



NY Times Staffers' Top Book Picks for 2024

Description

Elizabeth Kennedy, White House editor

I came across a book called **LOVED AND MISSED** by chance. It grabbed my attention in the bookstore, even though I didn't recognize the author. The story revolves around Ruth, a woman who takes in her granddaughter due to her daughter's drug addiction. The emotional journey portrayed in this book, of loving someone flawed, is remarkably poignant. It beautifully captures the essence of being human, despite life's uncertainties.

The book also delves into the importance of food, with vivid descriptions of jam tarts, roasted potatoes, and more. These moments remind us of our shared humanity, as we all must eat to sustain ourselves, regardless of life's challenges.

Carolyn Ryan, managing editor

I was fascinated by the biography **CHASING BEAUTY**, which follows the extraordinary life of Isabella Stewart Gardner. Despite societal conventions, Gardner led a daring and intellectual life, marked by her unique eccentricities and deep involvement in the art world.

The biography explores Gardner's transformation after facing personal tragedies, like the death of her son, into a passionate art collector and benefactor. While her story is captivating, it also raises questions about her indifference to important social issues of her time.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Poignant** /'pɔɪ.njənt/ (adjective): Evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret.
2. **Flawed** /flɔ:d/ (adjective): Having imperfections or weaknesses.
3. **Vivid** /'vɪv.ɪd/ (adjective): Producing powerful feelings or strong clear images in the mind.
4. **Transform** /træns'fɔ:rm/ (verb): To make a thorough or dramatic change in form appearance or character.
5. **Eccentricities** /,ɛk.sən'trɪs.i.tɪz/ (noun): The quality of being eccentric; unusual or unconventional behavior.
6. **Benefactor** /'bɛn.ɪ.fæktər/ (noun): A person who gives money or other help to a person or cause.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who is the White House editor mentioned in the content?
Option: Elizabeth Kennedy
Option: Carolyn Ryan
Option: Isabella Stewart Gardner
Option: Ruth
2. Which book is discussed in the content that revolves around Ruth and her granddaughter?
Option: CHASING BEAUTY
Option: LOVED AND MISSED
Option: The Biography of Isabella Stewart Gardner
Option: A Tale of Two Cities
3. What food item is vividly described in the book mentioned in the content?
Option: Cupcakes
Option: Jam Tarts
Option: Sushi Rolls
Option: French Fries
4. Who is the managing editor mentioned in the content?
Option: Elizabeth Kennedy
Option: Carolyn Ryan
Option: Isabella Stewart Gardner
Option: Ruth
5. What does the biography of Isabella Stewart Gardner explore?
Option: Her love for animals
Option: Her passion for fashion
Option: Her involvement in the art world
Option: Her interest in cooking
6. What personal tragedy led to Isabella Stewart Gardner's transformation?
Option: Loss of a friend



- Option: Death of her son
- Option: Moving to a new city
- Option: Career setback

True-False

7. The book "LOVED AND MISSED" focuses on a character named Ruth.
8. The story of Isabella Stewart Gardner in the biography "CHASING BEAUTY" is depicted as one of indifference to social issues.
9. The book "LOVED AND MISSED" includes detailed descriptions of various food items.
10. Isabella Stewart Gardner was known for her conventional lifestyle.
11. The biography of Isabella Stewart Gardner portrays her as a passionate art collector.
12. The book "LOVED AND MISSED" was recognized by the editor, Carolyn Ryan.

Gap-Fill

13. Isabella Stewart Gardner led a daring and intellectual life despite societal conventions, marked by her unique _____ and deep involvement in the art world.
14. The emotional journey portrayed in the book "LOVED AND MISSED" emphasizes the importance of accepting and loving someone _____.
15. The biography of Isabella Stewart Gardner raises questions about her response to important social issues of her _____.
16. The book "LOVED AND MISSED" beautifully captures the essence of being _____, despite life's uncertainties.



17. In "LOVED AND MISSED," Ruth takes in her granddaughter due to her daughter's

_____.

18. Isabella Stewart Gardner transformed into a passionate art collector and benefactor after facing

personal _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Elizabeth Kennedy 2. LOVED AND MISSED 3. Jam Tarts 4. Carolyn Ryan 5. Her involvement in the art world 6. Death of her son

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. eccentricities 14. flawed 15. time 16. human 17. drug addiction 18. tragedies

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What legal action is being referred to when one party sues another in court?

Option: Accusation

Option: Lawsuit

Option: Speculation

Option: Allegation

2. What term describes the attention or visibility given to someone or something by the media?

Option: Deserving

Option: Flawed

Option: Publicity

Option: Incredible

3. What word means to make a marked change in the form nature or appearance of something?

Option: Eccentricities

Option: Transform

Option: Surreal

Option: Reboot

4. Which term denotes the process of creating a film by photographing drawings or objects in small increments?



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- Option: Animated
Option: Narrative
Option: Merchandise
Option: Collaborate
5. What adjective describes an experience that produces a sudden feeling of excitement and pleasure?
Option: Adventures
Option: Multitude
Option: Iconic
Option: Thrilling
6. Which term denotes a task or situation that tests someone's abilities?
Option: Regret
Option: Challenge
Option: Showcase
Option: Poignant
7. What term refers to the skillful creation or production of something?
Option: Crafting
Option: Deserving
Option: Incredible
Option: Regret
8. What term describes a person who gives money or other help to a person or cause?
Option: Vivid
Option: Flawed
Option: Benefactor
Option: Surreal
9. What term refers to goods to be bought and sold?
Option: Reboot
Option: Immersive
Option: Connections
Option: Merchandise
10. Which term describes links or relationships that exist between people places or things?
Option: Incredible
Option: Multitude
Option: Connections
Option: Iconic



Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The _____ made against the company led to a lengthy investigation.
12. His artistic work was known for its unique _____ that set it apart from traditional styles.
13. After facing several setbacks the company decided to _____ its marketing strategy.
14. The event attracted a _____ of participants from various countries.
15. The red dress she wore became an _____ symbol of elegance and style.
16. She expressed deep _____ for not being able to attend the important meeting.
17. The event was a perfect platform to _____ local talent and creativity.
18. The roller coaster ride provided a _____ experience with its twists and turns.
19. The artist created a _____ world in his paintings that blurred the lines between reality and fantasy.
20. The two companies decided to _____ on a new project to combine their expertise.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The stock market was driven by rumors and about the company's future.
22. Her hard work and dedication made her a winner of the prestigious award.
23. The magician performed an trick that left the audience in awe.
24. The research study had a number of methodological errors that rendered its conclusions .
25. The author painted a picture of the bustling city in her novel.
26. The film portrayed a story of love and loss that moved many viewers to tears.



27. The virtual reality game provided an experience that transported players to another world.

28. The anonymous donor was a generous who supported numerous charitable causes.

29. The author weaved a complex and engaging that captivated readers until the end.

30. The brave explorer set out on thrilling to discover new lands and treasures.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Lawsuit 2. Publicity 3. Transform 4. Animated 5. Thrilling 6. Challenge 7. Crafting
8. Benefactor 9. Merchandise 10. Connections

Gap-Fill: 11. allegations 12. eccentricities 13. reboot 14. multitude 15. iconic 16. regret 17. showcase
18. thrilling 19. surreal 20. collaborate

Matching sentence: 1. speculation 2. deserving 3. incredible 4. flawed 5. vivid 6. poignant 7. immersive
8. benefactor 9. narrative 10. adventures

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL3

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