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

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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).


Horowitz is the creator of “Foyle’s War” and author of “Maggie 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 “Tearyerkers.”

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.”


LET'S READ NOVELS SET IN LONDON
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel, Emeritus)


LETS 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 marketing, 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).


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

RED CLOUD: CATHTER 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.” — Willa 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.


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).
