There's a reason I believe Bojack Horseman and The Witness are the greatest TV show and video game respectively.

My rating is likely a combination of how compelling the story is emotionally, how short the book is (accessibility), and how insightful I find the ideas and metaphors or characters.

### **Past**

**Night : 10**

Horror, dark, artistic. I was unaware this was about the holocaust until I began reading. The setting and plot is completely tragic however it's written very artistically with some sense of surrealism. This book is a powerful retelling of events and anecdotal experiences. It affected my mood in real life and was the reason I picked up a comedy book after finishing. It's a painful reminder of power and how quickly societal rules and human decency vanishes.

**No Longer Human : 9/10**

A deeply introspective and tragic read that is somewhat autobiographical.

**Patriotism : 9/10**

This is an incredibly short book that I'd recommend to anyone interested in Japanese literature because even if it isn't enjoyable there is zero sunk cost as it is only fifty pages.

While it's a fictional book, it is not a fictional idea in a meaningless story. This fiction is an autobiographical fantasy that is more real than reality itself. It's a brutal, honest, admirable story of a couple's devotion and martyrdom.

**Stoner : 8/10**

A classic describing another era. A thrilling romance with nihilistic commentary on the past society that glamorized going to war and fitting in at the expense of yourself. A story of a victorian women and an romantically incompetent man leading to a non-ideal marriage with a less than ideal life.

While the author's commentary and commonplace reading is that Stoner's life is adequate and admirable, I reject the author's interpretation. I am left frustrated with his passive incompetence and in complete disagreement with that assessment.

**Flatland : 8/10**

I was completely lost but it is hilarious and incredibly insightful. It is the basis of DIMENSIONS [todo].

**I Hate Everyone But You : 8/10**

Hilarious. I picked this up after reading several depressing, tragic books in a row so this was a much needed pick-me-up. Definitely a young adult novel aimed at modern day youth but the comedy and storyline wouldn't let me put it down.

### **Present**

**Sapiens : 10**

High-level ideas on the various milestones of evolution. I don’t take it as historical or scientific consensus but I deeply enjoyed several idea-conceptualizations (we evolved at the expense of individuals but for the benefit of the species - the entire pizza is larger, however each slice is smaller) and incredible depth and progression of the entire work. Deeply impressive and thought provoking high-level, low-resolution overview.

**House of Leaves : 10**

Hauntingly amazing. A modern classical horror novel. Completely thrilling and the abstract, artistic design choices are breathtaking.

**The Master & Margarita : 9/10**

Incredibly well-written. I haven't read anything so complex in quite some time. It's masterful prose and topics and storytelling. The only thing is I'm confused and it's quite a complicated plot and characters with foreign russian names, but I'm only a third into the book.

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I've read many more books and have quite a backlog of philosophical books to get through but I've listed my favorite ones here that I can whole-heartedly recommend and advocate for.

On my bucket list (https://spencers.dev/about/) are :

* *The Brother's Karmazov*
* *1Q84*
* *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

I've had these on my list for sometime because they're exactly my type of books. 1Q84 is the most intimidating because Murakami's prose is quite enjoyable but so far I've never been satisfied with the endings/conclusions but at least I'll enjoy the middle.

To be rich - is it a crime?

To commit crimes - isn't it rich?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCaYA2s0doM>

Whatever, Dad - Death of the Phone Call