



# The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction

By Alan Jacobs

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

## The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs

In recent years, cultural commentators have sounded the alarm about the dire state of reading in America. Americans are not reading enough, they say, or reading the right books, in the right way.

In this book, Alan Jacobs argues that, contrary to the doomsayers, reading is alive and well in America. There are millions of devoted readers supporting hundreds of enormous bookstores and online booksellers. Oprah's Book Club is hugely influential, and a recent NEA survey reveals an actual uptick in the reading of literary fiction. Jacobs's interactions with his students and the readers of his own books, however, suggest that many readers lack confidence; they wonder whether they are reading well, with proper focus and attentiveness, with due discretion and discernment. Many have absorbed the puritanical message that reading is, first and foremost, good for you--the intellectual equivalent of eating your Brussels sprouts. For such people, indeed for all readers, Jacobs offers some simple, powerful, and much needed advice: read at whim, read what gives you delight, and do so without shame, whether it be Stephen King or the King James Version of the Bible. In contrast to the more methodical approach of Mortimer Adler's classic *How to Read a Book* (1940), Jacobs offers an insightful, accessible, and playfully irreverent guide for aspiring readers. Each chapter focuses on one aspect of approaching literary fiction, poetry, or nonfiction, and the book explores everything from the invention of silent reading, reading responsively, rereading, and reading on electronic devices.

Invitingly written, with equal measures of wit and erudition, *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction* will appeal to all readers, whether they be novices looking for direction or old hands seeking to recapture the pleasures of reading they first experienced as children.

 [Download The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distractio ...pdf](#)



# The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction

By Alan Jacobs

## The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs

In recent years, cultural commentators have sounded the alarm about the dire state of reading in America. Americans are not reading enough, they say, or reading the right books, in the right way. In this book, Alan Jacobs argues that, contrary to the doomsayers, reading is alive and well in America. There are millions of devoted readers supporting hundreds of enormous bookstores and online booksellers. Oprah's Book Club is hugely influential, and a recent NEA survey reveals an actual uptick in the reading of literary fiction. Jacobs's interactions with his students and the readers of his own books, however, suggest that many readers lack confidence; they wonder whether they are reading well, with proper focus and attentiveness, with due discretion and discernment. Many have absorbed the puritanical message that reading is, first and foremost, good for you--the intellectual equivalent of eating your Brussels sprouts. For such people, indeed for all readers, Jacobs offers some simple, powerful, and much needed advice: read at whim, read what gives you delight, and do so without shame, whether it be Stephen King or the King James Version of the Bible. In contrast to the more methodical approach of Mortimer Adler's classic *How to Read a Book* (1940), Jacobs offers an insightful, accessible, and playfully irreverent guide for aspiring readers. Each chapter focuses on one aspect of approaching literary fiction, poetry, or nonfiction, and the book explores everything from the invention of silent reading, reading responsively, rereading, and reading on electronic devices.

Invitingly written, with equal measures of wit and erudition, *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction* will appeal to all readers, whether they be novices looking for direction or old hands seeking to recapture the pleasures of reading they first experienced as children.

## The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #189437 in Books
- Brand: Oxford University Press USA
- Published on: 2011-05-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.70" h x .80" w x 8.30" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 176 pages

 [Download The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distractio ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Delightful...appealing and convincing." --*The Wall Street Journal*

"As so many recent studies have suggested, the activity of reading itself is seriously threatened in this digital age. But Alan Jacobs -- bless him -- has an approach that will warm the hearts of serious readers and lead many prospective readers into the deeply satisfying swells of good prose. Reading should be a pleasure, and Jacobs shows us how to make sure we take delight in this work, which is not work at all. This is a witty and reader-friendly book, and it's one I would happily give to any potential reader, young or old." -- Jay Parini, author of *The Passages of H.M.* and *The Last Station*

"A vigorous and friendly exhortation to get back into the kind of reading that made you a reader in the first place." - Library Journal

"Jacobs' little, witty ode to pleasure found between hardcovers is a useful reminder of the joy of text." --Dan Kois, *NPR*

"Jacobs gives us the best entry to date in the flurry of recent attempts to augur and meditate upon the fate of reading in our time." --John Wilson, *Christianity Today*

"It seems a rare accomplishment that a book on the pleasures of reading could actually pull off being pleasurable itself. But Alan Jacobs' newest book, *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*, does just that. It is a marvelous manifesto of sanity in an age of jeremiads about the modern predicament of attention loss on one hand, and those proud champions of distraction singing the hallelujah chorus of a world devoid of long-form books on the other." --Trevor Logan, *First Things*

"A passionate call to indulge one's readerly passions in the pursuit of centeredness and growth, this book just might change the way you think about reading." --Brendan Driscoll, *Booklist*

"Alan Jacobs' bright, broad paean to reading is a sort of secular prayer book. It instructs, exhorts, laments, reveres; it has great faith and best of all shows the Way. Or a way at least for author Jacobs, a college English professor, warns well that the road to reading Nirvana is a highly personal one." --Joseph Mackin, *New York Journal of Books*

"wonderful" --Micah Mattix, *The Weekly Standard*

"Reading Jacobs is a supreme pleasure...Jacobs has reshaped not only how I think about reading but how and what I actually read." --Lauren Winner, *Books & Culture*

"Jacobs makes a persuasive case that reading for pleasure should remain a live option in any discipline...The book as a whole makes many compelling points and refreshingly celebrates the God-given gift of reading in an age where texts are ubiquitous but often neglected."--*Themelios*

"Using Auden's terms to describe judging books, I conclude that 'I can see this is good and I like it.' *The Pleasures of Reading in a Time of Distraction* represents a realistic approach to recovering deep reading for the sole purpose of pleasure."--*Journal of Education and Christian Belief*

## About the Author

**Alan Jacobs** is Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Baylor University. His books include *The Narnian*, a biography of C.S. Lewis, *Original Sin: A Cultural History*, and a *Theology of Reading*. His literary and cultural criticism has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *The American Scholar*, and the *Oxford American*.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **Tonya Hooper:**

Inside other case, little people like to read book The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction. You can choose the best book if you like reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important a book The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction. You can add know-how and of course you can around the world by just a book. Absolutely right, mainly because from book you can learn everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you will end up known. About simple matter until wonderful thing you can know that. In this era, we can open a book or searching by internet product. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel fed up to go to the library. Let's go through.

#### **Richard Hennessy:**

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the name The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction suitable to you? The actual book was written by well known writer in this era. The book untitled The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distractionis a single of several books which everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this

reserve you will enter the new shape that you ever know prior to. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to understand the core of this e-book. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world on this book.

**Nettie Powers:**

The particular book The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction will bring that you the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to see, this book very ideal to you. The book The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

**Chris Boos:**

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book could be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the reserve untitled The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction can be excellent book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

**Download and Read Online The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs #8CY3J2TX604**

# **Read The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs for online ebook**

The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs books to read online.

## **Online The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs ebook PDF download**

**The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs Doc**

**The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs MobiPocket**

**The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs EPub**

**8CY3J2TX604: The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction By Alan Jacobs**