burn, baby, burn) 7, 8; SS (seared salamander sci-fi) 7, 7; CW (hot nuts) 7, 8.

10-reader avg=7.25; trued 8-reader avg=7.31

9/17: WFH 20 in ’17 in Colorado! Personal writings (“lipstick”), organized by “the Committee” (JDI, EWK and SDC)

Thursday: Krattburgers with DRR’s blue cheese wedge salad

Friday: Stormy’s scrambled eggs, bacon and breakfast potatoes; dinner at Grouse Mountain Grill

Saturday: DRR’s breakfast strada; Cele’s bone-less ribs and mac and cheese

Sunday: Chip’s bacon and eggs; Vail Brewing Company taco truck

Monday: Billy breakfast burritos; JD’s potato chip boneless chicken thighs, Greek salad and grilled corn on the cob with rosemary compound butter

Tuesday: Cobb’s bacon, eggs and sausage; grilled romaine with enhanced blue cheese dressing, and Cele’s chicken thighs in red sauce over spinach polenta

Also assorted greenery and edibles, local beers, Boulevardiers, Green Lights, martinis, grilled donuts with ice cream, etc.

10/17: The Forest Unseen, David G. Haskell (JCL)

Chips and salsa, jerk chicken skewers, grilled plaintains and pineapple, black beans, cherry pie, imported mescalito shots and assorted beers

SDC absent DNR; JLSC (God’s little decamillihectare) 6, 6; JDI (up close personal) 5, 6; EWK (scientific beauty) 7, 7; JCL (nature therapy) 7, 7; DRR (sex made boring) 4, 5; KS (poetic tedious fascination) 7, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS (gimme gimme gummy) DNR; SS (“mediated by light”) 6, 7; CW (words n score) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=6.38; trued 6-reader avg=6.50

11/17: Hillbilly Elegy, J.D. Vance (EWK)

Chips and guac, chili with fixin’s, cornbread, and Taco Bell Cinnabon donut holes, Old Grandad and better bourbon, and assorted beers

SDC (Mamaw 4 President) 7, 7; JLSC absent in Oaxaca DNR; JDI from Reynoso (figure it out) 5, 5; EWK (social capitalized) 8, 8; JCL DNR; DRR (white like me) 4, 5; KS (sadly normal dysfunction) 7, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS absent DNR; CW (to be or) 7, 7.

6-reader avg=6.42; trued 4-reader avg=6.50

12/17: Spousal potluck dinner (CW host)

Baked brie (EWK), artichoke dip (SS) and assorted cheeses (JLSC), butternut squash soup (JDI), green salad (DRR), boeuf bourgignon (CW), pumpkin cheesecake and apple tart (JCL) and assorted wines and other drinks, including a magnum of 1997 Chateau Montelena Napa cabernet sauvignon from DRR; tacky clothes and things (Ices win for the “flashy” snow-woman) and holiday readings (JLSC’s SO Olia wins for her Russian folk tale about fortune, hope and love)

1/18: A Plague of Doves, Louise Erdrich (JCL)

BLT’s, anchovy avocado jalapeno lime sandwiches, chili, bourbon and and assorted beers, including Hop Stoopid and Fin du Monde

SDC absent DNR; JLSC (flying family skeletons) 8, 8; JDI absent DNR; EWK (I have reservations) 6, 7; JCL (Mooshum double Shamegma) 8, 8; DRR (“tangled in the hanging”) 7, 7; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS in absentia (too many threads) 7, 8; CW (too many adjectives) 6, 7.

6-reader avg=7.25; trued 4-reader avg=7.25

2/18: A Gentleman in Moscow, Amor Towles (SS)

Smoked salmon and Russian cheese dip on blinis, Latvian stew and Russian potato salad, Stoli shots, Metropole house white and red wine, Napolean and cognac

SDC (punctuation, preservation & permutation) 8, 9; JLSC (noblesse oblige) 9, 9; JDI (mastering circumstances) 9, 9; EWK (Count Alexandrovich Bond) 9, 9; JCL DNR; DRR (inconveniences matter most) 7, 8; KS (mosaic of time(s)) 8, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (Man of intent) 9, 10; CW (pretentious romance) 8, 10.

8-reader avg=8.69; trued 6-reader avg=8.75

3/18: Stoner, John Williams (EWK)

White chicken cheddar chili, salad and corn bread, assorted Stone Brewing beers

SDC in absentia (well-formed hovel) 7, 8; JLSC Could Not Finish; JDI (world of half-light) 7, 8; EWK (lust & learning) 8, 8; JCL (triumph of low expectations) 7, 7; DRR in absenskia (unhappy slog) 5, 5; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (sad sack chronicles) 7, 8; CW (well-lived life) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=7.07; trued 5-reader avg=7.30

4/18: The Haunting of Hill House, Shirley Jackson (JLSC)

Ham, potato salad and chocolate cake, martinis, Helle’s Belle beer, Phantom red wine, Mother rosé

SDC (Eleanor’s enigmatic escape) 5, 6; JLSC (Mother may I) 6, 6; JDI (carefully avoiding truth) 6, 6; EWK (Was she shined?) 6, 6; JCL absent DNR; DRR in absenstia (I’m home, Mommy fearest) 7, 7; KS absent (planchette, shut up) 5, 5; JMS absent DNR; WS DNR; SS (Whoa Nellie!!) 6, 6; CW DNF (2 scary).

7-reader avg=5.93; trued 5-reader avg=5.90

5/18: All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque (WS)

Bratwurst with mustards and cornichons, sauerbraten, baby potatoes, cucumber salad and red cabbage, assorted German beers

SDC (shot to pieces) 8, 8; JLSC (boots and brats) 8, 8; JDI (Winning Alienation Regret) 8, 8; EWK (War is Krapp) 8, 8; JCL (destroyed by war) 8, 8; DRR (don’t be quiet) 7, 8; KS phone-in (pain of indifference) 5, 5; JMS absent DNR; WS (war is hell) 8, 8; SS from the Eastern front (“Forgive me, comrade”) 8, 9; CW (truth X 3) 9, 10.

10-reader avg=7.85 trued 8-reader avg=8.00

6/18: Papillon, Henri Charriere (SDC)

Cocktail toast: Corpse Reviver #3

Hors d'oeuvre: Fromage de Chèvre avec baguette and Chilled Langoustine d’Argentine avec cocktail sauce française

Les plats principaux:  Smoked Brisket BarbacoCele and Grilled Loup de Mer Tacos

SDC (devourer of men) 7, 7; JLSC (best laid plans) 6, 6; JDI (own your decisions) 7, 7; EWK (cavale forever!) 8, 8; JCL (PLANet of Les cAPES) 4, 4; DRR in Napastensi (Run, Henri, run) 5, 5; KS (blind perseverance) 7, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (man with plan) 6, 6; CW (actually butterflies aren’t . . .) 6, 7.

9-reader avg=6.28 trued 7-reader avg=6.36

7/18: The Orphan Master’s Son, Adam Johnson (DRR)

Bulgogi with Korean melon dipping sauce, kim chi (hot and mild), daikon salad and brown jasmine rice, sake and assorted beers, peach cheesecake (for JCL’s bday)

SDC (Pak Jun Don’t) 8, 9; JLSC (blue chair special) 8, 8; JDI (Rewriting Life Stories) 8, 8; EWK in absentia (We’ll always have Pyongyang) 8, 8; JCL (Vivid, horrifying dream) 7, 8; DRR (Say my name) 8, 9; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS from Michigan (Knock knock. Who’s there? Colonel Ga. Go away he is already here and you’re freaking me out) 7, 7; CW (Korean shit stuff) 6, 7.

8-reader avg=7.75 trued 6-reader avg=7.83

8/18: The Ballad of Frankie Silver, Sharyn McCrumb (KS at High Cove)

Thursday: DRR’s Asian ribs, fried rice and grilled radicchio salad

Friday: JD’s ham, spinach egg cups; Cele’s tomato toast with chives and sesame seeds; Silva burgers

Saturday: Chip’s scrambled eggs, bacon and breakfast hash; Cele’s Cold Roast Lamb with Marinated Eggplant & Master Vegetable Marinade

Grilled Halloumi

Lemony Yogurt Sauce

Grilled Serrano Salsa Verde

Roasted Red Onions

Bibb Lettuce Wraps with Sambal Shrimp

Sunday: Silva’s French toast, Darsey’s pie

Also assorted local beers, Green Lights, Bret’s Manhattans and Old Fashioneds, tequila, Beaucastel ’13 CDP and Matriarch ’07, etc.

SDC (O’Malleys vs. Stuarts) 7, 8; JLSC in Russia DNR; JDI (Justice and Mercy) 7, 7; EWK (her own days) 6, 7; JCL absent DNR; DRR (“red-tipped branches”) 6, 6; KS (damn well done) 8, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS absent DNR; CW (Family before injustice) 7, 8.

6-reader avg=7.08; trued 4-reader avg=7.08

9/18: Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston (JDI)

Watermelon and cheese and crackers, fried chicken, green beans, potato salad and biscuits, assorted thematic beers and coondick

SDC in Vegasentia (Land’uh mercy woman) 8, 8; JLSC (“a familiar strangeness”) 7, 8; JDI (love independence autonomy) 9, 9; EWK (color still matters) 7, 7; JCL Alpsent DNR; DRR (“singing and sobbing”) 8, 9; KS (sacrifice of individuality) 5, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS “luck in duh muck”) 8, 8; CW in AC sentia (Black lives matter) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=7.56 trued 6-reader avg=7.67

10/18: The Sellout, Paul Beatty (CW)

Cheese and crackers, fried chicken, ribs, loaded collard greens, cole slaw and corn bread, assorted beers and Reyka shots, and personalized engraved WFH flasks!

SDC absent DNR; JLSC (Uncle Tom’s revenge) 7, 7; JDI (flat dying yawning) 4, 3; EWK (self-lynching drama queen) 7, 7; JCL absent DNR; DRR (black humor firehose) 5, 5; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS (loves chicken ‘n’ ribs) DNR; SS in Afriscentia (the new niggers) 7, 7; CW (Vonnegut, Twain, Williams) 7, 7.

6-reader avg=5.92 trued 4-reader avg=6.25

11/18: The Sympathizer, Viet Thanh Nguyen (JCL)

Pho, spring and summer rolls, vermicelli and assorted beers

SDC (Apocalypse Mao) 8, 8; JLSC (Nothing more precious) 8, 8; JDI (“cursed bastardized partitioned”) 8, 8; EWK (“bewitching come-hither”) 7, 7; JCL (secret agent, Man) 7, 7; DRR in absentia (sympathy for the double) 6, 6; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (two of everything) 7, 8; CW (The Whorer) 8, 9.

8-reader avg=7.50 trued 6-reader avg=7.58

12/18: Spousal dinner at Cobb’s with jokes and riddles

Cheese and crackers, deviled eggs with Icelandic caviar, crudité, bread and spreads (Lynch), Olia’s home-made tomato soup with mushrooms, salmon, London broil, asparagus, green bean salad (Kratt), Olia’s blinis, Green Lights and The Grinch on CBS, red and white wine, Cele’s digestifs, and WFH limoncello!

1/19: There There, Tommy Orange (SS)

Cheese, charcuterie and crackers, chicken thighs, sautéed veggies and mashed potatoes, cookies, and assorted beers, including an American India(n) Pale Ale

SDC (Hella Shorned Heads) 7, 7; JLSC (ka-pow wow) 5, 5; JDI (unremembered memories) 6, 6; EWK (inside outside veho) 7, 7; JCL (straight outa Oaktown) 9, 9; DRR (Pow-wow, brown cow?) 6, 6; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (1 little, 2 little, 3 little) 8, 8; CW (unhappy) 6, 6.

8-reader avg=6.75 trued 6-reader avg=6.67

2/19: The Picture of Dorian Grey, Oscar Wilde (EWK)

Chicken white bean chili/soup, muffins and green salad, assorted beers and Wilde Oscars (Guinness Old Fashioneds)

SDC in absentia (details are vulgar) 7, 7; JLSC (worst selfie ever) 6, 7; JDI (beauty through evil) 6, 7; EWK (Is ugly evil?) 8, 8; JCL (just painted that way) 6, 6; DRR (“sin so marvelous”) 7, 7; KS (search for aphorisms) 6, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNF; SS in colonoscosentia (repressed romantic rage) 8, 8; CW (biting the hand) 7, 7.

9-reader avg=6.89, trued 7-reader avg=6.86

3/19: Heart of a Dog, Mikhail Bulgakov (JLSC)

Caviar, deviled eggs, monkey ovaries (aka smoked oysters), salmon and cheeses, Brats and sauerkraut, red cabbage and potato salad, vodka and People’s Porter

SDC (doggie-doggie-stylovich) 6, 7; JLSC (Bolshevik fable) 7, 7; JDI (No Bad Dogs) 6, 7; EWK (Abby Doggie style) 8, 8; JCL (Mad Dog 19/17) 6, 7; DRR in ab-ski-tia(short novel, long joke) 7, 7; KS (Napoleon’s Frankenstein) 7, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (Nyet boy, nyet) 5, 6; CW (Don’t insult dogs) 8, 8.

9-reader avg=6.89, trued 7-reader avg=6.93

4/19: A Turn of the Screw, Henry James (DRR)

British cheeses and crackers, herby Toad in the Hole, Essex salad (romaine topped with bacon, cherry tomatoes, sautéed onions, Romano and blue cheese, Caesar dressing) and assorted British beers

SDC (painfully placid poltergeist) 6, 7; JLSC (naughty neurotic nanny) 6, 5; JDI DNR; EWK (“perturbation of scullions”) 6, 7; JCL (word) 5, 6; DRR (“the turn mistaken”) 8, 8; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS (spiritless spirit spinnings) 5, 6; SS (think the evil) 6, 7; CW (worst hug ever) 6, 7.

8-reader avg=6.31, trued 6-reader avg=6.17

5/19: One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Ken Kesey (SDC)

Spiced nuts, salmon and smoked goose tacos with slaw and grilled peppers, salad, red pills, Martinis and assorted beers

SDC (rabbit world rabbits) 8, 9; JLSC (McMurphy’s martyrdom) 8, 8; JDI (hears another drum) 7, 7; EWK (SIZE MATTERS) 8, 9; JCL DNR fog, fog; DRR (humor pain Combine-ation) 7, 7; KS (scramble my brain) 8, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS (rage against the machine) 8, 9; SS (man vs. woman) 7, 8; CW absent DNR.

8-reader avg=7.88, trued 6-reader avg=7.92

6/19: Mrs. Dalloway, Virginia Woolf (WS)

Assorted nuts, British cheeses and crackers, salmon, asparagus, rosemary potatoes and assorted beers, including Newcastle and All Day IPA

SDC absent DNR; JLSC (puddle of consciousness) 6, 6; JDI (time and memories) 5, 5; EWK in absentia (too much dahling) 6, 6; JCL absent DNR; DRR (“murmuring London flowed”) 6, 7; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS (amazing structure poor plot) 7, 7; SS (my three words) 6, 6; CW (slit my wrists) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=6.21, trued 5-reader avg=6.30

7/19: No meeting

8/19: Two Years Before the Mast, Richard Henry Dana, Jr. (CW)

Cheese, salt beef (sausages) and crackers, chicken enchiladas, rice, frijoles, chips and salsas, mango salad, duff cookies, assorted beers including Boston lagers, Pacifico, Sweetwater and Dogfish Head IPA, and tequila

SDC (What? No gayness?) 5, 6; JLSC (flogging seamen) 7, 7; JDI (wash, rinse, repeat) 4, 4; EWK (Haah’vad yard arm) 6, 7; JCL (boring sea monkeys) 5, 4; DRR (hemaphrodite Chip’s ahoy) 2, 2; KS (then stuff happened) 3, 3; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (“fairy tales of sapphire”) 7, 7; CW (witchery and history) 8, 7.

9-reader avg=5.22, trued 7-reader avg=5.36

9/19: (Reynolds’ Retreat at LKG)

Thursday: DRR’s grilled skirt steak with cherry bbq sauce, onion panade and black-eyed pea arugula salad, magnum of 1997 brunello di montalcino

Friday: JD’s eggs benedict and fruit; Cele’s steak tartare with summer torte croutons and jalapeño potato chips, raging carnivore bolognese over fusilli, Orin Swift Machete petite syrah blend

Saturday: Silva’s French toast with breakfast meats and fruit; Cele’s wild Argentinian shrimp salad over avocado fans, grilled corvina tacos, grilled chicken thigh nachos, mezcal

Sunday: Chip’s scrambled eggs, breakfast meats and hash browns

Also assorted beers, Night Trains, at least one Green Light (it’s a tradition), etc.

10/19: Out Stealing Horses, Per Pettersen (JDI; JLSC host)

Cheese, smoked salmon and crackers, marinated butterflied lamb, green beans and cheesy potatoes, a champagne toast to 22+ years, and IPA’s, included Two-Hearted, Jude’s caramel brownies

SDC (when it hurts) 7, 8; JLSC (modern myth) 7, 7; JDI (lost father predestiny) 8, 9; EWK (decide for ourselves) 8, 10; JCL (Norwegian wood) 7, 7; DRR (“movement . . . then . . . comprehension”) 8, 8; KS on the phone (don’t wait forever) 7, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS in absentia (past is present) 8, 9; CW (walk in woods) 6, 7.

9-reader avg=7.22, trued 7-reader avg=7.21

11/19: Where All Light Tends To Go, David Joy (JCL)

Almonds, marinated grilled pork loin, mashed potatoes, ginger green beans and High Country Nut bread, pinot noir and assorted beers, including Dead Guy Ale and Oskar Blues’ One-y Hazy IPA and Dale’s Pale Ale

SDC DNR (in Sicilia); JLSC (blood simple-minded) 3, 3; JDI (“uneven ground”) 4, 4; EWK (Who’s a pussy?) 7, 7; JCL (Breaking Bumpkins) 6, 6; DRR (downhill from there) 4, 3; KS on the phone (hillbilly soap opera) 4, 3; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS absent DNF; CW (nonfiction writing fiction) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=4.86, trued 5-reader avg=4.80

12/19: SO dinner (JDI/EWK)

1/20: Sapiens, Yuval Noah Harari (KS; DRR host)

Nuts and berries, Kevin’s tequila-marinated shrimp crostini, Brandon’s chicken and dry and wet rub steak kebabs, roasted broccoli and cauliflower gratin, sautéed brussels sprouts, assorted beer and Bogle Phantom and K Syrah

SDC absent DNR; JLSC (gaudeamus ignoramus) 7, 7; JDI absent DNF; EWK (ignorance is progress) 7, 9; JCL (your unremarkable genes) 8, 9; DRR (society, myths, extinctions) 6, 7; KS (macro in micro) 9, 9; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (apes and Sapes) 7, 9; CW (subjective reality reality) 8, 8.

7-reader avg=7.86, trued 5-reader avg=7.90

2/20: The Overstory, Richard Powers (EWK)

Marinated mushrooms, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, “little tree” broccoli) salad, Angry Orchard hard cider, and assorted beer, including Longleaf IPA

SDC (self-writing code) 8, 8; JLSC (geophagic species) 8, 8; JDI (recursive growth, decay) 6, 6; EWK (wrong shared myth) 9, 9; JCL (sapiens extinction prophecy) 8, 8; DRR (I’m still standing) 6, 6; KS DNR, too busy Yang-banging; JMS absent DNR; WS (don’t eradicate my longleaf) 7, 8; SS (the scattered openings) 6, 6; CW (slow, hear, see) DNF.

8-reader avg=7.31, trued 6-reader avg=7.25

3/20: L.A. Confidential, James Ellroy (JLSC)

Iron skillet steaks, mushrooms and Caesar salad, martinis and assorted beer

SDC (Walt’s Flynt-ney World) 7, 7; JLSC (“astounding audacious perversion”) 7, 7; JDI (good for genre) 6, 5; EWK ((“astounding audacious perversion”) 6, 6; JCL absent DNR; DRR (whore gore noir) 5, 5; KS (we’re all whores) 8, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS (Fuck you, pig) DNF; SS (“astounding audacious perversion”) 6, 7; CW (I fucked up) DNF.

7-reader avg=6.43, trued 5-reader avg=6.40

4/20: Weather, Jenny Offill (DRR)

COVID-19 remote meeting via WebEx, DRR delivered care packages including Corona beer, gin, limes, tonic, advil, hand wipes, beef sticks, a poncho and a deck of cards

SDC (erudite Steven Wright) 7, 7; JLSC (whimper not bang) 8, 8; JDI (your precious lives) 6, 7; EWK (reading is fundamental) 6, 6; JCL (novel by Twitter) 5, 6; DRR (“rumors of doom”) 7, 8; KS (data stream) 4, 4; JMS absent DNR; WS DNR; SS (dry stream of consciousness) 6, 7; CW DNR.

8-reader avg=6.38, trued 6-reader avg=6.50

5/20: Casino Royale, Ian Fleming [and his Chitty Chitty Bang Bang] (SDC)

Magic Hat #9 (le Neuf) beer; Vesper cocktail: (3 parts Bookers/1 part Grey Goose/0.5 Lillet/shaken/large lemon strip); Smershviar, aka Commie Egg Salad: Tobiko Caviar pre-mixed with chopped eggs, chopped shallots creme fraiche and avocado mayonnaise; Smashed Scrotum Mousse: Pate with liver (Pork & duck), pickled mustard seed, creme fraiche, and cornichon; 007 Baguette toasts; Miss Lynd’s Seaside So-long Salad: Cold Haricot vert, Avocado pear, Protein greens (Wegman’s), and English spring peas with 9 shrimps & Eva Green Goddess dressing; Bond’s Beef Royale: Sous vide and homemade A-1 finished filet migon  and sautéed coeur d'artichaut with sage mushrooms and sun dried tomatoes, and Even Money Eggstravaganza: Egg casserole with langoustine, pommes de terre, sautéed onions, garlic and bacon, with gruyere and finished w/ chive butter; Chitty Remy Bang Bang: Monsieur Bon Bon’s Secret Fooj with a shot of St Remy XO French Brandy

SDC (a wonderful machine) 8, 8; JLSC (the evil book AND never say no) 5, 6; JDI (variation of lies) 7, 6; EWK (He likes cars) 7, 7; JCL (classic crowd pleasers) 007, 007; DRR (new world order) 6, 6; KS (no devil commandments) 6, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS (swattin’s swollen stundeens) 6, 6; SS (necklace of time) 7, 7; CW (crushed nuts souflee) 9, 9.

10-reader avg=6.85, trued 8-reader avg=6.75

6/20: Rebecca, Daphne du Maurier (WS)

Virtual meeting byob

SDC (ordeal by fire) 8, 8; JLSC (mount me, Mrs. Danvers) 6, 6; JDI (life by fire) 8, 8; EWK (Romanticism routs romance) 8, 8; JCL (ghost-story w/o the ghost) 5, 6; DRR (self-absorbed pathetic fallacies) 5, 5; KS (behind the veil) 8, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS (I come back [Je reviens]) 8, 9; SS (secrets and shadows) 8, 8; CW unable to Zoom (kill me now) 6, 6.

10-reader avg=7.10, trued 8-reader avg=7.19

7/20: The Nickel Boys, Colson Whitehead (JDI)

**Nickel Boys Inspection Day Menu**

**Dinner Menu**

**Grandma Harriett’s Tallahassee “Fried” Chicken**

* *A righteous natural split chicken breast (one-part Elwood, one-part Turner)*

*dipped in egg and then hand battered in Nickel Farm fresh potatoes with lime,*

*white and black pepper.*

*Baked in a box.*

**Mr. Marconi’s Mediterranean Potato Salad**

* *Nickel Farm raised and harvested white skin potatoes, artichoke hearts,*

*black olives, purple bruised onion, Eyetalian parsley.*

*Just like Oma used to make…across the tracks!*

**Fresh Watermelon**

* *Another Nickel Farm item! These big melons are all natural and have not been*

*abused by Suttree, Spencer or anyone else.*

**Dessert Menu**

**Mama Judy’s Oatmeal/Raisin/Chocolate Chip Cookies**

* *Normally only served to the Community Service team.*

*But on Inspection Day (or after a trip to Lover’s Lane)*

*everyone gets something sweet! They’ll set you free…*

**Drinks Menu**

* *Jai Alai IPA from Cigar City Brewing, Tampa, FL*

SDC (bias Trumps facts) 7, 8; JLSC (“crackle of trust”) 7, 7; JDI (morality, perseverance, redemption) 8, 9; EWK (this, or this) 7, 8; JCL (cannot walk alone) 7, 7; DRR (“scarred all over”) 6, 7; KS (Is it possible?) 6, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS in absentia (white people suck) 8, 8; CW absent DNF.

7-reader avg=7.21, trued 5-reader avg=7.10

8/20: The Gulag Archipelago (abridged version), Alexander Solzhenitsyn (CW)

1 bottle Russian Vodka

1 bottle Bitchin' beer

1 pickled herring, beats and cabbage salad

beef strokemeoff with noodles

bread with garlic butter

1 chocolate muffin

SDC (shoot me . . . PLEEEASE!) 5, 6; JLSC absent with a Russian doll, DNF; JDI absent DNF; EWK (monotonous variety of inhumanity) 8, 8; JCL (random acts of brutality) 5, 5; DRR (“this line shifts”) 5, 6; KS absent DNF; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (reading as punishment) 6, 7; CW (without natural rights) 7, 8.

6-reader avg=6.33, trued 4-reader avg=6.25

9/20: (COVID quashed High Cove; writers read in Fred Fletcher Park with Cobb-supplied fried chicken)

10/20: The Siege of Krishnapur, JG Farrell (JCL)

The Monkeystrate delivered chicken tikka masala and rice, chapatis, cardamom brownies, gin and tonic and Lt. Dank IPAs

SDC inbeachsentia (“Abominable pictures? Correct!”) 7, 7; JLSC inAustintia (feckless firangi farce) 6, 6; JDI DNF; EWK (rational Exhibitionism) 8, 9; JCL (love plump carp) 7, 7; DRR (culture, chapatis and cockchafers) 7, 7; KS (“shaped by forces”) 6, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (brutal and hilarious) 8, 8; CW (I love Lucy) 7, 8.

6-reader avg=7.19, trued 6-reader avg=7.17

11/20: 11/22/63, Stephen King (SS)

Virtual meeting byo burger

SDC (History’s armor? Harmonics) 7, 7; JLSC (sci-fi soap-orific) 6, 6; JDI (historical time-warped travelogue) 7, 7; EWK (dissonant harmonics) 7, 7; JCL (let’s do the time-warp again) 7, 6; DRR (Occam’s twin-blade razor) 6, 6; KS (God damn OBDURATE) 6, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (a guilty pleasure) 7, 7; CW unable to Zoom or finish (thick and thin).

8-reader avg=6.58, trued 6-reader avg=6.56

12/20: Born a Crime, Trevor Noah (EWK)

Virtual meeting

SDC (white people [click] suck!) 7, 7; JLSC (Patricia’s ashes) 6, 6; JDI (out of sight) 7, 7; EWK (in the cracks) 8, 8; JCL (Tuck shop chameleon) 7, 7; DRR (monumental mother punchline) 5, 5; KS (equal shitters) 6, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (excellent educational entertainment) 8, 8; CW DNR.

8-reader avg=6.75, trued 6-reader avg=6.83

1/21: The Iron Marshall, Louis L’Amour (JLSC)

Virtual meeting, steak and beans, and Jameson’s Irish whiskey

SDC (my kinda formula) 7, 7; JLSC (mythic Western vision) 6, 6; JDI absent DNF; EWK (Wayne in derby) 8, 8; JCL (Get the rope!) 5, 4; DRR (Louis’ lamer superhero) 4, 4; KS absent DNF; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS absent (corny & Western) 4, 4; CW absent DNR.

6-reader avg=5.58, trued 4-reader avg=5.38

2/21: Candide, Voltaire (DRR)

Virtual meeting, Candide cocktail, grilled radicchio salad, baguette, caviar, French mac and cheese, confit duck leg, split of French wine

SDC (never in doubt) 7, 9; JLSC (“distracting inquietude”) 7, 7; JDI (absurd optimistic Python) 8, 8; EWK (silly Swiftian superheroes) 5, 6; JCL (best possible bookclub) 5, 6; DRR (“drubbed most philosophically”) 7, 8; KS (maybe it’s concatenated) 8, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS (“cultivate your garden”) 7, 8; SS (wit and wisdom) 8, 8; CW (up my alley) 10, 10.

10-reader avg=7.50, trued 8-reader avg=7.44

3/21: Lost Horizon, James Hilton (SDC)

Father Perrault’s Menu for Long Life

Drink Lots of Beer with Fellow Celibate Europeans--Karakal Blue Moon Ale

A Moderately Strong Cocktail (clear jar)--Modified version of the Shangri-La from Attaboy NYC: Japanese Whiskey, Sherry, Cocoa bitters, Triple Sec, Luxardo Maraschino, Essence of Tangatse Berry rinse/Orange twist

Something to Remember Grandma By--Steamed Tibetan Momos (chicken) in Ginger & Garlic Poultry Stock with Chinese Five Spice/spicy sesame chili sauce/green onion/red chili pepper

Eat Local (blue lid)--Stew of Garam Masala Spiced Yak (okay, okay, it’s actually beef ribs, ground veal and ground lamb) with potatoes, carrots, bacon and spring peas/hot green pepper yogurt sauce

Burritos a la Paradiso (brown box)--Hawaiian Grilled and Cube Spam, Labnah, Mushrooms, Sweet Peppers and Onion with Green Harissa, Macha, and Essence of Tangatse Berry/Chupatties/sweet red chili pepper yogurt sauce

Follow Chang’s Lead with Something Green (brown cup)--Radishes and Greens Sautéed in Garlic Ghee with Essence of Tangatse Berry/Meyer Lemon

Contemplate Lo-Tsen in Repose (obvs)--Sweet Little Manchu’s Cherry, Mango and Pomelo Cup with Ginger Beer/Essence of Tangatse Berry

Drink Local (diamond pattern jar)--Catena High Mountain Vines Malbec

SDC (Lost generation medication) 8, 9; JLSC (hand Lo-Tsen) 8, 8; JDI (constituted and circumstanced) 8, 8; EWK (“capable of imagining”) 8, 8; JCL (next bookclub retreat) 7, 7; DRR (“all for the boy”) 7, 7; KS (“only moderately certain”) 6, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS (shama lama ding-dong) 6, 7; SS (“calm the throb”) 7, 9; CW (prescient present present) 8, 9.

10-reader avg=7.60, trued 8-reader avg=7.63

4/21: The Sheltering Sky, Paul Bowles (JDI at DRR’s outside)

Champagne, stuffed dates, red pepper soup, homemade Moroccan bread, lamb tagine with couscous, veggies and haricots vert, French wine, cognac and sand cakes, and assorted IPA’s

SDC (monochrome polyphone drone) 7, 8; JLSC (beginning Beats) 7, 8; JDI (“gateway to repose”) 8, 9; EWK (did not finish) 5, 6; JCL (passive aggressive screed) 5, 7; DRR (“hopelessly isolated self”) 8, 8; KS (how many times?) 8, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS in absentia with a spring cold (extremely dark light) 6, 7; CW traveling with his wife, ironically, DNR.

8-reader avg=7.19, trued 6-reader avg=7.25

5/21: City of Thieves, David Benioff (WS)

Vika’s Vodka

The Colonel’s Daughter’s Deviled Dozen

Ration Bread

Library Candy Paste

Levegetable Fingers

Rib o’ Rusky

Cannibal Communist Soldier Sausage

Kolya Slaw

Assortment of Fritz’s Bavarian Bier

SDC (purity of confidence) 7, 8; JLSC (Russian arithmetic) 8, 8; JDI (all for nothing) 8, 8; EWK (You go, grandpa!) 8, 8; JCL (pictureless graphic novel) 8, 8; DRR (wrong tone romance) 5, 6; KS (savagery, survival, relief) 7, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS (futile life search) 8, 9; SS (extraordinarily enjoyable screenplay) 7, 8; CW (best sex ever) 8, 8.

10-reader avg=7.60, trued 8-reader avg=7.75

6/21: The Revenant, Michael Punke (CW)

Cheese and crackers, jerky, beef and pork ribs, grilled corn, Darsey’s grandmother’s dill slaw, potato salad, Darsey’s pie and strawberry tart, vodka and assorted beers

SDC (pirates, pelts & plagiarism) 6, 7; JLSC (bear my ass) 6, 6; JDI (post-colonial social history) 5, 5; EWK from the mountains (bearest of necessities) 7, 7; JCL (Blazing Saddles—NOT!) 6, 6; DRR (“Man in the Wilderness”) 6, 6; KS from the mountains (Shoot the bastard!) 6, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS (the bear necessities) 7, 7; SS in absentia (FUCK THAT HURTS!) 6, 6; CW (worst sex ever) 7, 7.

10-reader avg=6.25, trued 8-reader avg=6.31

7/21: Klara and the Sun, Kazuo Ishiguro (JCL)

Japanese appetizers (gyoza, egg rolls, fried shrimp), Japanese salad with crab, assorted sushi and assorted beers

SDC (me in you) 7, 8; JLSC in San Diego (Klarafication) 8, 8; JDI in Turkey (pain alongside happiness) 6, 6; EWK absent DNR; JCL (search for meaning) 8, 8; DRR (too little too much) 5, 6; KS from the mountains (shine on me) 7, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (solar soul sister) 7, 7; CW (love, CRISPR, singularity) 7, 8.

8-reader avg=7.13, trued 6-reader avg=7.25

8/21: The Bear, William Faulkner (JLSC)

Nuts, kebabs (how’d he cook all those so fast on that little grill?), corn on the Colonel, sourdough bread, green salad, watermelon, blueberry pie, Redemption bourbon and assorted beers, including Negro Modelo

SDC (Joyce for rednecks) 7, 8; JLSC (fine fyce fable) 7, 8; JDI (“inviolable anonymity) 7, 8; EWK (truth is elusive) 7, 8; JCL in absentia (1619 Project w/o punctuation) 2, 3; DRR (“all born lost”) 9, 9; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS present DNR (Yes, I suck); SS (just barely bearable) 6, 7.

7-reader avg=6.86, trued 5-reader avg=7.30

9/21: Fun at LKG (readings and bracketology, pickleball, etc., etc.)

Thursday Don dinner:

Grilled peaches with goat cheese, bacon and jalapeno

Wedge salad with ranch dressing, blue cheese, red onion and bacon

Cele veggie salad

Smoked sirloin steaks over celery root mash, topped with tomato basil jam

Boulted bread

2010 Leonetti Walla Walla cabernet sauvignon

Dessert every night: Judy’s caramel brownies

FRIDAY Cele-dinner:

Deviled eggs with steak tartare & caviar in a bowl of kimchi and Greek yogurt

BBQ’d halloumi in arugula salad tossed with olives jublilee dressing

Sautéed gulf shore white shrimp and warm cucumber/poblano pepper salad with lemongrass cornbread crumbs

Matua sauvignon blanc

Veal/Zucchini/Feta Dogs (fried in beef fat) on brioche buns with Crab Paste Tots; Dogs topped with chunky Tzatziki dressing

Williams Selyem 2018 Russian River pinot noir

SATURDAY Cele-bration:

Hatch Green Chile Chicken Enchilada bake with chipotle bacon salsa and charred jalapeño crema

Pinto beans cooked in beef stock with smoked pork hocks and pork skin; chicharron garnish with Valentina’s hot sauce

Tomato & Avocado & spinach salad with Wegman’s Lime Vinaigrette

El Toro Market tortilla chips and Mateo’s salsa

Garnished everything with Bourbon Pickled Jalapeños & Red Onions and House Pickled Okra

2018 The Prisoner red blend

Sunday breakfast: Braised smoked hocks with cane sugar whiskey glaze

10/21: Homeland Elegies, Ayad Akhtar (SS)

Charcuterie, cheese and crackers, Stormy’s grilled beef tips, twice-baked potatoes, green salad and Whole Foods chocolate cake, Bogle Phantom and assorted American beers

SDC (a buffer solution) 7, 7; JLSC in Oliabirthdaysentia (dyspeptic dialogue) 6, 6; JDI (social syllogism revealed) 5, 5; EWK (stunning economic epiphanies) 7, 8; JCL (Pak-n-Lay) 8, 7; DRR (“ubiquitous ascendant anger”) 6, 6; KS in train stationia (overplayed hand) 6, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (a coruscating catalog) 8, 8.

8-reader avg=6.63, trued 6-reader avg=6.67

11/21: Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, Philip K. Dick (KS selection; SDC host)

Voigt “Keep it in the Green” Kampff-tail (Polokov Vodka, Triple-sec, Lime juice, Mint syrup, Matcha, Absinthe)

Irradiated Euphemia Dip & Evil-Smelling Cheese on Kipple Krackers (Hummus, Goat feta, Sheep yogurt, bacon, pepperoncini and Limburger)

Tom Yum a la Isidore with Black Market Bean Curd & Vermine-celli (Chicken head stock, coconut milk, Thai-me-up spices, lemongrass, tofu, rice noodles)

Luba Luft’s Luscious Lasered Loins (Monkey Sauce marinated and grilled lamb chops, mixed tomatoes, rosemary, olive oil)

Truffled Empath Lobster Bake (Cold water lobster, spiced ghee, potato gnocchi, truffle oil, cheese medley, corn, cream)

Pris’s Peaches & Cream with Animal Crackers

And to keep the dust at bay pre-War Chablis, Deckard’s Paycheck Pilsner, Tu’Imalila’s Tongan Terrapin Hopsecutioner IPA, Buffalo Trace Coital Mash Bourbon, courtesy of St Francis Hotel

SDC (Nazi journal horror-netics) 8, 9; JLSC (entropy, epiphany, existentialism) 8, 8; JDI (empathy toad living) 8, 8; EWK (it’s all kipple) 8, 9; JCL absent DNR; DRR (I empathetic) 5, 6; KS (impressively efficient inventor) 8, 9; JMS absent DNR; WS (twist my empathy organ) 8, 8; SS (handy dandy andy) 7, 8.

8-reader avg=7.81, trued 6-reader avg=8.08

12/21: Significant other holiday event hosted by JCL

1/22: Fall; or Dodge in Hell, Neal Stephenson (DRR virtual meeting due to omicron)

Flannel Shirt--Talisker 10-year scotch, Averna, apple cider, lemon juice, Angostura, allspice; Chaos—smoked turkey broth with collards and mushrooms; The Red Leaf—radicchio fennel salad with egg and anchovy; Meatspace with Trees—ziti alfredo with smoked salmon, veal sausage and broccoli; honeycomb and small, ugly apple; Dead Guy ale and Corvallis Cellars (Willamette Valley) 2020 pinot noir

SDC (Ameristanly Steemer Dreemer) 7, 7; JLSC (Deus ex computatrum) 7, 6; JDI (something for everyone) 8, 8; EWK (man-made Matrix) 8, 9; JCL (Biblical Mad Max) 6, 6; DRR (technology, myths, creation) 6, 7; KS (imaginative, ambitious, sprawling) 6, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS (abridge me, please!) 5, 6; SS (fascinating but flawed) 6, 7.

9-reader avg=6.72, trued 7-reader avg=6.64

2/22: Dune, Frank Herbert (SDC)

Water of life/chani-rita (Tequila, Cynar, Campari, Allspice Syrup and Pre-Spice Fizz), Maker’s markers (Worm Leavings (Hummus) with Bacon, Onion and Balsamic on Freedom Toast), Caladan Memoire (Romaine, Arugula and Cucumber Dressed with Worm Schmaltz), little maker’s sacrifice (Paul-Chetta Pork Belly Wrapped Pork Tenderloin with Garlic/Herb/Fennel Paste), Fremen pundi (Masala Spiced Vermine-Celli with Shrimps and Vegetables),

Persia’s last stand (Baklawa (baklava) with Mish-Mish (dried apricots) and Portyguls (orange segments)), Arrakeen freeloaders (Dune Red Blend & Freakshow Cabernet, Sweetwater beers)

SDC (“the available paths”) 9, 9; JLSC (spice is nice) 8, 8; JDI (understanding ecology) 8, 9; EWK (no good Vladimirs) 8, 10; JCL (sci fi summit) 10, 10; DRR (space spice mouse) 7, 7; KS (master of technique) 8, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS (Is it Dune yet?) 6, 7; SS in Bequiasentia (mélange a trois) 8, 8.

9-reader avg=8.22, trued 7-reader avg=8.21

4/22: The Hobbit, J.R.R. Tolkien (WS)

Bilbo Baggins’ Unexpected Party--

Gandalf’s Goblet: Mirkwood gin, Rivendell honey, and lemons aged in barrels from Thranduil’s hall. Topped with

bearishly biting buzz button Foam made from flowers grown in Beorn’s gardens.

First Breakfast: Bomber’s Bacon-Wrapped Pork Sausages

Second Breakfast: Smaug’s Smoldering Deviled Eggs

Elevenses: Thorin Oakenshield’s Assorted Savory Hand Tarts

Luncheon: Slow-Roasted Shire Vegetables

Afternoon Tea: Oin & Gloin’s Ale and Elrond’s Elvin Wine

Dinner: Fili & Kili’s Cold Chicken and Pickles

Supper: Misty Mountain Mutton Shepherd’s Pie

SDC in coronasentia (Bag-end’s bravest burglar) 9, 9; JLSC in cautious avoid the corona for Bretty’s wedding sentia (Uncomfortable palpitating gruesome) 7, 7; JDI (Once upon a) 6, 6; EWK (gateway book) 7, 8; JCL (YA hero’s tale) 6, 7; DRR (little person’s book) 5, 5; KS (home, heroism, greed) 8, 8; JMS in coronasentia (master world builder) 8, 8; WS (Misty Mountain mayhem) 9, 9; SS (the right road) 7, 7.

10-reader avg=7.30, trued 8-reader avg=7.38

5/22: No meeting, Kratt’s father passed

6/22: Life without Children, Roddy Doyle (JDI)

Prosecco to toast 25 years, cheeses with crunchy bread, lemon and rosemary marinated grilled leg of lamb with oven roasted potatoes, cabbage slaw cups, chocolate cupcakes with cream cheese frosting in the shape of 25, assorted beers, Jameson's with ginger and lime cocktail

SDC in absentia (“the third age”) 7, 7; JLSC (ballet dancer drunk) 7, 7; JDI (life with children) 9, 9; EWK (“no one looked”) 7, 8; JCL (life without moorings) 6, 6; DRR (pandemic miss connections) 7, 7; KS in absentia (a long reach) 3, 3; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (very difficult times) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=6.69, trued 6-reader avg=6.92

7/22: The Lincoln Highway, Amor Towles (EWK)

Sally’s strawberry jam with cream cheese and crackers, fried bologna, pretzels and assorted mustards, BLT’s, ranch sliders, pimento cheese, potato salad, assorted beers and Jameson, bindles with oreos and chocolate chip cookies

SDC (diamonds in profile) 8, 8; JLSC (anticipation manipulation dissatisfaction) 6, 6; JDI in Turkiyesentia (made for Disney) 6, 6; EWK (count to ten) 8, 8; JCL (the Hershey highway) 5, 6; DRR (no American gentlemen) 5, 6; KS DNR; JMS (the switching yard) 7, 7; WS (picaro character story) 8, 8; SS in Michigansentia (the ending SUCKED!) 6, 6.

9-reader avg=6.67, trued 7-reader avg=6.64

8/22: The Accidental Tourist, Anne Tyler (JLSC)

Bruschetta, assorted pizzas and Macon salad, Cele-tini’s, red wine and assorted beers

SDC (never completely happy) 7, 7; JLSC (life after death) 7, 7; JDI (absence breeds desire) 6, 7; EWK (“anything but orderly”) 8, 8; JCL (uncomfortably familiar) 6, 7; DRR (“entirely different trips”) 5, 6; KS lightning round by phone (Almost used up) 7, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (makin’ Macon awaken) 6, 7.

8-reader avg=6.75, trued 6-reader avg=6.75

9/22: Frolics at LKG (Thursday special guest appearance by John Hall, cocktails from DRR’s menu and otherwise, readings, pickleball, etc., etc.)

Thursday Don dinner:

Smoky chili-rubbed pork shoulder, mac & blue, Chilean avocado cabbage slaw, 2012 Colgin Napa Syrah

Friday breakfast:

JD’s chorizo breakfast enchiladas with fruit

FRIDAY CeleMexi-dinner:

Cele-ritas, cast iron skillet loaded queso; mahi mahi tacos; duck, lamb and veal chili with bacon-wrapped goat cheese jalapeno poppers

Saturday breakfast:

Cobb’s eggs and breakfast meats

SATURDAY Cele-dinner:

Celetinis, steak tartare, lobster chowder, smoked beef ribs, 2008 7&8 Estate Napa cabernet sauvignon

Sunday breakfast: Old’s Washburn’s breakfast biscuits and bacon

10/22: Kindred, Octavia Butler (JCL)

Pulled pork, cole slaw, corn bread and assorted beers, including a peach wheat

SDC (habitual forgiveness condemned) 7, 7; JLSC (emails from ex-girlfriends) 6, 6; JDI (a thin line) 7, 7; EWK (**W**hite **T**rash **F**able) 6, 6; JCL (fantasy slave narrative) 6, 6; DRR (time traveler’s slave) 6, 6; KS lightning round by phone 6, 6; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (uncomfortable, vaguely ashamed) 6, 6.

8-reader avg=6.25, trued 6-reader avg=6.17

11/22: Cloud Cuckoo Land, Anthony Doerr (SS)

Artichoke dip, oxtail stew, mashed potatoes, asparagus, honey cake, Il Bourbinos, Bogle Phantom wine and assorted beers

SDC (masturbatory perambulatory repository) 7, 8; JLSC (book of books) 10, 10; JDI (la bibliotheque partout) 7, 8; EWK in absentia (hunger to See-mour) 7, 7; JCL (many versions of paradise) 9, 9; DRR (human imagination abides) 8, 8; KS absent DNR; JMS absent DNR; WS present DNR (pull the bone from my oxtail, baby); SS (timeless 3D puzzle) 8, 9.

7-reader avg=8.21, trued 5-reader avg=8.10

12/22: Catered SO holiday dinner at the Reynolds with 25th anniversary trivia

### 1/23: Lonesome Dove, Larry McMurtry (SDC)

Hell Bitch high tailer (Mezcal and Texas/Bulleit Rye with Honey, Lemon & Smoked, Aztec Chocolate & Pepper Bitters), Palomas Solitarias (Tequila, Lime & Grapefruit Soda), Pickles Gap Pickled Blue Pig (Honey Smoked Blue Sow Pork Belly & Pickle Bites), Bolivar’s Fiery Varmints & Beans (Stew of Pinto Beans, Rattlesnake & Rabbit Sausage [Sourced from Chef Tim Love’s Lonesome Dove Western Bistro, Fort Worth TX], Smoked Blue Shoat Neck Bones, DLV & Beef Stocks, and New Mexico Hatch Peppers) under Hayes Barton Biscuits & Pepper Dust, Camp Steaks a la Po Campo (Ribeyes with Meat Church Holy Cow and Campfire Coffee Rub, Slow Smoked with Mesquite and Finished Over Flame), Carrots a la Lorena (Brown Sugar Roasted Carrots with Dandelion Greens), Austin Hope paso robles Cabernet, Nelson’s Green brier sour mash Tennessee Whiskey, Hoegaarden witbier White ale, Shiner Texhex bruja’s brew IPA and Guinness—stout

SDC (change is destiny) 9, 10; JLSC (quite a party) 10, 10; JDI (vexation, long-affection, regret) 6, 7; EWK (bacon, coffee, repeat) 8, 9; JCL (vidi vulva veni) 7, 8; DRR in absentia (pokes ‘n’ beeves) 6, 6; KS (right good storytellin’) 8, 9; JMS absent DNR; WS (dingus angus exodus) 8, 8; SS (no woman no cry) 8, 9.

9-reader avg=8.11, trued 7-reader avg=8.14

2/23: Maggie: A Girl of the Streets, Stephen Crane (DRR)

cheese and crackers, crudite, corned beef and cabbage and carrots, duck fat fried potatoes, Bowery Punch, Irish ale and Brooklyn lager

SDC (“mud puddle blossom”) 7, 8; JLSC (melodrama within melodrama) 5, 5; JDI (bravado, blank, bereavement) 6, 6; EWK lightning round by phone (humorous moral relativism) 7, 7; JCL (Cele’s people) 5, 6; DRR (Ho’s Red Badge) 7, 8; KS lightning round by phone (Got it, see?) 3, 3; JMS absent DNR; WS (ladies, pradees, Hades) 7, 7; SS on his way to NZ (booze, brawls, braggadocio) 6, 6.

9-reader avg=6.06, trued 7-reader avg=6.29

3/23: Hunger, Knut Hamsun (KS at The Hibernian North Raleigh)

Beers and food off the menu

SDC (to eat oneself) 7, 7; JLSC (lost my appetite) 4, 5; JDI (Figure It Out) 4, 5; EWK lightning round by phone (amazing self-awareness) 8, 8; JCL (undiagnosed bi-polar autobiography) 5, 5; DRR (educated Great-grandpa Christian) 6, 6; KS (phenomenology of awareness) 8, 8; JMS absent DNR; WS absen t DNR; SS (Norwegian mind fuck) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=6.25, trued 6-reader avg=6.25

4/23: Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie (WS)

The Orient Express Elixir--This elegant martini evokes the refined atmosphere of the train. The prominent juniper notes in the gin pay homage to the coniferous trees that surround the train tracks during the journey. The floral and herbal notes combine to create a smooth and balanced drink that transports you to the luxurious world of the Orient Express.

Clue-Filled Stuffed Mushrooms--These tasty buttons will have you reaching for your monogramed hanky. Filled with savory clues like the rich earthiness of mushrooms, the sharp tang of cheese, and the subtle heat of spices. They are a mystery waiting to be solved with each flavorful bite. Just don’t leave any grease stains on your passport.

Hercule Poirot’s Brilliant Boeuf Bourguignon--This gourmet dish is inspired by Hercule Poirot and his love of the finer things in life. Tender beef is slow cooked in red wine with smoky bacon, earthy mushrooms, and caramelized onions for added depth of flavor. It's a hearty stew fit for the opulence and intrigue of the Orient Express.

Snowbank Mashed Potatoes--These mashed potatoes are as smooth and velvety as the snowdrifts that pile up against the train's windows. With each buttery bite, you'll feel as if you're curled up in a warm cabin, watching the snow fall gently outside. It's the perfect comfort food to enjoy during a chilly winter evening, just like the passengers on the Orient Express.

Brussels Sprouts à la Bouc--These roasted Brussels sprouts are a true homage to Michel Bouc's sophisticated palate. They're perfectly seasoned with a blend of fragrant herbs and spices and roasted to caramelized perfection. With every bite, you can taste the refined taste and attention to detail that Bouc is known for.

Lanfranco Casetti’s Double Chocolate Cake--Satisfy your dark side with this rich and decadent dessert that will make you want to change your name. Perfect for those who enjoy the darker side of life, just like Casetti himself.

And red wine and assorted beers

SDC (diversions for grannies) 8, 8; JLSC (“odd little comedy”) 6, 6; JDI in Elder-sentia (12 discipled murderers) 8, 8; EWK (It wasn’t me!) 9, 9; JCL (Snowpiercer prequel) 5, 5; DRR (stereotypes, clues, conspiracies) 4, 4; KS firecracker round by phone (the impossible happened) 8, 8; JMS (voyage mais stationnaire) 7, 7; WS (mysteries R fun) 7, 7; SS in DCentia (logic savvy observant) 6, 6.

10-reader avg=6.80, trued 8-reader avg=6.88

5/23: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll

(EWK)

Fig jam and brie tarts; Philly cheesesteak stuffed mushrooms; earth apple salad with mustard; treacle candies; fruit tarts; Jameson’s with peeps; assorted beers including Road to Nowhere IPA, Terrapin Hopsecutioner IPA, Hop on Top IPA, Dance of the Absurd IPA, Duck Rabbit Amber, and Duck Rabbit Brown

SDC (eat the baby!) 7, 7; JLSC in Aegeansentia (curiouser and curiouser) 7, 7; JDI absent DNR; EWK (bedtime story elocution) 7, 7; JCL (pervy groomer bait) 5, 6; DRR (curiouser and curiouser) 6, 7; KS by phone (mad at her) 8, 8; JMS (iconic characters chore) 5, 5; WS absent DNR; SS (reeling and writhing) 7, 7.

8-reader avg=6.63, trued 6-reader avg=6.67

6/23: Foster, Claire Keegan (JDI)

Jameson’s Mule (aka: Buck): bespoke Irish whiskey, Reed’s all-natural ginger beer, fresh lime juice, mint.

Hot Head Da: Three cheese + bacon stuffed jalapeno peppers, fire roasted.

Dairy Month: Four varieties of chef selected cheese from the Kinsella dairy (and some global sourcing). Butter biscuits.

Red Heifer and Guinness Stew: angus beef shoulder + bacon, local onions, gold Irish potatoes, carrots, fresh herbs, house made beef stock.

Summer Visit Salad: grilled local watermelon, cucumber + red onion, cheese from neighbor’s goat, mint

Fresh loaf + Irish butter (sans jam)

Edna’s “Oh…well! Leaky mattress” Blueberry crumble/tart: freshly picked blueberries from Lyon’s farm (Granville County), lemon, sugar + Weetabix crumble. Vanilla ice cream on request.

Wind & Grace, Foley Family Wines (Cab, Sonoma) 2018 (Kinsella and the girl’s appropriately named wine for a walk on the beach…wind & grace), Guinness Extra Stout, Founders All Day IPA, Sierra Nevada Hazy Little Thing

SDC (opportunity for silence) 7, 8; JLSC (banshees of Kinsella) 9, 9; JDI (shining in between) 9, 9; EWK (love grows Petal) 9, 9; JCL (Irish Appalachia) 5, 7; DRR (Who’s your daddy?) 7, 9; KS by phone (being seen) 7, 7; JMS (the third light) 9, 9; WS absent DNR; SS (feels like hope) 8, 9.

9-reader avg=8.11, trued 7-reader avg=8.29

7/23: Kidnapped, Robert Louis Stevenson (JLSC)

Cheese and crackers and pickles; poached Scottish salmon; potato salad; berries and Cool Whip; Hendricks martinis, a wee dram of Jura Scotch; vino verdhe, rose and assorted beers

SDC (accuracy be damned!) 7, 8; JLSC (boys to men) 6, 7; JDI (Are they twins?) 6, 6; EWK (“gentlemen of great penetration”) 7, 8; JCL absent DNR; DRR (“queer rude place”) 6, 7; KS absent (seek your fortune) 5, 5; JMS present DNF; WS absent to win a softball championship, DNR; SS (“these horrid wanderings”) 6, 6.

7-reader avg=6.43, trued 5-reader avg=6.50

8/23: Children of Time, Adrian Tchaikovsky (JCL)

Chips and queso and salsa; burritos; Spider’s Kiss vodka drink and assorted beers, including Viking Spider

SDC (empathy via biochemistry) 8, 8; JLSC (bead of empathy) 7, 7; JDI in absentia, RIP father-in-law Dave (Evolve, Devolve, Revolve) 6, 6; EWK (bring nanovirus on) 7, 7; JCL (surprisingly optimistic apocalypse) 7, 8; DRR (“overrun by monkeys”) 5, 6; KS absent due to fender-bender (it doesn’t care) 7, 7; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (human hubris exposed) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=6.86, trued 5-reader avg=6.90

9/23: Olive, Again, Elizabeth Strout (SS)

Chips and queso and salsa; slow-cooked pork shoulder with honey butter sauce; potatoes; green salad; apple pie a la mode; assorted beers, including Allagash and other Mainers; Corvallis and Moon pinot noir

SDC (ready to die?) 7, 8; JLSC (truthful but tedious) 6, 6; JDI (light dark loneliness) 6, 7; EWK (respect all love) 10, 10; JCL (stroke me) 8, 8; DRR (lonely characters awkward) 7, 7; KS by phone (“Aren’t we all?”) 8, 9; JMS absent DNR; WS absent DNR; SS (deep and wide) 8, 9.

8-reader avg=7.75, trued 6-reader avg=7.67

10/23: Beech Mountain weekend away (readings, hikes, hot tub, billiards, etc., etc.)

Thursday by Don:

Growing Old and Dying Happy is a Hope, not an Inevitability (Cynar, rye, salt, lemon peel and absinthe)

Baked feta w/Mediterranean veggies

Southern fried corn

Cheese and bread and crackers

Somalian tuna pasta

Make your own wedge salads

2018 No Girls Walla Walla grenache

Friday breakfast:

Kratt’s spinach and sausage strada

Friday CeleMexi-dinner:

[rum drink]

Stewed oxtail w/crema, confit turkey leg tostadas

2016 Cayuse Armada Walla Walla syrah

Saturday breakfast:

Leftover Krattistrada

Saturday Cele-dinner:

Celestinis, smoked salmon dip with matzohs, Aunt Rose’s brisket, latkes and slaw

2014 Colgin IX Estate Napa syrah

Sunday breakfast: leftovers

11/23: The Mermaid of Jeju, Sumi Hahn (SDC)

Doguljengi! Doguljengi! Shooters (Assorted Rice Wines with Soy Sriracha Slugs & Charred Little Sister Peanut(s)

The Bloody Usurpers (Yank Rye, Jap Saki, Russki vodka, with Chinese Five Spice, Blood Orange bitters, Cherry syrup, nutmeg)

Mount Halla Kiss(Rehydrated Gosari ferns and Sautéed Shitake mushrooms with Sesame Seeds, Garlic, onion, beef dashi and Scallions)

Jilted Bride Brine (Millet Ramen with Grilled Spam, Baby Corn & Water Chestnuts in Shrimp and Seaweed Broth with Pickled Green Peppercorns)

Handsome Gun Half-Moons (Americanized Bull Head BBQ Marinated Beef & Pork with Corn Tortillas)

Bitchin’ Banchan (A selection of Korean small side dishes including garlic stems, bean sprouts, kkaenip/perilla leaves, kimchis, seasoned dried radish, & pancakes)

Shaman Medley (Oranges, Jujubes, coconut & dragon fruit with Creamy Mandarin Dressing)

Junja’s Rising Spirit Cake (Jujube, Cherry and Chestnut Layer Cake with Vanilla Haze Glaze)

Daou Paso Robles Cabernet (“Doing good to the world with wine”)

SDC (Who’s gone crazy?) 8, 8; JLSC (sea dream treasure) 7, 7; JDI (somewhere in between) 6, 6; EWK (family ghosts) 7, 7; JCL in absentia (bad kimchi) 5, 5; DRR (soju gwishin hindoongi) 6, 6; KS in absentia (pearls undiscovered) 6, 6; JMS (coming of age OR Goh-ing of age) 7, 7; WS (love + war = guilt) 8, 8; SS in Eaglesentia (friend or foe) 6, 6.

10-reader avg=6.60, trued 8-reader avg=6.625

1/24: The Anomaly, Herve Le Tellier (DRR)

French baguettes and cheese; andouille sausage and smoked Magret duck breast; French green beans; salade Parisienne; Paper Plane cocktail; 2018 Domaine les Pallieres Terrasse du Diable Gigondas red wine (85% grenache, 15% Mourvedre)

SDC (Leggo my Lego!) 7, 8; JLSC (“pur, si mueve”) 7, 7; JDI (me, meet me) 7, 7; EWK by phone (printer error 40) 8, 8; JCL (a good run) 7, 8; DRR (French tickler) 7, 8; KS by phone (Reality is real?) 9, 9; JMS (slim and none) 6, 6; WS (airport hangar dopplegangers) 6, 7; SS (stimulating epiphany simulation) 7, 8.

10-reader avg=7.35, trued 8-reader avg=7.31

2/24: A Little Life, Hanya Yanagihara (WS)

Baked brie with walnuts and cranberries; Thanksgiving turkey with all the trimmings; berry pie; Manhattans and French red wine

SDC (sorry apologists forgiven) 8, 8; JLSC (Gen-X-istentialism) DNF; JDI from Egypt (don’t help me) 8, 8; EWK (love, friendship, damage) 9, 9; JCL in absentia (pain of love) 9, 9; DRR (elite buggery pain) 8, 8; KS absent DNR; JMS (“take a sad song . . .”) 7, 7; WS (“unshatterable somnambulism”) 8, 8; SS from the Galapagos (overdose of pain) 6, 7.

8-reader avg=7.94, trued 6-reader avg=8.00

3/24: Lincoln in the Bardo, George Saunders (KS @ The Hibernian, *North Raleigh*, Billy)

SDC (rain of hats) 7, 7; JLSC (lost souls) 6, 6; JDI (Should I stay . . . [See SS for completion of their exact duplicate words]) 7, 7; EWK in absentia (Faulkner PTSD) 6, 6; JCL (little Willie won’t go) 8, 9; DRR (“suffering limited beings”) 9, 9; KS (on the bus) 8, 9; JMS (just like Faulkner) DNF; WS (convivial but disjointed) 5, 6; SS (. . . or should I go?) 7, 8.

9-reader avg=7.22, trued 7-reader avg=7.21

4/24: The Measure, Nikki Erlick (EWK @ Compass Rose Brewery)

SDC (soccer mom sociology) 5, 5; JLSC (That’s life!) 7, 7; JDI (fear breeds hate) 6, 6; EWK (fate, or crap) 8, 8; JCL (Young Adult moralizing) 6, 6; DRR (concept poorly executed) 4, 5; KS absent DNR; JMS (string of letters) 7, 7; WS (“Sneetches” for beeches) 5, 5; SS (surviving Pandora’s box) 7, 7.

9-reader avg=6.17, trued 7-reader avg=6.14

5/24: Beautyland, Marie-Helene Bertino (JDI)

Yellow and orange peppers, hummus, cheese and crackers, egg rolls, baked ziti, berry salad, Jude’s brownies, assorted beers and red wine

SDC (please don’t swallow) 6, 7; JLSC (off the spectrum) 9, 9; JDI (humanity, described) 8, 9; EWK (“Oh, fire hydrant”) 8, 8; JCL (great food, drinks) DNR; DRR (“not worth ulations”) 4, 5; KS (little to say) 5, 5; JMS twins’ birthday DNR; WS absent DNR; SS from Arizona (My favorite Martian) 7, 7.

7-reader avg=6.93, trued 5-reader avg=7.00

6/24: Myra Breckinridge, Gore Vidal (JLSC)

Martinis, cheese and crackers and French bread, assorted schlongs, Russian cole slaw, roasted baby potatoes, Russian “ice cream” cones, assorted beers including from Breckinridge Brewing

SDC (Roto Rootered Rusty) 7, 7; JLSC (Early woke?) 8, 8; JDI (the middle ground) 6, 7; EWK (No longer well-formed) 7, 7; JCL (confederacy of predators) 7, 7; DRR (the depopulation bomb) 7, 7; KS absent DNR; JMS (‘60’s gender bender) 6, 6; WS absent DNR; SS (Titless in Tinseltown) 6, 7.

8-reader avg=6.88, trued 6-reader avg=6.83

7/24: Three Body Problem, Liu Cixin (JCL)

Vespers, Chinese take-out including wicked hot fish soup, Happy Spank Day carrot cake and assorted beers including Lady in Red

SDC (short-lived Eddy) 6, 7; JLSC (misanthrope or xenophobe?) 7, 7; JDI (police, history, quantum-astrophysics) 5, 5; EWK (goes to 11) 7, 7; JCL (goes to 11) 6, 7; DRR (fly Chi sci-fi) 6, 6; KS absent DNR; JMS (imaginative character-less slice) 6, 6; WS in absentia (warp speed wonders); SS in absentia (top-notch sci-fi) 8, 8.

9-reader avg=6.44, trued 7-reader avg=6.43

8/24: Demon Copperhead, Barbara Kingsolver (SS)

Chips and dip, grilled pork loin, crouton-topped mac and cheese, baked beans with plenty of pig, green salad, chocolate chip and toffee cookies, pinot noir and assorted beers

SDC (demonic Dickensian debacle) 7, 7; JLSC absent DNR; JDI (“dragging gravel”) 6, 7; EWK (handle of despair) 8, 9; JCL absent DNR; DRR (red-headed VP?) 6, 6; KS absent DNR; JMS (supreme narrative craftsmanship) DNF; WS absent DNR; SS (live and learn) 9, 9.

5-reader avg=7.40, trued 3-reader avg=7.33

9/24: Beach, organized by SS

10/24: “The Tempest,” William Shakespeare (DRR)

11/24: (SDC)

Golf and the Kingdom (SDC)

A Good Walk Spoiled, John Feinstein (SDC)

Psychotic Reactions and Carburetor Dung, Lester Bangs (DRR)

Texaco, Patrick Chamoiseau (DRR)

Locked in the Cabinet, Robert Reich (EWK)

The English Patient, (SDC)

All the Pretty Horses, Cormac McCarthy (JDI)

Naked, David Sedaris (JDI)

Labyrinths, Jorge Luis Borges (DRR)

Jernigan, David Gates (KS)

A Walk in the Woods, Bill Bryson (JDI)

The Children of Men, P.D. James (JDI)

**Spousal Recommendations 11/14**—

Colleen’s challenge: A themed year of books by women

The Signature of All Things, Elizabeth Gilbert

The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd

Unbroken, Laura Hillenbrand

And the Mountains Echoed, Khaled Hosseini

Americanah, Chimimanda Ngoze

The Round House, Barbara Erdich

Lexicon, Max Berry

Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro

One Second After, William Forstche

Defending Jacob, William Landry

Angle of Repose, Wallace Stegner

Paris, Edward Rutherford

Zeitoun, David Eggers

Those Who Save Us, Jenna Blum

Destiny of the Republic, Candice Millard [SS 1/16]

A Tale for the Time Being, Ruth Ozeki

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid, Bill Bryson