10 Books I Don’t Want to Imagine Life Without in the Order I First Read Them (and the number of times I’ve read them so far)

*Harriet the Spy*, Louise Fitzhugh (11)
*Catcher in the Rye*, J. D. Salinger (9)
*Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, Michael Chabon (2)
*A Confederacy of Dunces*, John Kennedy Toole (2)
*Happy Days*, H. L. Mencken (3)
*Rabbit at Rest*, John Updike (1)
*Lucky Jim*, Kingsley Amis (4)
*Nobody’s Fool*, Richard Russo (2)
*High Fidelity*, Nick Hornby (3)
*A Handful of Dust*, Evelyn Waugh (1)

**Coming-of-Age Books I Love**

*Skippy Dies*, Paul Murray
*Black Swan Green*, David Mitchell
*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
*The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*, Chris Fuhrman
*This Boy’s Life*, Tobias Wolff

**Amazing True Stories to Be Read Safe in Bed in the Dead of Winter**

*Endurance*, Alfred Lansing
*The Worst Journey in the World*, Apsley Cherry-Garrard
*Alone*, Richard E. Byrd

**Books Your Mother Wouldn’t Want You to Read If She Knew What Was In Them**

*Tropic of Cancer*, Henry Miller
*The Collector*, John Fowles
*Rabbit is Rich*, John Updike
*Portnoy’s Complaint*, Philip Roth
*The Fermata*, Nicholson Baker

**Great Books You Never Heard Of**

*Room Temperature*, Nicholson Baker
*The Folks That Live on the Hill*, Kingsley Amis
*The Risk Pool*, Richard Russo
*The Information*, Martin Amis
*My Life and Hard Times*, James Thurber
*One Man’s Meat*, E. B. White
*Ex Libris*, Anne Fadiman
*Morte D’Urban*, J. F. Powers

**My Friend Rebecca’s Favorite Books By Women**

*The Sea, The Sea*, Iris Murdoch
*Darkmans*, Nicola Barker
*White Teeth*, Zadie Smith
*Unless*, Carol Shields
*Veronica*, Mary Gaitskill
*The Shipping News*, Annie Proulx
*To the Lighthouse*, Virginia Woolf

**You Will Laugh**

*Uncle Fred in the Springtime*, P.G. Wodehouse
*Men at Arms*, Evelyn Waugh
*The Thought Gang*, Tibor Fischer
*Naked*, David Sedaris

**The Movie Was Good but the Book is Even Better**

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, Ken Kesey
*Billy Bathgate*, E.L. Doctorow
*Lolita*, Vladimir Nabokov
*A Clockwork Orange*, Anthony Burgess
*A Room With a View*, E. M. Forster
*The Witches of Eastwick*, John Updike
*Sophie’s Choice*, William Styron
*Wonder Boys*, Michael Chabon

**Terrific Contemporary Fiction**

*Then We Came to the End*, Joshua Ferris
*How to Breathe Underwater*, Julie Orringer
*The History of Love*, Nicole Krauss
*The Road*, Cormac McCarthy