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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"This is a small gem of a book, tender, humble, loving, needed now as ever before when so many of us fear that reading—and the books that we read—are endangered species." —Mary Gordon

My Life in Seventeen Books is a lament for the loss of book culture, and a revel in the power of a unique book to "move" a person from one place to another.

As Sweeney's reader will recognize, actually reading the book in hand or shoulder bag is sometimes beside the point. Books have a kind of "portable magic," as Stephen King has said. Sweeney's book stories center mostly around religion—including Catholicism, neo-Hasidism, and a detour with Ramakrishna monks—but not exclusively. Tolstoy's folktales, M.R. James' ghost stories, a history of Hitler, and Jean Craighead George's novel about a boy making his way alone in the woods outside New York City, are also here. "Sweeney makes a charming companion, telling stories in joyful reflection," writes Jeff Deutsch, director of Seminary Co-op Bookstores, and author of *In Praise of Good Bookstores*.

My Life in Seventeen Books: A Literary Memoir (Hardback; ISBN 978-1958972311; US \$23.) publishes on May 7, 2024. The author will have an event that night at Boswell Book Company in Milwaukee. On May 8 he'll be at Chicago's Seminary Co-op, and on May 9, at Literati in Ann Arbor.

"Sweeney has written a memoir of books that shaped his life. It fits in no category and is magnificent."
—**Richard Greene**, University of Toronto; author of *An Unquiet Englishman: A Life of Graham Greene*

"I love this book. The addictive experience of reading, which guides and charts our inner journey, is glancingly but vividly caught. Everyone will have their own list of books which they carry in their pockets and reread constantly. For some readers, this will instantly become such a book." —**A.N. Wilson**

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Jon M. Sweeney is an award-winning author who has been interviewed in print by a range of publications from the *Dallas Morning News* to *The Irish Catholic*, and on television for CBS Saturday Morning and many other programs. His book, *The Pope Who Quit*, (Image) was optioned by HBO. He is also the author of forty other books on spirituality, mysticism, and religion, including the best-seller, *Meister Eckhart's Book of the Heart*, coauthored with Mark S. Burrows; biographies of Phyllis Tickle, James Martin SJ, and Nicholas Black Elk; and *Thomas Merton: An Introduction to His Life and Practices* (St. Martin's Essentials and Penguin Random House Audio, 2021).

His bookish reputation is nothing new. In 2014, *Publishers Weekly* interviewed Jon in a piece titled, "A Life in Books and On the Move." He's worked in books and publishing since 1990. He began that decade as a theological bookseller in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and ended it cofounding a multifaith publishing house, SkyLight Paths Publishing, in Woodstock, Vermont. Today, he writes, reviews, edits, and recommends books. He is contributing editor for books at SpiritualityandPractice.com; editor of *Living City* magazine, published by Focolare Media in North America; and religion editor/associate publisher at Monkfish. Jon speaks regularly at literary and religious conferences, is a Catholic married to a rabbi, father of four, and active on social media (Twitter @jonmsweeney; Facebook jonmsweeney). He lives on Milwaukee's East Side.