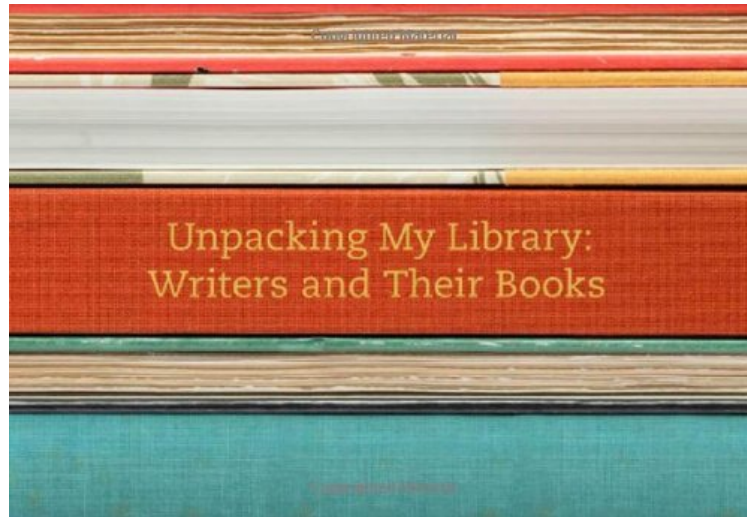


## Unpacking My Library: Writers and Their Books

*From Yale University Press*

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**From Yale University Press : Unpacking My Library: Writers and Their Books** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unpacking My Library: Writers and Their Books:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Delight! By L. Young As soon as this book arrived I devoured it in one pleasure filled sitting. I'm a booklover and a book voyeur. After arriving at someone's home I say 'hello' and attempt to surreptitiously peruse the titles on their shelves. What better way to get a taste for who they are. In this small book editor Leah Price interviews thirteen contemporary writers, some better known than others. What are their earliest memories of books? When did they begin to buy books? How do they organize their libraries? Do they dispose of unwanted books and if so how? Each author selects their ten favorite books. However, what is most interesting are the photos of their bookshelves in all their disarray. (You will no longer feel guilty about your own sloppy shelves.) The reader gets to be a voyeur (you may need a magnifying glass to assist with this) and see who owns what. The biggest surprise to me is that I saw few art books on their shelves and none on music. If you are a booklover spend a couple of hours with this delightful book. If you know a booklover this would make an outstanding gift. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed seeing the writers' libraries, but By Allwazthinking The narrative that accompanied each writer's library photos was repetitive and often too obscure to be of much use to the general reader. I appreciated that most of them were extreme collectors who loved their books, but, like many book collectors, their reasons for their selections were elusive. I would have liked to know more about which books actually aided them in their own writing. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Just as expected. By Kindle Customer I was interested in what others do with their books.... displaying, arranging, saving, discarding and reading them. Their 10 favorite books were surprising.... very few reads after 1990. A fine selection of accomplished writers.

As words and stories are increasingly disseminated through digital means, the significance of the book as object? whether pristine collectible or battered relic? is growing as well. Unpacking My Library: Writers and Their Books spotlights the personal libraries of thirteen favorite novelists who share their collections with readers. Stunning photographs provide full views of the libraries and close-ups of individual volumes: first editions, worn textbooks,

pristine hardcovers, and childhood companions. In her introduction, Leah Price muses on the history and future of the bookshelf, asking what books can tell us about their owners and what readers can tell us about their collections. Supplementing the photographs are Price's interviews with each author, which probe the relation of writing to reading, collecting, and arranging books. Each writer provides a list of top ten favorite titles, offering unique personal histories along with suggestions for every bibliophile. *Unpacking My Library: Writers and Their Books* features the personal libraries of Alison Bechdel, Stephen Carter, Junot Díaz, Rebecca Goldstein and Steven Pinker, Lev Grossman and Sophie Gee, Jonathan Lethem, Claire Messud and James Wood, Philip Pullman, Gary Shteyngart, and Edmund White.

“In its beautiful design, *Unpacking My Library* is itself an argument for the continuing vitality of physical books and the libraries that contain them.”—The Boston Globe