



Erik Larson

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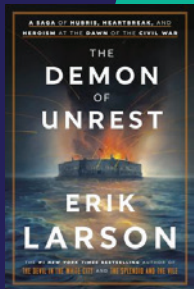
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ERIK LARSON



Bestselling author Erik Larson's critically acclaimed book, *The Devil in the White City*, intertwines the stories of the Chicago 1893 World's Fair and one of America's worst serial killers. It remained on the *New York Times* bestseller lists for a combined total of over six years, won an Edgar Award for nonfiction crime writing and was nominated for the National Book Award. His latest book, *Demon of Unrest*, offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Abraham Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Fort Sumter.



INTRODUCTION RENEE SENTILLES

Renee Sentilles is a historian focused on American culture and women's history. Her work explores how imagination and reality shape each other, and how individual experience connects with historical context. She is currently writing *In Her Shoes: Getting to the Sole of 20th Century American Women's History*, a book that uses historical shoes to make women's history accessible to a broad audience.

A professor in the Department of History at Case Western Reserve University, Sentilles brings an interdisciplinary approach rooted in her background in American Studies. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses spanning women's history, childhood, the American West, cultural shifts through books, and biography.

She is the author of *Performing Menken: Adah Isaacs Menken and the Birth of American Celebrity* (2003) and *American Tomboys: 1850-1915* (2018). Her current writing blends historical fiction and narrative nonfiction, and she's passionate about expanding creative approaches to historical writing.

Sentilles also enjoys painting and lives in Cleveland Heights with her son.

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Larson's "The Devil in the White City" spent a combined total of more than six years on the New York Times bestseller list and won an Edgar Award for nonfiction crime writing. His latest book, "Demon of Unrest," offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Abraham Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Fort Sumter.

We are grateful for the gift of his writing and the remarkable power to lift and unite people from all walks of life.



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June 10, 2025



Cuyahoga County
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A group of five diverse people (three women and two men) are smiling and laughing in front of a blue wall covered with various papers and sticky notes. The man in the center is wearing a dark t-shirt with 'CLEVELAND IS THE CITY' printed on it.

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Your planned gift will be multiplied with gifts from other individuals and families to benefit programs and services available in all the branches. The new Sari Feldman Fund of the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation will support innovative programs and services that enhance library learning experiences throughout the CCPL system. These are library programs that secure CCPL's standing as one of the nation's leading public library systems but cannot be sustained through general operating funds alone. All unrestricted planned gifts given to the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation will help grow the Sari Feldman Fund to support continued and new programming.

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The 2024-25 William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series is presented by the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation and our Academic Partner, Case Western Reserve University.

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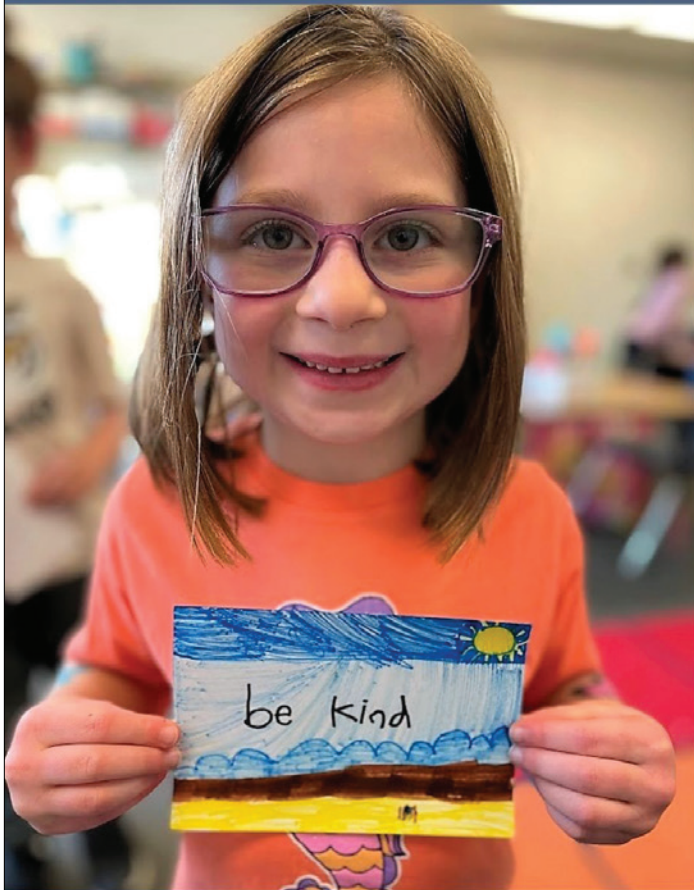
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2004 - 2005

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2005 - 2006

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JANE SMILEY
ANNA QUINDLEN

2006 - 2007

FRANK McCOURT
AMY TAN
JIM LEHRER
TONY KUSHNER &
GEORGE C. WOLFE

2007 - 2008

IRA GLASS & DAVID RAKOFF
RUSSELL BANKS &
RICHARD RUSSO
JOYCE CAROL OATES
AZAR NAFISI

2008 - 2009

DAVID McCULLOUGH
JANE & MICHAEL STERN
MYLA GOLDBERG,
JONATHAN LETHAM &
COLSON WHITEHEAD
WITH NANCY PEARL
JOAN DIDION

2009 - 2010

GARRY TRUDEAU
CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY
MARY OLIVER
JHUMPA LAHIRI

2010 - 2011

DR. NEIL DeGRASSE TYSON
JEANNETTE WALLS
DAVE EGGERS
PETE HAMILL

2011 - 2012

ELIZABETH STROUT
MICHAEL POLLAN
BILLY COLLINS
DR. ABRAHAM VERGHESE
ANNE LAMOTT
COLM TÓIBÍN

2012 - 2013

EMMA DONOGHUE
TRACY KIDDER
GERALDINE BROOKS &
TONY HORWITZ
ANN PATCHETT
RITA DOVE
ERIK LARSON

2013 - 2014

MICHAEL CHABON &
AYELET WALDMAN
STEPHEN L. CARTER
CHERYL STRAYED
ANDREW SOLOMON
ROBERT PINSKY
KATHERINE BOO

2014 - 2015

ZADIE SMITH
DENNIS LEHANE
ELIZABETH GILBERT
KHALED HOSSEINI
CHANG-RAE LEE
MARY ROACH

2015 - 2016

SARAH KOENIG & JULIE SNYDER
NEIL GAIMAN
GILLIAN FLYNN
EDWIDGE DANTICAT
ROZ CHAST
RICK BRAGG

2016 - 2017

DON DeLILLO
LAWRENCE WRIGHT
ROXANE GAY
COLUM McCANN &
EDNA O'BRIEN
ALISON BECHDEL
JOHN GREEN

2017 - 2018

COLSON WHITEHEAD
PATTI SMITH IN
CONVERSATION WITH
MAUREEN CORRIGAN
MARGARET ATWOOD
MARIA SEMPLE
DAVID GRANN
JOHN IRVING

2018 - 2019

JUDY BLUME & DANIEL HANDLER
JOHN GRISHAM
JESMYN WARD
TIMOTHY EGAN
LYNDA BARRY & MATT GROENING
JENNIFER EGAN

2019 - 2020

JANE MAYER & FRANK RICH
RACHEL KUSHNER & PIPER KERMAN
MICHAEL ONDAATJE

2020 - 2021

MADELINE MILLER
JOSH MALERMAN
SUSAN CHOI
YOTAM OTTOLENGHI
BRIT BENNETT
TARA WESTOVER &
TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

2021-2022

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AMOR TOWLES
MIN JIN LEE
CARMEN MARIA MACHADO &
RUMAAN ALAM
ANTHONY DOERR
ISABEL WILKERSON

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MARLON JAMES
BARBARA KINGSOLVER
JON MEACHAM
JONATHAN FRANZEN
ELIF BATUMAN &
GARY SHTEYNGART
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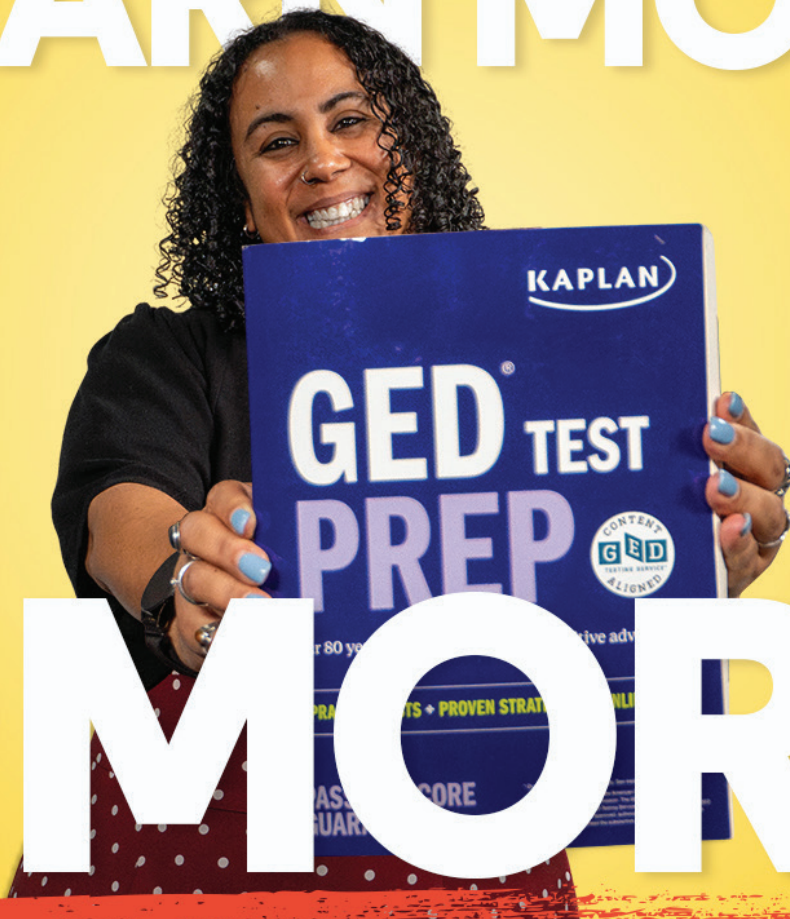
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Brad Ricca
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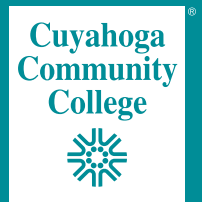
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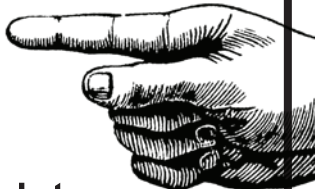

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Literature illuminates the human experience. It connects us to each other, brings us closer, and reminds us of the incredible heights we're capable of reaching. So from all of us at Huntington, a big thank you to the Cuyahoga County Public Library's Writers Center Stage program for reminding us how brightly we all can shine.



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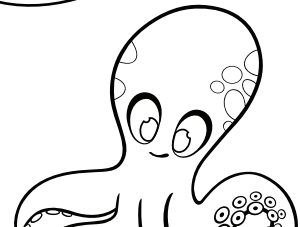
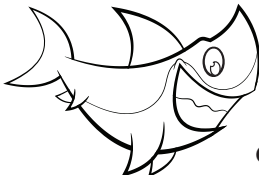
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