

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I really enjoyed this book and have recommended it to a few ...By CityGirlI really enjoyed this book and have recommended it to a few friends. The narrator's voice is charming and so funny. It's not necessary to have read any of the books he references, nor to follow up and read them.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Yes, he is definitely full of himselfBy Martha E. MontgomeryPompous, pretentious pooter. His description of himself. He is absolutely correct.53 of 55 people found the following review helpful. Good, not greatBy Lily KumpeAndy Miller's Year of Reading Dangerously is more like a memoir than a book of literary criticism. I was disappointed by Miller's emphasis on himself, but others might enjoy the details of his daily life, childhood, and youth. To his benefit, Miller avoids being boring even though his life is fairly typical. I even found myself won over in the end despite his flaws.Flaws?•In most of the book he comes across as a petulant complainer. •It's clear that his literary and musical taste was arrested in adolescence. (If you think that sounds harsh, he admits it himself.)•He enjoys humor in books and although he is sometimes clever, he's never very funny. I laughed only once. It was when I read, "These men of my acquaintance... loved Bukowski like little girls love ponies."•He hates One Hundred Years of Solitude, and compares Marquez to a trained chimp doing the same trick over and over again. He writes, "...the book is terrible." And later, "I press on, uptight and bored".•He never reveals what makes his year of reading "dangerous". I thought maybe Miller would read something so moving he'd be shaken to the core, altering his life philosophy or way of life. This doesn't quite happen. •He actually writes LOL in his book. I don't care if this is supposed to be irony or a not-so-subtle criticism of social media, but I found it irritating and not very funny. •Like Andrew Keen in The Cult of the Amateur: How today's Internet is killing our culture, Andy Miller laments that "blockheads" have the freedom to publish reviews online. Criticism should be the job of paid professionals who have cultivated literary taste. He says it best himself: "In the Internet age, where comment is free and everyone is entitled to a wrong opinion, blockheads write zealously, copiously and for nothing. They have a platform unprecedented in human history. The problem faced by 'old media', and professional critics in particular, with their years of experience and their skill in fine phrase-making, is that their opinions now carry little more worth than those of the individual with a laptop who has never read any books and who would not recognise a pleasing and insightful cadence if it half-slammed, half-caressed them in the belly with a slippery bagful – well, you know how it goes by now."One the positive side:•I was glad to have read the book mostly because I enjoyed disliking the author!•A few of his reflections on life and literature were worthy of highlighting. •He accomplishes his own little chimp trick in almost every chapter, finding an unexpected way to connect one novelist with another (Houellebecq and Douglas Adams, Melville and Dan Brown.) I liked this. •I came away wanting to read a few books: Bulgakov's The Master and Margarita, Schopenhauer's The World as Will and Representation, Vol 1, and Tolstoy's Anna Karenina. •Near the end of the book Miller exhibits convincing self-reflection, and the book almost becomes uplifting. •There were a few moments of mastery that have me convinced this is an author to watch. I think he's capable of more. One last thing. You might wonder how the year of reading "saves his life", as the title promises. (Keep in mind he was already a literature major working as an editor.) Well, when he gets to the 49th book, Atomised by Michel Houellebecq, Miller finally shows some tenderness. He is moved to discover that art is like a grand consolation prize despite the inevitability of death. I have a hard time with that awakening. To major in literature is essentially to major in death. All literary works explore the "inevitability of decay". Why does it only sink in for Miller at the 49th book, a book by Michel Houellebecq? Either way, this is the chapter where I actually start to warm to Miller, even though I have no interest in reading Atomised. He finally finds what the title promised us: hope, and "a way forward".

An editor and writer's vivaciously entertaining, and often moving, chronicle of his year-long adventure with fifty great books (and two not-so-great ones)—a true story about reading that reminds us why we should all make time in our lives for books. Nearing his fortieth birthday, author and critic Andy Miller realized he's not nearly as well read as he'd like to be. A devout book lover who somehow fell out of the habit of reading, he began to ponder the power of books to change an individual life—including his own—and to define the sort of person he would like to be. Beginning with a copy of Bulgakov's Master and Margarita that he happens to find one day in a bookstore, he embarks on a literary odyssey of mindful reading and wry introspection. From Middlemarch to Anna Karenina to A Confederacy of Dunces, these are books Miller felt he should read; books he'd always wanted to read; books he'd previously started but hadn't finished; and books he'd lied about having read to impress people. Combining memoir and literary criticism, The Year of Reading Dangerously is Miller's heartfelt, humorous, and honest examination of what it means to be a reader. Passionately believing that books deserve to be read, enjoyed, and debated in the real world, Miller documents his reading experiences and how they resonated in his daily life and ultimately his very sense of self. The result is a witty and insightful journey of discovery and soul-searching that celebrates the abiding miracle of the book and the power of reading.

“an affecting tale of the rediscovery of great books...[by] a friendly, funny Brit.” (Boston Globe) “wonderfully elevating and entertaining.... A delightful read in its totality.” (Maria Popova, BrainPickings) “In his fanciful, endearing account of his experiences tackling classic works of fiction, Miller...conveys his love of reading, though the

book is light on literary criticism.... There is plenty of hilarity in [this] intimate literary memoir.” (Publishers Weekly)“Absorbing....I found myself turning pages in the addictive way some folks eat barbecue potato chips (crisps to one from Miller’s culture).... This is one...book that you can dare (dangerously!) to get for your favorite people instead of the ubiquitous gift card. Trust me on that.” (Bookreporter.com)“Funny and engaging throughout and, for all the author’s self-deprecation, perfectly erudite.” (Kirkus s)“Amiable, circumstantial, amusing, charming.... [Miller’s] style owes something...in its love of footnotes, literary paraphernalia and ephemera to Joe Brainard and David Foster Wallace.” (The Times (London))“A delightfully irreverent account of reading 50 classic books.... Often very funny....His thesis is universal...we can all be enriched by losing ourselves among the bookshelves.” (Daily Telegraph (London))“[A] readable, often funny account.... It’s not so much the content of the books that brings rewards, but the process of reading them and the thought this inspires.” (The Independent (London))“Andy Miller is a very funny writer. And this hymn to reading is a delight. The chapter on Herman Melville and Dan Brown had me howling with pleasure. PS. It will also make you feel a bit well-read.” (Matt Haig, author of *The Humans*)

From the Back Cover
A working father whose life no longer feels like his own discovers the transforming powers of great (and downright terrible) literature in this laugh-out-loud memoir. Andy Miller had a job he quite liked, a family he loved, and no time at all for reading. Or so he kept telling himself. But, no matter how busy or tired he was, something kept niggling at him. Books. Books he'd always wanted to read. Books he'd said he'd read that he actually hadn't. Books that whispered the promise of escape from the daily grind. And so, with the turn of a page, Andy began a year of reading that was to transform his life completely. This book is Andy's inspirational and very funny account of his expedition through literature: classic, cult, and everything in between. Beginning with a copy of Bulgakov's *Master and Margarita* that he happens to find one day in a bookstore, he embarks on a literary odyssey. From *Middlemarch* to *Anna Karenina* to *A Confederacy of Dunces*, this is a heartfelt, humorous, and honest examination of what it means to be a reader, and a witty and insightful journey of discovery and soul-searching that celebrates the abiding miracle of the book and the power of reading.

About the Author
Andy Miller is a reader, author, and editor of books. His writing has appeared in numerous publications, including *The Times*, *The Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *Esquire*, and *Mojo*. He lives in the United Kingdom with his wife and son.