

News Web

# HUFFPOST BOOKS




SEARCH >

Like 316K Follow

CONNECT f t

- FRONT PAGE
- POLITICS
- BUSINESS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- MEDIA**
- TECH
- COMEDY
- STYLE
- WORLD
- FOOD
- HEALTHY LIVING
- IMPACT
- MORE
- LOCAL

BOOKS MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT BESTSELLERS AUTHORS BOOK PUBLISHING

 **Michael Giltz**  
Freelance writer

GET UPDATES FROM MICHAEL GILTZ

FAN RSS EMAIL twitter Like 39

## Books: David McCullough's Latest Tackles Americans in Paris

Posted: 05/25/11 09:37 AM ET

React > Inspiring Funny Typical Important Outrageous Amazing Innovative Beautiful

Read more > David McCullough , Ernest Hemingway , F. Scott Fitzgerald , Mary Cassatt , Oliver Wendell Holmes , Samuel Norse , Books , Charles Sumner , History , Paris , Books News

SHARE THIS STORY

7 82 0 6

share tweet email comment

Get Books Alerts

Sign Up

Submit this story

ADVERTISEMENT

PHOTO GALLERIES



PHOTOS Secretary: The Rise And Fall Of The Office Wife



PHOTOS: Grosses And Weirdest Facts Ever



25 Overlooked Political Books Of 2011



Most Amazing Art Books And Their Brilliant Publishers

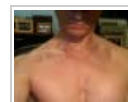
HUFFPOST SOCIAL NEWS

FOLLOW US



MOST POPULAR ON HUFFPOST

1 of 2 >



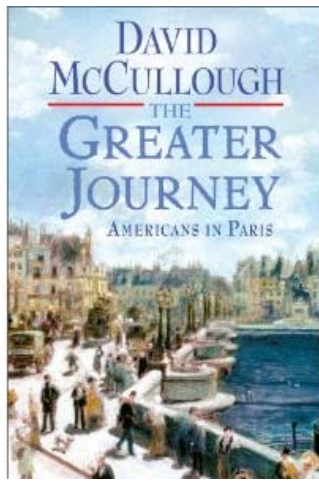
Anthony Weiner Admits Sending Racy Pictures, Refuses To Resign

Like 18K



New Photos Emerge In Anthony Weiner Twitter Scandal

Like 6K



**THE GREATER JOURNEY: AMERICANS IN PARIS** BY DAVID MCCULLOUGH \*\*\* out of \*\*\*\*  
\$37.50 hardcover; SIMON & SCHUSTER

In 1831, Samuel Morse returned to Paris to begin what he believed would be the crowning achievement of his life. Not the telegraph -- that would come later. Morse went straight to the Louvre to begin a painting. One decade earlier he had produced *House Of Representatives*, a grand scale work that depicted the seat of American democracy and featured some 80 people of note within it. It was very typical of a certain type of "ambitious" art that would eventually fall out of favor.

This new work was in the same vein but even bolder. At the very least, it was bigger, measuring 6 feet by 9 feet -- if size meant anything at all to an American, why wouldn't it? The subject was the Louvre itself: Morse would capture a great hall of the famed museum and include 38 of his favorites works, including Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*. Morse's great friend, the writer James Fennimore Cooper, could barely keep himself away and returned day after day to chart the painter's progress.

This style of painting -- one piece containing many smaller but bravura works or portraits within it -- is exactly the model for author and historian David McCullough's new book *The Greater Journey: Americans In Paris*. McCullough looks at the many artists, scientists, people of medicine and thinkers who made the voyage back across the Atlantic to find inspiration and knowledge in the City of Lights from roughly 1830 to the end of the century.

The Paris of the 1920s -- when Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald romanticized the life of the expat -- seems almost a backwater when compared to the flood of people that came there during these six decades.

- Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. relished his medical studies in Paris while McCullough deftly displays both how Paris was the center of medical knowledge at that time and how the Americans who studied there would revolutionize care when they returned to the U.S.
- Painter Mary Cassatt wasn't exactly embraced by Paris; women had a tough row to hoe there as much as they would in the U.S. But Cassatt found admirers of her work (not, sadly, including her



The Twitter Typo That Exposed Weiner

Like 1K



Engadget: WWDC 2011 liveblog: Steve Jobs talks iOS 5, OS X Lion, iCloud and more!

Like 13K



Engadget: Live from Microsoft's E3 2011 keynote!

Like 475



The Center for Public Integrity FACT WATCH: Sarah Palin's Twist on Paul Revere

Like 1K



E. Coli: Blame The Meat, Not The Sprouts

Like 2K



Engadget: Live from Nintendo's E3 2011 keynote!

Like 478



Engadget: Engadget, broadcasting live from WWDC!

Like 3K

DON'T MISS HUFFPOST BLOGGERS

1 of 5



Rhea Perlman

Saving Children From the Child Welfare System



Steven Chu

A Safe, Secure Nuclear Future

MOST DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW

1 of 2



PHOTOS: Grossest And Weirdest Facts Ever



WATCH Bill Moyers On "Daily Show": 'A Lot Of News Organizations No Longer Do Much Reporting'

own family) and would return at a low point and find her greatest inspiration with Degas and the Impressionists.

- The son of an immigrant cobbler, Augustus Saint-Gaudens came to Paris at the age of 19 and worked his way up from crafting cameos to major commissions as a sculptor.
- Charles Sumner came to study medicine but got his real education in race relations. He was astonished to see black students working alongside white ones and it came like a revelation to him that the bigoted attitude towards blacks in America was not the order of things but simply dumb ignorance. Sumner would prove an ardent abolitionist and be nearly beaten to death on the floor of the Senate over his denunciation of slavery.

The stories keep coming, almost to their detriment. After a while, the tale of an American coming to Paris, falling in love with the city, finding themselves artistically or philosophically and moving on to great success does begin to blur a bit. In fact, *The Great Journey* does not have the compelling through-line of most of McCullough's major works, like *The Path Between The Seas* (about the building of the Panama Canal) or his biographies (*Truman, John Adams*).

But the spine that keeps you moving forward is McCullough's pocket history of Paris during one of its most remarkable and bloody eras. He sketches the Franco-Prussian war (in which McCullough shines with his depiction of American Ambassador Elihu Washburne and the man's steady and sober presence that saved many lives) to the horrors of the Commune.

McCullough might have focused just on "The Medicals," as he calls the many Americans who traveled to Paris for a proper education in medicine, returning the favor with their assistance during some of the bloodletting that century would feature. Their tales are some of the freshest and most unusual to be found here. But the book is bursting with such fascinating side-paths, and it would be churlish to call it over-stuffed with diversions. And yet, the stories do begin to lose their impact with so many of them being so similar in their broad outlines.

Like Morse's *The Gallery Of The Louvre*, McCullough fills his new book with deft mini-portraits of numerous figures and gives them the dramatic history of Paris during the 1800s as a canvas. *The Greater Journey* may not reach the greatness of his best, more focused works. But it will satisfy his fans and send the curious off into a dozen directions to learn more about these people. And, if they're lucky, on a pilgrimage to Paris.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for reading. Michael Giltz is 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 free on iTunes. Visit Michael Giltz at his website and his daily blog. Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his radio show, also called *Popsurfing* and also available for free on iTunes. Link to him on Netflix and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

NOTE: Michael Giltz was provided with a free copy of this book in galley and final form. He receives far more books than he can cover and does not guarantee to review or write about any particular one.

**f HOT ON FACEBOOK** ◀ 1 of 3 ▶



**How Many American Women Would Rather Win 'Top Model' Than The Nobel?**

**f Like** 3K



**PHOTOS Secretary: The Rise And Fall Of The Office Wife**

**f Like** 594

**t HOT ON TWITTER** POWERED BY **TOPSY** ◀ 1 of 2 ▶



azizansari

@azizansari: Nick Offerman wants Oprah to play Ron's first ex-wife Tammy. Spread the word!  
[#OprahSwanson](http://huff.to/iXh6ut)

retweet



stark

un nuevo estudio determina que Monsanto sabía desde 1980 que su herbicida Roundup produce defectos de nacimiento:  
<http://huff.to/llwsR3>

retweet

**Sponsored Links**

**Mom Is 55, Looks 30...**

Clever Mom Reveals \$5 Wrinkle Trick That Has Botox Doctors Furious!  
[ConsumerHealthAlerts.com](http://ConsumerHealthAlerts.com)

**SHOCKING: \$200 Walmart GC for \$12.87**

TODAY ONLY: Unique site sells Walmart Gift Cards up to 98% off retail!  
[NewsToday9.com/SHOCKING-Deals](http://NewsToday9.com/SHOCKING-Deals)

**2011 Top Tech Stock**

Recently listed, tech patents, hot news! Radar RMGX today!  
[www.GreenGainers.com](http://www.GreenGainers.com)

[Buy a link here](#)

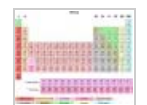
**HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES**



Jennifer Love Hewitt



Movies



Science



2012 Speculatron



Education



NFL



Wine



The Kardashians



The Schultz Report

**MORE BIG NEWS PAGES** ▶

Follow Michael Giltz on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz](http://www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz)

Sponsored Links

**Penny Stock Jumping 3000%**

Join our 100% Free Newsletter & get Penny Stock Picks that jump high!  
[www.AwesomePennyStocks.com](http://www.AwesomePennyStocks.com)

**Mom Is 55, Looks 30...**

Her clever \$5 wrinkle therapy angers Botox Doctors. Find Out How!  
[ConsumerHealthAlerts.com](http://ConsumerHealthAlerts.com)

**Part-Time Job \$89/Hour:**

No Experience Required. Just Home Internet Access!  
[www.WallStreetCareerJournal.com](http://www.WallStreetCareerJournal.com)

**Pres Reduces Mortgages**

Mortgage Rates Hit 2.99% Calculate New Payment Now!  
[www.SeeRefinanceRates.com](http://www.SeeRefinanceRates.com)

[Buy a link here](#)

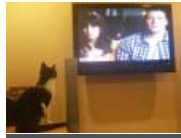
More in Books...



'Attack Of The Killer Facts': Grosset And...



On Our Radar: What's New And Hot...



'Saved By The Bell Jar' And Other...



25 Overlooked Political Books of 2011

SEARCH

FRONT PAGE

POLITICS

BUSINESS

ENTERTAINMENT

**MEDIA**

TECH

COMEDY

STYLE

WORLD

FOOD

HEALTHY LIVING

IMPACT

MORE

LOCAL

[BOOKS](#) [MEDIA](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [BESTSELLERS](#) [AUTHORS](#) [BOOK PUBLISHING](#)

[Advertise](#) | [Log In](#) | [Make HuffPost your Home Page](#) | [RSS](#) | [Careers](#) | [FAQ](#)

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Comment Policy](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © 2011 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. | "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

Part of AOL Lifestyle