

KEVIN MARTIN
WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE NATION'S
INDECENCY CZAR

BALLANTYNE'S
\$5 MILLION
PRESCHOOL

STAY
AT HOME
DADS

CONFESSIONS
OF A REFORMED
ECO-TERRORIST

Charlotte

Relax.
The Tough Times
Guide to
Taking Comfort



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comfort: at home a good book

• "Chuck Klosterman is a hilarious writer, and it's always comforting to have a good laugh. I turn to his books *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs: A Low Culture Manifesto* and *Killing Yourself to Live: 8½ of a True Story* when I need a lift. Same with *Naked* by David Sedaris. Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is the best book about family I've ever read. The dad's a drunk, they're all dirt poor, but at the end of the day they're happy because they love each other. And that's comforting, right?" —Bridget Herman, contributing writer

• "I always go back to *Pride and Prejudice*. Jane Austen wrote it more than 200 years ago, but the characters are as familiar to me as friends. And, in true Austen style, everything ends happily with a wedding." —Carrie Campbell, art director

• "The entire last chapter of my copy of *Mama Day* by Gloria Naylor is marked with pencil highlighting the most telling lines about family, life, and love. It's the only book that's ever made me cry, and every time I go back and read that last chapter I cry

all over again, which for some reason is so comforting to me." —Blake Miller, senior editor

• "Curling up with any one of Emily Giffin's books—*Love the One You're With*, *Baby Proof*, *Something Borrowed*, and *Something Blue*—feels like spending the afternoon with a friend. Sure, they aren't particularly deep and she's not known for her complex literary prose. But the characters are so real and likable that her novels are the type that I want to keep going indefinitely." —Sarah Crosland, associate editor

• "The Aussie cookbook *Off The Shelf: Cooking From the Pantry*, by Donna Hay, was given to me by my sister who lives Down Under. It has great photos and tasty, unusual recipes that have an international flair. Throughout the book my sister wrote in comments about her favorite dishes. It's comforting because every time I drag it out to attempt another culinary adventure, I feel like she's along for the ride as well." —Lisa Summerell, associate art director

candles

• Evoke memories of seasons past with the alluring scents of these candles for all seasons.

winter

The calming spice coupled with LAVANILA's signature vanilla scent fills a room with warmth. **The Healthy Candle Vanilla Spice** by LAVANILA, \$23, Sephora, SouthPark, 704-366-5080

spring

Notes of lime and grapefruit complement the alluring scent of the blue agave flower and the subtle cinnamon undertone. **Blue Agava & Cacao** by Jo Malone, \$65, Neiman Marcus, SouthPark, 704-423-7900

summer

The sweet sangria smell creates a room creating a scent reminiscent of lazy summer. **Chilled Sangria** by Bas Republic, \$24, Banana Republic, Blakeney Shopping Center, 704-544-0560

fall

The rich vanilla hints of sweet bourbon in this autumnlike candle (pictured).

French Bourbon Vanilla by Voluspa, \$18.95, Paper SkyScraper, 330 East Blvd., 704-333-7130

Vanilla by Voluspa, \$18.95, Paper SkyScraper, 330 East Blvd., 704-333-7130

