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HUGO BEST NOVEL WINNER 2007

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Join in the WEEKLY "WHAT ARE YOU READING?" THREAD!

This is an archived post. You won't be able to vote or comment.

41

What's the most disturbing book you've ever read?

(self.books)
2 years ago by [brokenglasstheory](#)

What is most disturbing to you in books? Is it horrible monsters, or screwed up relationships? Strange situations, or weird emotions it evokes? What are some disturbing titles, and would you recommend them?

121 comments share

welcome to
r/books

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Submitted on **25 May 2015**

41

points (82% upvoted)

<https://redd.it/3796vs>

all 121 comments

sorted by: **best**

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 13 points 2 years ago

The Story of the Eye by Georges Bataille

After a certain point, I literally tossed the book out my window because I couldn't take it anymore. That book was written for people with much stronger stomachs than me.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

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[\[-\] wetnipplez](#) **Illuminatus! Trilogy** 24 points 2 years ago

American Psycho

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[\[-\] sanganeer](#) 13 points 2 years ago

The torture scenes in 1984 still give me the creeps. The holocaust experience accounts in books like 'Night' by Elie Weisel and 'Man's Search for Meaning' by Victor Frankl.

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MORE COMMENTS

More from r/books

HIDE



29.7k

Harry Potter turns 20 today (cnn.com)

5 days ago by [Dr_Ghamorra](#)

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26.9k

Paddington Bear author Michael Bond dies aged 91 (theguardian.com)

3 days ago by [Whaleears](#)

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9609

Victor Hugo's frustrating, beautiful Les Misérables was completed on this date in 1862 (vox.com)

1 day ago by [2one2one2](#)

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6995

The Boston Public Library Has a 'Car Wash' for Books (atlasobscura.com)

4 days ago by [dekker44](#)

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3630

Raymond Chandler on what people really want to read (self.books)

2 days ago by [Pale_King101](#)

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1835

Reading naughty books (self.books)

14 hours ago by * (last edited 11 hours ago) [bubbubbles](#)

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I'm Blake Crouch, author of the **WAYWARD PINES TRILOGY** and **DARK MATTER**, which is Reddit's book club pick, **AMA 3PM**

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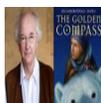
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AMA!!! (self.books)
 1 day ago by * (last edited 1 day ago) [BlakeCrouch](#) **AMA Author**
[announcement](#) - **BOOKS MOD POST** -
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821

My second-hand copy of Siddhartha arrived in the mail yesterday, and inside was contained a heartbreakingly beautiful message written in Spanish by the previous owner (picture and translation in comments). Has anyone else had any wonderful experiences like this when buying second-hand books? (self.books)

1 day ago by * (last edited 9 hours ago) [Glikk](#)
[84 comments](#) [share](#)



355

'Golden Compass' Author Philip Pullman Opens Up About Returning to 'His Dark Materials' (ew.com)

Pulp

2 days ago by [grintreddit](#)
[79 comments](#) [share](#)

326

What is the most worthless book you've ever read? (self.books)

2 days ago by [funwiththoughts](#)
[1205 comments](#) [share](#)

Comments, continued...

[\[-\]](#) [ginbooth](#) 7 points 2 years ago

Big Sur by Kerouac is such a haunting exploration into the perils of alcoholism. I read it right after *Dharma Bums* thinking it would be in the same vain. I was unpleasantly surprised :(.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\]](#) [EatUrVeggies](#) 2 points 2 years ago

I have to check that book out. I first read *On The Road* and did not enjoy the book at all. Then a couple years later I read *Dharma Bums* and it was significantly better because I thought the spiritual connection with nature was more evident. *Dharma Bums* also felt more applicable because it is easier to go into the woods and relax than it is to jump from city to city partying. How did you feel about *On The Road*?

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [ginbooth](#) 2 points 2 years ago

extended rules for appropriate alternative subreddits, like [/r/suggestmeabook](#), [/r/whatsthatbook](#), etc. or use the Related Subreddits buttons in the sidebar.

4 ENCOURAGED

We love *original* content and self-posts! Thoughts, discussion questions, epiphanies and interesting links about authors and their work. We also encourage discussion about developments in the book world and we have a flair system.

5 IMPORTANT

We don't allow personal recommendation posts. You can ask in our Weekly Recommendation Thread, consult our [Suggested Reading](#) or [What to Read](#) page, or post in [/r/suggestmeabook](#).

6 CLICK HERE FOR THE EXTENDED RULES

Please report any comment that does not follow the rules and remember that mods have the final say.

Weekly Thread Calendar

Monday Weekly

[What Books Are You Reading This Week?](#)
[June 26, 2017](#)

Tuesday 1st of the month

[New Releases: June 2017](#)

Wednesday Every other week

Genre Discussion: [Favorite Nautical Adventures: June 2017](#)

Wednesday Every other week

Literature of the World: [Literature of Stateless Authors: June 2017](#)

Friday Weekly

[Weekly Recommendation Thread for the week of June 30, 2017](#)

I'm not a big fan of *On The Road* either. Gary Snyder is probably my favorite Beat though maybe he's just an honorary one. His poems have a stoicism that I tend to prefer. He also spent actual time in a Zen monastery in Japan rather than just throwing around spiritual aphorisms. I guess that sounds harsh, but a lot of Beats were style over substance IMHO.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] EatUrVeggies](#) 2 points 2 years ago

Maybe if I was living in the 50's *On The Road* would have been revolutionary, but even so I did not agree with the theme that you need to be constantly partying to have a happy life. Why do you think Kerouac is the most prominent beat writer? Do you have any recommendations on where to start with Snyder?

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] ginbooth](#) 1 point 2 years ago

I'm most familiar with Snyder through various poetry anthologies. He was also roommates with the religion scholar, Huston Smith, at the monastery. I definitely prefer the works of Rilke, Keats, Lowell, etc. over the Beats...

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Carcharodon_literati](#) 2 points 2 years ago

I tell people that *Big Sur* is the Kerouac book if you hate Kerouac, because he's actually dealing with his demons and not romanticizing his attempts to escape.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] ginbooth](#) 1 point 2 years ago

It's also interesting to note that he became a conservative Catholic in his later years and was friends with the likes of William F. Buckley...

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] TheTowerJunkie](#) 7 points 2 years ago*

I would have to say, and just listen to me on this one, but *The Fuck-Up* by [Arthur Nersesian](#)

This book. I know everyone says that *Catcher in the Rye* hit them hard, or was relateable. To me, I couldn't connect to Holden at all in *Catcher*

Sunday Weekly

[Weekly FAQ Thread June 25 2017: What book made you fall in love with reading?](#)

Upcoming AMAs (ET)

Jul 05 - TBA [Daniel Price](#)

Author of [The Song of the Orphans](#)

Jul 12 - TBA [Peter Telep](#)

Author of [Doc Harrison and the Apocalypse](#)

Jul 13 - 2pm [Douglas Brunt](#)

Author of [Trophy Son](#)

Jul 14 - 4pm [Laurence MacNaughton](#)

Author of [A Kiss Before Doomsday](#)

Jul 18 - TBA [Meg Kerr](#)

Author of [Devotion](#)

In The Coming Weeks

Ilona Andrews, Mike Haspil, Chris Riley, Jeff Noon, Kaira Rouda

[The Complete AMA Schedule](#)

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This book, it hit hard. The Fuck-up really had me in this guys shoes. I don't know why. Maybe it was the way he acted, thought about the world, didn't care, felt lost. Something about him just resonated so deep with me, and what was even worse, was the fact that **that wasn't supposed to be a good thing**

To be able to relate to the character of The Fuck-Up himself is just... well it let's you know where you are headed. I don't even know how to describe this book to you

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\]](#) [johnhaup](#) 1 point 2 years ago

I love Nersesian! Really depressing, difficult stuff.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 7 points 2 years ago

The Fox and the Hound by Daniel P. Mannix was a disturbing read for me. But that may be primarily because of my emotional attachment to the Disney film.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\]](#) [aww_coffee_no](#) 6 points 2 years ago

Probably *The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea* by Yukio Mishima. The boy in the story does/witnesses some disturbing things, but the one part I couldn't get over was the scene with the cat. Beautiful writing, though.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\]](#) [thunderbirdhotel](#) 5 points 2 years ago

The Painted Bird by Jerzy Kosinski

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 2 years ago

I barely remember that book but there was a rape scene, described in full detail, that to this day I can remember. So, yes, good choice for this topic. :(

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [humanityoptional](#) 5 points 2 years ago*

Justine by De Sade.

Post-Depravity by Supervert.

on AMAs and the day's most popular posts!

SPOILER POLICY:

- Any post with a spoiler in the title will be removed.
- Any comment with a spoiler that doesn't use the spoiler code will be removed.
- Any user with an extensive history of spoiling books will be banned.
- Spoiler tags are: #s for example:
#Spoilers about XYZ Spoiler content here is done with:
[Spoilers about XYZ](#s "Spoiler content here")

EXPLANATION OF OUR LINK FLAIRS

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AMA

WEEKLY THREAD

MOD POST

MODERATORS

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DaedalusMinion
 pithyretort
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 brigodon
 themightiestduck
 AutoModerator
 IAmTheRedWizards

The Story of the Eye by Georges Bataille.

All are tres messed up and well worth reading.

EDIT: Let's not forget **The Soft Machine** by Burroughs. The scene with the soldiers raping a prisoner as he swings from a noose was enough for me. I had to take a 1 week time-out before I buttoned up my resolve and finished it.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

Abe_lincolin
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[...and 15 more »](#)

< > discussions in [r/books](#)

X

1831 · 810 comments

[Reading naughty books](#)

[\[-\] Link-Pup92](#) 7 points 2 years ago

While I found it a solid book overall, the idea behind the religo-cratic cult is *The Mist* by Stephen King has definitely stayed with my over the years.

Not so much that God was turned to in times of Crisis, more the speed at which God was turned into a weapon and everyone consented to it.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] danconiasmiled](#) 5 points 2 years ago

George RR Martin wrote a zombie necrophilia novelette in his youth. His words:

"the darkest, bleakest, sickest, most twisted thing I ever wrote."

and it's called Meathouse Man.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] Hirra](#) 5 points 2 years ago

Perfume by Patrick Suskind is one of the most disturbing books I've read. It's not necessarily scary, but the main character is really twisted (yet intriguing). I always highly recommend that book, it's one of those books you can't put down.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] HB_Inkslinger](#) [All The Pretty Horses - Cormac McCarthy](#) 12 points 2 years ago

Haunted by Chuck Palahniuk and I don't wanna talk about it...

hides in a corner

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] CapnCrunchDaPimp](#) 4 points 2 years ago

I only read a few excerpts of the short story "Guts" and that was enough mental damage for me.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] delta_omega](#) 1 point 2 years ago

I only read the wikipedia article about it and it was enough for me.

permalink embed parent

[[-](#)] [\[deleted\]](#) 0 points 2 years ago

Seriously? I mean the topic was bad and it was a bit graphic bit really? It wasn't bad enough to go and not read it cause of a queasy stomach.

permalink embed parent

[[-](#)] [maverik1984](#) 1 point 2 years ago

People would pass out when he did public readings for that book. Just saying.

permalink embed parent

[[-](#)] [errorami](#) [Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde](#) 1 point 2 years ago

They'd pass out because the story starts with "This story should only last as long as you can hold your breath".

permalink embed parent

[[-](#)] [maverik1984](#) 0 points 2 years ago

Actually, it isnt the reason. Here's his explanation.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/3643352/67-people-fainted-as-I-read-my-horror-story.html>

permalink embed parent

[[-](#)] [errorami](#) [Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde](#) 0 points 2 years ago

Oh, BS. Chuck is just jerking himself off right here. All the interviews with the persons who passed out claimed it was due to loss of oxygen. Chuck has a big head, is all. Thanks for the link, though.

permalink embed parent

[[-](#)] [mistere676](#) 4 points 2 years ago

Ass Goblins of Auschwitz by Cameron Pierce

permalink embed

[[-](#)] [funfungiguy](#) 1 point 2 years ago

This is on my Amazon wishlist. It's been there for years, and yet every time I go to my wishlist to get my self something I pass by it and about thirty other books on there that seem like it would be about the same vein.

Something I guess must fascinate me, because I don't ever remove it from the wishlist, but at the same time they don't seem like books I'd buy, or read mor than once. Really the don't even sound like enjoyable reads.

permalink embed parent

[[-](#)] [imasterchiefman](#) 5 points 2 years ago

Naked Lunch was pretty horrific.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\]](#) [funfungiguy](#) 2 points 2 years ago

I can't figure out what Burroughs is even trying to say to get disturbed. I don't even know why that book is considered great.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) deleted/removed

[\[-\]](#) [funfungiguy](#) 2 points 2 years ago

Sometimes I wonder if it was just the times they lived in, that a guy could get smashed and write about some gibberish unsavory stuff and some graphic depictions of homosexual acts and sodomy and drug use and violence and smear some bullshit around that probably made more sense to him while he was tripping balls, and it's considered so extreme for the times that everybody is just blown away by the stuff you can sort of make heads or tails of. Then that book rides on that reputation for forty or fifty years, even though it's sort of crap and always was just some junkie bullshit.

But I guess other people seem to think it's really deep or amazing or whatever, so maybe they see something in it that I never managed to find or sit through long enough to discover.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\]](#) [arch_maniac](#) [The Brothers Karamazov](#) 6 points 2 years ago

It is a tie. *The Exorcist* and *The Road*.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\]](#) [TaylorNicole818](#) 3 points 2 years ago

The Road ruined my life.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [TheCountUncensored](#) 1 point 2 years ago

The Road? There were parts, like with the baby on the spit. , but it wasn't *disturbing* per se, was it?

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [arch_maniac](#) [The Brothers Karamazov](#) 4 points 2 years ago

The entire scenario disturbed me. It got me to thinking about how little it would really take for all our systems to collapse, leaving everyone on their own in a state of total anarchy. Dog eat dog, so to speak.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [TheCountUncensored](#) 2 points 2 years ago

But that can be argued to be one of the primary points of the story. Along with how hope will never totally die from the hearts of men. I came away feeling positive about the world of *The Road*.

Then, even though the kid is more than likely raped and murdered by the judge , I still came away with something positive from Blood Meridian. Because The Judge was right about the Kid.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [arch_maniac](#) **The Brothers Karamazov** 1 point 2 years ago

I'm sorry, I don't understand your viewpoint. Yes, I agree that these are primary points of the story. But, they disturb the hell out of me.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 2 points 2 years ago

The scene where the man

[breaks into the cellar and finds people being stored as food, one with his leg removed and bleeding out](#)

is very disturbing.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [funfungiguy](#) 1 point 2 years ago

I wouldn't call it the most disturbing, because I don't think I e ever read something that reay "disturbs" me, The Road and David Moody's Hater Trilogy were the first things that came to mind as maybe for me.

It wasn't really the scenes depicted, but just generally the overall hopelessness of it all. Even at the end of The Road, it's not a very happy ending. Even when you put it down it sort of like, tomorrow's gonna be another day not too much different than the day before. That's a bummer.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [TheCountUncensored](#) 1 point 2 years ago

read my follow up.. the story has a nugget of hope.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [mrburns88](#) 3 points 2 years ago

I loved John Ross' *Unintended Consequences*. I didn't think it was disturbing, but understand if a majority of others did.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\]](#) [hold_my_pabst](#) 3 points 2 years ago

Geek Love by Katherine Dunn. Some parts of it read like a straight-up fever dream. Struggled to finish it.

I enjoy weird lit in general, though. Check out Jeff VanderMeer's *Southern Reach* trilogy or anything by Thomas Ligotti.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] DoYouLikeTrains](#) 3 points 2 years ago

The Troop and *The Deep* by Nick Cutter. Both of those books made gag every few pages. They were just so unsettling for me. Still great reads though. If you're a fan of Stephen King's more disturbing works you'll definitely enjoy these two novels.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] cyanide1403](#) **Art, Photography** 3 points 2 years ago

The Lottery by Shirley Jackson. (Short story)

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] strangeangles](#) 3 points 2 years ago

http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wasp_Factory

The wasp factory.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] thatscoolkyle](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Worst ending ever - it overshadowed the rest of the book for me. It's the worst kinda deus ex machina M. Night Shaymalan boo! haha I'll bet you didn't see that twist coming out of nowhere trash.

Up until that, I enjoyed it, which is why the ending is such a letdown.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] strangeangles](#) 2 points 2 years ago

I kind of expected, actually. I knew there was going to be a "twist".

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Vert_Vivant](#) 5 points 2 years ago

House of Leaves by Mark Z. Danielewski

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] GrishaJaegerisBenjen](#) 1 point 2 years ago

It is disturbing, but did we really need a chapter explaining how echos worked? Or the three pages of random names...

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] TheDewd](#) 2 points 2 years ago

Seriously! And what was all that stuff about hog futures?? I think my book may have been misprinted

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] GrandTyromancer](#) [The Museum of Innocence](#) 2 points 2 years ago

That's Danielewski's thing, though. He's all about taking the idea that gets thrown about in literature classes about how "form should complement story" and taking it to the absolute limit. So the chapter about echoes repeats itself over and over, the chapter about the endlessness of the house is full of endless lists, the SOS chapter is literally laid out like an SOS signal, and the chapter about the guy losing his mind is absolutely bananas.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] GrishaJaegerisBenjen](#) 2 points 2 years ago

Oh god, I never noticed that!

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] reetnz](#) **2** 2 points 2 years ago*

I responded with [this](#) in a similar thread last week:

Lucky, by Alice Sebold. The opening chapter. I had to pause to take a breath several times. It was...I don't really have the words. Suffocating. Terrifying. *Lucky* is Sebold's "rape memoir" so every word in it is talking about her actual experience. It's devastating. And it gives her better known book *The Lovely Bones* considerably more depth.

Knowing it's true, it actually happened, might have increased the shock for me. I don't know. I wonder if it had been fiction whether I would have had the same response. The way it is written perhaps I would. It's the most disturbed I've ever been by a book, although I think I've read more disturbing books (anything about the Holocaust, extreme poverty & corruption, other gross inhumanities). But that one, it's a gut punch.

Actually, I had a similar reaction to [Once Were Warriors](#) by Alan Duff, and that *is* fiction, although it could easily be true. It has that same effect of punching you in the guts & leaving you winded & not sure how you're going to keep reading. It's the extreme violence that is so disturbing.

So I guess I answered my own question - it's the writing & situation, not the reality that triggers that strong reaction for me. Good to know!

Also a warning to anyone picking up either of these books - especially *Once Were Warriors*, they do leave you shellshocked.

would your recommend them?

You might want to ask in [/r/suggestmeabook](#) if you're looking for personal recommendations.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] CharlottededeSouza](#) 2 points 2 years ago

Under the Roofs of Paris by Henry Miller. It was pretty revolting and I'm no prude. Just, ick ...

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] bigblueoni](#) 2 points 2 years ago

I Have the Right to Destroy Myself by Young Ha Kim. It's about a man who enters into the lives of people he thinks are artistically talented and gets them to commit suicide.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] baronmad](#) 2 points 2 years ago

The boy named it.

Its about a boy and his upbringing and what he has to endure at home, and its based on something that happened in reality.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] lineycakes](#) 2 points 2 years ago

i read that when i was younger -- and yes, it was really fucked up.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] sane-zilla](#) 2 points 2 years ago

De sade

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] jmongrain](#) **1** 2 points 2 years ago

Everytime a post like this one pops up, I bring up *The Kindly Ones* by Jonathan Littell. Screwed up relationships (check), horrible monsters (check), screwed up situations (check), weird emotions as in disgust, contempt and horror (check). The book depicts very disturbing ~~most~~ real events but it's the end that really got to me (and a specific 40-pages passage that I just had to skip). I would recommend it to non-faint of heart... because even though it's horrible, it's also genius.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] jhoffmeister](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Eric Clapton's autobiography. Just a despicable alcoholic, heavy cigarette smoker, heroin addict who only cared about himself. In his mid-twenties having a 16 year old girlfriend who he encouraged to get addicted to heroin as well, and she did. Was a terrible husband and father and friend. When he finally became clean, he continuously bragged about all of his collections of expensive cars, watches, artwork, houses and his 130 ft yacht. Although I appreciate his music, he is a disturbed, despicable person. I know some are into the forgiveness thing, no matter what, but I'm not one of them. But what do I know? Disturbing book.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] Icemanrussian](#) 1 point 2 years ago

As a musician i should probably get around to this. I love his music and respect his legacy, and knew he had issues, but didn't know that it was to that extent. If I learned anything from Lennon, that there is a line, of the art made by an individual, and the personal life of that individual.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] J_Sto](#) **32** 4 points 2 years ago*

I'm more disturbed by wider trends in literature and media, some of which still remain unbroken and perpetuated, and which have real life influence, and cost.

Present western warrior construct/myth in books, movies, and propaganda that traces all the way back through western art and media to the *The Iliad* would be one example. The overt sexism in what's often called "visionary" scifi would be another. This repetition is far more powerful than any single novel or scene.

However for a shorter answer, I'm disturbed that I don't balk as much at parts of *aSoIaF* when I reread it as compared to earlier reads before the show was produced.

For nonfiction, *Savage Continent* is disturbing because we don't usually study what happened after victory day in "liberated" Europe, or atrocities committed by Allied forces. It breaks that myth I mentioned above. I would urge everyone in the west to read at least part one of this book. In *Hiroshima* (also highly recommended) people's skin is literally melting off, and yet *Savage Continent* is even more disturbing. I'm still thinking about that.

This could be an interesting prompt, so I'll be curious to see if people are willing to post nuanced answers. :) It's the kind of convo that would be good for the front page.

[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[\[-\] TheCountUncensored](#) 9 points 2 years ago

That last sentence made this [/r/iamverysmart](#) material.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] J_Sto](#) **32** 2 points 2 years ago

I read it in *Hogwarts, A History*.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] funfungiguy](#) 1 point 2 years ago

This could be an interesting prompt, so I'll be curious to see if people are willing to post nuanced answers. :) It's the kind of convo that would be good for the front page.

"Barrack Obama policemen Grandma, soldiers welfare rioters! Taxes taxes, kids these days!"
'Like' this if you agree. 9 out of 10 people won't be brave enough to repost. :(

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] TheCountUncensored](#) 3 points 2 years ago

[/r/idecidethecontext](#)

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[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 2 points 2 years ago*

Came here to say "Hiroshima" if no one did. My jr high school biology teacher read it out loud to us and I had to leave class almost every day. He kept an eye on me after that first day. Had to read it in high school again, still with me. Two words: "kimono embroidery". Also eyes. Never got over the

eyes.

Edited to mention more disturbance. I read a great many books by women, and some of the consistent tropes greatly disturb me. I enjoy a good smutty werewolf shifter book as much as anyone, but wonder what series such as Fifty Shades... say about what we have managed to wrought since Friedan and Greer. (I read them in the release year. Just saying I'm old and lived through the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s as an adult.)

Edited further to avoid triggers. Sigh. See? Can't even talk any more.

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[\[-\] J_Sto](#) **32** 0 points 2 years ago

I appreciated your comment - thank you!

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[\[-\] scottapeshot](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Yeah, SAVAGE CONTINENT was... well, SAVAGE! Humanity is savage. The endless depravity and murder displayed in that book clearly shows our true nature.

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[\[-\] J_Sto](#) **32** 1 point 2 years ago*

I can't fully agree with that as a generalization. Going to war is different from small scale violence, and is not considered natural, and this was an extreme of that -- large scale industrialized warfare. This was a highly unnatural setting, both psychologically and in terms of socialization. I don't think the social factors of the time can be discounted, i.e. how warriors were built and how their enemies were portrayed. The rules and expectations were different, as this marked a different kind of total warfare, which involved civilian populations. Also the draft meant that non-physical recruitment barriers/screening didn't exist. It was a very, very extreme time.

There were also a great many people who did not engage in this kind of behavior at all, but did not or could not intervene. And of course as you get at, the number that did participate is insane. In the case of allied soldiers, it really struck me as peer behavior that is spread by social acceptance, in addition to behavior based on institutional acceptance. None of this is natural unless we are arguing that it's natural for people to be highly influenced by sociological forces -- in that case it might have been any institution. If you're interested in this topic, Miguel Centeno (Princeton) has some of his material up on Coursera under a *Paradoxes of War* course, which I also highly, highly recommend.

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[\[-\] scottapeshot](#) 2 points 2 years ago

Good points. Many factors apply and I hope you are right.

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[\[-\] J_Sto](#) **32** 2 points 2 years ago

Thanks for the exchange, btw. One of my favorite topics.

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[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Dude u were supposed to just say 1984

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] J_Sto](#) **32** 1 point 2 years ago

Hey lady,

1984

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] ScormFront](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Assisted Living by Nikanor Teratologen. I guess it doesnt really count since I never finished it. I thought I was strong enough.

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[\[-\] lineycakes](#) 1 point 2 years ago

that sounds....terrible

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] FPHOBIA771](#) 1 point 2 years ago

The Girl Next Door by Jack Ketchum. Most of his works are known to have disturbing content such as Off Season and Right to Life, but the Girl Next Door is probably the most disturbing one I've read.

It depicts the abuse and outright torture of a young teenage girl by her own relatives. What disturbed me was the graphic description of the things done to her through the eyes of one of the kids in the neighborhood and the various acts she is being subjected to. The book is a dark and interesting read, but i wouldnt recommend them for the faint of heart.

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[\[-\] LaoBa](#) 2 points 2 years ago

Even worse is the fact that is is based on true events.

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[\[-\] bigomess](#) 1 point 2 years ago

The Room by Hubert Selby Jr.

A book so fucked up that the guy who wrote it couldn't read it for 20 years after he finished it.

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[\[-\] Perezthe1st](#) **2** 1 point 2 years ago

This coming from the guy who wrote Requiem for a Dream. I need to check this it seems.

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[–] [HorkyBamf](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Most recently, *The Corpse Exhibition: And Other Stories of Iraq*, Hassan Blasim (Author), Jonathan Wright (Translator). Dark, creepy, at times profoundly disturbing, but very good and highly recommended.

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[–] [creamerlad](#) 1 point 2 years ago

The bunker diary. That book left me feeling off for about two weeks

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[–] [goomerang](#) 1 point 2 years ago

I've not read much horror so I have nothing in that vein but I'll second *Geek Love*. I loved it though and would most definitely recommend it. To save their circus the mother and father of the story start experimenting with pregnancies to create their very own freak show by the mother ingesting all sorts of harmful things. There are conjoined twins, a limbless boy with stubby flippers for appendages, and the narrator is a hunchbacked albino.

And the most disturbing book from my childhood was actually a quartet of *Sweet Valley Twins* mystery specials about this monstrous girl that would get them in their sleep. It never failed to give me shivers no matter how many times I read it and knew how it worked out at the end. Nightmares being able to physically hurt you is a terrifying concept when you're ten.

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[–] [Khamelyon](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Apt Pupil was pretty messed up...way more than the movie.

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[–] [forafinedeadsound](#) 1 point 2 years ago

There is something about Beckett's *Trilogy* (*Molloy*, *Molone Dies* and *The Unnamable*) that gets to me. The writing is amazing, and the content isn't disturbing, rather the effect it has on me. I had to stop reading it at night because the language would get stuck in my head somehow and as I was going to sleep it was like I was in some kind of feedback loop, that then seeped into my dreams. It's super hard to explain, but the writing of a book has only changed my thought process once before (and I've forgotten which book), so really this was what was most disturbing. I think it's really exciting and amazing that it could do it, but I'm still pretty scared to pick it back up to finish it.

Anyone else have any idea what I'm talking about/experienced something similar?

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[–] [forafinedeadsound](#) 1 point 2 years ago

oh, I remembered. It was Stefan Zweig's chess story; the claustrophobia and partitioning of mind that the character experiences left me in shivers the whole time. I was really thankful it was so short cause shit was kinda warped for a bit while I was reading it.

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[[-](#)] [jambosmack](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Trainspotting

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[[-](#)] [AdumLarp](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Goodnight Moom by Jack MacLane. Book about a messed up family whose son turns out to be a hulking brute who likes to kill things. Had some weird imagery. I read it when I was about 17, I'm 35 now, so I don't know if it holds up, but it was a pretty crazy read back then. As far as what I find disturbing in books, violence against children. But then I find that disturbing in any type of media.

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[[-](#)] [LL37MOH](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Same answer every time this topic comes up -
"The Girl Next Door" by Jack Ketchum.

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[[-](#)] [\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 2 years ago

QBVII by Leon Uris was based on the crime of medical experiments done on humans during the holocaust. That was pretty disturbing.

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[[-](#)] [BunniesWithRabies](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Gerald's Game by Stephen King. I gave up at the point where
[the father molested his 8 year old daughter](#)

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[[-](#)] [serke](#) **1** 1 point 2 years ago

Will McIntosh's *Soft Apocalypse*.

It's about an economic collapse, and some of it was just so bleak... but believable. The protagonist is out of work and homeless, living in a tent city on the edge of town when the book opens. Other parts are so disgustingly vivid, I was thinking about them for weeks.

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[[-](#)] [Slythis](#) 1 point 2 years ago

This is going to sound odd but *The Bridge to Tarabithia* disturbed the shit out of my then 10 year old mind. I felt awful for weeks after reading that book and no other book has ever come close to messing with anything more than surface level emotions that go away when I'm done reading.

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[\[-\] KungFuWombat](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Seven Days of Peter Crumb

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[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Haunted me for days afterwards, there's a story of a doctors attempts to help the German war effort. I was convinced it couldn't be true.

<http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medallions>

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[\[-\] hoga1962](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Exquisite Corpse by Poppy Z. Brite

Well written book with extremely disturbing subject matter.

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[\[-\] thatscoolkyle](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Zombie, by Joyce Carol Oates.

It basically Jeffery Dahmer, from his perspective.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zombie_%28novel%29

I can count on one hand the number of books I've been enthralled with, but still needed to set down and take a break because of how they made me feel. This is one of those books.

The Road by Cormac McCarthy is also on that list, but for incredibly different reasons.

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[\[-\] GoopBox](#) 1 point 2 years ago

I would say Devil All the Time and Knock 'em Stiff by Donald Ray Pollack. I live in Ohio and can see everything he writes legit happening and that's what I find disturbing.

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[\[-\] KeeganTheFabulous](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Three chapters into *Brave New World*, I literally threw the book onto the ground in disgust.

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[\[-\] blerrycat](#) 1 point 2 years ago

Ruby by Cynthia Bond. Could hardly get through it.

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[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 1 point 2 years ago

"The rise and fall of the Third Reich" by William Shirer

http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rise_and_Fall_of_the_Third_Reich

Very scary because it really happened to a country that was otherwise formerly civilised and cultured.

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[\[-\] Gunnerkai](#) 0 points 2 years ago

I skimmed through the last half of *Catcher in the Rye*, because I felt like Holden was just a teenaged twerp that deserved that beating he got, and his relationship with his sister was getting really into pedophilic incest territory.

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[\[-\] scottapeshot](#) -1 points 2 years ago*

Male Fantasies, Vol. 1: Women, Floods, Bodies, History by Klaus Theweleit. Road map for the patriarchy, layout for genocide, message of doom for human relations.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/163117.Male_Fantasies?ac=1

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[\[+\] hipsterparalegal](#) *comment score below threshold (0 children)*

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