

November 2017

## Bet You Missed It-What do fake art and food have in common?

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### Recommended Citation

Strauch, Bruce (2017) "Bet You Missed It-What do fake art and food have in common?," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 29: Iss. 5, Article 23.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.7851>

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# Bet You Missed It

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

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**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**

## LET'S READ REVENGE

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

**Charles Dickens**, *Great Expectations* (1861) (the jilted Miss Havisham takes revenge on the world); (2) **Ian Fleming**, *Moonraker* (1955) (ex-Nazi Hugo Drax plans to blow up London; **Fleming** writing in his prime); (3) **Agatha Christie**, *the Mirror Crack'd From Side to Side* (1962) (Miss Marple allows sympathetic killer to escape justice); (4) **Émile Zola**, *Thérèse Raquin* (1867) (lovers murder girl's husband, destroyed by madness and guilt); (5) **Arthur Conan Doyle**, *A Study in Scarlet* (1887) (**Doyle's** first big novel and the first modern detective story).

See — **Anthony Horowitz**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, June 10-11, 2017; p. C10.

**Horowitz** is the creator of "Foyle's War" and author of "Magpie Murders."

## CHASING KEATS IN SCOTLAND

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

In the early 1800s, Scotland was a hot literary tourist destination. It had been made famous by **Wordsworth**, **Boswell** and **Johnson**, and **Robert Burns**.

In the summer of 1818, **Keats** set off on a fanboy hike. At **Wordsworth's** home in the Lake District, the great man was out. **Keats** left a note.

At **Burns'** home in Alloway, south of Glasgow, **Keats** found the cottage turned into a pub and a drunk old fool spinning yarns in a swap for ale.

Today, the town museum holds the world's largest collection of **Burns** manuscripts plus a "Burns Jukebox" with "Power Ballads" and "Tearjerkers."

**Keats** went on to Mull, Iona and Inverness. He returned to London for the most productive year of his life, penning "Ode to a Nightingale" and "Ode on a Grecian Urn."

See — **Anna Russell** (who recently made the journey by car), "Poetry in Motion," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 15-16, 2017, p. D3.

## LET'S READ NOVELS SET IN LONDON

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

**Elizabeth Bowen**, *The Heat of the Day* (1948) (espionage and blackmail in wartime); (2) **J.M. Coetzee**, *Youth* (2002) (self-loathing S. African poet lives in drab bedsits working as computer programmer while trying to write); (3) **Nell Dunn**, *Poor Cow* (1967) (working class girl with boyfriend in prison turns tricks for cash); (4) **Arnold Bennett**, *Riceyman Steps* (1923) (over-the-top miser runs second hand book store in Clerkenwell); (5) **Muriel Spark**, *A Far Cry From Kensington* (1988) (young war widow lives in wretched boarding house amidst malice, secrecy and paranoia yet book is a revenge comedy).

See — **Helen Simpson**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, June 17-18, 2017, p. C10.



## LET'S READ ABOUT WW II CORRESPONDENTS

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

**Eric Sevareid**, *Not So Wild a Dream* (1946) (hired by **Ed Murrow**, later a major TV newsman); (2) **Alan Moorehead**, *Eclipse* (1945) (graphic account of the Falaise Gap is unsurpassed by any other writing of the war); (3) **Osmar White**, *Conquerors' Road* (1996) (his dark side of the war accounts of black marketeering, criticism of **Patton** and revulsion at **Nuremberg** trials got him rejected by publishers immediately post-war, much later in print); (4) **Ernie Pyle**, *Brave Men* (1944) (focused on the ordinary grunt, he became the most read correspondent of the war); (5) **George Weller**, *Weller's War* (2009) (covered more battle-fronts than anyone; first into Nagasaki).

See — **Ray Moseley**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 1-2, 2017, p. C10.

**Moseley** is the author of "Reporting War: How Foreign Correspondents Risked Capture, Torture and Death to Cover World War II."

## RED CLOUD: CATHER COUNTRY

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

"There are only two or three human stories, and they go on repeating themselves as fiercely as if they had never happened." — **Willia Cather**.

Red Cloud, Nebraska is like Hannibal, MO and Oxford, MS — each inscribed with a writer's identity. The **National Willa Cather Center** has opened with archives, museum exhibits, apartments for scholars and book store.

"**Cather People**" as the locals call the literary tourists are a key element of the local economy. The **Cather** home has been preserved, and the train station is a museum. A 600-acre preserved prairie — the **Willa Cather Memorial Prairie** — has the never-plowed grassland of the 1880s when she moved there from Virginia.

*This is quite a worthwhile article that reviews Cather's life and career at McClure's and as a novelist, her lesbian romances and her place as a major modernist rivaling Woolf and Joyce.*

See — **Alex Ross**, "Cather People," *The New Yorker*, Oct. 2, 2017, p.32.

## LET'S READ ABOUT ADULTERY

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel, Emeritus)

**Evelyn Waugh**, *A Handful of Dust* (1934) (this is **Waugh's** great one where the cuckolded husband ends up trapped by a lunatic on the Amazon endlessly reading aloud from **Dickens**); (2) **Ford Madox Ford**, *The Good Soldier* (1915) (wealthy British and American couples at German spa); (3) **Henry James**, *The Golden Bowl* (1904) (impoverish Roman prince and his no-money American lover each marry money and then continue their affair); (4) **Stendhal**, *The Red and the Black* (1830) (provincial aristocrat wife and the teenage tutor of her children); (5) **Guy de Maupassant**, *Like Death* (1889) (politician's wife has affair with portrait painter who in turn falls in love with her daughter).

See — **Anka Muhlstein**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2017, p.C16.

**Muhlstein** is the author of "The Pen and the Brush: How Passion for Art Shaped 19th-Century French Novels."