

# ON BOOKS: DECEMBER'S PICKS



**EARTH (THE BOOK):  
A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO  
THE HUMAN RACE,**  
BY JOHN STEWART  
(GRAND CENTRAL  
PUBLISHING)

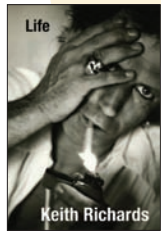
The new book from Emmy-winning *The Daily Show* anchor Jon Stewart offers readers the definitive guide to our species. The world is about to end, and *The Daily Show* writers have embarked on a mission to write a tome that best sums up the human race for whatever alien species stumbles upon this planet's



remains. What we get instead is a hilarious guide covering everything from what we looked like to our achievements in society, government, religion, science, and culture. Full of hilarious photos, graphs, and charts, *Earth* doesn't fail in delivering *The Daily Show* staff's trademark wit, irreverence, and intelligence to the big questions that have confounded us for centuries.

**LIFE, BY KEITH  
RICHARDS WITH JAMES  
FOX (LITTLE, BROWN  
AND COMPANY)**

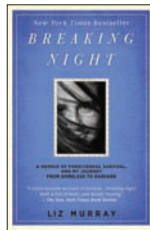
It doesn't get more rock and roll than this. Keith Richards, the iconic hard-



living guitarist and founding member of the Rolling Stones, finally tells his story. But what could easily be passed off as a piece of rock decadence is more a tale of Chuck Berry and Muddy Waters records, the stories behind the creation of some of history's most immortal guitar riffs, fame and notoriety, drugs and exile, redemption and reconciliation, and the road that goes on forever. *Life* reads with all the charm and disarming honesty Richards has become known for and puts to bed some of the biggest myths in the Stones' legacy, while telling the true story of the original rock and roll life.

**BREAKING NIGHT,  
BY LIZ MURRAY  
(HYPERION)**

Author Liz Murray tells her life story of going from a homeless teenager to a Harvard graduate in this inspiring memoir of forgiveness, survival, and hope. Murray leaves no stone unturned



in her story from her birth in 1980 to drug-addicted parents to her childhood meals of toothpaste and ChapStick to living on the streets while trying to earn a college scholarship, all the while leaving the reader entranced and sympathetic to her plight, but without begging for any sort of pity (she even appears compassionate towards her parents despite the dangerous upbringing). Murray's story has already inspired a Lifetime TV movie, *Homeless to Harvard*, but this is the real, unabashed, and often-shocking story Hollywood couldn't tell.

1. STICK TO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING LIST
2. **ONLY OVERTREAT ON THE ACTUAL HOLIDAYS, NOT THE ENTIRE SEASON**
3. AVOID THE URGE TO GET INTO A DECORATIONS ARMS-RACE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS
4. **PACE YOURSELF AT THE OFFICE HOLIDAY PARTY – YOU DON'T WANT TO START 2011 UNEMPLOYED**
5. ONLY RE-GIFT WHEN YOU KNOW YOU HAVE ZERO CHANCE OF GETTING CAUGHT
6. PREDETERMINE A SPENDING BUDGET
7. REMEMBER, FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE NOT THE TIME TO TRY TO MAKE AN "ARTISTIC STATEMENT" WITH THE PHOTOGRAPH
8. AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, DON'T USE THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD AS AN EXCUSE TO WRITE AN OVERLY-LONG DISSERTATION BRAGGING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S WEALTH AND GOOD FORTUNE THIS PAST YEAR
9. COME TO THE ACTUALIZATION THAT BUYING A FRUITCAKE ISN'T EVEN IRONICALLY FUNNY ANYMORE, JUST TACKY (EXCEPTION: SEE PAGE 10)
10. AVOID THE MOBS OF SHOPPERS BY STARTING YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN EARLY NOVEMBER (WE APOLOGIZE IF WE WERE A LITTLE LATE ON THIS ONE)
11. IF YOU NEED AN ESCAPE ROUTE, BOOK A CRUISE THAT "JUST SO HAPPENS" TO FALL ON THE HOLIDAYS
12. **HANGING OUT UNDER THE MISTLETOE FOR THE ENTIRETY OF A PARTY ONLY PROMISES YOU WILL BE LABELED A "PERV" BEFORE JANUARY STARTS**
13. INCORPORATE THE WHOLE FAMILY IN THE HOLIDAY DECORATIONS/PREPARATIONS – IT'S GREAT FAMILY FUN, PLUS ITS FREE LABOR
14. "MARRY AN ORPHAN; YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO SPEND BORING HOLIDAYS WITH THE IN-LAWS" – GEORGE CARLIN
15. PREPARE A MENTAL LIST OF JUBILANT REACTIONS TO GIFTS YOU SECRETLY HATE
17. **HAVE EVERY SIZE, SHAPE, AND TYPE OF BATTERY ON HAND**
18. DO NOT TURN YOUR CHRISTMAS MASS ATTIRE INTO A FASHION COMPETITION WITH THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION
19. WHEN BAKING HOLIDAY COOKIES, SKIP THE ANISE-FLAVORED
20. TAKE UP A WINTER HOBBY TO ENSURE YOU DON'T LOSE YOUR MIND TO HOLIDAY PREPARATIONS – MAY WE SUGGEST BUILDING A SNOWMAN ARMY IN YOUR FRONT YARD
21. PRESERVE YOUR KARMA; DONATE TO THE SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS



## WHAT WE WON'T BE READING

**HERE'S THE SITUATION: A GUIDE TO CREEPING ON CHICKS, AVOIDING  
GRENADES, AND GETTING IN YOUR GTL ON THE JERSEY SHORE,**

BY MIKE "THE SITUATION" SORRENTINO AND CHRIS MILLIS (GOTHAM)  
Dubbed "the Bible of the Situation Nation," *Here's the Situation* is nothing more than one of those cheap vanity publications cashing in on a flash-in-the-pan whose 15-minute mark is fast approaching. The only profound question that comes from this book is how seriously we are really supposed to be taking this trite dribble. Unfortunately, it's safe to say the irony of this will be lost on the legions of fans that put this moron in the spotlight to begin with.



CONTINUES ON PAGE 24