

# Boulder Great Books Discussion Group

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

2023 Schedule. **Meet via remote conferencing - <https://meet.jit.si/>**

January 5, 2023 Christopher Coker, [The Rise of the Civilizational State](#) (205 pages)

January 19, 2023 Joseph Tainter, [The Collapse of Complex Societies](#) (242 pages)

February 2, 2023 Ann Leckie, [Ancillary Justice](#) (386 pages)

February 16, 2023 Briant Wolfe, (30 pages)  
[Hacking Human Nature for Good: Understanding Human Irrationality](#)  
and Robert Sapolsky, [Behave](#), chapters 9 - 14 (286 pages)

March 2, 2023 Orlando Patterson, [Freedom in the Making of Western Culture](#)  
Parts I and II (202 pages)

March 16, 2023 Orlando Patterson, [Freedom in the Making of Western Culture](#)  
Parts III and IV (199 pages)

(3 weeks)  
April 6, 2023 Martha Nussbaum, [Women and Human Development](#) (304 pages)

April 20, 2023 Tahmima Anam, [The Good Muslim](#) (256 pages)

May 4, 2023 Mino Moallem, [Between Warrior Brother and Veiled Sister: Islamic Fundamentalism and the Politics of Patriarchy in Iran](#) (188 pages)

May 18, 2023 Christopher de Bellaigue, [The Islamic Enlightenment](#) (222 pages)

June 1, 2023 Willa Cather, [The Professor's House](#) (202 pages)

(3 weeks)  
June 22, 2023 Sarah Chayes, [On Corruption in America](#) (308 pages)

July 6, 2023 Peter Turchin, [Ages of Discord](#) (290 pages)

July 20, 2023 A.L. Kennedy, [The Little Snake](#) (132 pages)

Newcomers welcome anytime! This file is [sackett.net/GreatBooks2023.pdf](http://www.sackett.net/GreatBooks2023.pdf).

For further information call Bill at 3.449.4136 or see

<http://www.sackett.net/BoulderGreatBooks.htm> (As of: August 4, 2023)

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August 3, 2023 Elizabeth Tallent, ( 62 pages)  
“[Prowler](#)”, “[Ciudad Juarez](#),” “[Earth to Molly](#),” and “[Honey](#)” from [Honey](#)

August 17, 2023 Carl Safina, [Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel](#)  
(1<sup>st</sup> half of 496 pages)

September 7, 2023 Carl Safina, [Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel](#)  
(2<sup>nd</sup> half of 496 pages)

September 21, 2023 Ivar Ekeland, (207 pages)  
[The Best of All Possible Worlds: Mathematics and Destiny](#)

October 5, 2023 David Bodanis [Passionate Minds: Emilie Chatelet , Voltaire and the Great Love Affair of the Enlightenment](#). (Sections 1 – 4, 165 pages )

Optional extra credit: Nancy Mitford [Voltaire in Love](#) (Chapters 1 – 11, 108 pages)

October 19, 2023 David Bodanis [Passionate Minds: Emilie Chatelet , Voltaire and the Great Love Affair of the Enlightenment](#). (Sections 5 – 8, 134 pages)

Optional extra credit: Nancy Mitford [Voltaire in Love](#) (Chapters 12 – 23, 99 pages)

November 2, 2023 Marc Reisner [Cadillac Desert](#) (first five chapters, 175 pages)

November 16, 2023 John McPhee [Rising From the Plains](#) (214 pages)

(3 weeks)

December 7, 2023 Pascal Boyer, [Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought](#) (Chapters 1 – 4, 168 pages)

December 21, 2023 Note: in our December 7 meeting, we will decide whether to read the remainder of Religion Explained on 12/21 or to read Introduction to Kashmiri Shaivism. If the former, we will (likely) read the latter on January 4, 2024  
Gurudev Siddha Peeth [Introduction to Kashmiri Shaivism](#) (69/88 pages)

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