True confession: I cannot find my notes that tell me what I am supposed to write about. I only know that there was something about Keith Richards in there, not that I had to write about him, necessarily, but I thought I could say something funny about him in relation to some library-related thing like being UP ALL NIGHT (24 hours/5 days a week starts today in a library near you! This one, e.g.). And, I suppose being up all night could be a reference to any rock-n-roller*, but it mainly makes me think about that Gilbert Godfried-hosted show on USA. Maybe I wish to tell you good luck on finals and that if Keith Richards can survive his lifestyle, then surely, you can get through this. It’ll be you, Keith Richards, and the cockroaches all surviving together.**

Finals, however, are not an apocalyptic event, of course. They are a challenge, a chance for you to prove how whip-smart you are. I happen to think that you are quite bright, as you are in the library now, studying—or, well, maybe you’re about to get back to studying. Stay for as long as you need. We really like you!

We will even soothe your nerves with cocoa PLUS candy canes on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00pm.

**Albeit an easy, cheap one.

**And those cats from The Road. Cats used hipsterly. There were no actual cats in The Road. In fact, the book is so far from kitten, really. It is fun to imagine it with kittens, though, yes? Lo, there came Socks out of the cold, dark, barren, desolate wood.

Amazon’s Top 10 Books of 2013 (Already!)

Or, something to read over winter break. Or, also: you are morally justified in not reading anything at all over winter break and watching re-runs of Judge Judy. But, you know, if you have some read-for-fun left in you, here they are:

1. The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt
2. And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini
3. Thank You for Your Service by David Finkel
4. Life After Life: A Novel by Kate Atkinson
5. Pilgrim’s Wilderness: A True Story of Faith and Madness on the Alaska Frontier by Tom Kizzia
6. Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East by Scott Anderson
7. Tenth of December: Stories by George Saunders
8. The Son by Philipp Meyer
10. Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell

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