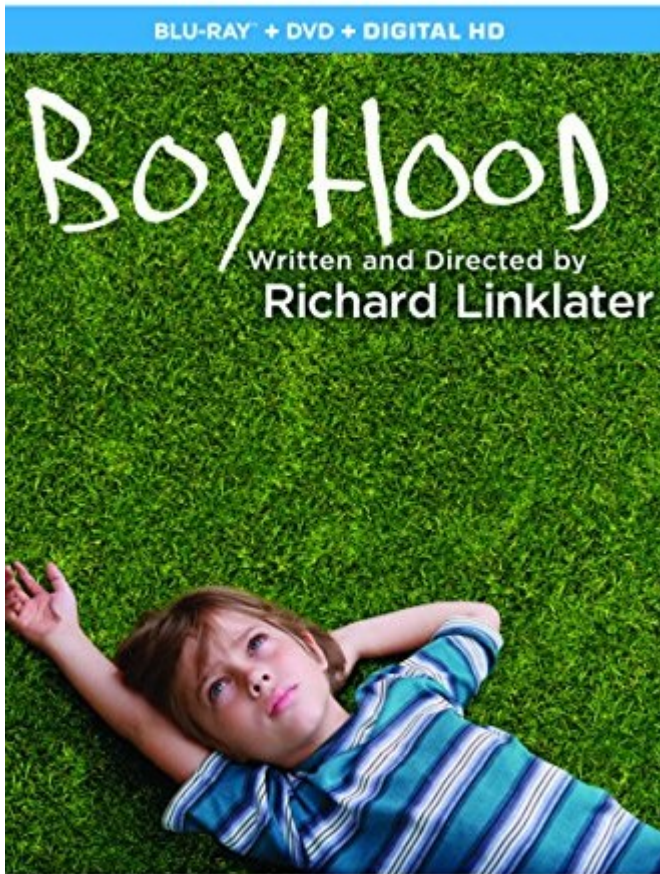


Kathryn Reklis's Christmas list

by [Kathryn Reklis](#) in the [December 10, 2014](#) issue

In Review



Boyhood

Paramount



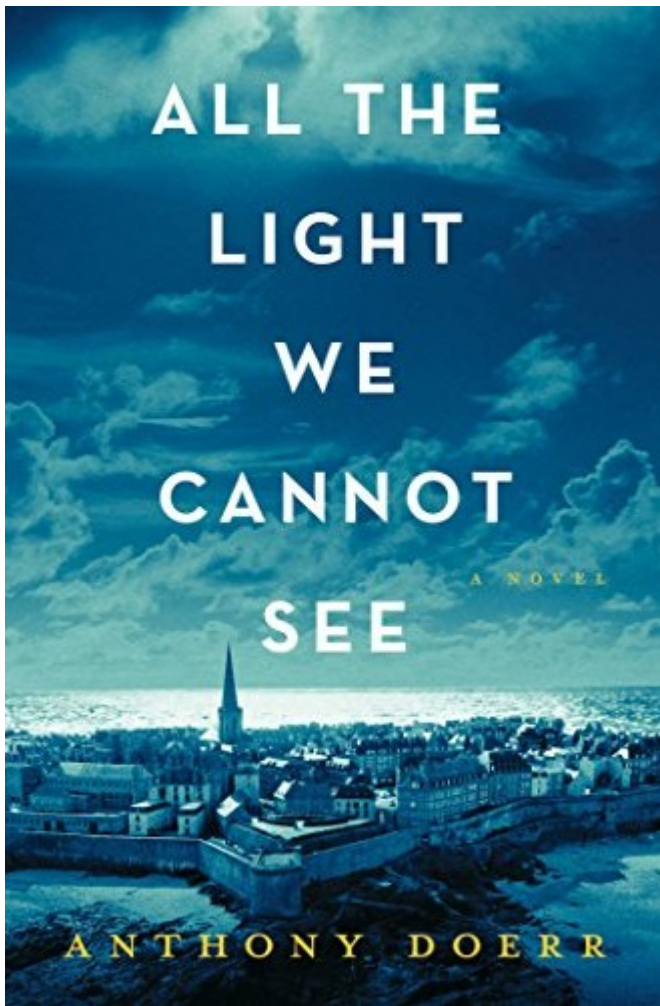
Snowpiercer

Anchor Bay



Breaking Bad

Sony Pictures Entertainment



All the Light We Cannot See

by Anthony Doerr
Scribner



Men, Women & Children

Paramount



Key & Peele

Comedy Central

To give

Boyhood, Richard Linklater's epic of everyday life, lingers long after one has seen it. Filmed on a few days every year for 12 years, the story follows a young boy as he grows from age six to 18. In part a coming-of-age story, in part a meditation on time and the shaping of human character and memory, *Boyhood* is a masterpiece.

In the postapocalyptic thriller *Snowpiercer*, Earth is an icy wasteland and surviving humans circle the globe on a high-speed train. The train is divided into compartments: the poor live in squalor, the rich are swaddled in luxury and escapist drugs. Religious mythology and violence keep the social order intact until a young man leads a revolution. Joon-ho Bong's film is a moral indictment of contemporary social ills and a dystopic Noah story packaged in stunning visuals and camera work.

Earlier this year the complete five-season DVD boxed set of the television drama *Breaking Bad* was released (directed by Vince Gilligan). This story of a high school chemistry teacher who is also a regional meth-cooking drug lord gets my vote. Like a Russian novel, the show explores the nooks and crannies of the human soul and the ways that sin corrupts and twists our best intentions.

To receive

A love story about a blind French girl and an orphaned Nazi technician during WWII does not sound like inspiring reading, but by all accounts the book *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr, is a marvel of observation, sympathy, and lyricism.

Contemporary fiction seldom captures the texture and feel of digitally mediated life. Even Aaron Sorkin's film *The Social Network* was a conventional story about the rise of a tech corporation and not about what it means to live life on Facebook. Although it received mixed reviews, Jason Reitman's *Men, Women, & Children* is one of the first films to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of navigating life through our screens.

In their sketch comedy show, Key and Peele irreverently tackle a range of topics "born from their experiences growing up biracial in a not-quite-post-racial world." Jordan Peele's impersonation of Obama is reason enough to put the third season of *Key & Peele* on my list.