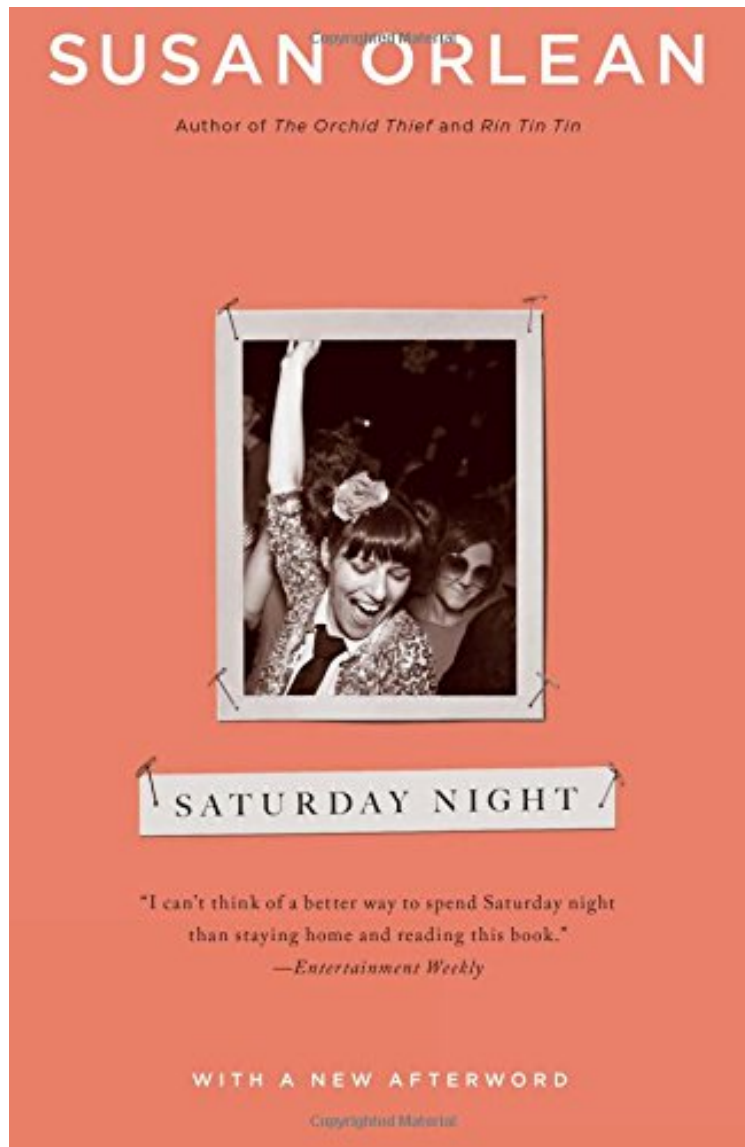


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Saturday Night

Susan Orlean

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Susan Orlean : Saturday Night before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saturday Night:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I'm reading a book on Saturday nightBy BritLit teacherVery interesting. Like reading someone's diary for a Saturday night....Nice American crazy quilt of ordinary Saturday nights. Sometimes a little toooo much detail.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Cool readBy BookgrrrlCool read. Not something I would normally read but was drawn by the author as I'd read her fiction work.

Quite an interesting book. I never looked at Saturday night the way it was described but found Susan really did call out the uniqueness of Saturday night. I was amused at learning how television networks years ago didn't feel like anyone was home on Saturday night so therefore didn't put much mind into programming for that night. Enjoyed learning about the genesis of SNL show. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating! By June Jass An fascinating journey through the events of various cultures and regions which take place on Saturday nights. Cleverly woven into a very interesting read.

From Susan Orlean, the bestselling author of *The Orchid Thief* and *Rin Tin Tin*, comes a new edition of her first book, a quirky classic of narrative journalism that offers an irresistible portrait of how Saturday night in America is lived with a new Afterword by the author. Twenty years ago, before she wrote *The Orchid Thief* or was hailed as a national treasure by *The Washington Post*, Susan Orlean was a journalist with a question: What makes Saturday night so special? To answer it, she embarked on a remarkable journey across the country and spent the evening with all sorts of people in all sorts of places: hipsters in Los Angeles, car cruisers in small-town Indiana, coeds in Boston, the homeless in New York, a lounge band in Portland, quinceañera revelers in Phoenix, and more to chronicle the one night of the week when we do the things we want to do rather than the things we need to do. The result is an irresistible portrait of how Saturday night in America is lived that remains.

From *Publishers Weekly*: Tight, clean prose and thoughtful observations make this series of essays about the Saturday night experience hum with all the vitality and activity of its subject. Freelance writer Orlean demonstrates a fine eye for detail as she describes an array of Saturday night activities: partying, watching television, geriatric polka dancing, working in a missile silo or simply cruising the streets. She explores the mystique that has grown up around Saturday night, the one night that allows significant variety and opportunity for socialization. Also examined is the seemingly random violence that occurs more often on Saturday night than at any other time. But whether discussing the social etymology of the phrase "Saturday Night Special" or the tribulations of arriving after 9 p.m. at the video store, which earlier "would probably still have some color movies available," the book reveals much about ourselves. First serial to the *New Yorker*, *Spy*, *New England Monthly*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe* and the *New York Times*. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal*: Held in almost reverential awe by many, Saturday night is an American icon, important to our culture and perhaps necessary to our psychological make-up, according to journalist Orlean. Traveling the country to find out what people do on Saturday night to make it so special, she attended a coming-of-age celebration for Hispanic girls in Phoenix known as a quinceañera; a polka dance at Blob's Park in Jessup, Maryland; a snobbish New York socialite's dinner party; and a host of other activities each more fascinating than the last. Nonjudgmental, nearly as fun to read as the occurrences it describes, this fascinating book is also a powerful, incisive tract mapping out heretofore unexplored sociological terrain. An excellent addition to popular reading and sociology collections. -Mark Annichiarico, "Library Journal" Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. I can't think of a better way to spend Saturday night than staying home and reading this book. *Entertainment Weekly*: Orleans' high spirits and intelligence give her book the feeling of a good Saturday-night conversation. Her chapters are like beginnings of suspenseful novels. *USA Today*: An unusual and entertaining cultural profile . . . with the drollness of her prose, the sharpness of her ear and eye, and her breadth of curiosity . . . Enlightening. Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *The New York Times*: Delightful . . . Entertaining and interesting . . . A pleasant reminder of how we are at once united by certain of our national customs yet divided by the individual or tribal ways in which we celebrate them. Jonathan Yardley, *The Washington Post*: Orlean, a quirky curator of modern cultural behavior . . . has documented those few hours so near and dear to every working-weeker. . . . A slide show shot in vivid Americana. Matthew Gilbert, *The Boston Globe*: Amusing and informative . . . Orlean has a nearly unerring ear and eye for the pithy and the illuminating. David Finkle, *Chicago Tribune*