

The New York Times Ten Best Books of 2007

[MAN GONE DOWN](#)

By Michael Thomas. Black Cat/Grove/Atlantic, paper, \$14. This first novel explores the fragmented personal histories behind four desperate days in a black writer's life.

[OUT STEALING HORSES](#)

By Per Petterson. Translated by Anne Born. Graywolf Press, \$22. In this short yet spacious Norwegian novel, an Oslo professional hopes to cure his loneliness with a plunge into solitude.

[THE SAVAGE DETECTIVES](#)

By Roberto Bolaño. Translated by Natasha Wimmer. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27. A craftily autobiographical novel about a band of literary guerrillas.

[THEN WE CAME TO THE END](#)

By Joshua Ferris. Little, Brown & Company, \$23.99. Layoff notices fly in Ferris's acidly funny first novel, set in a white-collar office in the wake of the dot-com debacle.

[TREE OF SMOKE](#)

By Denis Johnson. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27. The author of "Jesus' Son" offers a soulful novel about the travails of a large cast of characters during the Vietnam War.

[IMPERIAL LIFE IN THE EMERALD CITY: Inside Iraq's Green Zone.](#)

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran. Alfred A. Knopf, \$25.95; Vintage, paper, \$14.95. The author, a Washington Post journalist, catalogs the arrogance and ineptitude that marked America's governance of Iraq.

[LITTLE HEATHENS: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression.](#)

By Mildred Armstrong Kalish. Bantam Books, \$22. Kalish's soaring love for her childhood memories saturates this memoir, which coaxes the reader into joy, wonder and even envy.

[THE NINE: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court.](#)

By Jeffrey Toobin. Doubleday, \$27.95. An erudite outsider's account of the cloistered court's inner workings.

[THE ORDEAL OF ELIZABETH MARSH: A Woman in World History.](#)

By Linda Colley. Pantheon Books, \$27.50. Colley tracks the "compulsively itinerant" Marsh across the 18th century and several continents.

[THE REST IS NOISE: Listening to the Twentieth Century.](#)

By Alex Ross. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$30. In his own feat of orchestration, The New Yorker's music critic presents a history of the last century as refracted through its classical music.