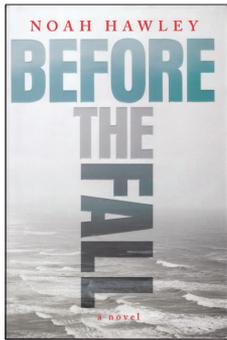


Reading with Raymond

Raymond Saadi



Before the Fall

By Noah Hawley
Grand Central \$26

Scott Burroughs, a struggling artist, accepts a ride on a private jet flying between Martha's Vineyard and New York City. Neither he nor any of the other 10 passengers have any idea that the plane will crash into the Atlantic just 16 minutes after takeoff. Scott, incredibly, survives the crash, as does the four year-old son of the head of ALC Cable News Network. Scott swims 10 miles through the dark, icy waters with the boy on his back, to safety. He is hailed as a hero by virtually everyone except, ironically, the muckraking ALC News Host. Each passenger's back-story adds to the mystery and suspense of this terrific thriller. ✚

The Jealous Kind

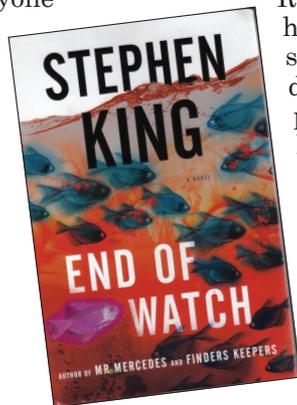
By James Lee Burke
Simon & Schuster
\$27.99



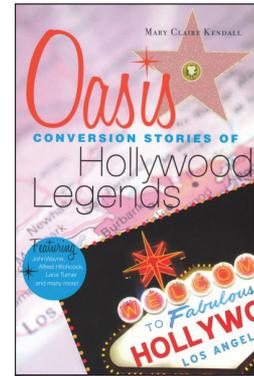
Houston, Texas, is the perfect fit for the forties, with the Korean War raging, and high school kids wondering about their future. Aaron Holland Broussard, an impressionable high schooler sees and instantly falls for the beautiful Valerie Epstein who, as it happens, is enamored of and by, the town's gang leader and son of the powerful local mob boss. Aaron realizes he is seriously challenged to prove himself to Valerie and to the memory of his father who fought in the Great War. Burke's ability to recreate this nostalgic down-to-earth moment in time will resonate strongly among those who were there. ✚

End of Watch

By Stephen King
Scribner \$30



In this satisfying conclusion to the trilogy that began with the deliberate automobile rampage into a crowd of innocent people in "Mr. Mercedes," followed by the capture of the madman, Brady Hartsfield, in "Finders Keepers," we now find him a mere vegetable confined to a hospital room staring into space. Readers learn quickly, however, that he's shamming and has developed telekinetic powers that allow him to enter the minds of others to perform his deadly wishes, especially to pay back retired Detective Bill Hodges who's responsible for his imprisonment. ✚



OASIS: Conversion Stories of Hollywood Legends

By Mary Claire Kendall
Franciscan Media \$16.99

Here are fascinating stories of famous Hollywood stars who converted to Catholicism, albeit often on their deathbeds. Some, however, like former actress, Dolores Hart, now Prioress of Abbey of Regina Laudis, chose God over Hollywood early on who highly praises the book's author in the Foreword. Patricia Neal, who converted the day before she died, had already announced that she would do so. John Wayne was another "covert" Catholic. He would attend Mass or simply sit in a church and quietly meditate. When "Duke" was diagnosed with stomach cancer, a Paulist priest came to baptize him and hear his confession. Bob Hope had the help and encouragement of his wife, Dolores, who longed for him to convert and kept saying, "One of these days ...), and then, one day, he said, "Okay, it's time." Author Kendall tells their stories, warts and all, before conversion, and happy endings. ✚