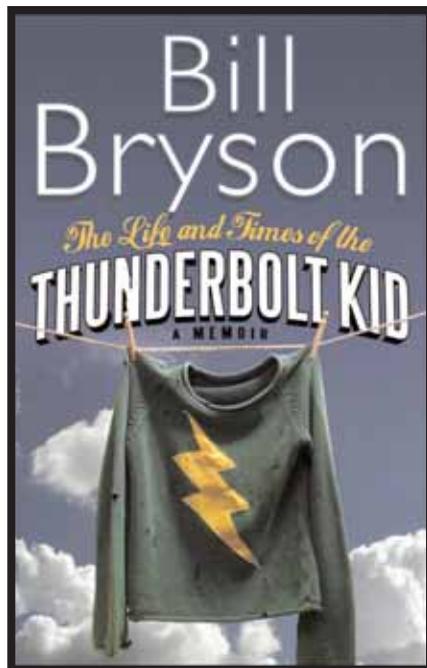


THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE THUNDERBOLT KID: A MEMOIR

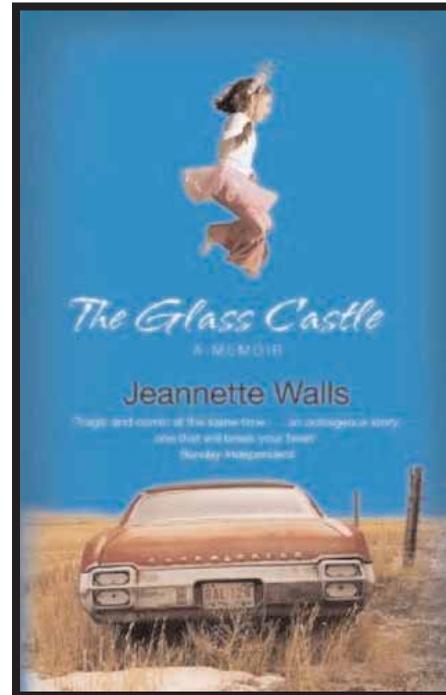
by Bill Bryson

These are the recollections of Bill Bryson of his childhood in Des Moines, Iowa. These simpler times are conveyed with humor as the author recalls growing up in middle of the last century in the central part of the country.



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In the Mood for a Memoir...



You may want to read...

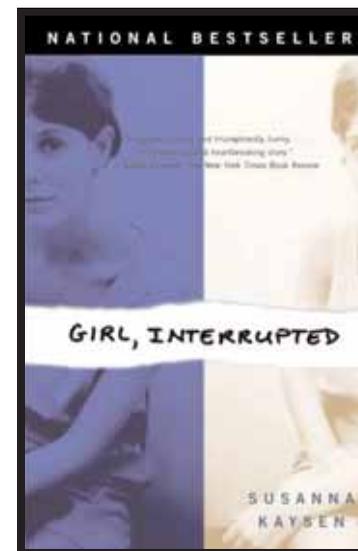
Prepared for you by Janine Walsh and the Adult Services Department

STORIES OF SURVIVAL:

GIRL INTERRUPTED

by Susanna Kaysen

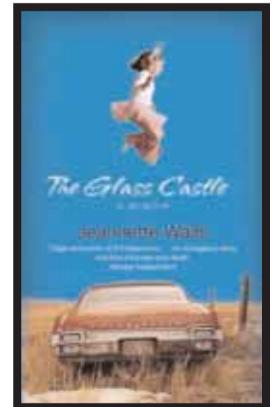
In the late 1960's Susanna Kasen spent almost two years in a psychiatric hospital after a half-hearted suicide attempt. She tells of her experience being labeled mentally ill and provides vivid portraits of her fellow patients and her keepers.



GLASS CASTLE

by Jeannette Wall

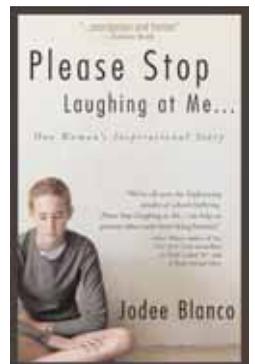
A daughter of eccentric parents, Jeanette Wall was relocated again and again before finally ending up homeless. She describes in fascinating detail what it was to be a child in this family, from the embarrassing to the horrific.



PLEASE STOP LAUGHING AT ME: ONE WOMAN'S INSPIRATIONAL STORY

by Jodee Blanco

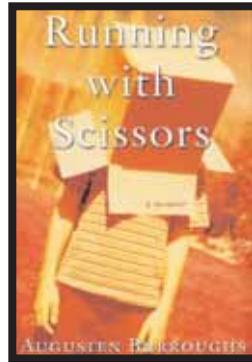
Jodee Blanco was a "goody two shoes" from 5th grade to high school and for this she was teased, shunned, and, at times, physically assaulted by her peers. She tells of her experiences with school bullies and how, while her tormentors remained unbothered and oblivious, she received a psychiatric diagnosis and medication.



RUNNING WITH SCISSORS : A MEMOIR

by Augusten Burroughs

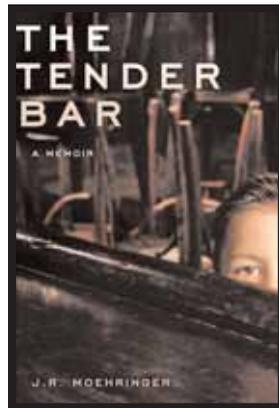
Augusten Burroughs tells his story of being "adopted" by his mother's therapist as an adolescent. His life with this bizarre and disturbing family includes gobbling prescription meds, fooling around with an old electroshock machine and a relationship with the pedophile who lives in a shed out back.



THE TENDER BAR: A MEMOIR

by J.R. Moehringer

"Long before it legally served me, the bar saved me," asserts J.R. Moehringer, and his compelling memoir *The Tender Bar* is the story of how and why. Torn between the comfort of his mother and the camaraderie he finds in a series of bars and taverns, he details his difficult but loving upbringing.

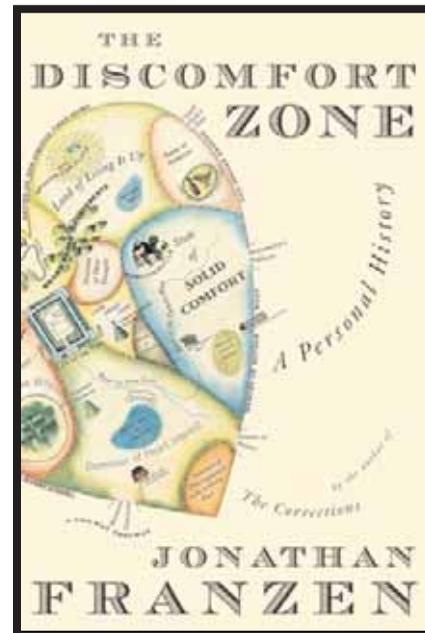


ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

THE DISCOMFORT ZONE: A PERSONAL HISTORY

by Jonathan Franzen

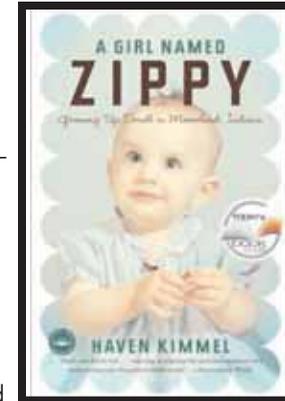
In this entertaining portrait of the artist as a young geek, Jonathan Franzen retraces his childhood resistance to his parents' way of life. Even while describing his personal oddities and those in the people around him, he finds awkward beauty in their quirks and imperfections.



A GIRL NAMED ZIPPY: GROWING UP SMALL IN MOORELAND, INDIANA

by Haven Kimmel

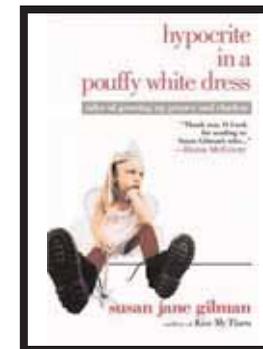
Born in 1965 and nicknamed "Zippy" for her energetic interpretation of a circus monkey, Haven Kimmel lived in a world filled with a loving family, peculiar neighbors, and multitudes of animals. Her story is filled with good humor, fine storytelling, and acute observations of small town life.



HYPOCRITE IN A PUFFY WHITE DRESS

by Susan Jane Gilman

Jane Gilman has a gift for showing humor in the ordinary. Her memoir takes readers from her childhood in the late 1960s and early 1970s through adulthood and marriage. Set against the backdrop of New York's Upper West Side, her descriptions of the insecurities that plagued her as an adolescent ring with truth.



I THOUGHT MY FATHER WAS GOD: AND OTHER TRUE TALES FROM NPR'S NATIONAL STORY PROJECT

by Paul Auster

In 1999, National Public Radio's All Things Considered asked listeners to send in true stories to be read on-air. More than 4,000 submissions were received and the 180 best are published here. The stories share similar themes of bizarre coincidences, otherworldly intervention, love and loss, life-changing experiences, and mundane pleasures.

