A Data Collection of Strong Women

by: Elinor Thomas

First and foremost in the art of managing one’s books
by Georges Perec

Gender: Female
Age: Twenty Five
Full Name: Elinor Thomas
Hair Color: Brown
Eye Color: Brown

Characters from my library.
Organized through personal narrative.

The End
Of the book

It is also possible that both are deceptive, trompe l’oeils intended to disguise the erosion of both books and systems. It is no bad thing in any case that between the two our bookshelves should serve from time to time as joggers of the memory, as cat rests and as lumber rooms.

A true compendium of female badassery, according to me, that is.
A Data Collection of Strong WOMEN

by: Elinor Thomas

Brief Notes on the Art and Manner of Arranging One's Books

by: Georges Perec
One of my friends had the idea one day of stopping his library at 361 books. The plan was as follows: having attained, by addition or subtraction, and starting from a given number \( n \) of books, the number \( K = 361 \), deemed as corresponding to a library—if not an ideal then at least a sufficient library—he would undertake to acquire on a permanent basis a new book \( X \) only after having eliminated (by giving away, throwing out, selling, or any other appropriate means) an old book \( Z \), so that the total number \( K \) of works should remain constant and equal to 361:

- **Anne of Green Gables, 8 or 9**  
  by: Lucy Maud Montgomery

- **A Ring of Endless Light, 13, 14, 15**  
  by: Madeleine L'Engle

- **Pride and Prejudice, 15ish, 20, 23**  
  by: Jane Austen

- **The Girl with Dragon Tattoo, 18**  
  by: Stieg Larsson

- **Scott Pilgrim, 19**  
  by: Bryan Lee O'Malley

- **Harry Potter, 20**  
  by: J.K. Rowling

- **The Hunger Games, 20, 21**  
  by: Suzanne Collins

- **A Game of Thrones, 21, 22**  
  by: George R.R. Martin

- **Divergent, 23**  
  by: Veronica Roth

- **The Fault in Our Stars, 23**  
  by: John Green

- **Their Eyes Were Watching God, 23**  
  by: Zora Neale Hurston

- **Orlando, 23**  
  by: Virginia Woolf

- **A Discovery of Witches, 23**  
  by: Deborah Harkness

- **The Witches Daughter, 23**  
  by: Paula Brackston

- **Outlander, 24, 25**  
  by: Diana Gabaldon
“But if you call me Anne, please call me Anne with an ‘e’.”

Anne of Green Gables
by: Lucy Maud Montgomery

A book about a young protagonist who is equally smart, charming and strong willed. This was one of my favorite novels as a young girl and it is still inspirational today.

“Anne of Green Gables is a wonderful book. It tells the story of a girl named Anne who is sent to the island of Prince Edward Island to live with her new parents. The book is filled with humor, heart, and adventure, and it captured my imagination from the very first page. I read it over and over again, and it has stayed with me all these years.”

-Anonymous

A library that is not arranged becomes disarranged: the example I was given to try and get me to understand what entropy was and which I have verified experimentally several times.

Disorder in a library is not serious in itself; it ranks with “What drawer did I put it in?” We always think we shall know instinctively where we have put such and such a book... and even if we do not know, it will never be difficult to go rapidly along all the shelves.

Opposed to this apologia for a sympathetic disorder is the small-minded temptation toward an individual bureaucracy: one thing for each place and each place for one thing, and vice versa. Between these two tensions, one which sets a premium on letting things be, on a good-natured anarchy, the other that exalts the virtues of the tabula rasa, the cold efficiency of the great arranging, one always ends by trying to set one’s books in order. This is a trying, depressing operation, but one liable to produce pleasant surprises, such as coming upon a book you had forgotten because you could no longer see it and which, putting off until tomorrow what you will not do today, you finally redevour lying face down on your bed.

The first time I remember reading an Anne book, is when I was in the 8th grade... I was hooked... I consider these books to be my favorite literature books of all time.”

-Denyse Roberts, Amazon Review

ISBN-10: 1503214133
Published: 1908
Amazon Reviews: 634
Rating: 4.7 out of 5 Stars
Rank: 21,129 in Books

Subjective
Smart
Imaginative
Kind
Willful
Feisty
Passionate
Ambitious
Incorrigible
And a great ring of pure & endless light
Dazzles the darkness in my heart

“A Ring of Endless Light
by: Madeleine L’Engle

“I have read this book ten times and each time I am surprised at how much I love it. Madeleine L’Engle describes life and death like the back of her hand. In a ring of endless light, Vicky Austin explores the realms of joy and sorrow, life and death, as well as light and dark”.

-Amy S, Amazon Review

None of these classifications is satisfactory by itself. In practice, every library is ordered starting from a combination of these modes of classification, whose relative weighting, resistance to change, obsolescence, and persistence give every library a unique personality.

We should first of all distinguish stable classifications from provisional ones. Stable classifications are those which, in principle, you continue to respect; provisional classifications are those supposed to last only a few days, the time it takes for a book to discover, or rediscover, its definitive place. This may be, for example, a book recently acquired and not yet read, or else a book recently read that you do not quite know where to place and which you have promised to yourself to put away on the occasion of a forthcoming “great arranging,” or else a book whose reading has been interrupted and that you do not want to classify before taking it up again and finishing it, or else a book you have used constantly over a given period, or else a book you have taken down to look up a piece of information or a reference and which you have not yet put back in its place, or else a book that you cannot put back in its rightful place because it does not belong to you and you have promised several times to give it back, etc.

In my own case, nearly three-quarters of my books have never really been classified. Those that are not arranged in a definitively provisional way are arranged in a provisionally definitive way, as at the OuLiPo. Meanwhile, I move them from one room to another, one shelf to another, one pile to another, and may spend three hours looking for a book without finding it but sometimes having the satisfaction of coming upon six or seven others which serve my purpose just as well.

Vicky is the heroine of this book and of many of L’Engle’s, Austin family novels. I’ve read this book a number of times, mostly as a young teenager. Vicky’s experiences, wisdom and relatability as a young woman made a large impression on my life at the time. This book is a favorite and it was essential to my growth as a person.
"I could easily forgive his pride, if he had not mortified mine."

I read this book first as a teenager and a few times since. I love the romance and I love its utter predictability. I also love its humor, satire and understanding that the society it was written for is equally ridiculous. Lizzy is the epitome of a bad ass 19th century woman who understands the limitations of her time and also acknowledges herself as a strong woman.

“I enjoy reading anything written by Jane Austin. It takes the reader back in time when it would be simpler but, the age has difficulties that the female of the age must endure.”

-Mary Furnier, Amazon Review

Gender: Female
Age: Twenty
Full Name: Elizabeth Bennet
Hair Color: Brown
Eye Color: Brown

Subjective:
Witty
Clever
Prideful
Prejudiced
Stubborn
Complex
Different
Radical
### Books not too difficult to arrange

- Books on the cinema, whether essays on directors, albums of movie stars, or shooting scripts.
- South American novels, ethnology, psychoanalysis.
- Cookery books (see above), directories (next to the phone), German Romantics, books in the Que Sais-je? series (the problem being whether to arrange them all together or with the discipline they deal with), etc.

### Lisbeth

- **Gender:** Female
- **Age:** Twenty Four
- **Full Name:** Lisbeth Salander
- **Hair Color:** Black
- **Eye Color:** Brown

**Subjective:**
- Introverted
- Ballsy
- Unconventional
- Tough
- Sultry
- Internal
- Vigorous
- Sharp

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"Great female hero, strong and kick ass"
- Clinton, Amazon Review

"I can be a regular bitch. Just try me."

Lisbeth Salander is the type of character that demands attention. Her presence within “The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo”, is so captivating, immersive and intense. Her energy is tough and she displays her prowess throughout the entire novel, even when situations and people put her down. I read this book when I was 18. I was finding my way as a woman, and I could relate to Lisbeth Salander’s complexity, rawness and imperfection. I don't think she is the typical heroine and that is particularly why I think she's an amazing heroine. Her strength is inspiring and I still love this book and her character.
Captain Nemo’s 12,000 volumes, uniformly bound, were thus classified once and for all—and all the more simply because the classification, as is made clear to us, was uncertain, at least from the linguistic point of view (a detail which does not concern the art of arranging a library but is meant to remind us that Captain Nemo speaks all languages indiscriminately). But for us, who continue to have to do with a human race that insists on thinking, writing, and above all publishing, the increasing size of our libraries tends to become the one real problem. For it is not too difficult, very obviously, to keep ten or 20 or let us say even a hundred books; but once you start to have 361, or a thousand, or three thousand, and especially when the total starts to increase every day or thereabouts, the problem arises, first of all of arranging all those books somewhere and then of being able to lay your hand on them one day when, for whatever reason, you either want or need to read them at last or even to reread them.

These books are not solely focused on Ramona Flowers. They are more about her sometimes boyfriend Scott Pilgrim, who is not nearly as awesome as she is. She can travel through sub space, she fights people with an oversized mallet and she just exudes coolness. I read these books when I was nineteen, they were a gift from my boyfriend (ha).
The truth is that you don’t think a girl would have been clever enough!

...Hermione Granger, a witch who’s read all the school books and knows all the rules...

-A Customer, Amazon Review

Hermione Granger is the true star of the Harry Potter book series. She is Harry and Ron’s best friend and the smartest of the group. She is constantly coming up with clever solutions and getting them out of terrifying situations. I read this book series when I was 20; I was a little late to the Harry Potter game. Hermione stands out in my mind as a strong woman because of her unapologetic attitude for being a girl and also for being the most clever of her friends.
"I stare in the mirror as I try to remember who I am and who I am not."

Katniss Everdeen is the expected protagonist of these novels. She's our favorite character right from the start and it's easy to sympathize with her and imagine yourself reacting in her position. I read these books as an adult and of course immediately identified with Katniss. Her passion, bravery and stubbornness are all relatable qualities, which make her admirable and a strong female lead.

Katniss demonstrates over and over the possible bravery, creativity, ingenuity, endurance, spirit, and compassion of a feminine hero. In contrast, the hunger games demonstrate in the most horrible ways possible the tragic, unbelievable, awful, and truly horrible human capacity for evil. They also show to what extent people in power are sometimes willing to go to maintain their rule over those whom they are in power over. If only the reality the story portrays were only fiction. The author seems quite aware that it is not.

-Ray Kesneron, Amazon Review

ISBN-10: 9780439023528
Published: 2008
Amazon Reviews: 24,470
Rating: 4.6 out of 5 Stars
Rank: #1,243 in Books

Subjective
Lethal
Rebellious
Heroic
Independent
Loyal
Stubborn
Passionate
Vigilant
“Some day I’m going to put a sword through your eye and out the back of your skull.”

Arya Stark

ISBN-10: 0553593714
Published: 1996
Amazon Reviews: 8070
Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars
Rank: 872 in Books

Subjective:
Fierce
Resourceful
Nimble
Authentic
Determined
Ruthless
Cunning
Independent

Gender: Female
Age: Nine to Sixteen
Full Name: Arya Stark
Hair Color: Brown
Eye Color: Brown

The original rebel of the Game of Thrones books; Arya has been kicking ass since book one. Her fierce attitude, swift fighting skills and ability to adapt to anything have made her one of my favorite female characters in the books. I read these books in my early 20’s and Arya’s powerful presence in the books has made them one of my favorite series since.

“A Game of Thrones
by: George R. R. Martin

“Her size, her age, her gender is not a typical road block for her, she does what she wants”
-A Customer, Amazon Review
This modification proved effective over several years. But it soon became apparent that certain works, romances of chivalry, for example, had no author or else had several authors, and that certain authors—the Dadaists, for example—could not be kept apart from one another without automatically losing 90 per cent of what made them interesting. The idea was thus reached of a library restricted to 361 subjects—the term is vague but the groups it covers are also vague at times—and up until now that limitation has been strictly observed.

So then, one of the chief problems encountered by the man who keeps the books he has read or promises himself that he will one day read is that of the increase in his library. Not everyone has the good fortune to be Captain Nemo: “The world ended for me the day my Nautilus dived for the first time beneath the waves. On that day I bought my last volumes, my last pamphlets, my last newspapers, and since that time I would like to believe that mankind has neither thought nor written.”

Tris Prior is relatable. She's the original underdog and outcast that you love to root for because you identify so strongly with her...or at least I do. I read these books not as a teen, but as a 23 year old. I still could identify with Tris's awkwardness and finding of self. Her quiet strength makes these books enjoyable above all.
I laughed and cried as I considered life, death, and the meaning of it all. There is much wisdom in this girl’s tale.

-Tanya Eustaceon, Amazon Review

"I fell in love like you would fall asleep: slowly and then all at once."

The Fault in Our Stars
by: John Green

This book touches my heart. It’s extremely beautiful and sad and it makes you realize how incredible life can be. Hazel Grace is an amazing teenage protagonist. She’s not perfect, but she’s infinitely interesting, lovely and she understands how amazing life can be.

I read this book when I was 23. It touched me then, it touches me always and it makes me cry as I’m writing this sentence.
"Janie’s first dream was dead, so she became a woman."

Janie’s story is powerful and imperfect and her resilience as a woman is inspiring. At the end, I closed the book and I cried. Then I wanted to open it and start reading all over again from the beginning. Janie is a woman who has endured oppression, suppression, and tragedy. She found love and she found herself. She not only survived but discovered her own strength and accepted life without self-destructing. Janie, is every woman’s hero, most certainly mine.

-A Customer, Amazon Review

Their Eyes Were Watching God
by: Zora Neale Hurston

I read this book for a college literature class. I was 23. It ended up being one of my favorite books that I read that year. Janie’s story is powerful and imperfect and her resilience as a woman is inspiring.
“As long as she thinks of a man, nobody objects to a woman thinking.”

A man. A woman. A poet. A noble creature. A writer. Who is Orlando? Does it really matter? Does time flow through Orlando’s fingers like a gale on the sea? Does love form on his lips, or on her lips, or on nobody’s lips, to be devoured by hours and then years of melancholy, to be suddenly reborn at the sight of an oak tree, and then burn down to cinders again?

- Ksenia Ankeon, Amazon Review

Although not considered one of Virginia Woolf’s “best” and more well known works, it is certainly my favorite. I love the social and gender ambiguities in this “biography” and Woolf’s underhanded assessment of feminism. I read this book when I was 23, became obsessed and I plan on reading it again soon.
“We kissed each other, long and deep, while my legs opened like the covers of a book.”

DIANA

Gender: Female
Age: Thirty Six
Full Name: Diana Bishop
Hair Color: Blonde with Varied Colors
Eye Color: Blue

In A Discovery of Witches Harkness takes all the urban fantasy romantic tropes and...uses them. Main PoV character Diana is smart, orphaned, stubborn, beautiful—though-she-doesn’t-know-it, and a powerful witch.

-Vanessa, Amazon Review

I read this book trilogy when I was 23, all three in about a week.
Adult novels with witches, vampires and demons... I was in heaven. I love Diana Bishops ferocity, vulnerability and her acknowledgment of sex, lust and love.
...disease and misfortune knew no social bounds. Nor did the immensely dangerous business of childbirth.

The Witches Daughter
by: Paula Brackston

The Witch's Daughter is an entertaining and moving story. A book worth reading! I was entranced from the beginning until the end. Paula Brackston did a wonderful job giving her main character a unique and believable voice.

-D. Kang, Amazon Review

Like the librarians of Babel in Borges' story, who are looking for the book that will provide them with the key to all the others, we oscillate between the illusion of perfection and the vertigo of the unattainable. In the name of completeness, we would like to believe that a unique order exists that would enable us to accede to knowledge all in one go; in the name of the unattainable, we would like to think that order and disorder are in fact the same word, denoting pure chance.

BESS

Gender: Female
Age: Teenager to Three hundred and Eighty-Four
Full Name: Elizabeth Anne Hawksmith
Hair Color: Red
Eye Color: Green

Another witch book, I read this when I was 23 and it was my rebound after “A Discovery of Witches”. I liked the simplicity and tenderness of this story as well as its unique protagonist.
It is extremely rare to find books in a bathroom, even though for many people this is a favorite place to read in. The surrounding humidity is unanimously considered a prime enemy of the conservation of printed texts. At the most, you may find in a bathroom a medicine cupboard and in the medicine cupboard a small work entitled What to Do before the Doctor Gets There.

1.3. Places in a room where books can be arranged

On the shelves of fireplaces or over radiators (it may be thought, even so, that heat may, in the long run, prove somewhat harmful),

between two windows,

in the embrasure of an unused door,

on the steps of a library ladder, making this unusable (very chic),

underneath a window,

on a piece of furniture set at an angle and dividing the room into two (very chic, creates an even better effect with a few potted plants).

Outlander
by: Diana Gabaldon

“Is there ever a good reason for rape, Master MacKenzie?”

CLAIRE

Gender: Female
Age: Twenty Eight
Full Name: Claire Randall/ Fraser
Hair Color: Dark Brown
Eye Color: Golden

I read the first book in this series when I was 24, and I am still reading the series now. These books are addictive and emotional. They draw you in and I love Claire’s sense of self, sexuality and appreciation for love.

“Love this story! I was waiting to fall in love again with another book and couple. I really like that is not your typical First Love story (the girl being the virgin always). I really like that it was the opposite and that Jamie actually is the virgin and victim and goes through horrible attacks and Claire is there to save him instead of the other way around. Strong female character I LOVE IT!

-Diane Elizaldeon, Amazon Review

Subjective
Demanding
Educated
Stubborn
Outspoken
Radical
Independent
Generous
Sensible

ISBN-10: 0062387243
Published: 2011
Amazon Reviews: 21,288
Rating: 4.5 out of 5 Stars
Rank: 2,404 in Books

My favorite book in this series is the sixth. I love how it continues to weave a beautiful story of love and adventure. Claire and Jamie are such amazing characters, and their journey continues to captivate me.
Like the librarians of Babel in Borges’ story, who are looking for the book that will provide them with the key to all the others, we oscillate between the illusion of perfection and the vertigo of the unattainable. In the name of completeness, we would like to believe that a unique order exists that would enable us to accede to knowledge all in one go; in the name of the unattainable, we would like to think that order and disorder are in fact the same word, denoting pure chance.
Thanks.
The end is an alternate dimension that is inhabited by Endermen, Shulkers, and an Ender Dragon. To gain access to the end, a player must first locate a rare End Portal, which leads to this realm. Due to the large scale of a Minecraft world, End portals are nearly impossible to stumble upon by chance, as they are located in randomly-generated Strongholds deep underground (Unless a player found it with a specific seed). To find an End portal, a player needs to acquire and use one or more Eye of Ender [Chorus] This is the end Beautiful friend This is the end My only friend The end. [Verse 1] Of our elaborate plans, the end Of everything that stands, the end No safety or surprise, the end I'll never look into your eyes again. [Verse 2] Can you picture what will be? So limitless and free Desperately in need Of some stranger's hand In a desperate land.