

About Reading and Using Goodreads

By Steve Costello

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A Little Background

I read or want to read and review, as well as getting recommendations for new books to read. She has asked me to put together an article about how I use Goodreads so, the following will show you how I use it, and hopefully it can help you in these times of social distancing and isolation.

I have been using Goodreads since the beginning of 2012. As of this writing, I have read almost 1500 books since I joined up.

Get Started

First, go to goodreads.com. You will come to a page where you can read about Goodreads, and sign up for your own account, which is free.

Once you have signed up, set up your profile and account settings.

In your profile the only required field is your First Name, the rest of the fields are optional include as little or as much as you feel comfortable with, you can always go back and edit the profile later.

In settings, you can set privacy preferences, who can view various items, send private messages, and more.

The Home Page

When you sign in Goodreads will open to the Home page. The Home page contains information about what you are currently reading, if anything, and ad, a link to News & Interviews, the current year's Reading Challenge progress, a list of your current bookshelves, and more on the left-hand side, the right-hand side will show updates from your friends.

The My Books Page

The top section of the page has a search box where you can search for a book or author to add books to your shelves.

On the left-hand side, is a listing of your bookshelves with a count of the contents; reading activity links, add book links, and tools.

The right-hand side contains columns of your recorded books, which can be sorted in many ways. The way I use these columns is to go to my want-to-read bookshelf or a specific bookshelf, and sort by date added to figure out my next read.

Browse Page

On this page, you will find links to Recommendations, Choice Awards, Giveaways, New Releases, Lists, Explore, and News & Interviews.

I use Recommendations when I am looking to find a new author to read, and this is only occasionally as I have over 2,000 on my want-to-read shelf.

I check the Giveaways link daily to see if there is something I would like to get for review. This is also a way to find a new author. The giveaways can be either print or Kindle versions, and you will receive an email if you win telling you how and when it will be received.

The other link I use from this page is the New Releases. I use this at the beginning of each month and then place a hold at my local library site for new releases from authors I like to read.

Community Page

This page has links to Groups, Discussions, Quotes, Ask the Author, Trivia, Quizzes, Creative Writing, People, and Events.

I don't know much about these links, but some might be interested.

Conclusion

I hope that this gives you a good idea of what Goodreads is all about, and gets you to sign up and start recording what you are reading. If you want to get an idea of what I read check out my Goodreads at <https://www.goodreads.com/sefccw>. If you have joined up, you can also follow me, add me as a friend, message me, and compare books at the same URL after signing in.

Also, I like to go back and read early books in a series if I like the author. Just check the author's page to see if there is a listing of the books in a series, which will be in book number order, and then see if your library has a copy you can borrow, or find on Amazon, Google Play Books, thrift stores, yard sales, or anywhere else that might have them.

Happy reading!

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Hi Judy,

I don't consider Goodreads to be a social media platform, like Twitter or Facebook. However, there are some that say it is a social media platform specifically for authors and readers.

Steve