



# THE GRAIL

VOLUME II DECEMBER 11, 2014 ISSUE VII

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INSIDE

BABY BOOM

## REED CHILD CARE

Since the construction of the PAB, Reed's priorities have been turned upside down. For what? For childcare on campus.

PAGE 1

PROFESSORS' BEST

## FACULTY BOOK RECS

Reed's beloved professors tell *The Grail* their favorite recent reads. From Munro to Ishiguro to Sapolsky, take time this winter to read what your profs. have loved reading!

PAGE 2

CULTURAL CALENDAR

## BEST OF 2014 LISTS

Cultural Charlie gives us his "best of" list for 2014. With movies, books, and concerts, here is your definitive list of all things cultural!

PAGE 6

# THE GRAIL

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## FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

Clouds. So. Many. Clouds. When it rains . . . it pours.

In other news, Charlie gives us his list of the best culture of the year. Albums, movies, concerts, and books all for you to enjoy (6). Speaking of books, *The Grail* has inside knowledge on the faculty's favorite reads. Read on to find out what Margot, Gail, et al. love to read (2). The end of this semester's award-winning comedy column Graceful Grou-

sings is here (4). Like the rest of *The Grail*, it'll be back in January. With every end, there is a new beginning. As Gandhi once said "Every time a door shuts, another opens . . . YOLO." Childcare services are coming to the Reed medical complex on 28th and Steele (1).

As always, thank you for reading, and we'll see you next semester. Have a great Winter break!

Love,

Brendan, Brian, Grace, Jordan,  
Lauren, Maddy, and Vikram

## CONTENTS

### News & Features

Child Care, 1  
Prof. Book Recs, 2  
Cultural Calendar, 6

### Columns

Graceful Grousings, 4

## CONTRIBUTORS

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*Front cover composite photograph: Jordan Yu*

# Renovating Reed's Future

By Maddy Appelbaum

When asked her opinion on the swift progress that has recently been made on plans to establish a child care center at Reed, Ad Hoc Committee On Child Care at Reed College chair Gail Sherman's (English, 1981-) first response is pure joy. "Its so exciting!" she says. "It feels great, and it feels like everything really lined up . . . once the Performing Arts Building was constructed . . . there was an ability to look at the long-term needs of the college."

This excitement is certainly warranted, given the long road Sherman and the rest of the committee have gone down in order to make the dream of child care on campus a reality. President Colin Diver (president, 2002-12) first assembled the committee of eight faculty and staff members. He charged them to investigate on-campus child care. After conducting a campus-wide survey, looking into the practices of peer institutions, and investigating local child care options, the committee made a recommendation on April 5, 2012 that the College "assess the legal and financial feasibility of campus-based child care, with the goal of an expeditious implementation of such services." They found child care imperative since their survey indicated a huge and growing desire for a high quality child care option on campus amongst faculty and staff both with children and without. In June 2013, President John Kroger received their final report, which they had expanded with the help of expert consultant Margaret Browning. Based on a recommendation made by Browning, the committee endorsed the establishment of a 46-child center located in one of the college-owned buildings in the medical complex at 28th and Steele. They believe this model will be financially sustainable, and hugely beneficial to

the community.

Most recently, says Sherman, "John Kroger announced . . . that the college is developing a contract with a provider and continuing to move forward with questions related to zoning . . . and looking at questions of renovation and costs and timing of renovations. So far it still looks good for an opening of child care at Reed in Fall 2015."

Committee members say the benefits of the center to the community will be innumerable, and not confined to the obvious. "Its really important to recognize that by having their children in the center, faculty and staff, and maybe students for that matter . . . will have more opportunities for informal interaction, of the kind that I think can only add to the morale of the community," says Sherman. This communal function is the interaction of many factors. Sherman thinks bringing these factors together will be well worth it for the college. "Putting out there into the world that Reed really cares about education from zero on up and cares about its employees will really pay off," she said. Corpus is also intrigued by another potential advantage of the center. "As a developmental psychologist, it's also exciting to envision future learning opportunities the center could offer for students interested in child development or education," she says.

The issue of child care on campus was first raised in 1997, when, after a group of faculty spoke to then-president Steve Koblick (1992-2001), a committee was appointed to investigate the matter. This success represents the culmination of a long-standing desire. Then, the committee recommended the Dorothy Johansen House be converted into a child care center. However, following further

discussion, a second and final recommendation left the group stymied. Koblick turned the issue over to the Benefits Committee to assess potential costs associated with the project, and it was determined that a center set up in the Dorothy Johansen house would not be able to hold enough capacity to be financially viable, so the debate was put to bed.

That is, until the college participated in the Mellon 23 conference on faculty life issues at Pomona College in Claremont, CA.

A critical factor that will separate the Reed center from other facilities in the area is that Reed's will be National Association for the Education of Young Children accredited; it will meet national standards of quality in curriculum and care. The committee "educate[d] [themselves] on what really makes a high quality program, as opposed to something that might look very fancy but not be educationally high quality," says Sherman. Corpus is pleased with this. "I've seen how difficult it is to find quality child care, and how far in advance one needs to act to find a coveted spot, typically, before one even announces a pregnancy. It's a challenge to navigate parenting and the demands of working at Reed."

"I think it's important for people to know that this has been a long, careful, and thoughtful process," says Corpus. "We have gathered a tremendous amount of information . . . This isn't just a 'good idea' —e we have evidence that it's workable and sustainable."

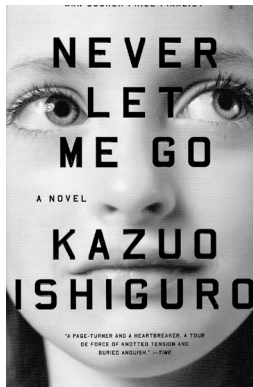
"You know, Michelle Obama worked in child care as a college student, and I think that is a great plug for our having a child care center on campus as a form of employment!" jokes Sherman. ❧

# ENG 501: Reading for Pleasure

HERE WE GO, gang, coming into the home stretch. The last days of the fall semester. There we are, crouching in some godforsaken corner of the library, the taste of adrenaline on our tongues, and a singular desire on our minds: finish strong on our finals and head home for some well-deserved television watching and non-specific-winter-holiday celebrating. Imagine this, though, Reecie, if you dare. Two weeks into winter break you sit in front of your computer and browse your Netflix instant queue, but come up short. Its empty! Then you remember this amazing thing you used to know about, something you spent hour upon

youthful hour engrossed in, protesting when your mother insisted you busy yourself with another activity for a scant thirty minutes. Reading! You gaze over at your well-worn book shelf and ponder, what should you pick up to peruse as you sit in front of a crackling fire and intermittently gaze out at the snow-speckled landscape on this wintry afternoon? Thankfully, your beloved professors will answer that question for you! Check out these recommendations from some of our esteemed faculty for your winter reading pleasure, and head to REEDTHEGRAIL.COM for more. 📖

COMPILED BY MADDY APPELBAUM



## Margot Minardi

HISTORY

### *Never Let Me Go* BY KAZUO ISHIGURO

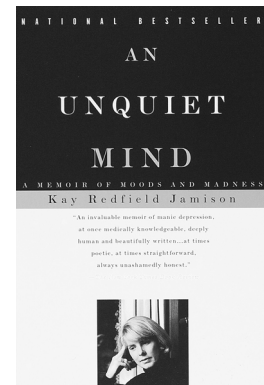
"I love the restrained and measured style of the prose. It's hard to say why I found this book so compelling without giving away the plot, which Ishiguro unfolds ever so carefully. In a very unexpected way, the book prompted me to reflect on questions relevant to my own scholarly work concerning which kinds of social reforms are worthwhile and which tend to reinforce the very systems they are attempting to change."

## Kris Anderson

PSYCHOLOGY

### *An Unquiet Mind* BY KAY JAMISON

Jamison, a clinical psychologist suffering from bipolar disorder, shares her story in this insightful autobiography. Anderson is captivated by her descriptions of "her life leading up to her diagnosis and how her diagnosis informed her practice."

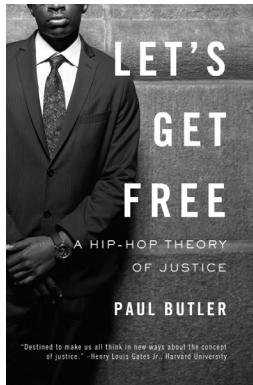


## Gail Sherman

ENGLISH

### Alice Munro's Short Stories

A winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, Munro writes stories that are characterized by her propensity to move around in time within her narratives. Sherman says, "she is one of the most brilliant short story writers writing today," and recommends any of her work students can get their hands on.



## Dan Reisberg

PSYCHOLOGY

### *Let's Get Free* BY PAUL BUTLER

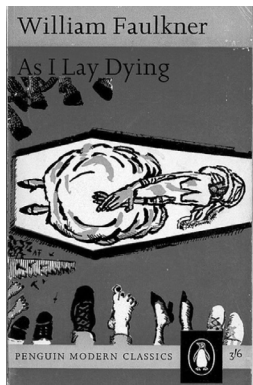
"In light of what's going on in the nations politics this is a very radical book. But its written by a wonderfully smart, very interesting guy who. . . its relevant that he's African American, talking about some of his concerns about the criminal justice system. And so, I would choose it in some ways because its not directly tied to what's been in the headlines, but close enough. And by the way, Paul Butler has been writing. Recently he had a piece in the New York Times about what's happening in New York City with the non-indictment, so if one wants to go from the book to current events, you could look at the book and look at Butler's op-ed piece in the Times."

## Chris Koski

POLITICAL SCIENCE

### *Ready Player One* BY ERNEST CLINE

Koski enthusiastically recommends this post-apocalyptic thriller. The concept is this: at some point in the future the Earth is in such deep trouble that humans can only live within a virtual-reality world, called OASIS. Incorporating a quest for hidden treasures, a touch of romance, and a bunch of nerdy vibes, there is nothing not to love about this novel.



## Jan Mieszkowski

GERMAN

### *As I Lay Dying* BY WILLIAM FAULKNER

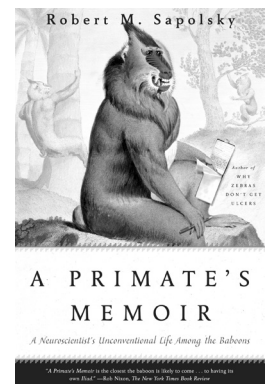
"A remarkable study of language and death. If you don't know Faulkner's work, this is a great place to start. It's shorter than some of his most famous novels but will not disappoint."

## Suzy Renn

BIOLOGY

### *A Primate's Memoir* BY ROBERT SAPOLSKY

This book is Renn's "all time favorite." The story is that of "an amazing neuroscientist telling about his time as a graduate student doing field biology with baboons in Africa when he started his studies of how social hierarchy influences stress hormones. He studies baboons, rodents, humans and cell culture systems now, but it is fun to hear him write about his time as a graduate student," Renn said.



# OFF THE MARKET

By GRACE FETTERMAN

It's 4:00 AM and you are sinking. Heart palpitations are an invidious awareness. Your lungs are in the midst of collapse. The mind is submerged in irrepressible thoughts of the unattainable. It is the symbolic hiatal hernia, the universal burgeoning ache. This lacerating mortification is our true destiny. A rainbow unreturned, a seemingly infinite curse.

That's it. You give up. It's time to make the phone call. Number three on speed dial.

With each ring the neck becomes tighter, until finally, an answer:

"Reed College Community Safety Officer, how can I help you?"

But before you explain yourself, take another battering breath:

"At the Charleston Female Seminary, Sister Lancaster told us there are two kinds of girls: China Plate Girls and paper plate girls. China plates are tough, resilient, long lasting, and shatterproof. Paper plates are faint-hearted, vacuous, and destroy the environment. Put one carrot on them, and they collapse in on themselves. On the third of June, two thousand twelve, I graduated from Charleston the class salutatorian, as well as 'Most Likely to Play Shrek on Broadway.' At our final reception, Ms. Lancaster pulled me aside, and handed me a ceramic platter with Margaret Chase Smith on it. *You are now an industrial-strength platter. Serve only yourself, and your skin will forever be porcelain,* she said. Oh, Ms. Lancaster, if only you could see me now. A worthless paper plate girl, decaying in a landfill of dejection as I slowly convert into a potent greenhouse methane . . . Where did it all go wrong?"

"Alright, Miss. None of that really made any sense, and wasn't particularly helpful. I need you to tell me exactly what is wrong. Have you taken any substances this evening?"

"What's wrong? What's wrong? HA! HA! HA! Oh, CSO. You are so used to the smell of marijuana that you don't recognize *the smoke raised with the fume of sighs: LOVE!*"

"Love?"

"LOVE! LOVE! CSO, swipe me into his heart!"

"Oh, boy. Yikes. Looks like we got a code *au coeur brisé* on our hands, Gary G. Alright, Miss, start from the beginning."

"Well, it all began at the place that sells *ingredients for life . . .*"

"The Carbon store?"

"No."

"A fertility center?"

"Well, in my case, sort of . . . but hold on, we are getting ahead of ourselves. I am talking about Safeway."

"Ohhhhh. Safeway! Ingredients for life!"

"Yes. And recipes for disaster... It was just a typical September's day when grass was green, grain was yellow, and grocery shopping was called for. I schlepped my pretty little self over to 4515 SE Woodstock. I amassed my items, and made my way over to the front of the store to check-out. And that's when I saw him. Tall. A weather-beaten face with manful, sand-rough, stubble, insinuating a life lived to the fullest, hinting at risk-seeking behavior. His deep-set, striking eyes were a-flush with triumph and devilment. He scanned the grocery items with a self-satisfied smirk. I am spell-bound. Men want to be him. Women want to make love to him..."

". . . Alriiiight," says the CSO in that singsong way. You know, the same rising and falling rhythm tone people use to politely let you know that they don't want to hear about that time toxic shock syndrome gave you an entire (!) month of good luck.

"Sorry, Cizzo. Pancho has been working with me on reading social cues. Anyways, I get into his line, and stand there in awe, weak at the knees for reasons aside from my inflamed collagen tissue, and see that he is in the midst of an argument with an old man, clad in moth eaten clothes."

"You have too many items to be in the express lane," says the hunk.

The old man makes some doltish reply in a quivering voice, shaking his misshapen fingers at the tantalizing cashier.

"I'm sorry, sir, but rules are rules."

What a knight! What a steed! The old man leaves in a huff. It's my turn. The heart rate increases.

He looks at me.

"People," he gripes.

"I know. Can't live with them, can't kill them."

This makes him chortle, and I just about plotz myself. He recites my items out loud: "Bananas, Kashi Go Lean

cereal, and Polonium.” He looks back up at me, slowly, and winks.

“You have a nice day now.”

“And that’s when I knew. Right there, right then, in the second largest supermarket chain in North America, after The Kroger Company, I was falling in love. Intrusive, obsessive, and compulsive love.”

“So . . . what is his name?”

“I . . . I . . . can’t tell you that.”

“You must, for the exorcism.”

A Pause.

“Go on, Miss.”

You susurrate it, puncturing your paunch.

“What was that?”

You say it again, slightly louder, this time. Your heart breaks just a little more. Like brownie brittle.

“Miss, you are going to have to speak up.”

Another battering breath:

“RANDALL! RANDALL! HIS NAME IS FUCKING RANDALL! ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?”

And you continue your story in feverish desperation:

“And so I started going to Safeway everyday after class. Doesn’t matter what I bought. I dashed to Randall’s line, melting and giddy and lusting. The Safeway scanner went beep beep beep beep beep, coinciding with my pounding heart. And he’d ask me how I was, and I would tell him, and that would be that. I grew more and more fanatic. I had to see him more and more and more and. Beep beep beep beep beep. It was the beeping of libido, the beeping of lost time never to be found again. I started consuming my housemate’s groceries, as if that would validate making trips to Safeway again and again and again and again. I thought these visits meant as much to Randy as they did to me. I thought he was the man I had been praying for and preparing for my whole life. And then, without notice, Randall started acting strange. His breaks somehow always coincided with my visits. He would see me walk in through the sliding glass doors, and vanish. And then one day, he just left Safeway all together. He didn’t even say goodbye.”

“Closure, Miss, is a myth.”

Another pause. Your CSO then shouts with exasperation:

“Hold on, Gary G.! I’ll turn on Spongebob in just a second! Sorry about that, Miss. Here’s what I’ve got to say about all this: A bungler CSO may dismiss your story as outlandish and groundless, a missed opportunity for a *Kashi Go Lean, Kashi Go Fuck Yourself* joke here, and a *checking someone out* pun there, a but I know that this isn’t the case.”

“What do you mean, CSO?”

“Miss, I’m going to have to ask you to look in a mirror.”

“Which one? There are about eight in here.”

“Any of them. Go on, take a look.”

“No.”

“Miss . . .”

“NO! I don’t like where this is going!”

“TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF! YOU’RE NOT CUTE ANYMORE! *IT’S* NOT CUTE ANYMORE! You are twenty years old, and you are acting like a child. You are a never-quite-reformed Puritan who cannot forget Jonathan Edwards. You enjoy thinking yourself naughty, and you exaggerated this naughtiness into a pseudo-depravity, and this pseudo-depravity into a perversity. You are an adolescent, really, gratifying yourself, wanting to believe that you are living in the last days, that the world is falling in on your head, that only your sickest illusions are able to offer you any reason for living.”

“I . . . I . . . want to be Nero, watching Rome burn.”

“Exactly. You always take the child’s way out. You believe that where Randall used to be, there is now a hole in the world. And you distract yourself from the hole with PDFs and PDFs and PDFs and PDFs and e-Reserves and library reserves and essays and essays and essays and meetings and meetings in the day, but in the deserted night, you fall into the hole, unarmed and alone. The setting of Safeway, moreover, represents the isolation and miscommunication in this mercenary culture. It is the twenty-first-century world of courtship and dating.”

“Oh CSO, that’s exactly it. It is the unbearable orbit of modern love, where nonchalance is power, commitment is, by no means, compulsory, and all around you there are several other romantic alternatives, lingering, waiting..”

“Yes. Old-fashioned dating is dead. Hand jobs no longer warrant handwritten thank you notes. But what you had with Randall was not love, Miss. Your life cannot be lived through illusion. You must grow up, and learn to face the world in all its hostility, and accept your isolation and insignificance.”

“But truth and illusion CSO, how do I know the difference?”

The phone line goes dead.

“Hello? HELLO? CSO, HOW DO I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?”

There is a new text message from a blocked number. It reads:


“Look under your pillow.”

And under your cushion there you find it: the CSO’s trading card.

“It’s a Christmas miracle!”

And ultimately, sleep finds you.

Phoning the CSO thus resulted in your own wake up call. Perchance we all have a Safeway cashier in our life at one point or another. A Randall. A romantic pipe dream. But we must peel off our protective fantasies and flights of fancy, one by one, and purge ourselves of obstructive falsehood. And as you shuck yourself of such chimeras, you will learn to become yourself again.

Until one fateful visit to Trader Joes . . . 

# Cultural Calendar

## 2014 LISTS: TRULY THE GREATEST TIME OF THE YEAR

By CHARLIE C. WILCOX

Year-end lists! I don't mean these lists to be authoritative by any means, so come and talk to me and question my selections, I'd probably be excited to talk to you about any of these pieces of culture. ♣

### Best Movies 2014

1. *The Dance of Reality* (dir. Alejandro Jodorowsky)
2. *Nightcrawler* (dir. Dan Gilroy)
3. *Birdman* (dir. Alejandro Iñárritu)
4. *The Babadook* (dir. Jennifer Kent)
5. *Gone Girl* (dir. David Fincher)/ *Nymphomaniac* (dir. Lars Von Trier) ((TIE))

### Best Books 2014

1. *In the House Upon the Dirt Between the Lake and the Woods* - Matt Bell
2. *10:04* - Ben Lerner
3. *Bad Feminist* - Roxane Gay
4. *Swann's Way* - Marcel Proust
5. *Motherland Fatherland Homelandsexuals* - Patricia Lockwood
6. *Inherent Vice* - Thomas Pynchon
7. *The Blazing World* - Siri Hustvedt
8. *More Curious* - Sean Wilsey
9. *Autobiography of a Corpse* - Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky
10. *The Empathy Exams* - Leslie Jamison

### Best Concerts 2014

1. Neutral Milk Hotel @ Crystal Ballroom 4/6
2. Kevin Drumm @ Yale Union 10/18
3. Yob @ Hoverfest 8/23
4. Darkside @ First Ave 1/18
5. Parquet Courts @ Pickathon 8/3
6. Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds @ State Theatre 6/21
7. Madalyn Merkey @ Reed College Chapel 3/22
8. Killer Mike @ Doc Marten's Store 8/15
9. Godflesh @ Hawthorne Theater 4/18
10. Deafheaven @ Triple Rock Social Club 6/23 & Holocene 12/2
11. St Vincent @ Crystal Ballroom 3/24
12. Lubomyr Melnyk @ Yale Union 2/28
13. Mac Demarco @ Pickathon 8/2
14. Cold Specks @ Doug Fir 11/23
15. Mutual Benefit @ Bunk Bar 10/11

### Best Albums of 2014

1. Swans - *To Be Kind*
2. Cold Specks - *Neuroplasticity*
3. Sun Kil Moon - *Benji*
4. Run the Jewels - *RTJ2*
5. Lubomyr Melnyk - *Windmills*
6. Perfume Genius - *Too Bright*
7. Thee Silver Mt. Zion Memorial Orchestra blah blah blah - *Fuck Off Get Free We Pour Light on Everything*
8. Modern Baseball - *You're Gonna Miss It All*
9. Arrange - *Their Bodies in a Fog*
10. Scott Walker & Sunn O))) - *Soused*
11. Neil Cicierga - *Mouth Sounds/ Mouth Silence*
12. Fire! Orchestra - *Enter!*
13. EMA - *The Future's Void*
14. Battle Trance - *Palace of Wind*
15. Fatima Al Qadiri - *Asiatisch*
16. Pharmakon - *Bestial Burden*
17. Horse Lords - *Hidden Cities*
18. tUnE-yArDs - *Nikki Nack*
19. Aram Bajakian - *There Were Flowers Also In Hell*
20. Jawbreaker Reunion - *Lutheran Sisterhood Gun Club*