

how I built my 'Books' page

Bob Monsour

eleventy meetup, February 6, 2025

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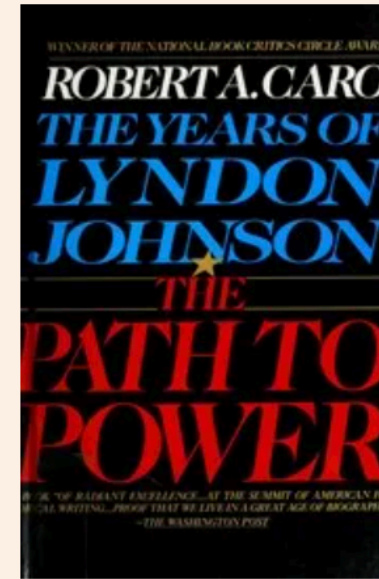
who am I?

- retired, living in Northern California
- creator of the 11ty Bundle
 - <https://11tybundle.dev>
 - a curated feed of 11ty resources
- spent a lot of years in tech of various forms

what i'll be covering

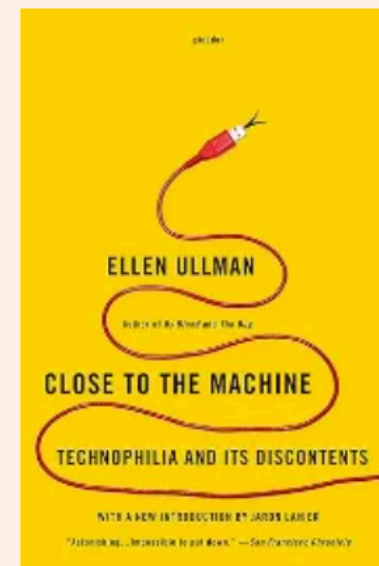
- elements of my books page
- bits of HTML that make it work
- data & code for those bits
- how I add new books
- book pages that inspired me

Currently Reading



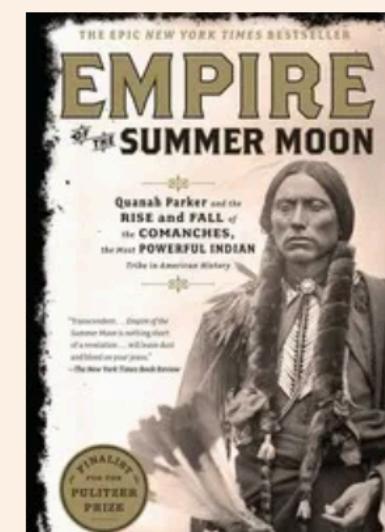
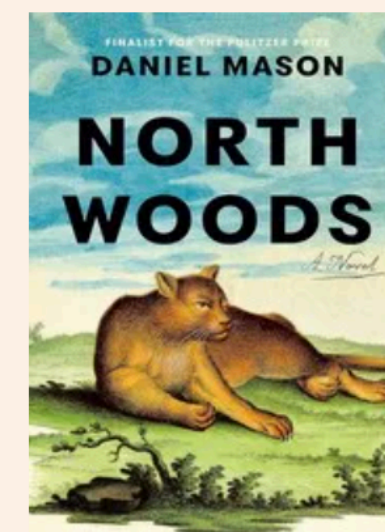
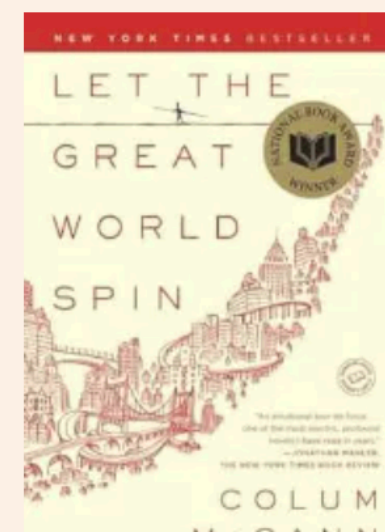
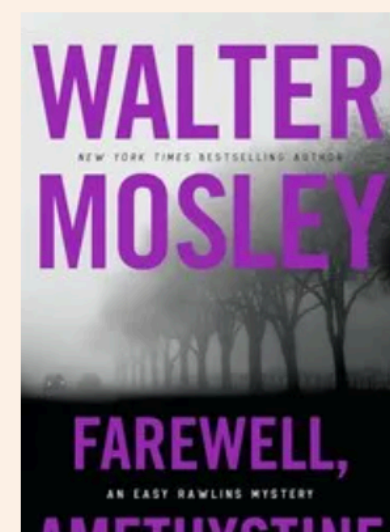
The Path to Power
by Robert A. Caro

2025



Close to the Machine
by Ellen Ullman
★★★★½

2024



the 11ty bits

- global data in the `_data` directory
 - JSON for the books
 - JS data computed over the JSON data
- a JS filter
- a nunjucks template and an include

src directory structure

```
src
├── ·_config
│   ├── ·filters
│   │   └── ·bookrating.js
│   └── ·_data
│       ├── ·books.js
│       └── ·books.json
├── ·_includes
│   └── ·bookitem.njk
├── ·_layouts
├── ·assets
├── ·notes
├── ·pages
│   └── ·books.njk
├── ·posts
└── ·til
```

source is available at <https://github.com/bobmonsour/bobmonsour.com>

the relevant parts

- **books.json** — all of the book data
- **books.js** — js data computed over books.json
- **books.njk** — the books page template
- **bookitem.njk** — include template for each book
- **bookrating.js** — filter rating number into stars

source of the book data

- export from Goodreads, no longer has an API
- exports as a CSV file
- upload the CSV to Google Sheets
- trim down the data to the essentials
- export Google Sheet data to CSV
- convert the CSV to an array of JSON objects

A1 | fx Book Id

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	Book Id	Title	Author	Author I-f	Additional Autho	ISBN	ISBN13	My Rating	Average Rating	Publisher	Binding	Number of Page	Year Published	Original Publicat
2	5941033	Let the Great World Spin	Colum McCann	McCann, Colum		1400063736	9781400063734	5	3.95	Random House	Hardcover	351	2009	2009
3	383396	I am Not Sick, I Don't Need Help!	Xavier Francisco Amador	Xavier Francisco		0967718929	9780967718927	0	4.44	Vida Pr	Paperback	168	2007	2000
4	196343469	Carla The Conqueror: Building Adop	Anna Maria DiDi	DiDio, Anna Maria	Tatiana Lobanov			0	4.86		Kindle Edition	39	2023	
5	71872930	North Woods	Daniel Mason	Mason, Daniel		0593597036	9780593597033	0	4.13	Random House	Hardcover	372	2023	2023
6	7648269	Empire of the Summer Moon	S.C. Gwynne	Gwynne, S.C.		1416591052	9781416591054	4	4.24	Scribner	Hardcover	371	2010	2010
7	7624086	Hellhound on His Trail: The Stalking	Hampton Sides	Sides, Hampton		0385523920	9780385523929	0	4.32	Doubleday	Hardcover	397	2010	2010
8	191746386	The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambiti	Hampton Sides	Sides, Hampton		0385544766	9780385544764	5	4.49	Doubleday	Hardcover	408	2024	2024
9	62120824	Road to Surrender: Three Men and t	Evan Thomas	Thomas, Evan		0399589252	9780399589256	0	4.39	Random House	Hardcover	336	2023	2023
10	767171	The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich	William L. Shirer	Shirer, William L.		0671728687	9780671728687	5	4.22	Simon & Schust	Mass Market Pa	1147	1990	1960
11	61714633	The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mu	David Grann	Grann, David		0385534264	9780385534260	5	4.18	Doubleday	Hardcover	331	2023	2023
12	19494	The Spy Who Came In from the Cold	John Le Carré	Carré, John Le			9780743442534	5	4.08	Scribner	Paperback	212	2001	1963
13	12227044	Rez Life: An Indian's Journey Throu	David Treuer	Treuer, David		0802119719	9780802119711	0	3.9	Atlantic Monthly	Hardcover	330	2012	2012
14	58210933	Trust	Hernan Diaz	Diaz, Hernan		0593420314	9780593420317	5	3.82	Riverhead Book	Hardcover	402	2022	2022
15	59109077	Horse	Geraldine Brooks	Brooks, Geraldine		0399562966	9780399562969	5	4.27	Viking	Hardcover	401	2022	2022
16	60141696	American Midnight: The Great War, i	Adam Hochschild	Hochschild, Adam		0358455464	9780358455462	5	4.21	Mariner Books	Hardcover	422	2022	2022
17	22529381	Dreamland: The True Tale of Americ	Sam Quinones	Quinones, Sam		1620402505	9781620402504	5	4.23	Bloomsbury Pres	Hardcover	384	2015	2015
18	53487237	A Swim in a Pond in the Rain: In Wh	George Saunder	Saunders, George		1984856049	9781984856043	5	4.54	Random House	ebook	403	2021	2021
19	28747	CivilWarLand in Bad Decline	George Saunder	Saunders, George		0099595818	9780099595816	0	4.21	Vintage	Paperback	179	1997	1996
20	58890783	Either/Or	Elif Batuman	Batuman, Elif		0525557598	9780525557593	2	4	Penguin Press	Hardcover	368	2022	2022
21	54849798	The Orphanage	Serhiy Zhadan	Zhadan, Serhiy	Reilly Costigan-t	0300243014	9780300243017	0	4.4	Yale University P	Paperback	324	2021	2017
22	56898211	The Berlin Exchange	Joseph Kanon	Kanon, Joseph		1982158654	9781982158651	3	3.89	Scribner	Hardcover	320	2022	2022
23	56587388	How the World Really Works: A Scie	Vaclav Smil	Smil, Vaclav		0241454409	9780241454404	0	3.96	Viking	Paperback	326	2022	2022
24	57432319	The Avoidable War: The Dangers of	Kevin Rudd	Rudd, Kevin		1541701291	9781541701298	0	4.27	PublicAffairs	Hardcover	432	2022	2022
25	38388741	In Defense of Gun Control	Hugh LaFollette	LaFollette, Hugh		019087337X	9780190873370	0	4	Oxford Universit	Paperback	252	2018	
26	18778874	The Second Amendment	Michael Waldma	Waldman, Michael		147674744X	9781476747446	0	4.03	Simon & Schust	Hardcover	255	2014	2014
27	327051	Reasons and Persons	Derek Parfit	Parfit, Derek		019824908X	9780198249085	0	4.27	Oxford Universit	Paperback	543	1986	1984
28	25255053	The Gates of Europe: A History of U	Serhii Plokhyy	Plokhyy, Serhii	Ralph Lister	0465050913	9780465050918	4	4.27	Basic Books	Hardcover	395	2015	2015
29	34051011	Pachinko (National Book Award Fin	Min Jin Lee	Lee, Min Jin			9781455563920	5	4.34	Grand Central Pi	Kindle Edition	496	2017	2017
30	132913	Reconstruction: America's Unfinishe	Eric Foner	Foner, Eric	Richard B. Morr	0060937165	9780060937164	0	4.2	Harper Perennia	Paperback	690	2002	1988
31	43205240	Working: Researching, Interviewing,	Robert A. Caro	Caro, Robert A.		0525656340	9780525656340	0	4.44	Penguin Randon	Hardcover	23*	2010	2010
32	1111	The Power Broker: Robert Moses ar	Robert A. Caro	Caro, Robert A.		0394720245	9780394720241	5	4.5	Vintage Books	Paperback	124		

Convert to table



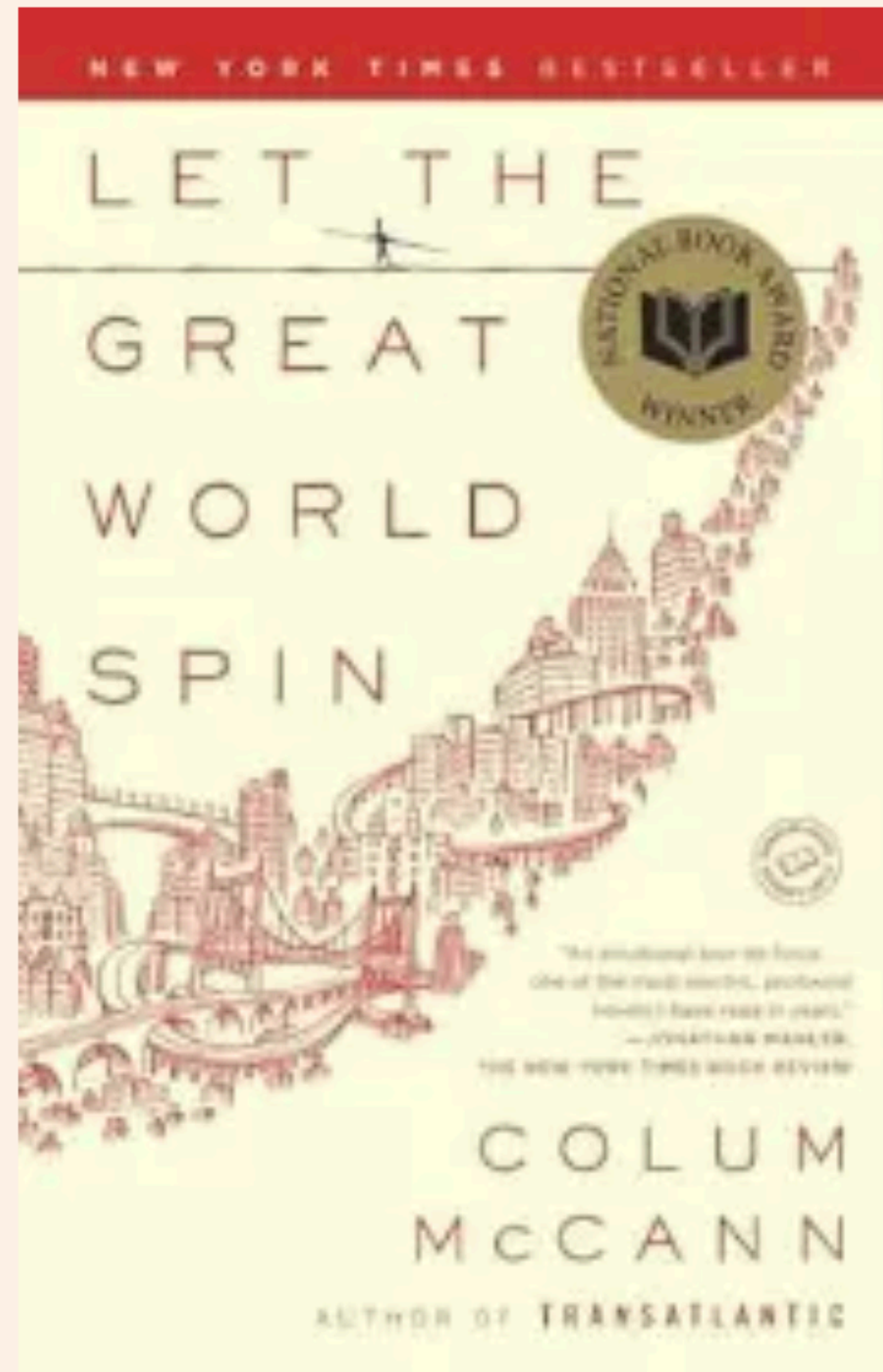
books read ☆ 📁 ☁

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A1 ▾ | *fx* title

	A	B	C	D	E
1	title	author	ISBN	rating	yearRead
2	Let the Great World Spin	Colum McCann	9781400063734	5	2024/12/22
3	North Woods	Daniel Mason	9780593597033	4.5	2024/12/10
4	Empire of the Summer Moon	S.C. Gwynne	9781416591054	4	2024/12/10
5	Hellhound on His Trail	Hampton Sides	9780385523929	5	2024/07/03
6	The Wide Wide Sea	Hampton Sides	9780385544764	5	2024/07/03
7	The Spy Who Came In from the Cold	John Le Carré	9780743442534	5	2024/01/06
8	Road to Surrender	Evan Thomas	9780399589256	5	2023/11/16
9	The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich	William L. Shirer	9780671728687	5	2023/11/01
10	Trust	Hernan Diaz	9780593420317	5	2023/08/20
11	The Wager	David Grann	9780385534260	5	2023/05/31
12	Horse	Geraldine Brooks	9780399562969	5	2023/03/25
13	American Midnight	Adam Hochschild	9780358455462	5	2023/02/16
14	A Swim in a Pond in the Rain	George Saunders	9781984856043	5	2022/09/29
15	Dreamland	Sam Quinones	9781620402504	5	2022/09/07
16	Either/Or	Elif Batuman	9780525557593	2	2022/08/15
17	The Berlin Exchange	Joseph Kanon	9781982158651	3.5	2022/07/05
18	The Gates of Europe	Serhii Plokhy & Ralph Lister	9780465050918	4	2022/05/02
19	Pachinko	Min Jin Lee	9781455563920	5	2022/01/10
20	The Power Broker	Robert A. Caro	9780394720241	5	2021/08/04
21	Working	Robert A. Caro	9780525656340	4.5	2021/07/21
22	The Fifth Risk	Michael Lewis	9780393357455	5	2021/06/12
23	One Minute to Midnight	Michael Dobbs	9780091796662	5	2021/06/12
24	Alexander Hamilton	Ron Chernow	9780143034759	5	2021/02/18
25	Good Strategy Bad Strategy	Richard P. Rumelt	9780307886255	4	2020/08/09
26	Just Mercy	Bryan Stevenson	9780812984965	5	2020/08/09
27	How We Die	Sherwin B. Nuland	9780978721039	4	2020/07/16
28	Being Mortal	Atul Gawande	9781627790550	5	2020/07/16
29	Ageless Painless Tennis	David Starbuck Smith	9781633939707	4	2020/07/16
30	Bird by Bird	Anne Lamott	9780812984965	5	2019/10/31
31	A Higher Loyalty	James Comey	9781250192455	5	2018/12/12
32	Leadership: In Turbulent Times	Doris Kearns Goodwin	9781476795928	5	2018/11/14



Let the Great

World Spin

by Colum McCann



an array entry in books.json

```
{  
  "title": "Let the Great World Spin",  
  "author": "Colum McCann",  
  "ISBN": 9780812973990,  
  "rating": 5,  
  "yearRead": "2024/12/22",  
  "localCover": true  
}
```

getting a cover and a 'buy' link

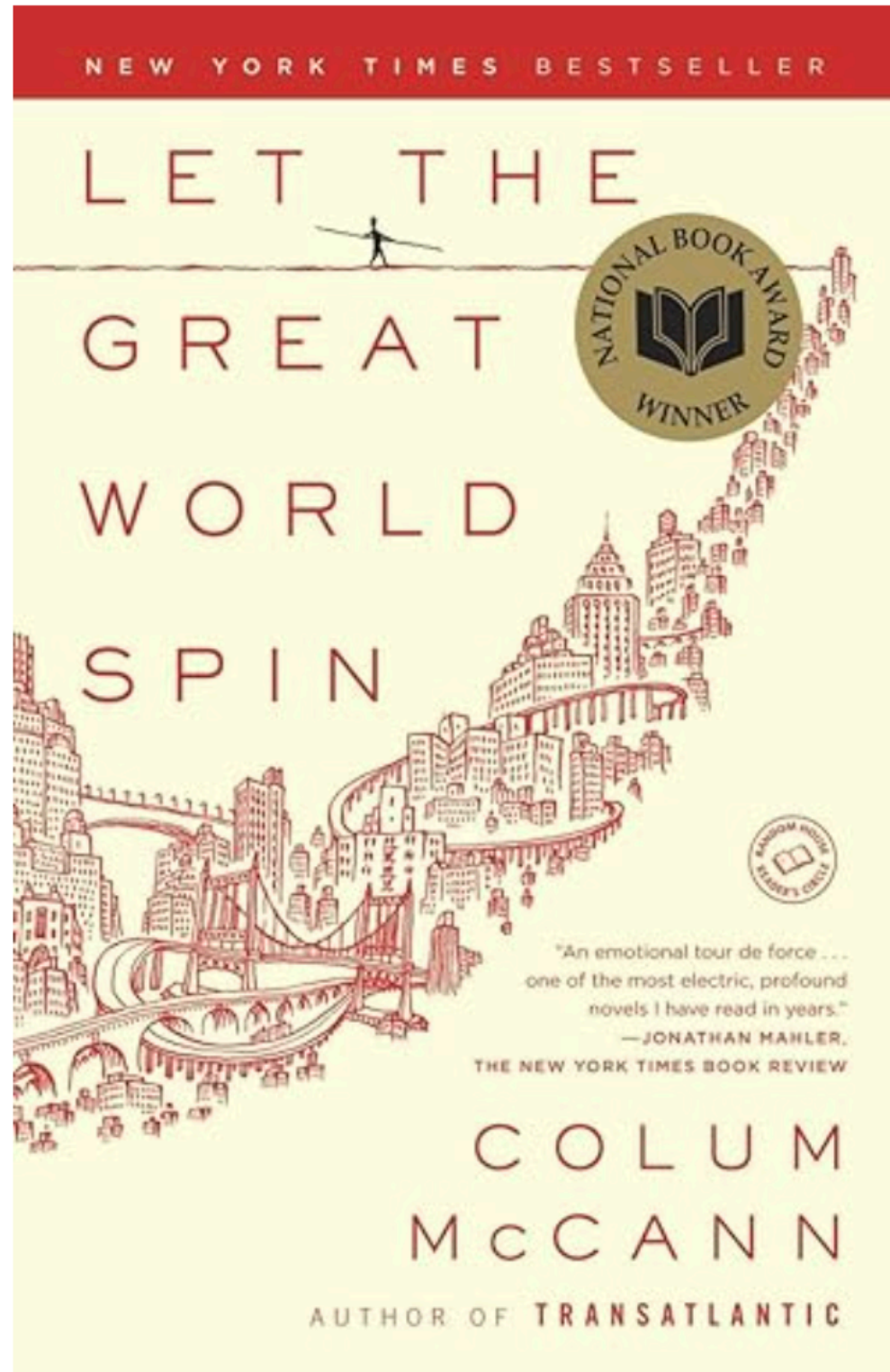
- covers from <https://openlibrary.org>
 - most, but not all
 - others manually from Amazon
- buy links from <https://bookshop.org>
 - most

fetchable covers vs local covers

```
{%- if book.localCover -%}  
    
{%- else -%}  
    
{%- endif -%}
```

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You purchased this edition on November 23, 2024. | [View this order](#) | [View Your Books](#)



Let the Great World Spin: A Novel Paperback – December 2, 2009

by [Colum McCann](#) (Author)

4.2 3,973 ratings 4.0 on Goodreads 107,331 ratings

Editors' pick Best Literature & Fiction

[See all formats and editions](#)

National Book Award Winner, 2009

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • Colum McCann's beloved novel inspired by Philippe Petit's daring high-wire stunt, which is also depicted in the film *The Walk* starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt

In the dawning light of a late-summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker is running, dancing, leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in bestselling novelist Colum McCann's stunningly intricate portrait of a city and its people.

Let the Great World Spin is the critically acclaimed author's most ambitious novel yet: a dazzlingly rich vision of the pain, loveliness, mystery, and promise of New York City in the 1970s.

Corrigan, a radical young Irish monk, struggles with his own demons as he lives among the prostitutes in the [Read more](#)

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Print length



375 pages

Language



English

Publisher



Random House Trade Paperbacks

Publication date



December 2, 2009

Dimensions



5.14 x 0.78 x 7.99 inches



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Colum McCann

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Deliver to Robert - Novato 94945

In Stock

Quantity: 1

Add to Cart

Buy Now

creating a 'buy' link

```
{%- set bookshop_base = "https://bookshop.org/a/109591/" -%}  
<a href="{{ bookshop_base }}{{ book.ISBN }}">  
  {%- if book.localCover -%}  
      
  {%- else -%}  
      
  {%- endif -%}  
</a>
```

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turn a numeric rating to ★s

- ratings range from 1 to 5
- an `11ty` filter converts it to a star rating
- let's look at the code...`bookrating.js`

generating the 'year' nav

```
<div class="bookyears">
  {% for year in books.years %}
    <a href="#{{ year.year }}">{{ year.year | replace("y", "") }}</a>
    {% if not loop.last %} / {% endif %}
  {% endfor %}
</div>
```

- where does `books.years` come from?
- let's look at the code...`books.js`

3 segments of the page

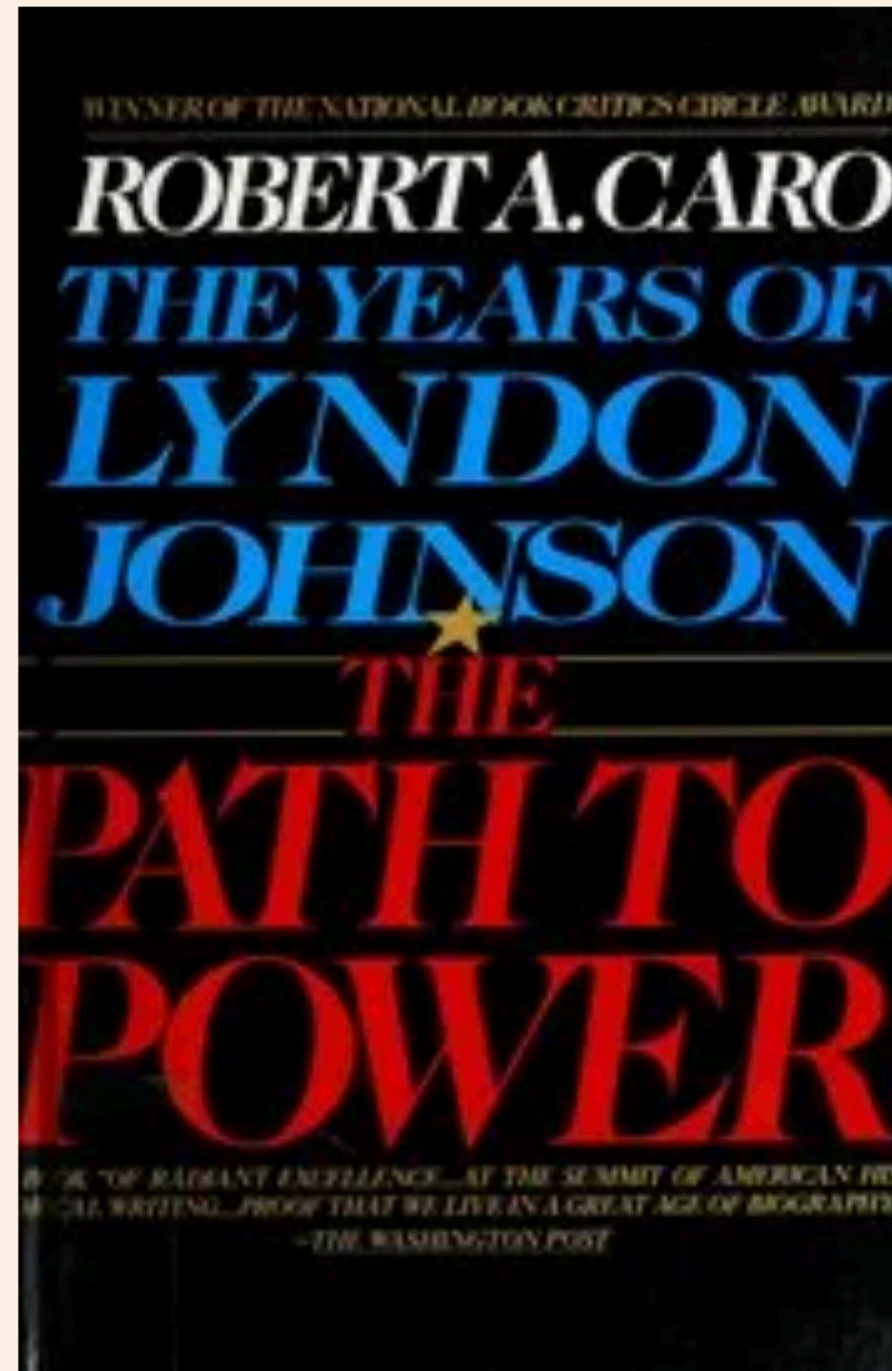
- **currently reading**
- **the dated books**
- **the undated books**
- **each generated by JS data functions**

special cases: currently & undated

```
{  
  "title": "The Path to Power",  
  "author": "Robert A. Caro",  
  "ISBN": "9780679729457",  
  "rating": "",  
  "yearRead": "currently"  
}
```

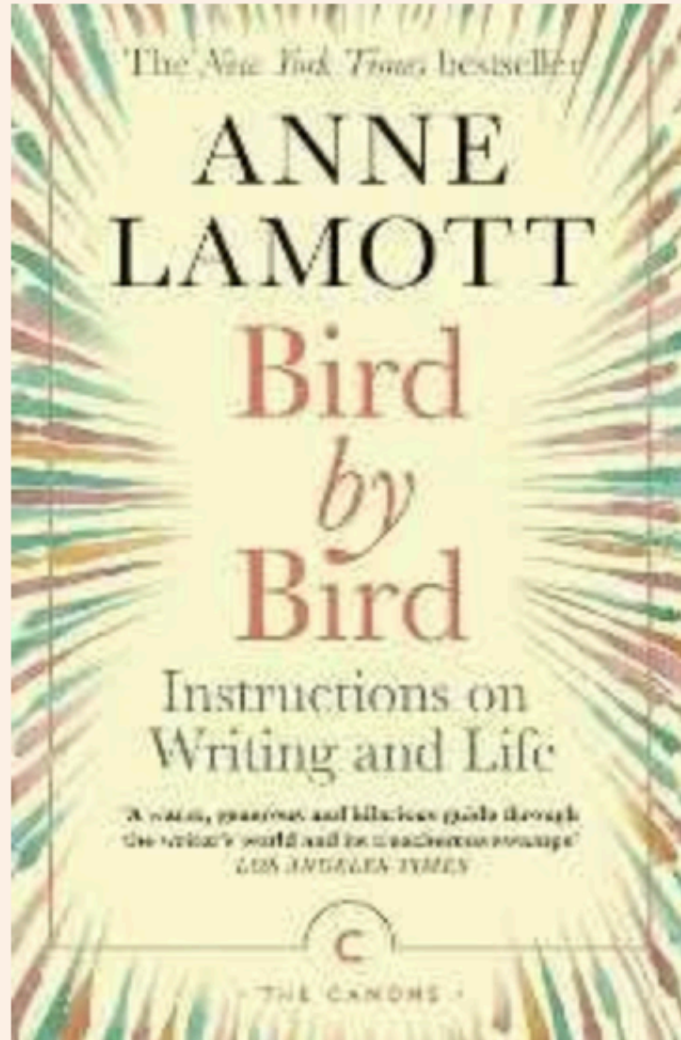
```
{  
  "title": "Bird by Bird",  
  "author": "Anne Lamott",  
  "ISBN": 9780385480017,  
  "rating": 5,  
  "yearRead": "undated",  
  "localCover": true  
}
```

Currently Reading

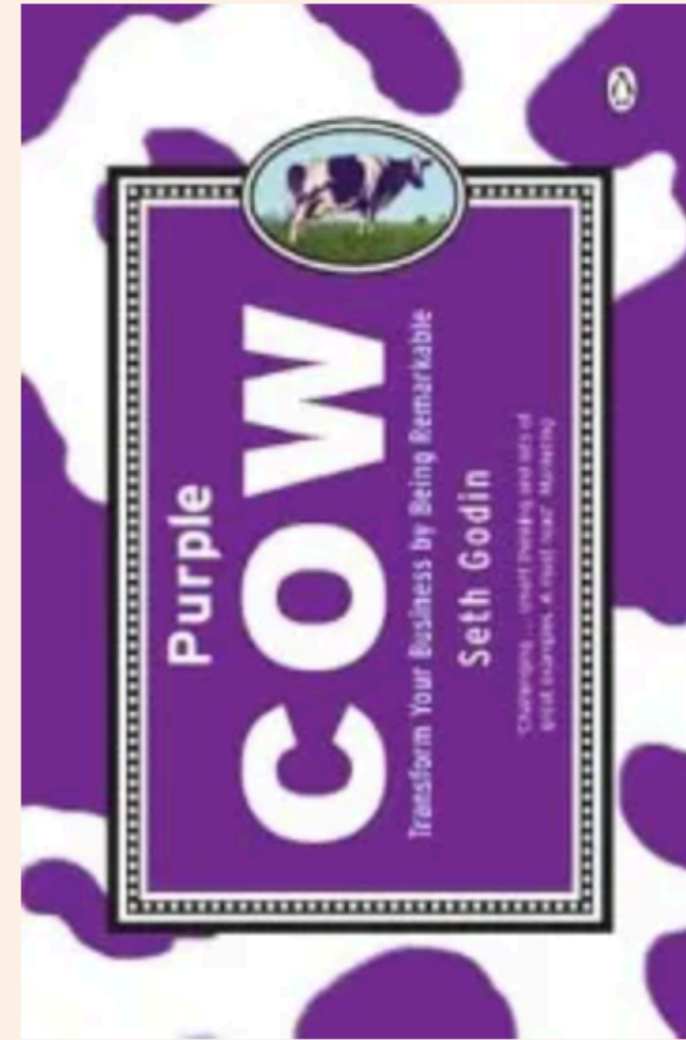


The Path to Power
by Robert A. Caro

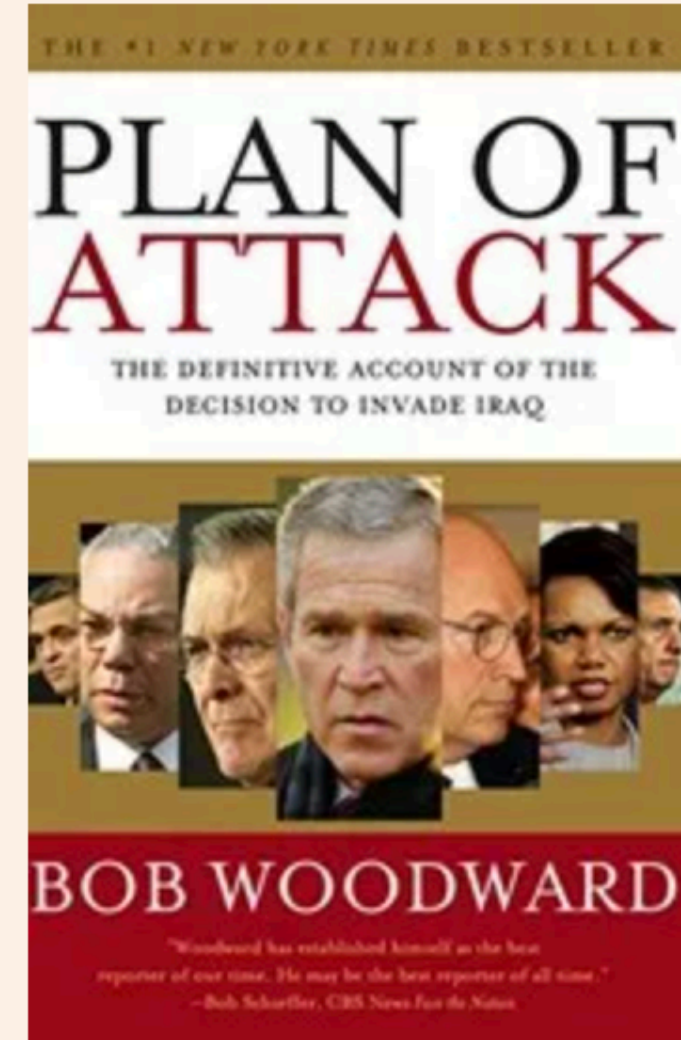
Undated: don't know when I read these



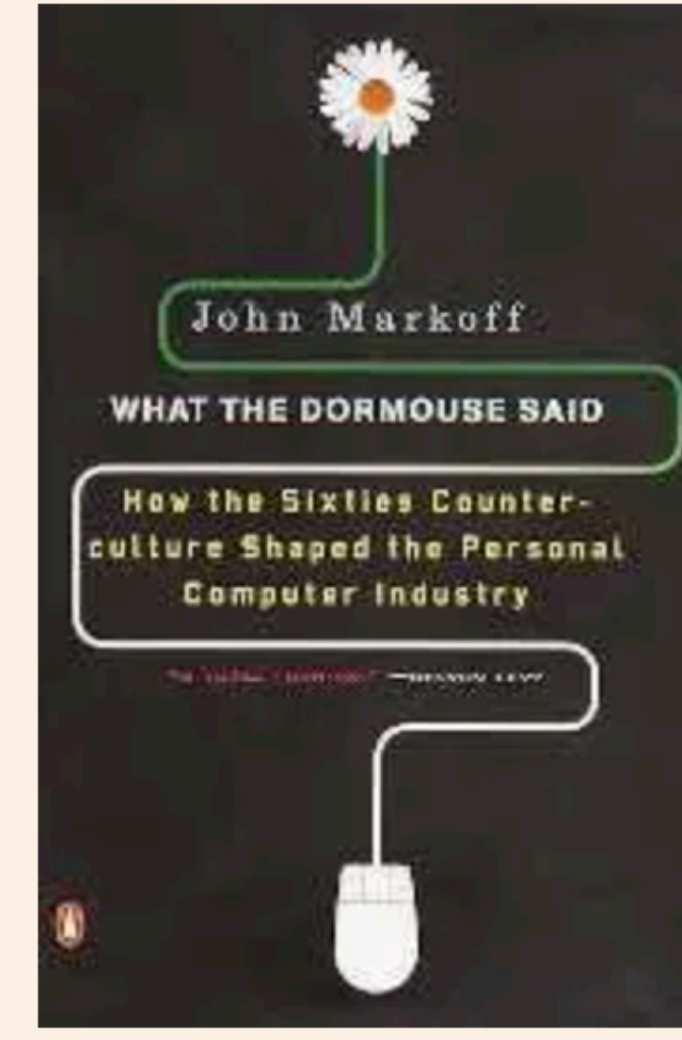
Bird by Bird
by Anne Lamott
★★★★★



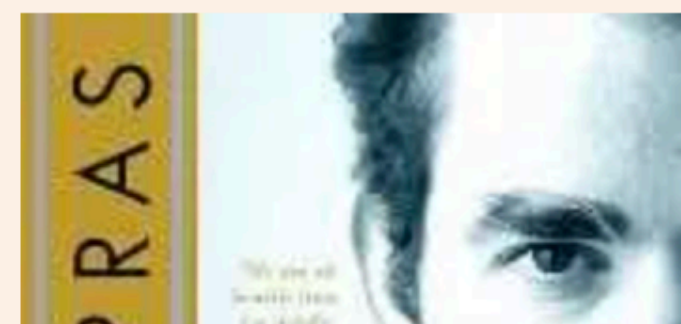
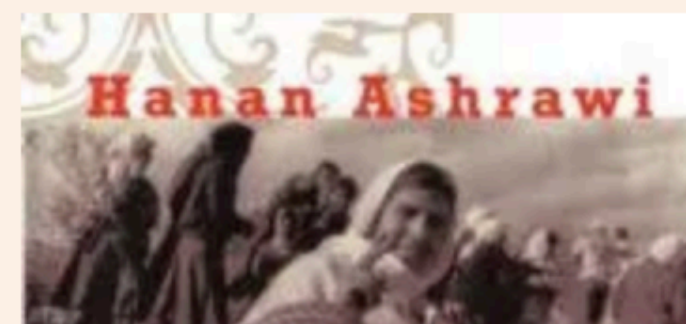
Purple Cow
by Seth Godin
★★★★★



Plan of Attack
by Bob Woodward
★★★★★



What the Dormouse Said
by John Markoff
★★★★★



let's look at the code for each

- currently reading
- dated books
- undated books

...books.js & books.njk

how I add new books

- a VS Code snippet
- let's take a look

book pages that inspired me

- Chazz Basuta and how he built it
- Cory Dransfeldt and how he built it
- Dan Jewett
- Melanie Richards and how she built it
- Sean Voisen

these are included at the end of my blog post on this topic

what we covered

- elements of my books page
- bits of HTML that make it work
- data & code for those bits
- how I add new books
- book pages that inspired me

 **thank you for watching** 

QUESTIONS???

- **slides will be available**
- **i'll share a post once the video is posted**