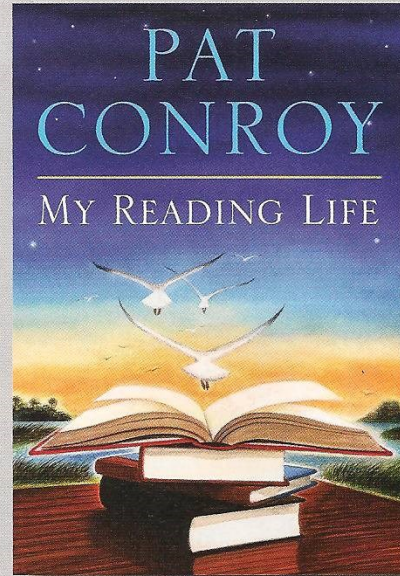




"MY READING LIFE" – A QUICK LOOK

Available Nov. 2 at area bookstores, Pat Conroy's new book "My Reading Life" (Nan Talese/Doubleday 2010) reads a bit like a cross between a literature class reading list and memoir. In its pages, Conroy walks us through many pivotal moments of his life as viewed through the prism of the books he was reading or writing at the time. For those who love his signature brand of story-weaving, "My Reading Life" will give you just enough of a Conroy prose sampler to leave you hoping that a new novel is on the way. He is, after all, one of the South's great contemporary writers.

Conroy's publisher describes "My Reading Life" as a literary mash note from one book lover to another. But it's more than that. When you read his description of Norman Berg, a book salesman he met after publishing his first book, "The Water is Wide," you see the deft hand of a master novelist shaping his characters. In the description of his mother's love of "Gone With the Wind," you see him mining a lifetime in pursuit of his art form. And you will also see how the books he read and wrote shaped the man and author. Overall, "My Reading Life" is a telling – and delicious – read.

— *Glenna Musante*

