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LOCAL LITERARY HIGHLIGHTS

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Notable books of the '90s

BY DAVID JASPER • The Bulletin

The 1990s was a great decade for readers, and it was kind to some writers, as well — we're looking at you, top-selling author of the decade John Grisham, who dominated bestseller lists along with Stephen King and Danielle Steel. Among other developments in the literary world, the '90s saw the advent of Oprah's Book Club, founded in September 1996, championing literature and helping to bring many relatively unknown writers to a vastly wider audience.

Young adult fare such as Louis Sachar's humorous book "Holes" and the first three Harry Potter books, all dropped in the late 1990s, harbingers of the YA moment the following decade.

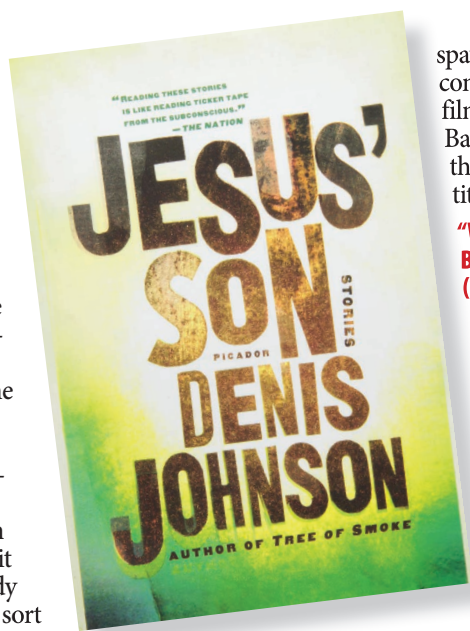
So many notable books were written in the 1990s that it seems foolhardy to attempt any sort of list encapsulating them, but that won't stop GO! Magazine from giving it a whirl. What follows are some of the decade's more memorable titles, drawn from various sources and culled from prize winners and finalists, old best-sellers lists, these are books that seem to have permeated more deeply into popular culture, including film adaptations:

"JURASSIC PARK,"
BY MICHAEL CRICHTON (1990)

This book by science fiction author Crichton debuted a few years before Stephen Spielberg turned it into unforgettable movie magic with the first movie of the franchise.

"AMERICAN PSYCHO,"
BY BRET EASTON ELLIS (1991)

The literary bratparker's third book



spawned no shortage of controversy, as well as a film starring Christian Bale as Patrick Bateman, the psychotic killer of the title.

"WAITING TO EXHALE,"
BY TERRY MCMILLAN (1992)

McMillan's novel about the lives and friendships of four Black women in Arizona later spawned a 1995 film starring Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett, and according to Kirkus, is now being adapted for the small

screen.

"JESUS' SON," BY DENIS JOHNSON (1992)

Johnson's short-story collection was so influential "It's safe to say that almost every writer has read it, and about half of them have tried to emulate it," Emily Temple wrote at lithub.com in 2018.

"THE SHIPPING NEWS,"
BY E. ANNIE PROULX (1993)

After his marriage ends bleakly, Proulx's antihero Quoyle finds his hope restored after he moves to the hardscrabble world of Newfoundland in this Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning novel.

"MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL," BY JOHN BERENDT (1994)

Berendt's book, based on a killing in Savannah, Georgia, enthralled readers

and led to a marked rise in the number of tourist visits.

"PROZAC NATION,"
BY ELIZABETH WURTZEL (1994)

Wurtzel wrote with candor and wit about depression and addiction in the

memoir of which New York Times critic Michiko Kakutani called "wrenching and comical, self-indulgent and self-aware." She went on to work as an attorney before her January 2020 death.

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