



**Michael Giltz, Contributor** BookFilter creator

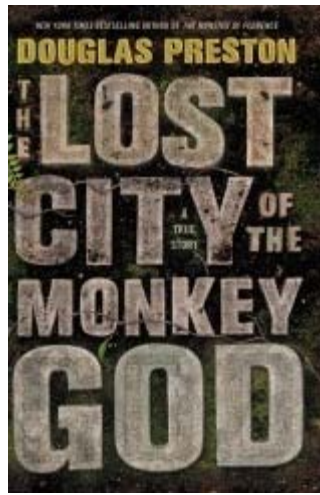
# BookFilter: "The Lost City Of The Monkey God" and More New Releases

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**Hey Book Lovers!** Welcome to BookFilter's Top Picks Of The Week! It's a brand new year and we're celebrating with the launch of BookFilter's weekly rundown of top new releases -- the perfect way to find out all the best new books of the week that everyone will be talking about. What better way to keep your new year's resolution to read more? And any time you're headed to your favorite bookstore, library or online retailer, head first to BookFilter and you'll discover all the best new releases in every genre.

## What we're reading:

- THE LOST CITY OF THE MONKEY GOD by Douglas Preston (**science, travel**)
- FOOD, HEALTH AND HAPPINESS by Oprah Winfrey (**cookbooks, self-help**)
- SELECTION DAY by Aravind Adiga (**fiction, sports**)
- MRS. SHERLOCK HOLMES by Brad Ricca (**biography, mystery, history**)
- HOW TO HYGGE by Signe Johansen (**home & garden & crafts, self-help**)
- THE MISTRESS by Danielle Steel (**romance**)
- WHAT DOESN'T KILL US by Scott Carney (**sports, science, health**)
- LOVE AND FIRST SIGHT by Josh Sundquist (**young adult, romance**)



THE LOST CITY OF THE MONKEY GOD by Douglas Preston It sounds like the title for a new Indiana Jones adventure. But this nonfiction thriller about plunging into the interior of the Honduran jungle is actually true and a perfect read for armchair travelers or would-be adventurers who bemoan the fact that there's nothing left to discover. Turns out there is, namely a legendary civilization that rivaled the Mayans but disappeared some 500 years ago. Douglas Preston's true-life tale includes everything from the latest technology to ancient curses to scientific backbiting and a mysterious illness that came out of the jungle and is headed your way....  
Read More. Love Science? Discover More New Releases Here!

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FOOD, HEALTH AND HAPPINESS by Oprah Winfrey Oprah Winfrey is going to launch her own book imprint later this year. But first we've got a new cookbook/guide to life from the media powerhouse. Oprah has always shared with fans the pleasure and peril food has for her. She may be working with Weight Watchers now but clearly that doesn't mean you have to suffer. Not with recipes on tap like "Unfried Chicken" and "Sustainable

Chilean Sea Bass with Lemon Fennel Chutney." Favorite chefs like Rosie Daley are here, but it's Oprah's vision for how to enjoy... Read More.

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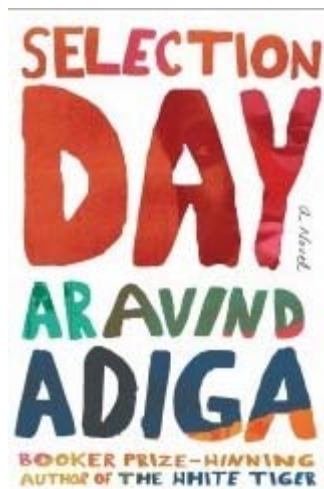
Love Health & Fitness? Find More New Releases Here!

\*\*\*\*\* **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BOOK OF THE YEAR?**

I'm a compulsive list-keeper. It's true! Looking back over the one hundred books I finished in 2016, I realized only two books earned a perfect four stars out of four from me. (I'm a tough grader; be glad I'm not your teacher.) One was *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond, a terrific work of narrative nonfiction about how housing and poverty are inextricably linked. You saw it on a lot of best of the year lists. The other was a reissue of a classic-but-forgotten mystery -- *Black Wings Has My Angel* by Elliot Chaze, the tale of a sucker who gets hooked up with a dangerous gal when planning the perfect crime. What could possibly go wrong?

What were your favorite reads of the year and why? Email us at [newsletter@bookfilter.com](mailto:newsletter@bookfilter.com) and we'll share some of your choices in a future column. Because the next best thing to reading a great book is sharing it with others.

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**SELECTION DAY** by Aravind Adiga In this new novel by the Booker Prize-winning author, the character of Mohan Kumar is obsessed with the desire for upward mobility. So he has forsaken a rural peasant life and taken his two sons, Radha and Manju, talented cricket players, to a slum on the outskirts of Mumbai. There he dreams of turning them into champions of the game and overcoming the humiliation of his life as a chutney salesman. As the most psychotic version of the stage mother, or soccer mom, or little league dad that I have ever come across, Mohan is.... Read More.

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MRS. SHERLOCK HOLMES by Brad Ricca Ever heard of Grace Humiston? In the early 1900s, she was one of the most famous women in America. Humiston was the first female District Attorney in the US, a crusader against horrific working conditions down South and a defender of immigrants and the poor in New York City. And in 1917, Humiston made headlines around the world when she cracked a cold case involving a missing young woman, bringing the killer to justice and showing the NYPD to be incompetent or corrupt. The press dubbed her "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" and this new memoir tells the story of that infamous.... [Read More.](#)

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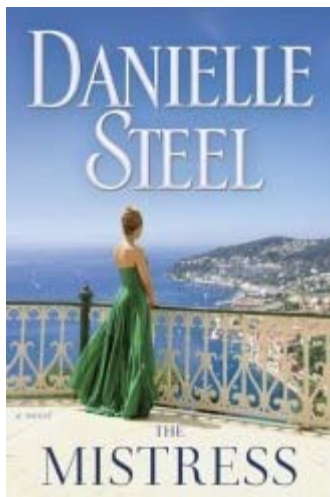


HOW TO HYGGE by Signe Johansen OK. First things first: it's hygge as in hoo-guh. "Hoo" as in "June" and "guh" as in, um, "guh." Anyway, hygge is a trendy term in the US but a way of life in Danish society. It's like the idea of cocooning, but without any high tech binge-watching of TV in the mix. Think home-made candles, good friends, delicious treats and a toasty fire, preferably made with logs you chopped down yourself. Yes, hygge is a very do-it-yourself, hand-crafted approach to happiness. It's shared experiences over personal possession, friends not "contacts" .... [Read More](#).

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THE MISTRESS by Danielle Steel Danielle Steel has gone all James Patterson on us. No, she's not suddenly loaning her name to books mostly written by others. But she has dramatically sped up her output. Instead of one or two books a year, she's creating a book practically every other month! Fans don't seem to mind and

they're sure to embrace this timely tale of a desperately poor (but beautiful!) young Russian woman named Natasha who becomes the plaything of a powerful oligarch. She relishes the security of his money and power, remaining perfectly loyal and mostly content...until a handsome young artist named Theo Luca comes into her life.... Read More.

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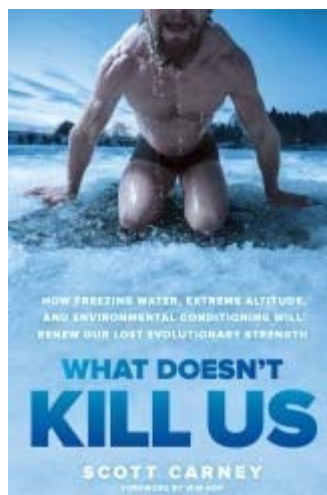
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\*\*\*\*\***HAPPY BIRTHDAY J.R.R. TOLKIEN!**

J.R.R. Tolkien was born on January 3, 1892 and if nothing else he was responsible for my favorite Christmas gift ever. One summer in the 1970s, a neighborhood mom pushed me to read "The Hobbit." I came back two days later for her copy of "The Fellowship Of Ring" and two days after that for "The Two Towers" and two days after THAT for "The Return Of The King." I was never much of a re-reader and so it didn't occur to me to even ask for my own copies as a gift. Nonetheless, my mom casually picked up a boxed set of all four paperbacks (for a grand total of maybe \$8 at the time?). Christmas morning my parents were thrilled to present a much-needed ten speed bike. It was about as necessary as socks...and just as exciting to me. But "The Lord Of The Rings?!?!" I hadn't expected that yet it was *exactly* what I wanted and I couldn't wait to dive in again. When my dad realized I'd already read the books, his jaw dropped. Why the heck would I want a copy of a book I'd already read? I felt bad but it really was the best present I ever got. And I devoured them again that Christmas and every Christmas for the next ten years.

Tolkien's grandson Simon has a novel set during WWI due out January 24 and Tolkien's tale of "Beren & Lúthien" comes out in a new edition this May...just in time for my birthday. (Yes, mom, that's a hint.)

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WHAT DOESN'T KILL US by Scott Carney So do you want to keep that New Year's resolution about getting into shape? Or do you want to laugh at such a puny goal and become an extreme sports enthusiast with Iron Tribe and other boot camp style programs? In this new work combining the latest science and a personal desire to push himself to the limit, author Scott Carney explores the newest science on what the human body can endure, profiles gurus like Wim Hof and takes his own plunge into extreme fitness, culminating in an attempt to climb Mount Kilimanjaro wearing only running shorts and sneakers.... Read More.

Love Sports? Discover More Here!

Love Health & Fitness? Discover More Here!

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LOVE AND FIRST SIGHT by Josh Sundquist YouTube star Josh Sundquist has a huge online following thanks to being a Paralympic ski racer, surviving cancer, writing a best-selling memoir, touring the country as a motivational speaker and now becoming a debut novelist. "Love And First Sight" is the story of a blind high school student who discovers that suddenly being able to see at first creates a lot more problems than it solves, starting with a girlfriend that doesn't look anything like he's been told.... Read More.

Love Young Adult? Discover More Here!

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**you love it, share it with your friends -- forward them the newsletter or just send them this link so they can sign up for themselves.**

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## **REGISTER TO VOTE!!**

It's easy, it's fun, it's empowering.

Here's a nonpartisan site that will allow you to easily access your state's voter registration site.

Are you in New York? You can register online right here.

If you don't register and vote, you don't get to complain.

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*Thanks for reading. Michael Giltz is the founder of **BookFilter**, a book lover's best friend. Looking for the next great book to read? **Head to BookFilter!** Need a smart and easy gift? **Head to BookFilter!** Wondering what new titles just hit the store in your favorite categories, like cookbooks and mystery and more? **Head to BookFilter!** It's a website that lets you browse for books online the way you do in a physical bookstore, provides comprehensive info on new releases every week in every category and offers passionate personal recommendations every step of the way. It's like a fall book preview or holiday gift guide — but every week in every category. He's also the cohost of **Showbiz Sandbox**, a weekly pop culture podcast that reveals the industry take on entertainment news of the day and features top journalists and opinion makers as guests. It's available for free on iTunes. Visit Michael Giltz at his website and his daily blog.*

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