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100 Notable Books of the Year

Published: December 4, 2005

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THE RIVER OF DOUBT: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey.

By Candice Millard. (Doubleday, \$26.) A vibrant retelling of Roosevelt's postelection expedition through the Rio da Dúvida; what was supposed to be a well-provisioned safari became instead a survey of an uncharted capillary of the Amazon.

NOTE

This list will run in the Dec. 4 print edition of the Book Review.

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[Notable Books](#)

What do you think of the choices? Are any worthy books missing from the list? Any books on the list that don't belong? Which titles from this selection do you think should be included in the list of 10 Best Books of 2005?

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1776. By David McCullough. (Simon & Schuster, \$32.) A lively work that skewers Washington's pretensions and admires citizen soldiers.

SPOOK: Science Tackles the Afterlife. By Mary Roach. (Norton, \$24.95.) A diligent, cheerful account of efforts to learn whether science can show that there is (or isn't) life after death.

THE SURVIVOR. By John F. Harris. (Random House, \$29.95.) An assessment of Bill Clinton's performance in the White House; by a reporter for The Washington Post.

A TALE OF LOVE AND DARKNESS. By Amos Oz. (Harcourt, \$26.) A memoir by the Israeli novelist, mourning the death of his mother long ago and the demise of the socialist Zion in his own time.

TEAM OF RIVALS: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln. By Doris Kearns Goodwin. (Simon & Schuster, \$35.) An elegant, incisive study of Lincoln through his relationships with his former political rivals turned cabinet members.

THE TENDER BAR: A Memoir. By J. R. Moehringer.

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(Hyperion, \$23.95.) As an only child abandoned by his father, the author found an adoptive family in a Long Island bar (now defunct).

THEATRE OF FISH: Travels Through Newfoundland and Labrador. By John Gimlette. (Knopf, \$25.) Gimlette explores the provincial psyche by journeying through the barren regions whose chief resource, fish, has departed.

TULIA: Race, Cocaine, and Corruption in a Small Texas Town. By Nate Blakeslee. (PublicAffairs, \$26.95.) How 38 people, mostly black, were convicted of grave drug charges on virtually no evidence but the word of a single cop.

VINDICATION: A Life of Mary Wollstonecraft. By Lyndall Gordon. (HarperCollins, \$29.95.) A biography of the brilliant early feminist.

A WAR LIKE NO OTHER: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War. By Victor Davis Hanson. (Random House, \$29.95.) The fate of Athens, the superpower of its day, after it tried to export its political system to the rest of the Greek world.

WARPED PASSAGES: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Universe's Hidden Dimensions. By Lisa Randall. (Ecco/HarperCollins, \$27.95.) From a Harvard physicist, advanced cosmological theories for lay folk who are a bit baffled by the idea of 10 dimensions.

WITHOUT APOLOGY: Girls, Women, and the Desire to Fight. By Leah Hager Cohen. (Random House, \$24.95.) Cohen thoughtfully tracks girls' boxing till she herself is converted to pugilism.

WODEHOUSE: A Life. By Robert McCrum. (Norton, \$27.95.) The prolific, industrious creator of Jeeves and oh so many dear others.

THE WORLD IS FLAT: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century. By Thomas L. Friedman. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27.50.) The New York Times columnist maps the next phase of globalization as technological forces level the world's economic playing field.

THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING. By Joan Didion. (Knopf, \$23.95.) A powerful, persuasive account of the crisis of mortality after the sudden death of the author's husband.

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