November 2013

For Readers Only

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Recommended Citation
Leonhardt, Tom (1996) "For Readers Only," Against the Grain: Vol. 8: Iss. 3, Article 15.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.1906

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For Readers Only

Book Titles Containing Numbers

by Tom Leonhardt (University of Oklahoma) <tom@libadm.lib.uoknor.edu>

John B. MacDonald is known for his use of colors in his book titles, for example, Darker Than Amber, Empty Copper Sea, Green Ripper, and Turquoise Lament, to name but a few. If there is an author who uses numbers in titles, I don't know who it is and hope that you will let me know who it is that I am missing. Looking back on books I have read over the past thirty-four years, I notice that in addition to colors, personal names, and so on, there were about thirty titles with numbers in them, not counting dates and not counting ordinal numbers. Can you identify the books and authors using the clues below? They are listed in the order in which I read them. Some were better than others; some were even worth rereading.

1. Elizabeth Taylor starred in the film version of this book. The author wrote about a part of society that is still alien to me but fascinating nonetheless. He was extremely popular in the 1950s and early 1960s. If I am not mistaken, the title may be a telephone exchange. I was going to insert clues about Alberto Moravia's Two Adolescents but decided that it would be too obscure. Has anyone out there read it, too?

2. Here is a gimme so you will get at least one correct answer. You should know the name of this book and author when I tell you that the action takes place in Warsaw during World War II. I believe that this book was also turned into a film.

3. Number three also takes place in Europe but 150 years (give or take a few years) earlier. It isn't the best book I have ever read but it isn't the worst book, either.

4. Finally, a book by a Nobel prize winner. I read this book while in jump school at Fort Benning, Georgia. This man's situation made austere paratrooper life seem like paradise by comparison. I later got to see and hear this author speak to a group at Stanford in front of the Hoover Tower in 1975 or 76.

5. The author of this book wrote a fairly cynical sequel to a novel that became a catch-phrase. It is not necessary to have read the original to read (notice that I didn't say enjoy) the sequel. I finished it and then started to worry that I had become literarily what the leather-jacketed patient (Steve Martin?) was to dentistry in The Little Shop of Horrors. I didn't enjoy it but I read it anyway.

6. Think of one of the most famous books in American literature (it is non-fiction) and then think of his experiment as a communal experience. If you are a child of the sixties you will probably have read this. Power to the people!

7. The landmark kiss-and-tell sports book, it is tame by today's standards or lack thereof. Two of the main characters (this is also non-fiction) are no longer with us; both dying from alcohol-related causes.

8. Name the author and either of his two books featuring this rugged British hero and having a number in the title. First appearing in 1915 in a popular British magazine, one of these stories became a bestseller and later was used as the basis of a motion picture. Here is what The British Weekly had to say about the story: "We have everything here that can be wished — an excellent cipher story, with one or two points of novelty, a murder, a big subterranean business, a flight in a stolen motor-car, a monoplane floating with deadly intent, a

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Radical candidate, and all the rest. Not all the rest, for the woman has not yet appeared on the scene. But nobody must miss the tale. This hero went on in subsequent novels, to earn a knighthood becoming Sir R.H. The last of the R.H. books was written by the governor of one of the British commonwealths, who lived from 1875 to 1940. This prolific author published his first novel before he went to Oxford where he served as Librarian of the Oxford Union in 1898. Happily, these books and several others by our author are still in print and are still fun to read.

9. The number in this title alludes to a famous sleuth. The author is not particularly well-known and, if memory serves me, it is a book that is fun to read but not especially memorable except for the title. Was it made into a movie or a television show? I think it might have been but that is not a clue. How can I say more without giving the book away?

10. Another famous figure in this non-fiction work. At least I think it is non-fiction. Why can’t I remember? Am I suppressing something? An address perhaps? Too much Viennese coffee can cause temporary loss of memory.

Now that I have compiled this puzzle it occurs to me that you will probably need an online public access catalog with keywords to get some of these answers. I suggest that you use the OCLC online union catalog for comprehensiveness. Actually, some of you may be able to get most of these without leaving your chair. Number ten could be a stumper but if you analyze it carefully you will no doubt find the correct answer.

Juris Libris
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Internal Union Governance


Individual/At-Will Employment

Brodie, Donald W. Individual Employment Disputes: Definite & Indefinite Term Contracts. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1990. ISBN 0-89930-512-1, ph: 1-203-226-3571. $59.95. As unions struggle to maintain membership and devise strategies to organize public and previously underrepresented employees, the fastest growing sub-field within labor law is individual/at-will employment. Within this sub-field one of the first questions to be asked is as to the existence of a contract, express or implied, or for a definite or indefinite term. This work provides clear and excellent analysis of this critical initial question.


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