

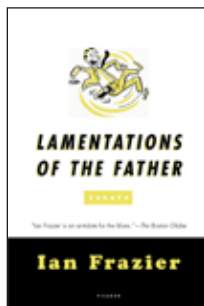

 BOOK REVIEW
 

by Cator Sparks

LAMENTATIONS OF THE FATHER

BY IAN FRAZIER

Ian Frazier has never disappointed when one is in search of a giggle or lighthearted account of daily life. His work as a writer and humorist at *The New Yorker* has won him worldwide recognition for his amusing perspective on American life. In this new book, fourteen years of wit and wisdom has been edited down to the perfectly sized beach book, with short stories revolving around everything from a flirtatious evening *entre* George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette to a review of a study



Sierid Estrada

suggesting life is simply too hard (Agreed!). There are also several stories included that may just make this the perfect book to have subtly placed bedside in guest rooms. One story, "Laws Concerning Food and Drink; Household Principles; Lamentations of the Father," is great at letting guests know that eating in the living room is not permitted nor is harassing household pets. Another essay is quite simple and to the point, "How to Operate the Shower Curtain."

PICADOR

BUILDING A HOME WITH MY HUSBAND

BY RACHEL SIMON



Carson Zullinger

Rachel Simon is well known for her bestselling memoir, *Riding the Bus with My Sister*, a story about taking public transportation with her developmentally disabled sister. The book was even adapted into a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie! For her next book Simons again delves into her family, but this time the focus is on her husband. With the market down and their house falling apart, Rachel and her husband decide to renovate. But we all know if your marriage can withstand a home renovation, it can withstand anything. As they fix pipes, a leaky roof, and kitchen cabinets, Simon goes through the steps of examining other areas of her life that need fixing: relationships with friends, family, and self, as well as her husband. Here home renovation becomes a great allegory for re-evaluating and repairing relationships.

DUTTON

DESIGN YOUR LIFE

BY ELLEN AND JULIA LUPTON

Wait! Don't glaze over yet. This is NOT another Shabby Chic or How to Build a Closet book. We thought so at first too and then fell into a black hole of excitement as we read about how to, well, better design our life. One chapter shockingly educated parents on how to spend less time with their kids (one idea: TV!). Another teaches "pile management" so your desk doesn't resemble Kansas after a tornado. This book brilliantly and critically looks at the objects we use in our daily lives and how we interact with them. The smarties behind the concept are the identical twins, Ellen and Julia Lupton. Ellen is curator of contemporary design at Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York and Julia teaches English and writes about Shakespeare at the University of California. Besides household thoughts on design, the gals even enter the office discussing which fonts work best and why. Highlight: How to write a manifesto!

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summer classics



THE PURSUIT OF LOVE, BY NANCY MITFORD

What's a summer without a little Mitford humor? Nancy Mitford's humorous yet ultimately tragic novel is the first in a trilogy of novels about bully Britons between the Wars. Here we meet Linda Radlett, who is brought up in a grand and eccentric country home, Alconleigh, where her father would often hunt his children when he couldn't find a fox, much to their delight. But like the life that Nancy lived (she was one of the infamous Bright Young Things) maturity brought drama and hardship. The children grow up to face dull marriages, affairs with Communists, and the disregard for a newborn child. Mitford's unique brand of humor is something one should soak in like a martini. It is so rare today to hear such quips, learn about such swell events, and to read an author who led a life as dynamic as Nancy did with her inimitable sisters. VINTAGE BOOKS