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It's been a few days since we recorded our episode about screentime!

As such, I'll keep these remarks (relatively) brief.

It's the second snow day in a row — which means the fourth consecutive day off from my daycare educator role ~ I enjoy what I do, even though it is only part-time ~ but I'm grateful for a couple of "extra" weekend days — in my late 70s, I'm of the opinion that time is

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much more valuable than money!
So, in addition to getting
caught up on ENT things -
Doug has prepared three
sets of notes within two weeks -
I've had the opportunity to
make serious progress on
my "in progress" reading
pile ~ which aligns nicely
with the "reducing screen
time" theme of this episode,
as well as the "health and
wellness" theme we spent
serious time on within the
episode!

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In my file at the moment ~

- > Daredevil: Born Again - a collection of that Marvel comic's significant 1986 run written by a young Frank Miller who would become a legend of comics for his work on Daredevil and later the Dark Knight Returns (✓)
- > Raymond Fraser: Collected Poems - a major collection compiled before the significant NB writer passed away in 2018. A writer's with, these poems are my first proper introduction to Ray and his work.
- > The Saga of the Swamp Thing (Vol. I). A collection of Alan Moore's first issues of that horror-based DC Black Label title, circa 1984. Moore would go on, among many other titles, to pen The Watchmen for DC ~ one of my favorite comics as well as TV and movie adaptations.

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- > Cicero - Selected Works (Penguin Classics) - As part of my reading of all things Socrates, Plato, Cynic, and Stoic, it's impossible to overstate the influence of one of Rome's foremost lawyers, orators, and writers - circa 106 - 43 BC. As a significant political figure of the era with a wealth of writings, he's as noteworthy as Seneca and Marcus Aurelius - though I find the latter two more compelling, generally.
- > Xenophon - Conversations of Socrates (Penguin Classics). Much less famous, and much less well-written or philosophically compelling, this collection is still required reading as the only existing account of Socrates' life and teaching by one of his followers - besides Plato's. The Socrates of Xenophon is a grounded, practical individual interested in and knowledgeable about the lived, day-to-day experiences

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of his friends and followers

> On Rome and the Gods - The Life and Works of Emperor Julian. Part biography, part collected writings. I've been deeply fascinated and moved by the figure of Julian the Apostate, Rome's only other philosopher emperor besides Marcus Aurelius - though he only lived to the age of 32 (circa 331-363 AD) he was a serious thinker and writer - who, with more time, may have left a much more significant imprint on history and body of work, generally.

> Moby Dick (Herman Melville). In very grateful this novel from 1851 lives up to its significant reputation. Written in compact episodes, it is nevertheless outsized in scope and ambition, and deeply modern and surprisingly humorous. As a nautical with maritime roots to the 1790s, this is required reading.

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> Absolute Batman: The Zoo -
This collection brings together
the first six issues of this
highly compelling reprint of
one of the most enduring
characters in modern literature. Scott
Snyder's writing and his talented
artist collaborators let
the new or casual reader
appreciate the character and
the tropes "from the
ground up". There's verve
and emotional depth to
these stories which I've only
encountered in a few other
"Bat" books over the years.
So far, this series all the
critical and popular acclaim
it's received thus far.

And so - in the absence of
screen-based entertainment -
I'm all-in on books and stories
of all kinds this lengthy,
cold, snowy Atlantic winter!

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