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Wendy Lesser

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Why I Read: The Serious Pleasure of Books Wendy Lesser

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"Wendy Lesser's extraordinary alertness, intelligence, and curiosity have made her one of America's most significant cultural critics," writes Stephen Greenblatt. In *Why I Read*, she draws on a lifetime of pleasure reading and decades of editing to describe a life lived in and through literature. As Lesser examines work from such perspectives as "Character and Plot," "Novelty," "Grandeur and Intimacy," and "Authority," the reader will discover a definition of literature that is as broad as it is broad-minded. In addition to novels and stories, Lesser explores plays, poems, and essays, along with mysteries, science fiction, and memoirs. Her passion for reading is infectious and it resonates on every page. Iconoclastic, conversational, and full of insight, *Why I Read* will delight avid readers as well as neophytes in search of sheer literary fun.

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