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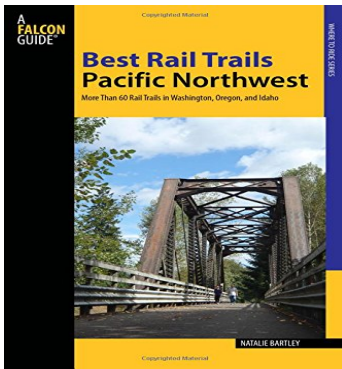
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On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense

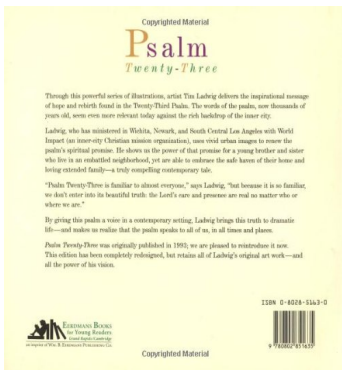
Take a look at Americans in their natural habitat: guys shopping for barbecue grills, doing that special walk men do when in the presence of lumber; superefficient soccer Ubermoms who chair school auctions, organize PTAs, and weigh less than their kids; and suburban chain restaurants, which if they merged would be called Chili's Olive Garden Hard Rock Outback Cantina. Are we as shallow as we look? Many around the world see us as the great bimbos. Sure, Americans work hard and are energetic, but that is because we are money-hungry and don't know how to relax. But if you probe deeper, you find that we behave the way we do because we live under the spell of paradise. We are the inheritors

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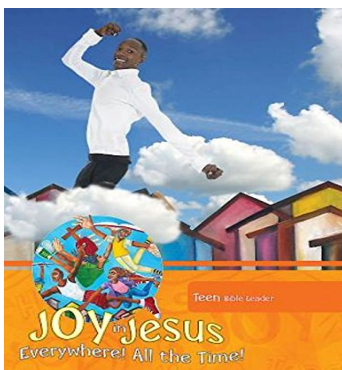
Best Rail Trails Pacific Northwest: More Than 60 Rail Trails in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (Best Rail Trails Series)

Best Rail Trails Pacific Northwest is the complete guide to walking, jogging, biking, and cross-country skiing more than sixty of the best rail trails in one of the most beautiful and geographically varied reaches of America. Written by a local author with expert knowledge of the region, this easy-



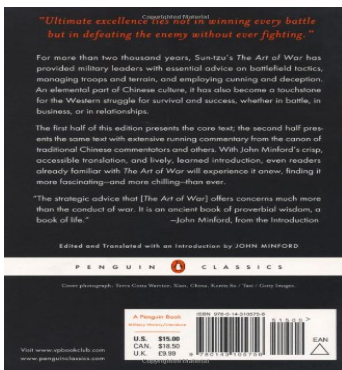
Psalm Twenty-Three

Through poignant, heart-warming images of an urban African-American family, children experience the comfort and encouragement this favorite psalm still offers — the powerful message that they can rely on the Lord as they thread their way through the risk-filled maze of daily life in the city.



Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2016 Joy in Jesus Teen Bible Leader with Music CD: Everywhere! All the Time!

Includes the embedded Teen Student Book with Bible background, cultural/heritage background, leader meditations, lesson material, helpful instructions, suggestions and helps for classroom organization. Music is integral to the teen program so the Joy in Jesus Music CD is included in this leader boo



The Art of War: The Essential Translation of the Classic Book of Life (Penguin Classics)

For more than two thousand years, Sun-tzu's The Art of War has provided leaders with essential advice on battlefield tactics and management strategies. An elemental part of Chinese culture, it has also become a touchstone for the Western struggle for survival and success, whether in battl

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What others say about this ebook:

Review 1:

Much of what you knew but maybe do not wish to think about. May make you look in the mirror. You may then wince a little. Pretty much nailed us all.

Review 2:

Fairly good analysis. Somewhat tedious after a bit. Brooks is my favorite 'right' guy

Review 3:

Tremendous book that still feels relevant even though it's more than a decade old at this point. (And what does a decade mean? This is a book about contemporary life in America, and there's no mention of Google, Uber, or Obamacare. In fact, Obama isn't mentioned, as he was a minor senator when the book was written.)

The book distills contemporary American life into its contradictory and sometimes infuriating pieces, and yet comes out with a positive series of conclusions. David Brooks is well aware of our foibles, and he hilariously notes them page-by-page: oversized stores, homes and cars; celebrity worship at the expense of real thinking, obsession with whatever is new, and working too much. But at the same time, he explores why these habits of ours have emerged, and he finds evidence that they are based on efforts at achieving a type of transcendence that can be dated back to the first settlers in the New World. In sum, we are relentless strivers who believe that everything we do is an opportunity to come closer to perfection. This shows through our endless shopping, our merciless pressure on our kids to excel academically and in what used to be casual pastimes, our relentless job-shifting and moving residences, our nation's interventions in other countries' business, and much more.

The very things that make us laughable -- inventing 50 kinds of toothpaste, or believing in huckster motivational speakers and religious leaders, for example -- are deeply rooted in genuine searches for our destiny as individuals and as a nation. And we get great strength from that striving. We are a land of opportunity and a land of invention, even if those inventions are often unnecessary and ridiculous (Brooks loves to troll through the now-defunct "Airmall" catalogs on plans).

Brooks traces this back to Cotton Mather. To paraphrase (I hope accurately): Mather said that the New World is like a boat, with one oar propelling us to honor God, and the other to be productive and achieve material comfort. When both oars are rowing in the same direction, we move towards our destiny. And that destiny is a paradise of sorts -- the Eden that settlers believed they would find and build in the New World.

Brooks goes on to explain that this attitude is with us today, often in the language of the word "opportunity." Everything is opportunity: a new job, an education, an invention, new furniture or a lawn care service. Any of these can move us closer to our future imagined paradise. His chapter focusing on how parents push their kids to excel ("the Achievatron") and what it does to kids as teens, collegians and beyond is pitch-perfect; I should know as a parent of a college student and a high schooler. I'm going to send that chapter around to my friends so that we can both laugh at ourselves and maybe calm down a little.

For a book that makes very strong statements, often with exaggeration to create humor, I find little to quibble with. One issue is that Brooks deals almost exclusively with upper-middle class

or higher wealth that's suburban. This becomes clear eventually in the book, but it's hard to grasp at first because he takes you on a driving journey from the hipster revitalized city through poor neighborhoods through dying inner suburbs to wealthier suburbs to fast-growing exurbs. But then he sort of abandons most of those areas to focus on those wealthy suburbs that are full of educated strivers. I would have liked at least a small amount of recognition that the values he describes might not be the same in those other communities, or perhaps surprisingly, they might be identical. We just don't know.

Also, I'd enjoy an update to this book, given what's happened since it was researched in the early 2000s, soon after 9-11. We've had a terrible recession, which has called into question both the wisdom of building those suburbs and destroyed the dreams of many people living in them. We've had the election of an African American president who has challenged some notions of America's inevitable superiority over the rest of the world. We've had the counter-revolution to Obama in the rise of a know-nothing right wing that wants to eliminate the relativism in morality that Brooks describes as a core historical trait in America. We've had the rise of gay rights, about which Brooks says nothing. I'd be curious to see how these fit in with his thesis, as well as to hear his general perspective on the issues.

Review 4:
Interesting one time read

Review 5:
One of the best books in a while. The author is able to capture the "ethos" of America in a way much better than anything I have ever seen. America is the land of opportunity and possibility. Success is your birthright. This mindset will have an impact in any individual, pushing him to achieve at any cost, sometimes leading him to great material success, sometimes destroying his life and relationships. Foreigners usually make the mistake of believing that Americans are more materialistic than other countries, an idea that is becoming harder and harder to sustain as we see the Chinese, the Arabs and Latins spending thousands in a Louis Vuitton boutique as soon as they get some money. Americans care about achievement and being regarded as successful people. Money is just one aspect of this ideology. The notion that it is somehow shameful to be a normal, regular guy with frustrations and problems leads to the idea that one must have his "french fries" moment, in the same way that burger icon Ray Croc had his. Somehow, the American is expect to be a small Steve Jobs and change the world around him in a spectacular way. No wonder being poor in America is perhaps worst than being a successful robber. It means you didn't try hard enough! The book is able to walk between these paradoxes, without being judgmental, simplistic or naive. It presents things as they are, the good and the bad, the extremes that make the US the most complex and interesting society of our times. Highly recommended !

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ON PARADISE DRIVE: How We Live Now (and Always Have)

ON PARADISE DRIVE: How We Live Now (and Always Have) in the Future Tense ... glum about America and its place in the world, or those who despairingly look at our culture's cookie cutter, strip mall consumerism and flash- bang glitter, Brooks (Bobos in Paradise) offers a balm with his latest pseudo- sociological treatise.

On paradise drive : how we live now (and always have) in the future ...

Description, New York : Simon & Schuster, 2004 304 p. ; 23 cm. ISBN, 0743227387. Summary. "As diverse as we are, as complacent as we sometimes seem, Americans are united by a common mentality, which we have inherited from our ancestors and pass on, sometimes unreflectingly, to our ; "We are united by ...

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Sep 24, 2005

On Paradise Drive - Wikipedia

On Paradise Drive is the second book written by conservative New York Times commentator David Brooks, released four years after his first book, Bobos in Paradise. Using a similar style, his second work seeks to make a connection between the oft-maligned material strivings of middle-class Americans and a more ...

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