



Diamond in the Rough

by Shawn Colvin | ★★★★★

REVIEWED BY MEREDITH MARAN

MEMOIR

Shawn Colvin took up guitar at age 10, gave her first concert at 15, then went on to tour with Suzanne Vega, sing with Dylan, release 10 albums, and win three Grammys—while navigating turbulent relationships, raising a daughter and waging battles with anorexia, alcoholism and mental illness. Colvin's fans will devour her behind-the-scenes stories; single mothers will relate to her struggle to do right by her child. And those who have suffered depression—or loved someone who has—will find much to inspire in this compelling redemption story.

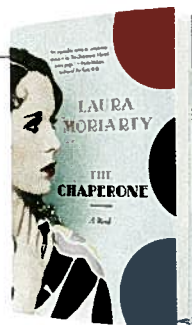
The Chaperone

by Laura Moriarty | ★★★★★

REVIEWED BY ROBIN MICHELI

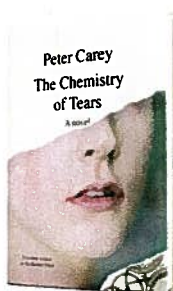
NOVEL

When silent film star Louise Brooks was a sexually provocative and headstrong 15-year-old from Kansas, she traveled with a chaperone to New York City to attend dance school. In this fascinating historical novel, her minder, Cora, struggles to keep her charge within the bounds of propriety but finds herself questioning the confines of her own life. Through Cora the world of early 20th-century America comes alive, and her personal triumphs become cause for celebration.



The Chemistry of Tears

by Peter Carey | ★★★★★



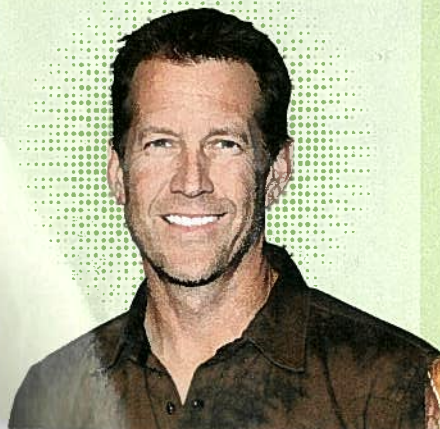
NOVEL

Two anguished people separated by almost 200 years find consolation in a marvelous invention: an eerily lifelike and beautiful mechanical swan. Alternating between the notebooks of the swan's original owner and the thoughts of a grief-stricken conservator who's reconstructing it in a London museum, this beguiling novel from Peter Carey (*Oscar & Lucinda*) is a clever meditation on science, love and life's unpredictability, but in its cruelty, magic and tenderness, it reads like a grown-up fairy tale.—H.R.

STAR PICKS: MY FAVORITE AUTHOR

JAMES DENTON

"If I had to pick, I'd say **Edgar Allan Poe**. I was like a weird, dark kid in high school in central Tennessee. . . . I love his short stories, poems, all of it."



ELLEN BURSTYN

"I'm a big reader, so it would be hard to pick one. I love **Thomas Mann**, but now I'm into poetry more than novels. **Mary Oliver** is my favorite poet."



VAL KILMER

"For drama, I'd have to say **Shakespeare**, but [Christian Science founder] **Mary Baker Eddy** is probably my favorite writer. It's very dynamic thinking."

