



BROWSE



Booklist and Notes

George Brosi

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Booklist and Notes George Brosi Andreae, Christin. *When Evening Comes: The Education of a Hospice Volunteer*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000. 213 pages. Hardback in dust jacket. \$23.95. In 1990 the author started writing grants and then became a volunteer for Blue Ridge Hospice which serves the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia just northwest of Shenandoah National Park. This book tells the story of two very different young mothers dying of cancer, whom the author assisted. "In this probing, diary-like account, Andreae reflects on the lessons she's learned from her work with these two women—about life, death, bereavement, friendship and wanting—and about herself. Thoughtful and lively, the book provides a clear-eyed look at hospice work and the business of dying."—Publishers Weekly. Andreae is a teacher and mystery writer who lives in Bentonville, Virginia. Berry, Wendell. *Jayber Crow: A Novel*. Washington, D.C.: Counterpoint, 2000. 363 pages. Hardback in dust jacket. \$25.00. Although Wendell Berry (b. 1934) is a prolific writer, spinning out more than thirty books since the '60s, this is only his fifth novel. Like his short stories, Berry's novels are all set in the fictional town of Port William, Kentucky, strongly reminiscent of Port Royal, where Wendell Berry

and his wife, Tanya, farm organically with draft horses. Like Berry's most successful previous novel, *The Memory of Old Jack* (1976), this offering provides a first person narration from the perspective of an old man. In this case the man is Jayber Crow, recollecting his life in 1986 at the age of 72. "With the seeming effortlessness of art, Berry marries the book's host of amusing and affecting stories and characters to the practical and religious lessons he has learned and striven to communicate during his 40-year literacy career. Informing all those lessons is the insight that loving care for others, both living and dead, and for God's creation redeems and justifies one's life. This may be Berry's finest book." Ray Olson for Booklist. "Crow's life, which begins as WWI is about to erupt, is emblematic of a century of upheaval, and Berry's anecdotal and episodic tale sounds a challenge to contemporary notions of progress. It is to Berry's credit that a novel so freighted with ideas and ideology manages to project such warmth and luminosity."—*Publisher's Weekly*. 68 Brill, David. *A Separate Place: A Family, a Cabin in the Woods, and a Journey of Love and Spirit*. New York: Dutton, 2000. 288 pages. Hardback in dust jacket. \$23.95. This book is an autobiographical account of the author's attempt to reconnect with nature and life as his eighteen-year marriage heads inexorable towards divorce. Brill who initially lives in Knoxville, Tennessee, buys 68 acres adjoining Clear Creek, a Wild and Scenic River, in Morgan County, Tennessee, about an hour's drive away. There he hires workmen to build a cabin, but instead of saving the marriage this retreat simply gives him a place to go when the marriage finally does fail. Clear Creek is not Waiden Pond, and Brill is not Thoreau. His descriptions of nature are much more fleeting, and his thoughts are much less wide-ranging. Instead much of his emotional energy goes into inviting visitors to the cabin, including his pre-teen daughters and a group of Christian men. Keith Bellows, the Editor of *National Geographic Traveler*, enthuses that Brill "helps us all find a little of the wisdom he discovered in the woods." However, *Publishers Weekly* notes that "the repetitive passages of self-absorbed whining soon wear thin." David Brill (b. 1955) published *As Far As the Eye Can See*, an account of hiking the Appalachian Trail, in 1990. Carden, Gray. *Mason Jars in the Flood and Other Stories*. Boone, North Carolina: Parkway Publishers, 2000. 210 pages. Hardback with pictorial cover. \$20.00. This book of stories and a few poems will resonate with many readers as it shares little vignettes of growing up in Western North Carolina in the 1940s and 1950s. The writing style is pleasant and lucid, but the true strength of this volume is the picture it paints of life in that time and...

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