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Bet You Missed It-What do mobile phones and vengeful women have in common?

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Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor: **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Editor's Note: Hey, are y'all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to *Against the Grain's* attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We're listening! — **KS**

MOBILE PHONE LITRA'CHER by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Margaret Atwood (*The Handmaid's Tale*), at age 74, is still in the literary action. Fascinated by **Wattpad** and adolescents who read stories on their iPhones, she tried — you guessed it — a **Zombie** story — *The Happy Zombie Sunrise Home*. So far, she has gotten a mere 80,000 reads, which is nothing next to **Abigail Gibb's** vampire saga *The Dark Heroine*, with 4.8 million. And **Abigail** got a six-figure contract with **HarperCollins**.

See — **Alexandra Alter**, "A Literary Star Dabbles in Web Publishing," *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 23, 2012, p.D5.

JULIA CHILD OF MEXICO by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

89-year-old British-born **Diana Kennedy** has passed the last 55 years in Mexico collecting recipes from cooks across the country. She lives in an adobe house with an outdoor kitchen, wood-fired grills, and adobe beehive ovens. A rainwater tank is the only water source.

With the eye of an anthropologist and the hand of a home cook, she has learned it all and put it down in nine books. Top chefs from around the world knock on her kitchen door to learn what she calls *comida casera* — honest food. See e.g., *Nothing Fancy* (Dial Press, 1984), *My Mexico* (Clarkson Potter, 1998).

See — **Beth Kracklauer**, "The Expat," *Saveur (Special Issue Mexico)*, p.56.

WOMAN'S WRATH by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

And if you're in the mood for novels about vengeful women: **Helen Zahavi**, *Dirty Weekend* (1991); **Anita Shreve**, *The Weight of Water* (1997); **Helen Dunmore**, *Your Blue-Eyed Boy* (1998); **Charles Dickens**, *Great Expectations* (1861); **Kate Pullinger**, *Weird Sister* (1999).

See — **Louise Doughty**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 4-5, 2012, p.C10.

UPENDING HIGHER ED by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

2U got its start offering master's degrees from USC and **Georgetown**. Now it's got \$96,000,000(!) in venture capital for online undergrad courses from a consortium of **Duke**, **Northwestern**, and **Vandy**. Who's behind this? **Jeremy Johnson** (age 28), **Princeton Review** founder **John Katzman**, and former **Hooked on Phonics** CEO **Chip Paucek**.

See — **Caroline Howard** and **Michael Noer**, "30 Under 30," *Forbes*, Jan. 21, 2013, p.70.

DREISER AND DESIRE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Theodore Dreiser was fascinated by tycoon-level wealth. Probably everyone read *An American Tragedy* (1925) in high school about a poor boy yearning for more and murdering his girlfriend after knocking her up. But **Dreiser** spent most of his writing career on his "Trilogy of Desire" (*The Financier*; *The Titan*; *The Stoic*) based on the life of **Charles Tyson Yerkes**, stock speculator and cable car magnate.

Dreiser was still laboring over *The Stoic* when he died in 1945, and it was published posthumously in 1947. But the really good one was *The Financier* with its examination of money, art, glory, and yes, sex — a lot of sex — in the Gilded Age. It included intricate details of 19th-century finance which were cut from the novel when released in 1927.

Now the **University of Illinois Press** has restored the finance stuff. Who says University presses don't serve a useful purpose? For those interested in shorting stocks and the Panic of 1873, this is for you.

See — **Leonard Cassuto**, "A Life Driven by Desire," *The Wall Street Journal*, May 5-6, 2012, p.C13. (**Cassuto** is a professor of English at **Fordham** and editor of *The Cambridge History of the American Novel*.)



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in the physical and digital environments and in the services to support both.

Jill Emery — **The Role of the Modern Intermediary and What Constitutes Value in the Library of 2012** — discusses libraries' continuing struggle with the prime issues of journal transfer and platform changes with electronic subscription management. She provides two specific examples that illustrate how local technical services staff hours are spent addressing these issues and proposes ways intermediaries can help improve these situations.

Emery goes on to explore developing areas in libraries and where librarians' focus will be in the next five years.

Ann Lawson — **Thriving in Chaos: Intermediaries Delivering Value in a Changing Landscape** — discusses how the burgeoning volume of electronic content, in its many forms, is constantly changing the landscape for all involved in the information industry, leading to a reliance on multiple solutions for management and delivery. This is costly and resource-hungry. Our world is becoming ever more complex; money is in short supply; libraries need to develop and implement mechanisms and solutions, either by themselves, in consortia, or to outsource to an intermediary.

She states that to help libraries to thrive in such a chaotic, changing landscape, intermediaries have to be agile and quick to adapt, delivering added value to libraries, institutions, corporations, publishers, and consortia alike.

Pinar Erzin — **Adding Value to the Publishers' Business** — talks about finding the niche in serving publishers as an agent, without being a traditional subscription agent. She addresses questions: Bridging between libraries and publishers, how does that position sales organizations like Accucoms in the supply chain? Do we compete or do we work together? What are some of the other emerging initiatives being added to the supply chain — for example, small publisher coalitions? 🌐