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## Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Fuzzy Dunlop - 08-04-2008 13:51

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A late addition to the 'Judge Me...' threads, I know, but I was just thinking about this last night. I've used the same thing to mark my page for about 15 years. It's a playing card from a deck given away by the NME - Flavor Flav as the joker - a bit tattered round the edges but still going strong.

Anyone else have a special bookmarker? Page-corner folders, especially of library books, will be judged harshly.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 08-04-2008 13:54

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Tickets for railway journeys. Very handy.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by dogbeak - 08-04-2008 14:00

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Anyone else have a special bookmarker? Page-corner folders, especially of library books, will be judged harshly.

Oh, my books get abused. Not only have I been known to turn over the odd corner (when nothing more apt is at hand), books that I'm reading in bed tend to get chucked on the floor, wide open, cracking the spines into a million crinkly pieces.

Besides that, my longest standing bookmark is a pornographic playing card showing a saucy lady crapping in a gentleman's mouth.

I've never understood people that pay money for bookmarks.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by The Chubby Cyclist - 08-04-2008 14:24

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Generally the boarding pass from the last flight I was on because I have to find somewhere to put it when I get on the plane and in the pages of the book is the obvious place.

I'm happy to abuse books, thrash them to within an inch of their lives. But I've never been a corner-folder.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Purves Grundy - 08-04-2008 14:33

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Bookmarks are bourgeois.

I fold over the corners of pages. What's the big deal? Is it the item or the words within that you're interested in?

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Crusoe - 08-04-2008 14:38

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I'm with Citizen Grundy on this one. I fold the corners (and then try to neatly unfold them afterwards).

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-04-2008 15:14

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I'm with GO and Chubby; transport-related bookmarks are the way to go.

And I would consign people who use flourescent highlighters on library books to a special circle of ursine hell.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Andy C - 08-04-2008 15:20

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I genrally don't use any device to mark my plave in a book, although I occasionally leave the book open, face down, in a place where I know I'm going to return to it.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by loose cannon - 08-04-2008 15:22

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Page folding is the action of vandals and illtelectuals

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by The Chubby Cyclist - 08-04-2008 15:26

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The problem with page folding is forgetting to unfold pages so ending up with two or three fold marks and forgetting where you are. Admittedly I can do similar as, at the moment, I have a physio appointment card, two boarding passes and two travelcards acting as my bookmark and I sometimes leave one behind on the wrong page.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by ursus arctos - 08-04-2008 15:30

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In his later years, my father became a voracious reader of potboiler mystery novels, often going through three or four in a single day.

My poor mother, who had the task of getting him "new" ones, resorted to lightly circling a particular page number in pencil before returning any volume to the library, so that she could quickly determine if the volumes she picked off the shelf did indeed qualify as "new" (the titles, covers and everything else intrinsic to the books themselves being much too similar for anyone (including my father) to determine this quickly with certainty).

Extenuating circumstances, M'lud.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Purves Grundy - 08-04-2008 16:04

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The problem with page folding is forgetting to unfold pages so ending up with two or three fold marks and forgetting where you are.

I'd have thought that the folded corner nearest to the end of the book would be a shrewd first guess, wouldn't you?

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by The Chubby Cyclist - 08-04-2008 16:07

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Hmm. Good point.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Lyra - 08-04-2008 17:08

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lightly circling a particular page number in pencil before returning any volume to the library, so that she could quickly determine if the volumes she picked off the shelf did indeed qualify as "new"

Lots and lots of people do this. Everyone has a different little personal mark - look in any library book and you'll see different coloured crosses, circling of page 35, etc etc. I think it's sweet.

I use train tickets and cinema tickets and football tickets usually. I always leave them in the book as a sort of reminder of the time/place I read it.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 08-04-2008 17:29

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Yeah, I like to leave my tickets in as well.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by SpanglyPrincess - 08-04-2008 17:40

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Travel tickets, or football tickets (currently using my derby ticket from last month) or occasionally photos or postcards.

Under Anne Fadiman's classification I am more a courtly not a carnal book lover; I agree that the ideas are the vital thing, not the object. But we show our respect for the idea through our respect for the object, no? That said I have no problem reading trashy paperbacks in the bath. If they fall in, they fall in.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Etienne - 08-04-2008 18:04

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I remember the page number. Not being able to do this is a sign of a lack of intellectual rigour. Losers.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by SpanglyPrincess - 08-04-2008 18:06

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what if you're reading more than one book at once?

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by imp - 08-04-2008 18:16

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You mean you don't read books all in one sitting? Lightweights.

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I use unwanted 'send a friend a subscription' cards from magazines.

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Etienne - 08-04-2008 18:24

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My colossal intellect is capable of remembering up to 3 numbers simultaneously.

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Matej - 08-04-2008 19:16

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I don't bother, usually (except for my nice Patrick O'Brian set, since it has one of those cool ribbon things). If I can't remember where I was, then I probably don't like the book very much (or need to start over anyway).

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Coffy - 08-04-2008 19:26

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I have a million freebies tucked into books by clerks when the books were bought, even at used-book stores.

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Inca - 08-04-2008 19:41

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I use some bookmarks that have sentimental meaning--some prized really nice bookmarks from the UCLA BookZone when I worked there. The operations center of the entire student store purchased those for us, but decided they cost too much, so we didn't have them for a long time.

I also have some from Midnight Special, a great lefty bookstore (quotation on the back: "Hungry man, reach for the book: it is a weapon," Bertolt Brecht) that unfortunately closed about five years ago. And some from Book Soup, when I worked there.

I also use stubs from the boarding passes from past flights.

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 08-04-2008 21:26

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I'm a dreadful corner bender. Worse I hilite passages in my own books and (I know...I know) even lightly underline in library books. For me books and journals are either data storage, entertainment, or love objects. I have few of the latter and treasure them accordingly, the rest I treat like shit. I'm a fascist at heart.

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by GUSTAVUS - 08-04-2008 21:59

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I use big (3")metal paperclips with rounded ends to avoid them tearing the pages.

They fit snugly over the top of pages and dont fall out when the books bouncing around in my rucksack,etc.

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Maybe I'm weird, but I have a real fear of losing bookmarks, especially ones that I really like or have fond memories of where I got them.

I must have about 20-30 different in various books, drawers, etc.

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### Re: Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Not me - 08-04-2008 22:49

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This thread feels unpleasantly intimate, like reading about people's arse-wiping techniques or something.

I'm a folder, by the way.

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### Re: Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by dogbeak - 08-04-2008 22:55

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I don't mind creasing and smashing and wrecking a book to within an inch of its life, but I draw the line at annotating and underlining in the pages of a book. ms. beak does it, and it always niggles me.

I didn't even do that to textbooks, for god's sake.

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### Re: Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by King Mob - 09-04-2008 10:26

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Fuzzy Dunlop - I've still got that NME deck, though mine's in a box in the loft and consequently in pretty good nick.

Should I hijack and talk about it here, or start a thread in Music?

Or not bother.

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### Re: Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Fuzzy Dunlop - 09-04-2008 12:30

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Yeah, I've still got mine as well, KM. It's lying around in a drawer somewhere in the house.

Thinking about it more, I don't really know why I use a bookmark. I always remember where I am in the book, if not the actual page number. I guess I've had it that long it's become a habit using it. I think I'd be a wee bit upset if I lost it.

Using a highlighter is something I've only done once. It felt so wrong that I've never done it since.

Spine breaking doesn't bother me that much. Sometimes it just has to be done.

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### Re: Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Not me - 09-04-2008 12:42

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I've got that NME deck too. I'm slightly ashamed to admit that I modified mine at the time (1992) to rectify the omission of the Manic Street Preachers in favour of Carter the Unstoppable Sex Machine.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 09-04-2008 18:20

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i draw the line at annotating and underlining in the pages of a book. ms. beak does it, and it always niggles me.

i didn't even do that to textbooks, for god's sake.

Sorry I don't agree, to me a book is an interactive living document. I love going back to texts I read twenty-odd years ago and finding comments scrawled in the margins: "Did I really believe that?" I have my Dad's school copies of Dickens and they're interspersed with his marginal notes, a brilliant glimpse into who he has back then, one I wouldn't have otherwise. I don't even mind finding them in library books. I don't do it but I've often felt like extending the discourse: "No no, Tolstoy doesn't mean that at all!"

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Inca - 09-04-2008 19:03

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I didn't underline textbooks or books I was reading for a class, but I make little bracket marks in the margins--saved me a lot of effort in underlining.

My copy of Slaughterhouse Five came from a used book store, and the person really marked it up. At the passage where Vonnegut imagined warfare going in reverse--the bombs flying up from the cities and going back in to the planes, etc., whoever had it before me wrote in the margins: "wouldn't this be WONDERFUL???" I groaned out loud.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by linus - 10-04-2008 01:33

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\$100 bills, used condoms, kitchen appliances, fresh fruits: all these items turned out to be very impractical at some level for marking passages in books.

That's why I use paper bookmarks.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by erwin - 10-04-2008 09:14

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A Serradayres (Ribatejo) Reserva 2002 wine label.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 10-04-2008 11:41

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I don't use a bookmark. I either remember the page number or flip through until I find where I was at.

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## Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Rory Bunk - 22-04-2008 01:44

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I tend to mark my place by way of a bookmark or train ticket.

However, I mark my passage through a book via a grubby parade of assorted food mess - Milo stains, crisp debris, soup splashes and so on - with accompanying fingerprints.  
I'm a messy reader, even when I try not to be.

Folding, however, is disgusting.

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by JtS - 22-04-2008 10:50

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I tear off about 6 sheets and fold either in two or three depending on how sticky my ejection felt.

Oh.

I have no one method, I fold corners, I use tickets, at the moment one book I'm reading has a mini cd as the bookmark.

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Bafflin Smoke Signals - 24-04-2008 12:03

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I either remember where I was anyway, or use tickets and boarding cards. But mostly I use postcards.

The one I've had the longest - it must be getting on for 14 years - is a strange one that was posted to me by someone who clearly didn't know my full name, and had to find out my address (it's in a different coloured ink to my name). It has a mysterious, possibly insulting, message scrawled on the back, which is scarcely legible, and it's unsigned.

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 24-04-2008 12:38

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Has anyone else noticed that the ink runs off a lot of those new train tickets, rendering them less of an aide-mémoire and more just a bit of cardboard?

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by dogbeak - 03-05-2008 20:05

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However, I mark my passage through a book via a grubby parade of assorted food mess - Milo stains, crisp debris, soup splashes and so on - with accompanying fingerprints.  
I'm a messy reader, even when I try not to be.

i pulled a book off my shelf last night (brothers karamazov pt. 1, one of the lovely old black penguin classics), to find that at some point i'd bled all over it and, apparently, put it back on the shelf at some point.

not very edifying i know.

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### Re:Judge Me By How I Mark My Passage.

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 04-05-2008 23:41

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I have a Cuban peso note that has a picture of Castro addressing a crowd on that I laminated. I probably paid 150 times its face value for it.

Other than that, it is rail tickets.

I noticed today that Marley uses a picture he drew of a mate of his

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