

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
J.T. ELLISON



A new decade, roaring 20s goals, and a look back at 2019

January 2020 Newsletter
Vol. 214

Hello GentleReader,



Welcome to a new decade! I come from a time when the idea of 2020 seemed ridiculous, the stuff of science fiction, a time of flying cars and vacation trips to the moon. For example, when we married, I knew 2020 would be our silver, 25th Anniversary. When you're just starting out in life with someone, that seems like a very distant future indeed. But here we are. Still married, but without our flying cars, and no foreseeable moon landings. But just think, children born in this decade will live well into the twenty-second century. What do you think 2100 will look like? They will know. Heady stuff, that. Of course, at the rate we're going, medical advancements being what they are, we all might see it. Our heads will be in jars, naturally, but still.

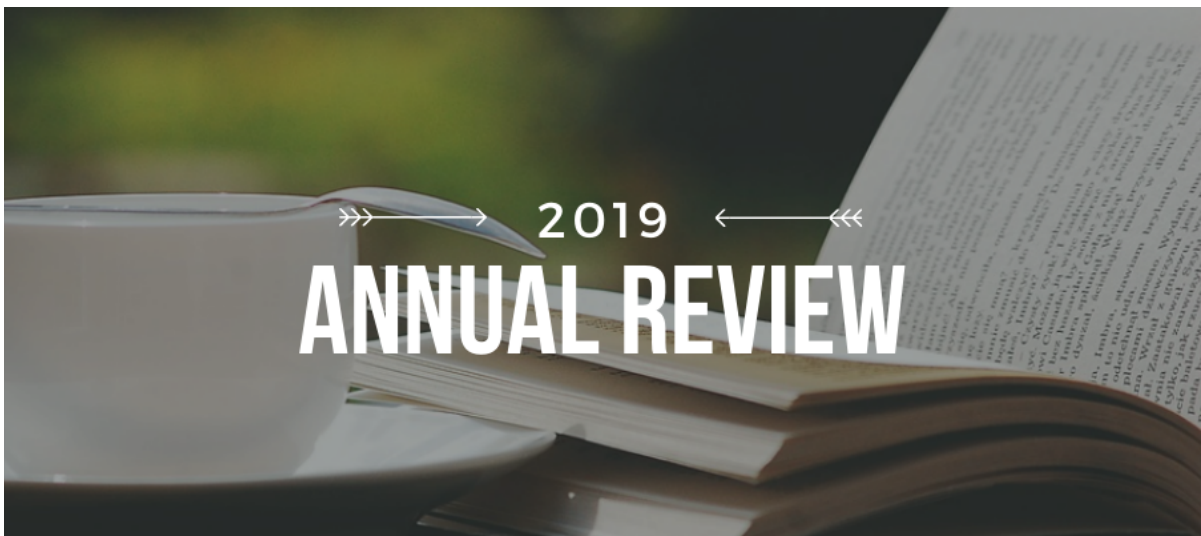
Enough sci fi. I look back on the past decade with great fondness. I accomplished a lot. Dreamed even more. I failed, miserably, at many things. My career had some serious highs, and some serious, nearly devastating lows. I taught myself how to publish books, wrote 19 novels, 13 short stories, and edited 2

anthologies. I traveled all over the world, I met many wonderful people, I lost Thrillercat but adopted the Thriller Kittens. My golf handicap didn't drop, but we found a great community at our club. We renovated and redecorated our house, built a lovely writing porch, and I traded in my writing cubby for a reclaimed wood desk that I love beyond reason. And there are bookshelves. So. Many. Bookshelves.

It's funny to see a decade laid out so simply, but through it all, the good, the bad, the renovations and surgeries, the illnesses and the travel, I wrote. And that's all that really matters. I have one goal for my career. Oh, there are a bunch of little signposts that I still want to pass, but one single, overarching goal. And that is to stay in the game. This decade, I accomplished that goal. So a win for me. And it's my goal for the roaring 20s, too. I want to come to you in January 2030 and say hello, friends, guess what? I'm still in the game! Granted, I might be doing it virtually, my face floating over your computer screen, but who knows?

What's your goal for the decade?

2019 Annual Review



For the past several years, I've been doing annual reviews of my life and work, based on the format from Chris Guillebeau's wonderful Annual Review on his blog. It's a great system for those of us who are self-employed and want to assess our work for the year. This year I got to toss in my decade wordcounts, too, which was fun.

LET'S REVIEW

☒ What I'm Reading – My Top Books of 2019



The reading year started off with a bang, and it never stopped. I read 88 books in 2019, and I kept track of the books that really stood out to me as I finished them. Here are my favorites of the year!

LET'S SEE THOSE FAVORITE BOOKS!

☒ ICYMI – Good Girls Lie is here!

GOODE GIRLS
DON'T LIE...
DO THEY?

On sale now



Thank you so much for all of your enthusiasm and support for the release of GOOD GIRLS LIE. I'm so moved by the kind reviews and amazing photos! It means more than you know. Such a great way to kick off the new year! The book's gotten a lot of press and seems to be doing quite well, so if you haven't had a chance to read it yet (or you've been hiding under a rock and don't know anything about it) here's some places it's popped up recently to whet your appetite:

- **[The Real Book Spy December Pick](#)**. "Landing one emotional punch after another, Ellison's able to manipulate readers' emotions in a hypnotic way— helplessly pulling them along on one hell of a thrilling ride that'll leave 'em shaken, stirred, and dying to find a reading buddy to discuss every twist and turn with. A huge fan of J.T. Ellison, I haven't been this excited about a psychological thriller since Gillian Flynn rocked the world with *Gone Girl*."

- **[Heather Gudenkauf: Boarding Schools, Ghost Stories & New Year's Resolutions ~ A Pen Pal Conversation with NYT Bestselling Author, J.T. Ellison](#)**.

This was such a great conversation! Heather and I go way, way back, so this was especially delightful.

- **[Lisa Unger: A Pen Pal Conversation About the Writing Life](#)**. Another fabulous conversation, I loved chatting with my dear friend about life and writing.

- **[ELLE Canada](#)**: "If the *Succession* prequel series of our dreams actually existed, we imagine it would find Shiv Roy at a private school similar to the one where J.T. Ellison's latest novel, *Good Girls Lie* (out on December 30), is set. The twisty psychological thriller follows Ash, who quickly makes friends with the popular crowd at her elite new prep school. But when Ash falls out of favour and a student ends up dead, she becomes the clear suspect. Enter secrets, betrayal and general mistrust—all of our favourite things (to read about)." I am obsessed with *Succession*, and Shiv Roy, so you can imagine my delight at seeing this wonderful snippet. Also, when I first started writing, I was reviewing for the ELLE

Book Club, and ELLE Magazine was my very first byline. This has a bit of a full-circle feel to me.

-**Providence Journal**. “A bracingly original thriller set inside the ironically named Goode School that reads like a female-centric *A Separate Peace* spiced with murder.”

-**BookTrib: Good Girls Lie, Cheat and Murder ... Or Do They?** “A whopper of a dark tale, a nail-biter bound to keep you reading beyond the midnight hour.”

-**Mystery Scene Magazine**. “A dark, moody, surprising, well-wrought psychological thriller that evokes the best of Agatha Christie and Patricia Highsmith.”

I WANT TO READ THE LIES!

☒ **Book Tour**

J.T. ELLISON GOOD GIRLS LIE BOOK TOUR

1/7
NASHVILLE, TN
PARNASSUS BOOKS,
6:30 pm
In conversation with
Ariel Lawhon

1/13
WAKE FOREST, NC
PAGE 158 BOOKS,
12:00 pm
In conversation with
Barbara Claypole White

1/13
SOUTHERN PINES, NC
THE COUNTRY
BOOKSHOP,
5:00 pm
In conversation with
Barbara Claypole White

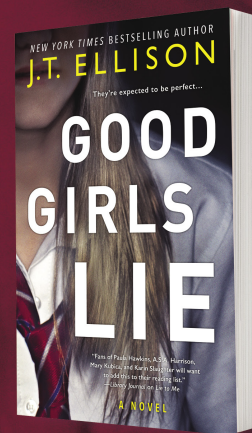
1/14
MILTON, GA
MILTON BRANCH
LIBRARY,
1:00 pm
(Bookmiser);
In conversation with
Emily Carpenter

1/14
SUWANEE, GA
GWINNETT PUBLIC
LIBRARY,
7:30 pm
Eagle Eye Books to sell;
In conversation with
Kimberly Belle

1/15
WASHINGTON, DC
SOLID STATE BOOKS,
7:00 pm
In conversation with
Alma Katsu

1/16
DUXBURY, MA
BOOKED FOR LUNCH,
12:00 pm
(Westwinds Bookstore);
In conversation with
Hank Philippi Ryan

1/16
PLAINVILLE, MA
AN UNLIKELY STORY,
7:00 pm
In conversation with
Hank Philippi Ryan



Book tour is underway! Will I see you on the road? I sure hope so!

IT'S TOUR TIME →

The Latest From The Tao



A few of my favorite articles and ideas I found fascinating this month.

[How Reese Witherspoon Took Charge of Her Career and Changed Hollywood.](#)

This is so inspiring! I know I speak for all of us when I say – GOOD FOR HER!

[Video of a Delivery Man Discovering Snacks Outside a House.](#) This is so lovely. I ended up putting a basket out myself.

[Why Can't I Focus? 8 Reasons and Solutions for the Distracted Brain.](#)

Actionable solutions here. Great stuff. I'm working hard on my distraction this year, it's a major goal.

[How Social Media Hacked Civic Conversation.](#) Can we save the sinking ship? Do we want to? I say yes, we do, and there are many of us who are working on that.

[20 Personal Development Books For Your Best 2020.](#) Great list! Get to thinking about those resolutions!

PS: Do you get my blog posts in your inbox? Sign up for as it releases (usually once or twice a week) or as a weekly digest. Or take it as an RSS feed. We aim to please. ☑

RIGHT AWAY

WEEKLY

RSS FEED

January's Recipe: GF Dutch Apple Pie



Oh, my friends, gather round, and I will tell you a tale of the best freaking apple pie EVER. This recipe is dead simple, can be made in 20 minutes, and truly depends on the apples—honey crisp are my favorites. I found the recipe on [Flavour and Savour](#) and have amended it to be both GF and soy-free. Enjoy!

IT'S PIE TIME!

You can find all of my recipes [here](#). And if you want some wine to go with the meals, [The Wine Vixen](#) has you covered.

Phew – that’s a lot! Have a glorious, wonderful, blessed new year, pick up a copy of GOOD GIRLS LIE for a friend, give your honey a hug, and I’ll see you next month.

peace and hugs,



Are you still here?

Here's a kitten for your troubles.



Did you like this month's newsletter? Share it with a friend!



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