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*Garden Scene 3 from the Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour 2022*

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For the weekend...

*from Douglas E. Welch*

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**Issue #24: May 20, 2022**

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### Join The Conversation On Discord.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been running a Discord community for friends and family.

Click the link below to join today!

Join Our Community Discord Now!

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Photo by [Eli Solitas](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## No More Heroes

After the recent mass shootings in Buffalo and Orange County and the death of a man who attempted to stop the shooter, I posted this to my Twitter account.

*"His heroism is undeniable.*

*Yet I can't help wishing that his heroism and death was unnecessary.*

*We need to address all the issues that led to this attack and others before any more heroes are created."*

← Tweet



**Douglas E. Welch**  
@douglaswelch



Replying to @AP

His heroism is undeniable.

Yet I can't help wishing that his heroism and death was unnecessary.

We need to address all the issues that led to this attack and others before any more heroes are created.

11:19 AM · May 17, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

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In the face of crisis, we often look for hope among the heroes. We look for a salve for our emotions to help us understand and heal. While it is understandable to look for the heroes and celebrate them. In doing so, though, we turn away from the horrendous acts that create them. We want to celebrate the heroes so we don't have to face reality. I see this over and over again with each tragedy and I want it to stop. I want to stop minting heroes and, instead, create a world where their heroic acts are no longer necessary.

Instead of seeking our solace in heroes, we need to look to our anger. We need to see each attack as an opportunity to take action against those in our society who will take advantage of others for whatever perverse motives they might have. We need to stop abdicating our responsibilities for upholding a civil society where all benefit. We all need to DO something.

It is with my own continuing anger that I witness attacks that were well planned and often well advertised beforehand. We often have opportunities to short circuit these attacks, but we ignore the danger that some people present. If someone is personally and actively presenting themselves as a danger to themselves and others we must develop a diversion program that watches over them and prevents them from carrying out their plans.

If we can't start with these most egregious examples, we are failures. If we cannot do something about preventing more deaths then we have failed and continue to fail as a people. Every new attack brings a fresh wailing and gnashing of teeth but little more. We bemoan our fate and yet do little to change it. We continue on as we always have and then soon forget what has happened, leaving families to mourn alone and forgotten. This tears at my mind and soul on each new occasion. I am losing hope and so are many others

One important step we can all take is to attempt to de-radicalize others when we see it. Many of us have divorced ourselves from friends and family who have adopted unreasonable, if not violent, ideologies over the last few years. It is difficult, but we must re-engage with them and help them to move away from violence and back to a reasonable train of thought. Failing that, and it often will fail, we need to refer them to the criminal justice system so that they can, hopefully, be prevented from violence. If not, they are at risk. You are at risk. The public at

large is at risk. We have seen too often how one person can have a devastating effect on the world and we need to work to prevent it whenever possible

Let us all make a pledge for the present and the future. Let us do all we can to prevent radicalization and violence. Let us take action when necessary. Let us NOT ignore the ideologies and people who threaten violence.

Most importantly, let us not need any more heroes to die as we have seen in the last few days. While their sacrifices are admiral, they shouldn't be required.

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## Video





## The Museum Where Everything Is on Display

*The new Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam takes visitors “backstage” to see its entire \$9 billion art collection.*

*Via Atlas Obscura*

***I am always amazed – and filled with despair – when I see how much of a museum’s collections is hidden from visitors. Virtual online collections certainly help to surface lesser-known pieces, but here is a museum seeking to provide physical access to its entire collection.***

***Amazing!***

THE MUSEUM BOIJMANS VAN BEUNINGEN—THE most visited-museum in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam—was founded in 1849. Over the next century and a half, its collection grew to more than 151,000 works of art, including masterpieces by household names like Rembrandt, Vincent van Gogh, Hieronymus Bosch, and Peter Paul Rubens, all of it valued at €8 billion (about \$9 billion). But as is the case for museums around the world, Boijmans’ galleries can only accommodate a fraction of these vast holdings, meaning that for most of its history the majority have been stored out of sight.

Sjarel Ex, the museum's director since 2004, always thought that was a shame.

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## How To Strategically Choose What Nonfiction Book To Read Next

*by Ivaylo Durmonski*

***So many books and so little time. Here is one way of getting the most out of your non-fiction reading. – Douglas***

*Sorting your books alphabetically, assigning a number, and rolling a die to figure out what nonfiction book you should read next might work for some folks. But if you barely have time to read because of your job, kids, commute, life in general. And if, while juggling all of these things, you still haven't given up on your dream of becoming a better-than-average programmer, artist, business owner, or online therapist. Choosing your next read might be crucial for your progress. Thus, should be approached strategically.*

Most people read haphazardly.

Not that this is a general felony. After all, we're still reading books. Better than reading the news, right?

Like everything in life, though. If you don't have a plan. You will soon find yourself alone, lost in a dark forest. Surrounded by wild animals who are



coming to get you. In translation:  
Nowhere near where you want to be  
in life.

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## These Are America's Most Gorgeous Botanical Gardens

*via Thrillist*

***Whenever I am planning to travel to any part of the world one of the first searches I perform is for “botanical garden” and gardens in general. This always turns up the most delightful places. One of my favorite experiences was visiting a small, Orto Botanico di Brera in Milan that is hidden by surrounding buildings. You had to “want” to go there in order to find it. I will now add all of these gardens to my Google Maps so I can be reminded whenever I might be nearby. – Douglas***

While our country has some awe-inspiring national parks, for the majority of people who dwell in cities, getting there isn't always easy. Cherry blossom season across the country is beautiful, but not

everyone can make it in time to catch the blooms. And, sure, there are a wealth of great city parks built specifically to deliver us from chaos—but should a cloudless, sunny day dare rear its beautiful head, chaos in the form of overzealous picnickers is sure to follow.

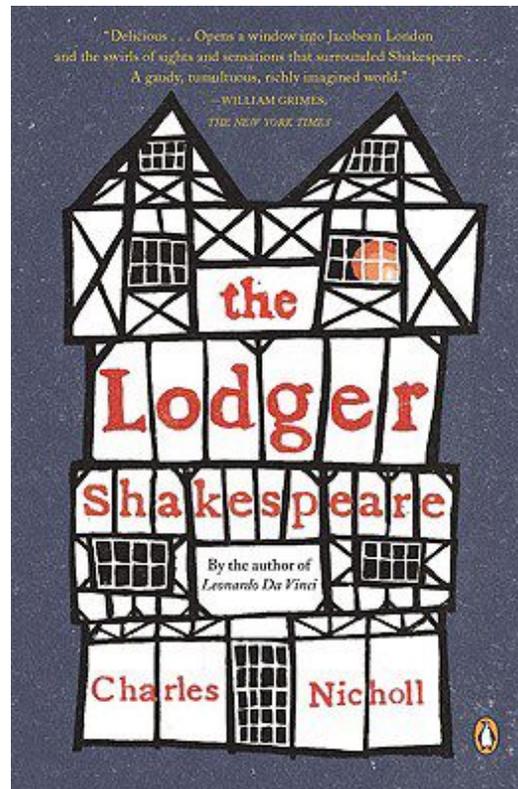
For a real oasis, a slice of private forest amid the urban jungle, and time to reconnect with nature after too many days spent staring at screens, find your way to one of America's best botanical gardens—one or two of which may sit right in your backyard

Check them out!

## The Lodger Shakespeare: His Life on Silver Street

by Charles Nicholl

***I happened upon this book in the Los Angeles Public Library's e-media (i.e. ebook/audio book) download area. It seeks to give us a picture of Shakespeare through the small evidence found in a court case in which Shakespeare was a witness. There is a lot more in this book besides that, though. I have enjoyed delving a little deeper into the mind and life of this tremendous author. – Douglas***



“In 1612, Shakespeare gave evidence in a court case at Westminster—and it is the only occasion on which his actual spoken words were recorded. In *The Lodger Shakespeare*, Charles Nicholl applies a powerful biographical magnifying glass to this fascinating but little-known episode in the Bard’s life. Drawing on evidence from a wide variety of sources, Nicholl creates a compellingly detailed account of the circumstances in which Shakespeare lived and worked amid

the bustle of early seventeenth-century London. This elegant, often unexpected exploration presents a new and original look at Shakespeare as he was writing such masterpieces as Othello, Measure for Measure, and King Lear.”

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