



## Bag Lady Musings

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## Top 10 lists

I love end-of-the-year Top Ten lists! I can't wait till The New York Times Review of Books comes out with their 10 Best Books of the Year. I guess I like to "keep score" to see how many I've already bought and, even better, already read! And then there are Top Ten Albums and Top Ten Movies and the Top Ten Top Ten lists! I LOVE THEM ALL.

Emily Nussbaum, TV critic for The New Yorker, recently wrote a charming piece on why she *loathes* this yearly tradition. Part of the problem, she says, "is the false authority of it."

She adds, "As anyone who has descended into the Top Ten sausage factory knows very well, book critics haven't read all of the books and music critics haven't heard all of the music."

She goes on to share why she thinks people like me love Top Ten lists: "They're easy like Sunday Morning; they're to do lists someone else wrote; they're sports for non-sports people." Guilty on all three counts!

Despite this negative take, I've decided it's time I joined the "sausage factory" and shared my own "Top Ten Finance Must Reads"—most I visit daily; some weekly, and in no particular order of preference:

### **Andrew Ross Sorkin's The Deal Book online blog, The New York Times**

Ross Sorkin is the author of the book *Too Big To Fail*; a columnist at The New York Times; the creator and editor of the Deal Book online blog and, since July 2011, co-host for CNBC's Squawk Box. I read the Deal Book daily. It's a great place for updated news and original analysis about deal making and Wall Street. Sorkin's strength is that he knows Wall Street intimately.

[Visit The Deal Book](#)

### **Deal Journal, Market Beat and Real Time Economics**

I visit these Wall Street Journal blogs daily – anytime something “economics” comes up, this is where I go first because they have research discussions and analysis.

[Visit Deal Journal](#)

### **Ron Leiber’s Your Money column in The New York Times**

I love recommending Leiber for younger people who are looking for advice on managing their finances. I enjoy his practical advice on budgeting and other boring financial topics!

[Visit Your Money](#)

### **Floyd Norris, Chief Financial Correspondent for The New York Times**

One of the most widely respected financial journalists, I browse The New York Times daily to make sure I don’t miss his writing. I find him insightful, illuminating and educational.

[Visit Floyd Norris](#)

### **James Surowiecki’s The Financial Page in The New Yorker**

James writes a regular column on business and finance for The New Yorker. I don’t always agree with what he says, but it’s always brilliantly written.

[Visit The Financial Page](#)

### **James Stewart’s Common Sense column every Saturday in The New York Times**

Not to be confused with the actor, this James Stewart is a lawyer, journalist and non-fiction author. In addition to his Saturday column for The New York Times, he often writes financial pieces for The New Yorker. His name might sound familiar—he wrote the blockbuster *Den of Thieves* about Milken and the 1980s junk bond scandal.

[Visit Common Sense](#)

### **Megan McArdle, Senior Editor at The Atlantic Magazine**

McArdle writes about business and finance. Warning: She definitely has a right wing, pro market slant—what I do love about her is her ability to point out the sloppy thinking of politicians and commentators of all stripes.

[Visit Megan McArdle](#)

### **Ben White’s Morning Money on Politico.com**

White is a Wall Street reporter for Politico.com and his daily column Morning Money covers what’s going on at the intersection of Washington and Wall Street.

[Visit Morning Money](#)

**Heidi Moore, NY Bureau Chief and Wall Street Correspondent for American Public Radio**

Moore writes The Marketplace for American Public Radio, reporting on the culture of banks, companies, finance and the markets. She's the one and only person I follow on Twitter; she finds the juiciest morsels!

[Visit Heidi Moore](#)

**The Financial Times Alphaville**

I love reading this every morning. It's a daily news and commentary service created by London's Financial Times.

[Visit Alphaville](#)

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## For education

These are my favourite recommendations for people looking to increase their knowledge about all things economics and finance.

**Paddy Hirsch, Senior Producer, Personal Finance at Marketplace and host of Marketplace Whiteboard**

I love Hirsch's Marketplace Whiteboard from American Public Media. He breaks down complex issues with nothing more than a dry-erase pen and a good analogy. I often send his explanations to clients who are wanting more of an education; for example, with all the talk lately around Romney and the role of private equity, Hirsch's Private Equity Explained link below is illuminating.

[Visit Hirsch's Marketplace Whiteboard](#)

**Sal Khan, Founder and Executive Director, Khan Academy**

Khan is a former hedge fund manager with three degrees from MIT and an MBA from Harvard. The Khan Academy is a virtual online school providing 3,000+ tutorials in math, science and finance. Found under the heading Humanities & Other, examples of financial topics covered include Microeconomics, which covers material from a traditional college-level introductory course. Bill Gates uses Khan's videos to help his three children with schoolwork!

[Visit The Khan Academy](#)

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# Diversions — The three Bs: Best blog, book and bag

## **BLOG: AWL**

AWL delivers a daily discussion of the issues that matter – news, politics, culture and the Web. Makes me feel less stupid!

[Visit AWL](#)

## **BOOK: The Hare with Amber Eyes**

The Hare with Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal was published in June 2010. De Waal's book about his family and their netsuke has become an international phenomenon and the most successful family memoir of the decade. It is the tale of the vitrine of little Japanese figures passed down through generations of the same family, from Paris to Vienna to Tunbridge Wells and Tokyo and back to south London.

Edmund de Waal, a world famous ceramicist, first saw the Hare with Amber Eyes and the 263 other netsuke when he was 17. They perched in a glass vitrine in a flat in Tokyo that his gay great-uncle Iggy shared with his friend Jiro Sugiyama...and so begins this extraordinarily moving memoir and detective story!

## **BAG: The Original Satchel Store**

I'm a bit satchel obsessed lately! Satchels are a little bit preppy, a little bit fashion and a whole lot practical.

The Original Satchel Store is a one-year-old London based company that makes these traditional leather satchels in a wide array of colours, including eye-popping neon pink and yellow. There are also more traditional hues like tan, mocha and black.

The bags are available at [originalsatchelstore.co.uk](http://originalsatchelstore.co.uk) and orders can take up to 21 days to arrive.

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## Contact Us

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