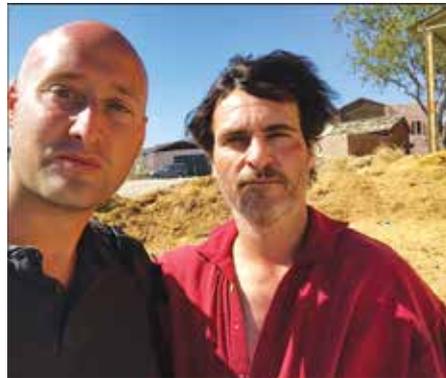




I can't believe Summer is over! The great thing about September is that the Oscar caliber films start coming out. The one I'm excited about is **"The Sisters Brothers"** starring **Joaquin Phoenix** and **Jake Gyllenhaal**. It follows two brothers who are hired to kill a prospector who has stolen from their boss. Both Phoenix and Gyllenhaal are due an Oscar. This comes out September 21st. Also coming out September 21st is **"The House With a Clock in its Walls"** starring **Jack Black** and **Cate Blanchett**. It's a tale of a recently orphaned 10 year old boy who discovers a world of hidden passageways in his uncle's old house. Opening September 7th is **"Peppermint"** starring **Jennifer Garner** who's husband and daughter are gunned down in a drive by. Garner wakes up from a coma and spend years learning to become a lethal killing machine. Fans of **"Alias"** will love seeing Garner in this movie. Opening September 14th is **"White Boy Rick"** starring **Matthew McConaughey** and **Jennifer Jason Leigh**. Set in 1980's Detroit at the height of the Crack epidemic and the War on Drugs. The movie is based on the moving true story of a blue collar father and his teenage son who became an undercover police informant. Also opening September 14th is **"A Simple Favor"** starring **Anna Kendrick** and **Blake Lively**. Centers around Stephanie who seekd to uncover the truth behind her best friend Emily's sudden disappearance. A remake of **Arnold Schwarzenegger's "Predator"** also opens September 14th. It stars **Thomas Jane** and **Olivia Munn**.



Jake Gyllenhaal and Joaquin Phoenix



Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish

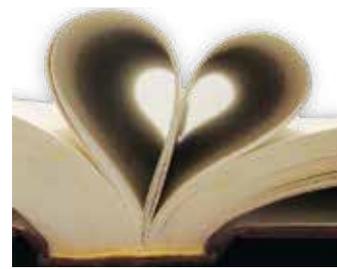
Opening September 28th is **"Night School"** starring the very popular **Kevin Hart** and **Tiffany Haddish**. This comedy follows a group of misfits who attend night school in the longshot chance they'll pass the GED exam.

The Los Angeles Film Festival opens September 20th and runs through September 28th. The film I'm excited about is **"Brian Banks"** starring **Greg Kinnear** and **Sherri Shepherd**. Based on a true story, a young football

player's dreams to play in the NFL are halted when he is falsely accused of rape and sent to prison. Go to tickets.lafilmfestival.com for more information.
For my LIVE THEATER fans: September is very busy. First we have the triumphant return of America's favorite musical, **"The Phantom of the Opera"** at the **Orpheum Theater in San Francisco**. Features a brilliant new scenic design by Paul Brown. Runs from September 5th through September 30th. Call 888 746 1799 for more information. If you're a die hard "Phantom" fan you need to go **"Broadway Backwards"** on September 24th which features the casts of the national tours of **"The Phantom of the Opera"** and **Gloria Estefan's "On Your Feet"**. This is a benefit for The Richmond/Ermet AID Foundation. Will be at Marines' Memorial Theater at 7:30pm. INFO 415 273 1620.

Speaking of **The Richmond/Ermet AID Foundation**, their annual **"Help is on the Way Concert & Gala"** on August 19th was absolutely amazing. The standouts were **Mary Wilson** of **The Supremes** and **Davis Gaines**, who played The Phantom over 2,000 times on Broadway. My favorite was **Kimberley Locke** of **"American Idol"** who performed **"Over the Rainbow"**. Gloria Estefan's **"On Your Feet"** opens September 11th and closes October 7th at the Golden Gate Theater in San Francisco. Call 888 746 1799 for more information.

Fans of **"Guys and Dolls"** will be happy that **6th Street Playhouse** is opening this classic September 14th and closes October 7th. This show is jam packed with big, flashy numbers like **"Luck Be a Lady"** and **"Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat"**. Call 707 523 4185 for more information.



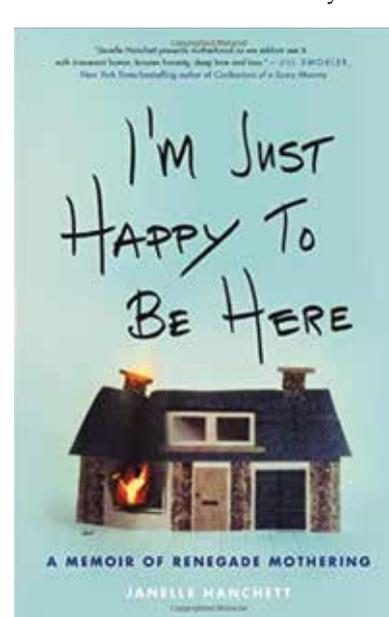
BOOK Reviews

I'm Just Happy to Be Here

by Diane McCurdy

Janelle Hanchett, author of *I'm Just Happy To Be Here*, is a wonderful writer. She can be sassy and sarcastic without sacrificing poignancy. I would like to take credit for her talent and her articulate expression as I was her high school English teacher. But, I can't. She was a natural. I remember her as a cute, peppy, blonde teenager—bright and determined. I could never in my wildest dreams ever imagine her as a besotted alcoholic and drug addict with her life so out of control that her mother has to step in to care for her children as she, and less so, her husband wander in and out of therapy and rehab as indicated in her memoir. It seems her life had reached a nadir of sorts.

Her story begins in the middle of her journey. Then she fleshes out her childhood and her recovery. At 21 she finds herself pregnant by a boyfriend she had known for three months. (Amazingly they are still together after 17 years!) Maybe it was post-partum depression or a deep seated dissatisfaction or maybe it was just a continuation of her college partying ways but soon she needed wine to make it through the day and then it was cocaine.



There were always the binges and the guilt. After countless relapses and with the support system of a loving family and with a weird mentor named **Good News Jack** she struggles and succeeds, at last, and is clean and sober.

Janelle also writes a blog called *Renegade Mothering*. It deals with life in general not just mothering. Whimsical and irreverent, her followers adore her as they can relate to her wistfulness as she watches her children grow up and away from needing her, or explains how her dog helped heal her or why teenagers eat Tide pods (to be cool). She explains how this last activity helped her understand Trump's victory. The most beautiful piece was written after one of our myriad school slaughterings where she describes the exquisite angst, the irrational cosmic waste of the whole event. These last examples give an idea of her style that is carried through her book: pithy, profound, to the point and sometimes profane.

Managing to obtain an M.A. while producing a full length book and as well as producing four children is a small miracle in itself. When recounting her really desperate low points she still peppers her writing with sardonic humor which is why Amazon has put her book on the list of ten best books, so far, in the humor category.

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One of the most compelling aspects of Tom Cochran's firsthand tale of being a Wildcatter in the oil fields from Alaska to Texas is the fact that he's subsequently become a full-blown environmentalist. He shares this significant evolution in the book's concluding chapters. In fact, he was recently named **Director of the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit which is a member of the **National Land Trust Alliance** and **California Northern Region Land Trust Council**.

As someone who formerly performed a key role for oil companies, from drilling to prospecting and cutting deals, he's now especially ardent in his opposition to offshore drilling. He wrote an article for the *Gazette* on this topic last year, and has an article in this issue on saving the Gualala River Watershed.

Pick up a copy of this book at **Copperfield's Books** and **Four Eyed Frog Books** in **Gualala**. For a list of book retailers who carry Tom's other books, visit: www.RiverBeachPress.com

