

ARTS

Arts in the Community (*Performing Arts*) Les Miserables, That's Entertainment,

Creative Arts (*Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Short Story, Poetry*):

- [Ibsen, Henrik. A Doll's House.](#)

This Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Edition™ includes a glossary and reader's notes to help the modern reader contend with Ibsen's approach to complex human interactions and the relationship between the sexes. Norwegian-born Henrik Ibsen's classic play about the struggle between independence and security still resonates with readers and audience members today. Often hailed as an early feminist work, the story of Nora and Torvald rises above simple gender issues to ask the bigger question: "To what extent have we sacrificed our selves for the sake of social customs and to protect what we think is love?" Nora's struggle and ultimate realizations about her life invite all of us to examine our own lives and find the many ways we have made ourselves dolls and playthings in the hands of forces we believe to be beyond our control.

- [Cooper, Patricia. The Quilters: Women and Domestic Art.](#)

Those forms of creativity dominated by women-weaving, potting, quilting-have long been called "crafts," as if to imply that women weren't capable of artistic inspiration. These domestic arts were, however, often the only artistic outlet historically available to women, and the skills were passed down from mother to daughter. Poignantly revealed here, through interviews with quilters all over the Southwest, is how these women gained inspiration for their art from their daily lives. The quilts aren't idle pictures to hang on the wall; they are alive as dynamic parts of everyday life, reflecting family, community and history. --This text refers to the *Paperback* edition.

Excerpted from *The Quilters* by Patricia Cooper and Norma Bradley Allen (as appears in [The WomanSource Catalog & Review](#)). Copyright(c) 1989. Reprinted by permission, all rights reserved

When I was about four years old the neighbor's baby died, and all the women was called in to help. Mama knew what her part was because right away she took some blue silk out of her hope chest. I remember that silk so well because it was special and I got to carry it. When we got to the neighbor's some of the women was cooking and the men was making the casket. Mama and three other women set up the frame and quilted all day. First they quilted the lining for the casket, and then they made a tiny little quilt out of the blue silk to cover the baby.

- [Patterson, James. Cross.](#)

Forensic psychologist Alex Cross's storied career in private practice, with the FBI and as a Washington, D.C., cop has brought him into contact with all kinds of seriously disturbed killers, but his 12th outing from bestseller Patterson (after 2005's *Mary, Mary*) may be the ultimate in lunatic deadlines. Beginning with a flashback to the murder of Cross's wife, Maria, Patterson quickly introduces Michael Sullivan (aka the Butcher of Sligo). What follows is a frenetically paced series of brutal rapes and killings by Sullivan, once employed by the mob as a freelancer and now at war with them. Cross juggles being a single parent and being involved in the dangerous game of tracking serial killers until he finally decides to give it up for his family. Needless to say, he's drawn back into the game when it promises a chance of finding Maria's

killer. Cross's competence and vulnerability make a stark contrast with Sullivan's sadistic mutilations and psychological manipulations of his victims. Fans know that Cross will survive, but at what cost? (Nov.)

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From **AudioFile**

Dual narration heightens the conflict between Alex Cross, former FBI agent, and Michael Sullivan, "the Butcher of Sligo." Peter Jay Fernandez, the voice of Cross in almost all of Patterson's audios, shows understanding of Alex's humor and foibles, as well as his vulnerability in revisiting the painful death of his first wife and his inability to leave behind his life as a criminal tracker. Jay O. Sanders's cold, ruthless tones portray Sullivan's psychopathic zeal for threatening, killing, and torturing. He also conveys the villains' tensions as he battles childhood demons, urges to hunt new prey, and Mob figures who threaten his family. The appeal of this book comes from the fascinating parallels between these two characters.

Les Miserables 10-Year Anniversary All-Star Cast DVD (own copy)

That's Entertainment! DVD (Barnes & Noble)

It's ironic that MGM, in such dire financial straits in 1974 that it was selling its fabled back lot and auctioning off artifacts from past movie triumphs, enjoyed one of its biggest box-office hits with *That's Entertainment*, a compilation of musical highlights from the studio's golden days. Onscreen hosts [Fred Astaire](#), [Bing Crosby](#), [Gene Kelly](#), [Peter Lawford](#), [Liza Minnelli](#), [Donald O'Connor](#), [Debbie Reynolds](#), [Mickey Rooney](#), [James Stewart](#), and [Elizabeth Taylor](#) introduce the various film clips while standing on what was left of the MGM lot (Rooney delivers his comments from the Andy Hardy street). The vignettes, in both color and black-and-white, include generous slices of such classic MGM songfests as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *An American in Paris*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and *Gigi*. The film includes the montage of Mickey Rooney's "Let's put on a show!" speeches, [Clark Gable](#) hoofing to "Puttin' on the Ritz" in *Idiot's Delight*, and [James Stewart](#) (!) serenading [Eleanor Powell](#) from *Easy to Love*. Assembled by Jack Haley Jr., *That's Entertainment* proved such a hit that the 1976 sequel, *That's Entertainment II*, was a foregone conclusion. Hal Erickson, *All Movie Guide*

Balanchine – DVD - Rent from Netflix

<http://www.netflix.com/Movie/Balanchine/60035154?mqso=80020215&partid=Balanchine>
The life and art of legendary ballet choreographer George Balanchine are examined through rare footage, penetrating interviews, films and photographs -- including interviews with the maestro himself as well as movies of his superb, groundbreaking ballets. Taken all together, they paint a multicolored portrait of one of the 20th century's most stunningly original stylists.

