

WENDY'S FAVORITE BOOKS

By Wendy Swallow

BOOKS THAT SHAPED ME:

Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte: A revolution in a paperback. I've memorized most of it.

Nostromo, by Joseph Conrad: How landscape reflects psychological states, and a thousand other insights.

Middlemarch, by George Elliot: Nuanced characters and their changing perspectives, all woven together in an unforgettable 19th-century community.

Giants in the Earth, by O.E. Rolvaag: Harrowing, sowed the seeds of *Searching for Nora*.

Anna Karenina, by Leo Tolstoy: Shattering portrait of a flawed but magnificent woman. I'm not sure Tolstoy had complete control of her.

One Hundred Years of Solitude, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: A kaleidoscope of character, myth and vivid detail, with currents of conflict and betrayal.

The Alexandria Quartet, by Lawrence Durrell: Multi-faceted perspectives over four volumes, ravishing writing about war, the ancient cityscape, and those who are different.

The Confessions of Zeno, by Italo Svevo: The most unreliable narrator on earth.

Emma, and *Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen: Shrewd character studies, wrapped in acerbic social commentary lit by an intelligent heart.

Moby Dick, by Herman Melville: Genius run amok in the language and the soul, with astonishing visual imagery. Haunting book for the daughter of a naval officer.

OTHER FAVORITES:

Wolf Hall and *Bring Up the Bodies*, by Hilary Mantel

Lady Macbeth, by Susan Fraser King

The Wreath, by Sigrid Undset

My Antonia, by Willa Cather

March, by Geraldine Brooks

The Signature of All Things, by Elizabeth Gilbert

The Last Painting of Sarah de Vos, by Dominic Smith

The Master, by Colm Toibin

All the Light You Cannot See, by Anthony Duerr

Out Stealing Horses, by Per Petterson

Beloved, by Toni Morrison

The Shipping News, by Annie Proulx

Euphoria, by Lily King

The Waves, by Virginia Woolf

My Brilliant Friend, by Elena Ferrante

We Need New Names, by NoViolet Bulawayo

Animal Dreams, by Barbara Kingsolver

The Rainbow, by D.H. Lawrence

Life After Life, by Kate Atkinson

The Ogre, by Michel Tournier