

Library Lad and Ladies Column

Memoirs are popular with readers, and many new ones have been published recently. The simple definition of a memoir is an account of personal experiences, but it can have many faces. Memoirs can have several purposes, like the salacious “tell all,” or sharing with the hope of helping others. Some focus on experiences that will touch many readers, and some authors want to “tell it like it was.” Next trip into the library pick up one of the more than 1500 memoirs found in the Library catalog.

True Compass: A Memoir, by Edward M. Kennedy. 2009.

Senator “Ted” Kennedy’s words are moving, often hilarious and always quite clear in looking at a specific era in American history. Kennedy discusses the family dynasty built by his father, and the tragic deaths, scandals and stubborn service of this unique family of leaders. The reader is carried away by the turmoil and triumphs of the times that seem inseparable from the Kennedy family itself. Though sometimes tough, it was joy to read. — Russell Miller

Open: An Autobiography, by Andre Agassi. 2009.

One of the greatest tennis players of all time, Andre Agassi describes his successes and failures with hard-hitting honesty. Readers will see how Andre developed his talent under the agonizing pressure of his father, battled false images promoted by the media and suffered through times of fatigue and defeat. He also shows how the game of tennis gave him edifying relationships, satisfying victories and the chance to embrace others through charity. A powerful read—even if you’ve never picked up a racquet!—Katy Willis

Three Little Words: A Memoir, by Ashley Rhodes-Courter. 2008. Young Adult.

Typical of heart-tugging characters like Gilly Hopkins and Dicey Tillerman, the life of Ashley Rhodes-Courter becomes all too painful as she chronicles her memoir of ten years in the foster care system. A precocious and jaded child quick to decipher the adults around her, Ashley soon realizes she has been abandoned to a life of constant chaos. Thankfully, we are elated to find that Ashley is finally guided to a family who loves and wants to adopt her. This is a beautiful story that gives voice to children who are trapped in the foster care system.—Jennifer Kendall

Traveling with Pomegranates: A Mother-Daughter Story, by Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Kidd Taylor. 2009.

Sue Monk Kidd, author of the popular *Secret Life of Bees*, traveled with her daughter Ann, to Greece, France and Turkey during a period of time when each was struggling to enter a new life stage. The 50-something mother was facing an empty nest and her own mortality, while her 20-something daughter was thinking about marriage and career. In alternating chapters, mother and daughter explore these issues and their relationship in the context of myth and travel experiences. An introspective and touching memoir.—
Julie Pavri

The Library Lad & Ladies are on the staff of Prescott Public Library.