

**Anne:** For those who have young readers at home and for all who love history I highly recommend the Rush Limbaugh books on American History written in a fun and easy to read style; **Rush & the American Revolution, Rush and the Star Spangled banner, Rush& the brave Pilgrims, Rush & the First Patriots. All on the bestseller's list**

## **MrsS**

I'm nearly finished a book called Me Before You and next I'm reading The Fault in Our stars then Before I go to sleep -

## **loke**

I finally read An Absolute Scandal by Penny Vincenzi, light read for beach.

## **Kern**

The Book Thief was indeed a good book, but as you noted, Louise, very sad. Another well written holocaust book is Those Who Saved Us. I just read The Orphan Train, which was a good read.

## **Anne**

One of my favorite authors of beach books: Dorothea Benton Frank has a new book which takes place in Charleston and on Sullivan's Island where I take Murph to the beach. Lots of interesting characters. Very light and enjoyable.

The Hurricane Sisters

My daughter is reading "Gone Girl" by Jillian Flynn. Awesome sit on the edge of your seat book. Soon to be a major motion picture.

I loved Girl in Translation by Jean Kwok which is a story about a young girl and her mother who immigrated to America from China; their struggles and triumphs.

Jean Kwok has a new book entitled "Mambo in Chinatown". This is the story of a young girl who works as a dishwasher in a Chinese restaurant where her father is famous for the noodles he makes. Charlie (the girl) tries working out as a receptionist which ends in disaster but leads her to fulfill her dreams of being a professional dancer. A very inspiring story.

I love Jhumpa Lahiri's books:  
Unaccustomed Earth  
Also: The Namesake (Award winning)  
Interpreter of Maladies

## **loke**

I just finished *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, a very moving story but very sad. I don't think this is a beach read as I found it depressing.

**Anne** *Where we Belong* by Emily Griffin

A successful NY TV producer's life changes forever one night when she opens the door to the 18 year olds she gave up for adoption at birth. This is very well written with some interesting characters.

Some of you have enjoyed the #1 Ladies Detective Agency series. I am very much enjoying the newest in this series:

*The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon* by Alexander McCall Smith.  
This is a very lightweight collection for both ladies and men.

## **loke**

I just bought another book by Penny Vincenzi, *the Decision*. Much too thick to take on a trip but will keep me busy for the next long while

I just read a really good book that would be good for the beach.

**Her Father's House** by **Belva Plain**

A NY attorney kidnaps his daughter from his negligent socialite wife. Very interesting.

## **threesons**

Posted On: *10/28/2013 at 2:38 pm*

That book looks good! I read a couple of vacation that anyone who loves the Downton Abbey series would enjoy. Both with the same Title " *The American Heiress*" one by Daisy Goodwin and one by Dorothy Eden. The story lines are different and both were very enjoyable reads. I found the one by Dorothy Eden a real page turner and finished it in a day.

.

**Together Tea** by **Marjan Kamali**

A delightful book about an Iranian family who immigrates to America. The mother is nearly obsessed with finding a suitable Iranian husband for her daughter and develops "spreadsheets" on potential suitors. It is really very funny. In the end the daughter finds her own husband in a surprising way.

The mother also develops something like a crush on a musician she meets in spreadsheet class. Her doctor husband is a really good sport.

This also discusses the struggle between two very different cultures that many immigrants face. Very enjoyable.

Looking for some new beach books to take with me on my next trip.

Kern Jhumpa Lahiri has a new book! I'm on the waitlist. Can't wait.

True beach books. Dorothea Benton Frank's books influenced my move to South Carolina. Her books take place in or near Charleston, Mt Pleasant, Shem Creek, Sullivan's Island. Enjoyed these this weekend.

**Full of Grace**  
**Shem Creek**

I was happy to have found a book I read years ago by Maeve Binchy. As with all of her books, this takes place in Ireland in a small village and has lots of colorful characters.

**Firefly Summer**

Just finished another powerful book.

**Jewel by Bret Lott**

"In this captivating novel Brett Lott creates a matchless portrayal of a mother's devotion to the child who is both her burden and God's singular way of smiling on her face."

Takes place in Mississippi and California over a period of forty years.

**A Girl Like You by Maureen Lindley.** Another powerful book about a sad time in American history. Satomi is a Japanese American born to an American father and Japanese mother. Tragically her father was killed in the 2nd world war and she and her mother were sent to the "camps". She is brave and resilient and after much hardship she overcomes her past and makes a good life.

**Looking for Me by Beth Hoffman.** I especially enjoyed this because Teddi had a dream of having a shop where she would restore and sell antiques. She moves from Kentucky to Charleston SC (where I live) and makes a dream come true. It is more complex than what I say but a very good read.

**Unsaid by Neil Abramson**

Powerful book. I am still feeling emotional about it. All animal lovers will not be able to put this down. A female veterinarian passes away leaving her corporate lawyer husband behind to manage a houseful of her pets including dogs, cats, horses, a pig and more.

Through his grief the wife stays with him "in limbo". Once he returns to his lawyer life a friend of the wife approaches him to defend her and a chimpanzee in court. Interesting, touching and insightful. Highly recommended.

.

**I have just finished Fly Away by Kristin Hannah. Best selling author**

Excellent book. "An emotionally complex, heart wrenching novel about motherhood, love, loss and new beginnings. It reminds us that where there is life there is hope and where there is love there is forgiveness."

A favorite: I am re-reading

**A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini**

He also wrote the best seller **The Kite Runner**. Excellent.

Both take place in Afghanistan.

**threesons**

Just finished A Walk across the Sun. It was very good, about human trafficking and a real page turner.

**loke**

The Shoemaker's Wife by Adriana Trigiani is a great book. I bought it several months ago & so glad I finally took the time to read it.

**Starting Now by Debbie Macomber.**

All of her books focus on women's issues, ie careers, family, kids, men, knitting, teenage pregnancy. All are light and enjoyable. This is her newest.

**Mulberry Park by Judy Duarte**

Loved this book; am going to hold on to it and reread it at a later date.

"Duarte brings together a cast of lost and lonely characters and deftly weaves their lives into a story that hooked me from a little girl's honest "*Dear God*" letter until the very last page." Such a happy book.

**boatchick**

Absolutely LOVED the Mitford series.....

Started Company of Others, but finding it hard to read will pick it up again. I think it's has to do with the Irish Dialect, not written with the same flow of the entire series. I even have the Mitford Cookbook and the Snowmen of Mitford collection on one of my Christmas trees!

Boatchick:New Mitford book '**Come Rain or Come Shine** (12/15)

Just finished The Book of Tomorrow by: Cecelia Ahern, very thought provoking .

Haunted on Bourbon Street by: Deanna Chase. Loved it!

Gone Girl by : Gillian Flynn Whoa....!

Love in a Nutshell by: Janet Evanovich & Dorien Kelly, nice easy going read

Summer Secrets, by Barbara Freethy , reading it now on my NOOK and it's hard to put down....

Speaking of my NOOK I have so many books downloaded thanks to BookBub....Finding alot of discounted and FREE books on this site and get books to browse daily. It's also available for the Kindle.

Finished the most recent book by Khaled Hosseini. He wrote the wonderful "**Kite Runner**" and "**A Thousand Splendid Suns**". This one is "**And the Mountains Echoed**". All take place in Afghanistan. The first two are favorites of mine.

Am going back to Maeve Binchy's delightful books. Most of her books take place in Ireland and are full of delightful characters. It is not necessary to read them in order but it is beneficial as you get to know the characters and follow them through their lives. Just re-reading **The Evening Class** about a diverse group who converge in an evening class to learn Italian and plan a group trip to Italy. Really delightful. Some of her previous books

The Copper Beach

The Lilac Bus

Circle of Friends

Silver Wedding

Firefly Summer

Echoes

Light a Penny Candle

Sadly Ms. Binchy passed away last year.

I have just finished two books in the Mitford series. These are delightful books by author Jan Karon. They are best if read in order. They center on Father Tim, a minister in a small town in North Carolina, and the many characters of the town. Late in life Father Tim marries his neighbor Cynthia, an acclaimed children's author. Absolutely uplifting, humorous and very light.

I recently read *In the Mountain and Shepard's Abiding*. I am now reading *In the Company of Others*. Father Tim and Cynthia finally make it to Ireland where they have been planning a trip for eight years.

## **New Mitford book (12/15) Come Rain or Come Shine**

Just finished **Lone Wolf** by **Jodi Picoult**.

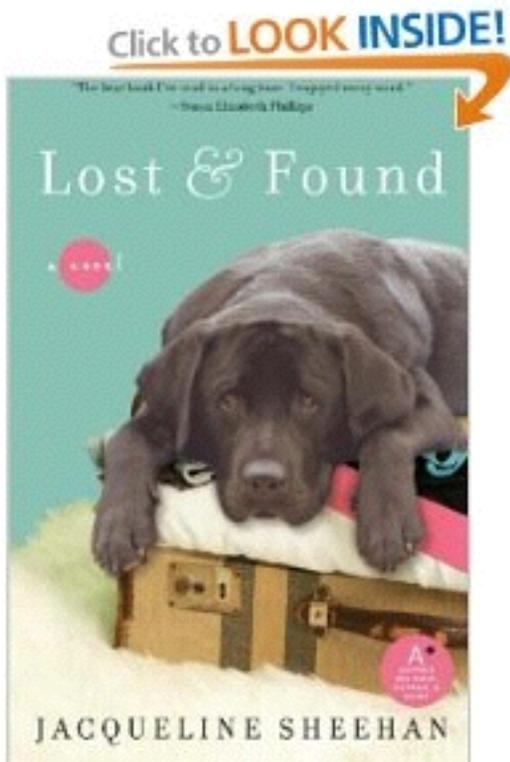
#1 Bestseller - a biologist leaves his family to live with a pack of wolves. His return entails issues of family secrets, love and letting go.

Amazing story.

Read an excellent book while away:

**Lost & Found** by **Jacqueline Shehan**

Dog lovers will enjoy this book as it really personalizes the dog "Cooper".



The sequel is **Picture This**.

## **HolidayCrazy**

This year, I'll be taking Dan Brown's new one, a couple of Lee Child's 'Jack Reacher' series, possibly Jeremy Clarkson latest and maybe a Stephen King for good measure! [Login](#) to reply to this comment.

Finished Sara's Key. Highly recommend. Looking for the next book. Here is a good link, <http://www.goodreads.com/>

I am in the middle of an incredible book that is being passed around my work -out class.

### **Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay**

OMG. Translated into 15 languages. The story of a little ten yr. old Jewish girl who escapes from the death camps in Paris. (Not all of the Nazi camps were elsewhere.) "At times I didn't want to read on but I couldn't stop. A lyrical lesson in how the human spirit still shines through the shames of history."

Loke, Kern, Threesons and others would like this.

I am greatly enjoying **A Week in Winter** by Maeve Binchy.

[This has become a "can't put down" book.](#)

Sadly this is Ms. Binchy's last book as she passed away. As with all of her books, this is full of interesting characters who come together in the Irish countryside to restore an old house and make it into a Bed & Breakfast. An unlikely project with a diverse cast of characters inter twined with some figures from previous books.

I am very much enjoying "**The Newlyweds**" by **Nell Freudenberger**.

The story of a young woman from Bangladesh who meets her American husband-to-be on an on-line dating site. "A hundred years ago Amina would have been called a mail order bride. But this is the 21st century. Amina is wooed by George on-line"

While at the library I also took out "**A Good American**" by **Alex George**.

I had forgotten that I have already read this. Excellent book about a young German couple who fall in love, become pregnant and flee to America, penniless and without knowing a word of English. The book spans generations. Each new generation finds out what it means to be an American.

Thanks Boatchick, those are some of my favorite authors. Dorothea B Frank's books take place here in the Lowcountry where I now live.

I was in the bookstore and saw Maeve Binchy's last book was released shortly after she passed away:

A Week in Winter

Looking forward to reading it.

### **boatchick**

Folly Beach: Dorothea Bento Frank, Set in South Carolina

Love in a Nutshell: Janet Evanovich & Dorien Kelly, Set in Michigan along the lake

The Beach Club: Elin Hilderbrand, set in Nantucket

The Pact: Jodi Picoult, This one was hard to put down...

The Paris Wife: Paula McLain, about Ernest Hemmingway and his first wife Hadley

These two books both have the theme of an adult daughter seeking out her mother's history in different countries.

### **Last Voyage of the Valentina by Santa Montefiore**

Takes place in London & Italy

### **In the name of Salome by Julia Alvarez**

Takes place in the USA, Cuba, Dominican

### **loke**

We just found a great 2nd hand book store here & I had difficulty limiting my purchases.

We both found some books & I got a couple by Santa Montefiore, Meet Me Under the Ombu Tree & the other is one you recommended a while ago Anne, Last Voyage of the Valentina. Now I have to decide which books to take or stay longer!

I have read the first two - very good. O'Reilly's books get raves and are often on the bestseller list.

### **Loke**

The Shoemaker's Wife - Adriana Trigging

Call the Midwife - Jennifer Worth  
The King's Secret Matter - Jean Plaidy  
Killing Kennedy & Killing Lincoln both by Bill O'Reilly  
The Thief - Clive Cussler.  
[Login](#) to reply to this comment.

I read a lot on this past vacation:  
Re-read **The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards**. Excellent  
**Anita Shreve's "Rescue"**. Shreve's books always have interesting characters  
**The Sunday Wife by Casandra King**  
**The Love Season by E. Hilderbrand** All of Hilderbrand's books take place on Nantucket Island so have a "beach" theme

Powerful book:

**Hemingway's Girl by Erika Robuck**

*In Depression era Key West. Mariella, the daughter of an American fisherman and Cuban woman knows hunger. Her struggle to support her family following her father's death leads her to a bar where she meets Hemingway. She is hired as a maid in the Hemingway household and enters a world of celebrities, lavish parties and off island excursions.*

While this is a work of fiction it gives one a glimpse into the complex character of Ernest Hemingway, his voracious appetites, demons, struggles as a tortured yet talented writer. It is reminiscent of The Great Gatsby in some ways. A page turner

Mariella is a wonderful character..

**A Hundred Flowers by Gail Tsukiyami**

In 1957 Chairman Mao declares a new openness in China: "Let a hundred flowers bloom". One family's struggles and triumphs during this time. Very touching and a quick read.

I have also read The Smurai's Garden by the same author.

Amazing book. **Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn**

I cannot put it down. Will finish it tonight. A thriller. Nick & Amy are preparing to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary when Amy disappears. Many twists and turns and a shocking ending.

**nancyinma**

A very inspiring uplifting book

**The Hundred Foot Journey by Richard Morais**

**Begins in India and evolves to London and Paris**

"Easily the best novel ever set in the world of cooking"

"That skinny Indian teenager has that mysterious something that comes along once a generation. He is one of those rare chefs who is simply born. He is an artist."

**So Far Away by Meg Mitchell Moore**

"is the moving story of three very different women whose lives improbably intersected. The author effortlessly moves among a troubled teenager, a mother who longs for her lost daughter and a 1920 Irish domestic with a shocking secret. The result is a powerful page turner about love, loss, motherhood and friendship."

The Flight of Gemma Hardy  
by Margot Livesey

When her widowed father drowns at sea Gemma Hardy is taken from Iceland to Scotland to live with her uncle and his family. When her uncle dies Emma's hostile aunt sends her to a private school where she is treated as an unpaid servant. When the school goes bankrupt she finds a position as a nanny. Gemma is a survivor and her many challenges take her to a place where she eventually finds the life that she has dreamed of.

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Just finished an incredible book.

**Infidel by Ayyaan Hirsi Ali**

A true story. "Born in Somalia and raised in a strict Muslim family Hirsi survived civil war, female mutilation, brutal beatings, adolescence as a devout believer and life in four troubled unstable countries. She escaped from a forced marriage and sought asylum in the Netherlands where she earned a college degree in political science, fought for the rights of women and became a member of Parliament"

A celebration of triumph over adversity. Hirsi now resides in the United States, and continues her work on behalf of women.

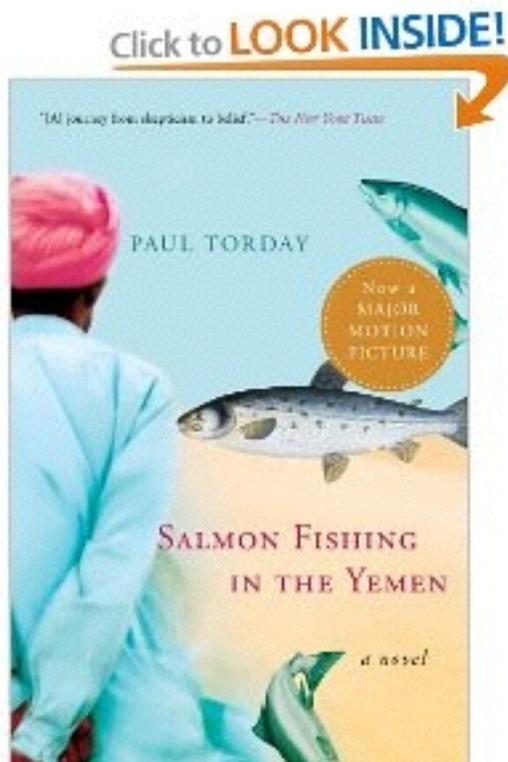
Just finished **The Kite runner by K. Hosseini - outstanding. Also by this author**

**Absolutely LOVED this book. ANother book about Afghanistan which makes me want to read more.  
A Thousand Splendid Suns"**

**Marian is only 15 when she is sent to Kabul to marry Rasheed. Nearly two decades later a friendship grows between Marian and Rasheed's 2nd wife, a teenager. When the Taliban takes over life becomes a desperate struggle yet love can move people to overcome the most daunting obstacles with startling h**

**Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** by Torday.

Very interesting book. I wrote below about the movie which I saw first. In this case I think I enjoyed the book more because I had seen the movie. Uplifting



A wealthy Yemen sheik has a dream of introducing salmon fishing to the Yemen. His strong beliefs in his dream are inspirational to the reader and those who surround him. Very uplifting. (I also learned a lot about salmon!)

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Just finished Therese Fowler's first book

### **Souvenir**

*Unfolding with warmth & passion, TF's vibrant and moving debut illuminates the possibility of second chances, the naive choices of youth, the tensions within families and the wondrous designs of fate.*

<http://theresefowler.com/the-books/>

Just read the 13th book in the series

**The #1 Ladies Detective Agency**

**by Alexander Mc Call Smith**

**The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection**

These are very lightweight, whimsical books, good for beach reading for ladies and gentlemen. Take place in Botswana and always humorous situations with fun characters

**Tears of the Giraffe**

**Morality for Beautiful Girls**

**The Kalahari Typing School for Men**

**The Full Cupboard of Life**

**In the Compnay of Cheerful Ladies**

**Blue Shoes and Happiness**

**The Good Husband of Zebra Drive**

**The Miracle at Speedy Motors**

**Tea Time for the Traditionally Built**

**The Double Comfort Safari Club**

**The Saturday Big Tent Wedding**

**American Wife by Curtis Sittenfeld**

Best seller. A work of fiction based on the lives of George W and Laura Bush. Very well written and lots of detail. Murph's Aunt is now reading it.

Wonderful book

**A Good American by Alex Gordon**

"This lush epic tale of one family's journey from immigrants to Good Americans had me alternately laughing and crying, but always riveted. It's a rich, rare treat of a book."

Someone gave me this book and I wasn't sure I would enjoy it but I would recommend it. Well written, interesting characters.

National bestseller

**The Magician's Assistant by Ann Patchett**

"An enchanting novel of love, loss and the power of possibilities"

**threesons**

*I was reading a preview of Helen Keller in Love...a new novel and it may be worth reading. Just completed The Help...I always seem to read the best sellers after no one is rushing out to get them...still a good read.*

Threesons I mentioned this to Charles and he is researching it.

Just finished the bestseller "**The Island**" by **Victoria Hislop**. Takes place in a small village on the Greek Island of Crete, spans four generations. "At last, a beach book with heart..packed with family sagas, doomed love affairs, secrets..a page turner."

Loke and others, Penny Vincenzi has a new book that I just got at the library, "**More than you Know**".

I have just finished **The Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd. Same author as The Secret Life of Bees.** Wonderful book. I think I may have started it a couple of years ago and not given it a chance. Read a couple of chapters and you'll be caught up in it.

Glad you enjoyed The Dressmaker...I agree it would be a good beach read. Just finished The Great Betrayal by Pamela Oldfield and enjoyed it. Just downloaded a book to read which I am looking forward to called Amandine by Marlena de Blasi....it seems very interesting when I got the preview so looking forward to seeing how it turns out and another from the library I need to read first is called Polar Wives by Kari Herbert...it is about the wives of explorers.

Just finished **in her shoes** by bestselling author **Jennifer Weiner**.

"Rose & Maggie claim to have nothing in common but a childhood tragedy, DNA and a shoe size but they're about to learn that they're more alike than they ever imagined." The story of two sisters blending humor and heartbreak. A very good read.

Just finished an outstanding book

**"Tis by Frank McCourt**

A memoir and sequel to Angelas Ashes

"Tis feel like a friend", "Every page contains an unforced laugh..the gloom is indivisible from moments of great joy and compassion"

Beautifully written

**boatchick**

I am reading "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill" by Mark Bittner

It's a wonderful true life story of the interactions between the author and a flock of wild parrots in San Francisco. It's really amazing and a great fun read!

Have you ever finished a book and feel sad because you miss the characters?

I have just finished another excellent book that takes place in Afghanistan after the Taliban left. It is written by a British journalist who worked on a newspaper there during that time. She tells this beautiful story through the eyes of an 11 year old boy who sees the good in life all around him. He has a terrific sense of humor and wit.

"From the first page this beautifully told tale will capture the reader's heart and imagination...powerful and moving"

**Born Under a Million Shadows by Andrea Busfield**

Just finished an outstanding book by Pat Conroy, the author of **Prince of Tides**.

**South of Broad** takes place in charming, historical Charlestown SC where many wealthy socialites from the old south find themselves confronting diverse people from cultures and backgrounds they have previously avoided. This book follows a very colorful group of high school kids from all walks of life who stick together through adulthood. Excellent writing, some humor and some disturbing incidents but very enjoyable.

### **threesons**

It is a very new book, but I got it through our library here. Ann, don't know if you read any of the Kate Morton books yet but you should give them a try...they are really fantastic.

I also recently read *The Paris Wife*, about the life / marriage of Ernest Hemingway and his first wife Hadley. It was quite good. For those who like history, *Catherine the Great* by Robert Massie...it is long and of course this is not fiction but I do love books about women in history and how they managed to not only overcome but succeed. She had quite a life.

wow, that would be one great dinner! I recall when we were on a cruise with the family there was a group of musicians playing right by our table, beautiful music with violins etc...I said...if they start to play *Nearer My God to Thee*, make for the lifeboats quickly! It just reminded us all of the Titanic movie with those violins playing!

The book goes through the voyage briefly and the the aftermath with a few characters and the inquiry they had so for those you love the history and story or the ship the book is a real page turner.

"Titanic menus" include first class menu of ten courses! Yikes.

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=menu+for+the+Titanic&qpv=menu+for+the+Titanic&FORM=IGRE>

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### **threesons**

Enjoying *The Dressmaker* by Kate Alcott....a book about a young woman who wants to be a dressmaker on board the Titanic and survives. The story itself is interesting but adding the story of the Titanic alongside is even better.

There are a number of books with this title so be sure to look for the author when searching for it...it is a new book.

I am enjoying **Hotel Vendome** by **Danielle STEEL**.

Very lightweight reading about an upscale hotel in New York.

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Jackie, thanks I found a book at the library by Cathy Kelly today. Looking forward to starting it.

Choc I went through a phase where I loved true crime. I read a lot of Ann Rule. Even though she is not the best writer she includes a lot of great detail and psychology which I enjoy. Now I try to read things that will "teach" me about other cultures and sometimes escape.

Thanks Jackie. I read most of the Trollop books too which is why I'm always looking for new things.

Thanks Choc. I sometimes read non-fiction but if so need to have a fiction book going at the same time. I have read some excellent books about our Founding Fathers, written in such a way as I really felt like I knew them personally.

I assisted my late husband in writing a non-fiction book about an historical Boston Tavern - kind of like a "Cheers" with some interesting little known historical details. Colorful characters. **The Immortal Tavern by Jim Adams.**

Hello all! I've got to confess I usually read non-fiction, historical and biographies. I know, boring, huh. If this is your kind of thing I just finished *In The Garden of Beasts*, which is about the ill-suited professor who was appointed to be the US Ambassador to Germany as Hitler came into power. I also finished *Apollo's Angels: a History of Ballet* and am currently really enjoying *Show Dog: The Charmed Life and Trying Times of a Near Perfect Purebred*. Lots of fun. I'm getting ready to start Christopher Piummer's memoirs and Lisa Swayze's book about her husband Patrick. When I do crave fiction reading I love John Grisham, Judith Krantz, etc.

## **Jackie**

Thank you for these. Johanna Trollop is good too,...Marrying the mistress and Daughters in law. Both good stories

Also excellent authors:

Penny Vcenze  
Santa Monteiore  
Lisa See

Good books

*Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese  
*The Secret Daughter* (Three Sons and I both enjoyed it) by Shilpi Gowda  
*The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri  
*Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok

## **Jackie**

## Jackie

Love reading too, Cathy Kelly is a good Irish author, loved all her books, good family stories. We leave in 18 days, always looking for good reads. Did find a few at hemming ways and always leave mine there for others to read. Keep the titles coming. Thanks,

**A Mango for the Teacher** takes place in the Yucatan.

Released tomorrow,

[http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/2012/3/21/a\\_juicy\\_mango\\_quenches\\_travelers\\_thirst.htm](http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/2012/3/21/a_juicy_mango_quenches_travelers_thirst.htm)

This is a new book, just arrived at the library. I enjoy reading and learning about other cultures. It is very good and makes you "think" a lot. It is not "lightweight" reading so probably would not consider it a "beach book".

**American Dervish by Ayad Akhtar**

A Pakistani Muslim boy growing up in America. Very interesting.

## starbright2

Hi! Everyone,

I liked Changing Habits by Debbie Malcomber. I like some of her books as long as they aren't too heavy. This one is definitely good, insightful (her research is amazing) and isn't preachy. It is just about women who chose to go into the convent at a young age during Vatican 1 and then Vatican 2 came along, and how society changed and they changed, and the reasons they ended up leaving their vocation. I thought the book was amazing.

Her Christmas ones are so good too.

I like light hearted mild romance books. I want something to read at night so light that I dream wonderful dreams.

Beach33308

Hi All, I can attest to Johnathan Kellerman. I have read every single one of his books. Then latest one is very good too.

John Sandford is another one of my favorites if you like murder mysteries.

Anne, thanks for the other ideas.

I always "save" my favorites for my trip to the R.M. in May.

[Login](#) to reply to this comment.

**The Very Picture of You** by Isabel Wolff

Takes place in London. Based on a true story. Thirty five year old Ella is a successful portrait artist. "A picture is worth a thousand words" and in Isabella Wolff's vibrant and textured story, these words are brilliantly crafted to convey the humor, mystery, and beauty that exist within each of us."

On Gold Mountain by Lisa See

For those of you who have enjoyed Lisa See's fiction you will find her family odyssey fascinating. "Terrific stuff: The See Family's adventures would be incredible if On Gold Mountain were fiction."

I knew that sounded familiar, Pat. It is a can't put down book. I have a copy that I saved in case I want to read it again! Duh.

"This book is a must for anyone touched by adoption, India or the delicate dynamic between girls and their mothers."

### **threesons**

The secret daughter...there seems to be two books, same title..I have the one you mentioned on my list to read. The one I read was by Shilp Somaya Gower...think it is just Secret Daughter...excellent story and I just could not put it down.

G

racias Threesons. I just looked that up. Book is by June Cross. Sounds very interesting. Growing up, FRONTLINE producer **June Cross** lived two very different lives. During the school year, she lived in Atlantic City with her black family as an adopted child. On summer vacations, she lived in Los Angeles as part of a white show business family with Norma, her biological mother, and stepfather Larry Storch, an actor famous in the 1960s tv series "F Troop." Norma had left June's father-African-American vaudeville performer Jimmy Cross-and had given June away when she became "too dark to pass for white."

### **threesons**

**I just read The Secret Daughter...took me a couple of days, it was excellent and would be a great beach book....keeps you wanting to read on and on**

### **loke**

Quentin's was very good, I gave it to someone on the beach since you have read it.

### **Say You'll be Mine by Julia Amanti**

Isabelle is only a handful away from living her dream. After years of devoting her life to her family vineyard, she is going to sell it and live in a beach house. Just then she learns that her cousin from Argentina has died tragically, leaving Isabelle sole custody of three children. Very touching and interesting as it takes place between two countries.

I like Jodi O'Piccault Louise you will enjoy J. Quentins. M. Binchy creates such colorful characters. Quentins is used as a setting in some of her subsequent books.

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### **threesons**

I like Jodi Piccoul, just finished vanishing acts. She has a number of great books, I have the pact also but have not read it yet, hope you enjoy it!

I just re-read **Heart and Soul** by Maeve Binchy. I love her books. They are so rich in characters you feel like you're home.

### **threesons**

Just completeing Definatly Not, Mr. Darcy.....for Jane Austin fans for sure. It is about a women who takes part in a reality show to win the love in a Jane Austin world....light read and funny.

The Piano Tuner by David Mason. A beautifully written book about a shy piano tuner who is commissioned by the British Army to go to Burma and tune a special piano. #1 bestseller

The 10th Circle by Jodi Picault. A rather ommplicated read about adolescence and parent devotion, betrayal & redemption

A light read: Distant Shores by Kristan Hannah. A middle aged woman tries to find a place for herself now that she has raised her kids and her husband is devoted to his career.

One Day by David Nicholls. A funny and complicated love story. #1 bestseller.

I will leave these behind. Heminswys book collection is now extensive. The gift shop lso sells bestsellers.

A short novel (about 120 pages) by Alan Bennett called " The Uncommon Reader" details what would happen if Queen Elisabeth II became an avid reader to the point she would neglect her duties ...

A brilliant read, funny but still showing how reading can influence people ...

Just finished **This Burns my Heart by Samuel Park.**

**Excellent book. Takes place in Post War Korea.**

"At once a passionate and sensitive love story and a fascinating historial novel set against the cultural dislocation of a rising South Korea. Samuel Park has created an emotionally resonant character in his heroine, Soo-Ja, that readers will root for and long remember."

**Jodi Picault - Sing you Home**

**Nora Roberts - The Next Always (#1 in Trilogy)**

### **threesons**

The wildacrea series is good, as you say thought provoking. I read them all. I like Phillipa Greogory very much...some of her other books besides the historical ones are excellent also.

I am reading Vanished by Jodi Picoult. She has a ton of books and I think I have only read maybe two so thought I would read a few of hers...this one is very good. House Rules is one of hers I have read and excellent.

Thanks for the great picks, I have read a number of the books you all suggest and they have been wonderful.  
today.

Enjoyed **The Girl in the Garden by Kamala Nair**. At the age of ten Rakee Singh's world is irrevocably shaken when her beautiful but troubled mother spirits her away from her father and their Minnesota home to visit her ancestral estate in India.

## **loke**

I finished Wideacre by Philippa Gregory which was a bit mind provoking.

## **kitkat67854**

I just finished reading **Left Neglected** by Lisa Genova, the same author as **Still Alice**. I am sadly addicted to her books now and can't wait for the next one!

## **Blueskies**

The HF Club sounds like a fun read, Ill have to look for that.

Just finished a can't-put-down book. The story of Epiphany, a 16 yr old who has been "tossed like dandelion seeds on the wind" her whole life and J Norman Alvord, a cantankerous, retired space scientist suffering from heart trouble and battling with his adult daughter who wants him to leave his beautiful home and move to a nursing home. When Epiphany is hired to help J Normand after school, a lifetime friendship develops and life changing events occur revealing hidden family secrets.  
This book will touch your heart. You will laugh and cry.

## **Dandellion Summer by Lisa Wingate.**

Lisa is also the Bestselling author of

### **Beyond Summer**

### **Tending Roses**

[Login](#) to reply to this comment.

Posted On: *11/9/2011 at 4:12 pm*

Thanks for the suggestion Lynn. I went to the library and realized I have read the HF Club #1 so got the next book which has added more characters, siome younger and some not so young. HFClub Strikes again.

[Login](#) to reply to this comment.

## **boatchick**

Ok, ladies of a certain age.... I've been reading "The Hot Flash Club" series by; Nancy Thayer. So far I've finished "The Hot Flash Club" am almost finished with "The Hot Flash Club Strikes Again" and soon will be starting "The Hot Flash Club Chills Out". Too funny and how important it is for us to have our close friends, where no subject is off-limits! :

I am riveted to this non-fiction book written by a Chinese American Mom raising her kids in America. Some of you may have heard about this book on the news shows. It took me months to get it from the library. Interesting that on another thread we re talking about "manners" (or lack thereof) of adults and children. This (in her words) "typical" Chinese American Mom does not allow her kids to

- attend a sleepover
- have a playdate
- be in a school play
- complain about not being in a school play
- Watch TV or computer games
- choose their own extracurricula activities
- get any grade less than A
- Not be #1 student in every subject except gym and drama
- Play any instrument except piano and violin (required)(practice 6 hours per day)

### **Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother by Amy Chua**

I have read most of Dorothea Benton Frank's books as they are true "beach books:, Wow - her latest is a huge accomplishment.

Back cover reads:

**"Folly Beach** is a triumph! Frank brilliantly juxtaposes a play within a novel, the past and the present, to bring to life the scintillating Charleston Renaissance of the twenties and a modern woman's triumphant journey of self-discovery and love. I loved it and you will too."

### **Mary Alice Munroe - Author of The Butterfly daughter**

I am just finishing my fourth book by Santa Montefiore. Highly recommend her books which have great characters and international settings. Off to the library with some of your suggestions.

Ok, now that I have discovered Santa Montefiore I am hooked. If you like Maeve Binch, Rosamunde Pilcher, Peggy Vincenzi which Loke led me to you will love this.

Just finished **Last Voyage of the Valentina**. Takes place in London and a little village in Italy.

### **Ther Mermaid Garden by Santa Montefiore.**

Spanning four decades and sweeping from the Italian countryside to the English coast, this book has it all: secrets, mystery, passion, crossing several genres with rich characters.

**Also: Intl Bestseller by same author:**

## **The French Gardener.**

**kitkat67854**

### **The Amish Midwife by Mindy Stearns Clark & Leslie Gould**

I have read books in the past about the Amish and usually they are pretty straightforward. This is a complex book about relationships, Amish and Mennonite cultures, family secrets, adoption. Very compelling book.

[Login](#) to reply to this comment.

Phew. Just finished another compelling "can't-put-down" book.

### **The Soldier's Wife by award winning author Margaret Leroy.**

The story takes place on Guernsey Island off the coast of France during World War II. A young British woman is left behind with her two children and mother in law when her husband goes off to war. Guernsey becomes occupied by German soldiers, some of whom live next door to the woman.

"Lush, sensual, and evocative as a dream but governed by the rhythm of wartime life, the best kind of time travel. Riveting."

You will not be able to put this down right up until the last sentence.

Currently reading **The View from Garden City** by Carolyn Baugh. A young American woman goes to Egypt to learn Arabic but learns far more from the women she meets. If you enjoy learning about other cultures this is an interesting book.

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**loke**

I'm not sure if this book has been mentioned, it is an easy read & perfect for the beach. Happiness Key by Emilie Richards.

### **A Hundred Years of Happiness by Nicole Seitz**

which I have not been able to put down today.

"A Hundred Years of Happiness takes readers on a journey through the color of the low-country, to the unspoken pains of war, to the way each heart heals. A novel that will remind each reader of the power of their own stories and how the past so often determines the future."

**boatchick**

Loving Frank was a very compelling story.

**boatchick**

Ok back to Beach Books....

Just finished "The Blue Bottle" by Jill Sheeley, for all you boaters and non boaters too, this is a great Caribbean Adventure book. Finished it in less than 2 days.....

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## **Kern**

*I read Loving Frank last year - definitely an interesting read. Just finished The Distant Land of My Father - a good read!*

Boatchick finished **Loving Frank**. I am still thinking about that entire situation. Phew. Am very much enjoying **A good Indian Wife** by Anne Cherian. For those of you who enjoy reading about other cultures this is very interesting.

An Indian American anesthesiologist who lives in San Francisco and drives a Porsche is tricked into coming home for an arranged marriage.

[Login](#) to reply to this comment.

I just finished reading "The Wishing Trees" by John Shors. I wanted to take it on our trip but read a couple pages and couldn't put it down!

## **boatchick**

"Loving Frank" by Nancy Horan: A fictional account of the real life love affair between Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Borthwick Cheney. I had a hard time putting it down. A great read.

Kern, am reading **The Distant Land of my Father**". Not lightweight but very good. If anyone has read Lisa See, particularly her new book, **Dreams of Joy**, they will enjoy this. Takes place in Shanghai and LA.

## **doglovers**

### **Still Alice - Lisa Genova**

This isn't exactly a beach read, or a light read, but I must say it was an incredible book. This book scared me. I realized how much I take my memory and my mind for granted. Statistics show that 72% cases of all Alzheimer's disease are women.

*Still Alice* is a compelling debut novel about a 50-year-old woman's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease, written by first-time author Lisa Genova, who holds a Ph. D in neuroscience from Harvard University.

Alice Howland, happily married with three grown children and a house on the Cape, is a celebrated Harvard professor at the height of her career when she notices a forgetfulness creeping into her life. As confusion starts to cloud her thinking and her memory begins to fail her, she receives a devastating diagnosis: early onset Alzheimer's disease. Fiercely independent, Alice struggles to maintain her lifestyle and live in the moment, even as her sense of self is being stripped away. In turns heartbreaking, inspiring and terrifying, *Still Alice* captures in remarkable detail what's it's like to literally lose your mind...

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Have you ever been close to tears when a book ends? Both for the ending and for the loss of those characters in your life?

I have just finished an excellent book entitled **Fragile Beasts by Tawni O'Dell**.

An eccentric, wealthy, elderly, town's matricah is compelled to take in two teenage boys whose father is killed in a car accident. The boys' mother had abandoned them earlier. "From the muted, bruised hills of Pennsylvania coal country to the colorful, flamboyant bull rings of southern Spain, Tawni O'Dell takes us on a riveting journey, not only between two completely different lands, but also between seemingly incompatible souls."

This is an incredibly well-done, can't-put-down kind of book. I am already starting Ms. O'Dell's first novel, **Back Roads**.

**Dreams of Joy** is a powerful book. Not always easy to read as it take place in Communist China during the fifties but in the end gives one hope and shows that miracles do happen.

Kern emailed me to tell me that **Distant Land of my Father** is excellent.

Excited to have finally gotten **Dreams of Joy by Lisa See** from the library. Great read so far. For those of you who have enjoyed See's previous books, this is just as good or better.

*"Reeling from newly uncovered secrets and anger at her mother and aunt for keeping them from her, Joy runs aways to Shanghai in early 1957."*

Other great reads by See include (best to read in order)

**Snow Flower and the Secret Fan**

**Peony in Love**

**Shanghai Girls**

**loke**

Posted On: *7/23/2011 at 11:33 am*

I just read The Unlikely Spy by Daniel Silva. Maybe more men would like this book as it is about espionage approaching D Day so I found it interesting.

[Login](#) to reply to this comment.

**Kern**

I am reading The Distant Land of My Father, by Bo Caldwell. It's a great read! (You have probably already mentioned the book, but if not, you'd enjoy it!)

Just fiished a fun beach book by Emilie Richards entitled

**Sunset Bridge**.

Four women who think they have nothing in common except the road that runs between their beach cottages on a spit of land called Happiness Key.

Also by same author

**Fortunate Harbor**

Fun books with a little bit of everything, friendship, mystery surrounding murder, romance, and colorful characters.

Fabulous, hard-to-put-down book. I am just finishing another book on Afghanistan entitled

**Lipstick in Afghanistan by Roberta Gately**

True story about a young Boston nurse who traveled to Afghanistan to work in a remote village. Reads like fiction. I am sitting here with tears in my eyes trying to read the last few pages. Loke, Kern and anyone who enjoys reading about other cultures would enjoy this.

If you like Maeve Binchy books you will enjoy Marcia Willett, a best selling British author.

I am just finishing **A Friend of the Family**. Full of interesting characters and relationships all taking place in the English countryside. As with Binchy, Willett's rich characters are carried through several of her books.

Just finished Maeve Binchy's "**Minding Frankie**". In the usual Binchy style, lots of colorful characters (some old, some new). When a newborn baby girl is left motherless at birth her single father and his closeknit Dublin community join in to collectively raise Frankie. Very touching and uplifting.

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Reading ***How to be an American Housewife*** by Margarte Dilloway.

It tells the story of Shoku, a Japanese woman who marries an American GI and moves to America. The only help she gets in America is from a book entitled *How to be an American Housewife*. Her American born daughter Sue also struggles to be the perfect wife. It is very touching and funny at times.

[Login](#) to reply to this comment.

## Loke

I just read *Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett. Very good but a thick book.

Someone was asking me for more recommendations. I was in a bookstore today and saw these new books that some of you may like. I haven't read them yet

**Dreams of Joy by Lisa See**

**Minding Frankie by Maeve Binchy**

**The Last Time I saw You and Once upon a Time There was You both by Elizabeth Berg**

Phew. Just read Kristin Hannah's new book

**Night Road**

Powerful.

If you are interested in Deborah Rodriguez' books, it might be helpful to read **Kabul Beauty School** prior to reading **Cup of Friendship**. Both are excellent and have an in depth view of women's lives in Afghanistan from 2001 to more recent times through the eyes of an American woman.

Once I read a Cup of Friendship below by Deborah Rodriguez I went and found her first book **Kabul Beauty School** which is a best selling memoir of her years in Kabul where she opened a Beauty School after the Taliban left. Very interesting, true story.

I also just finished **The Secret Daughter by Shilpi Somaya Gowda**. The story of a married couple from California, he being originally from India, who adopt a baby from India. The story takes place both in California and in India, following the plight of the baby's birth parents and her eventual search for her birth parents as a young college student. Very interesting.

Both of the books are rich in culture and tradition. Did you know that "waxing" is big business in both countries brides and grooms are completely waxed (except for the hair on the heads) before their wedding. Ouch!

I am reading an excellent book entitled an **A Cup of Friendship** by Deborah Rodriguez. "The story of a remarkable coffee shop in the heart of Afghanistan and the friendships that develop there, owned and operated by an American woman. Highly recommend.

<3abeach

Ok, let's try this from work. My favorite book of all time, that I go back to periodically is **The Red Tent by Anita Diamont**.

loke

I just finished a very good book by Jodi Piccoult 'Vanishing Acts'. I have not read all her books but this is the best of the ones I have read. I have the list of your favorite books so I hope to get a few from our library here.

[Login](#) to reply to this comment.

<kitkat67854

The last book I read was Beneath the Marble Sky which I could not put down. The only time I seem to read is when I travel! We are going back to the Palladium this summer so must catch up on my reading then!

**Butterfly's Child** by Angela Davis-Gardner  
Excellent!

*"When 3 yr old Benji is plucked from the security of his home in Nagasaki to live with his American father and stepmother on their farm in Illinois, the family conceals Benji's true identity as a child born from a liaison between an officer and a geisha, and instead tells everyone that Benji is an orphan."*

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Currently reading **Girl in Translation** by Jean Kwok. This will appeal to many here. "When young Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to America, they speak no English and own nothing but debt." Cannot put down. (This is the book I got lost in Coral Gables over. LOL)

On the plane read **Pictures of You** by Caroline Leavitt. "Two women running away from thier marriages collide on a foggy highway. The survivor of the fatal accident is left to pick up the pieces of three lives."

## **Dreams32**

I am engrossed in Pillars Of The Earth by Ken Follett. It is such a great novel but would be a tricky beach read as it is 1000 pages and very heavy to carry! Might do better as a kindle read.

Thanks for all of the book suggestions Palladium People. Keep them coming!  
Patti :)

Susan,

You would also enjoy  
The Blood of Flowers by A. Amirrezvani

Susan,

I am just reading another book by Penny Vincenzi. I think you would like her books.  
An Outrageous Affair  
No Angel  
Sheer Abandon  
[Hi Dreams,](#)

[Looked for Moonlit Cage at the library. It was out.](#)

[OK, I did not think this book would make it to our discerning book list when I first started it. Author Nancy Thayer is a very easy read. The setting of this book was on Nantucket Island, Mass.](#)

Anne, if you enjoyed The Linnet Bird, then you must read The Moonlit Cage by the same author. I loved them both.  
Happy reading,  
Patti :)

From Liverpool to India in 1839 Linny is a born survivor. Disturbing initially when Linny is "sold" at age 11 she overcomes tremendous odds and eventually finds love & freedom. Very uplifting story.

### **The Linnet Bird**

by **Linda Holeman**

Thanks Patti, I have read some of these. Will print this out as am heading to the library. Just finished Souvenir by Therese Fowler. It is touching and compelling nove. Hard to put down. This was actually the 2nd time I read it.

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### **Dreams32**

A few others that I have loved: The Year Of Wonders, The Girl With The Pearl Earring. Rushome Road, The Girls and The Wife's Tale all by the author Lori Lansens. Also Castaway, Scapegallows, and The Help. All such great books. I'll keep you posted if I can think of more. New Recommendations always welcomed!

Patti.

### **Dreams32**

Hi Anne. Glad to hear that you're enjoying the book. I highly recommend Slammerkin by Emma Donaghue. Such a good book! It will take you on a journey to the "rough side of town" in the 1700's (I believe) in England. It was my last vacation read. I must say that all of the books I have recommended on this thread that I have read, I have greatly enjoyed!

I also loved In The Company Of The Courtesans which takes in to the lovely Venice I beleive in the 1800's. Also a great armchair travel journey.

Patti.

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PATTI,

I am greatly enjoying **The Blood of Flowers by A. Amirrezvani**

In 17th century Persia a young woman loses her father , leaving her without a dowry or a husband...

Beautifully written.

Oh, Hi again Patti,

From your list I found **Blood of Flowers**. I am also reading The Red Thread by Ann Hood. It is an interesting story about families who adopt babies from China with the perspective of the adoptive families as well as the heart wrenching stories of the Chinese families who are forced to abandon their babies.

Yes I read **Eat Pray Love** and I also just read her follow up to that "**Committed**" about her marriage to Felipe. I have to admit she rather annoyed me at times in the 2nd book but I did get something out of it so reading it was worthwhile.

If you like books relative to other cultures you may want to look into these authors:  
fiction relative to **other cultures**: Gail Tsukiyama, Jhumpa Lahiris, A. Verghese, Asne Seirstad, A. Levy, Margaret Cezar, M. Binchy, Khaled Hosseini, Lisa See, Roopa Farooki.

## **Dreams32**

Author Lahiri is one I have re-read.

Maeve Binchy

Where the Heart Is by Billy Letts

Thanks for sharing

Louise, I finished the Best of Times which I loved. I went to the library for another book by Vincenzi and they were out. I got Keeping Time and could not put it down.

Interesting but in both books, someone from England is seeking her true love from WW 2 from the US. Won't say any more!

Just finished a wonderful book. It had me laughing and crying simultaneously.

An elderly English woman travels alone from Liverpool to Long Island, NY seeking to find her first love, an American soldier she had met in World War II.

### **Keeping Time by Stacey McGlynn**

If you like books relative to other cultures you may want to look into these authors:

fiction relative to other cultures: Gail Tsukiyama, Jhumpa Lahiris, A. Verghese, Asne Seirstad, A. Levy, Margaret Cezar, M. Binchy, Khaled Hosseini, Lisa See, Roopa Farooki.

Dreams Patti, There are some books I've read twice.

Author Lahiri is one I have re-read.

Maeve Binchy

Where the Heart Is by Billy Letts

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Just finished a wonderful book. It had me laughing and crying simultaneously.

An elderly English woman travels alone from Liverpool to Long Island, NY seeking to find her first love, an American soldier she had met in World War II.

### **Keeping Time by Stacey McAllen**

Ohhh I must recommend Slammerkin by Emma Donaghue. Perfect "juicy" beach read.

Also, Th Observations, The Blood Of Flowers, The Diary Of Mattie Spencer, In The Company Of The Courtesan, The Book Thief, The Heritics Daughter, Chain Of Voices, A Tree Grows In Brooklyn, The Moonlit Cage, The Linnet Bird, The White Masai, Roots, The Book Of Night Women, The Long Song, Island Beneath The Sea, Daughter Of

Fortune, Ahab's Wife, The Glass Castle, Running With Scissors, Dry, The Fraction Of A Whole, Plainsong, Eventide, Mudbound, The Ties That Bind...And those are just a few of my favorite reads :) These are all books that I have loved, loved loved..

Patti

Posted On: *4/4/2011 at 6:42 pm*

So Loke turned me on to Penny Vincenzi in February although I now know that I have read her before. Long books with lots of interesting characters. If you hate to see a book end you can enjoy one of her books for about a week on the beach. I am now reading **The Best of Times** and loving it.

## **loke**

Just finished "No Angel" by Penny Vincenzi. Louise gave me this at the P - Gracias - and I loved it. It is over 800 pages - one of those books you hate to see end so I went to the library today and got two others by that author.

## **Kern**

Hi Boatchick, I read Firefly Lane. Very good.

I gave Louise an easy Nora Roberts and she gave me No Angel. Excellent. about 800 pages so I haven't finished it because about 100 pages are missing in my house from my flood. (I'll find them!!) Kern, you would like this. By Penny Vincenzi.

## **jmd**

Loved the House at Riverton. Have downloaded the Forgotten Garden on my new eReader...not sure how I feel about it, as I love a hard copy, but certainly, my luggage will be lighter.

Just finished "Sarah's Key" wonderful. Happy reading.

## **boatchick**

I'm reading "Firefly Lane" by Kristin Hannah. It's about two teenage girls, from drastically different backgrounds and how their friendship evolves and changes during a thirty year period from the mid 1970's to the 2000's.

I'm reading The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet, by Jamie Ford, and am enjoying it.

## **sandy**

I'm an avid reader - on vacation I prefer lighter books, I just can't seem to concentrate on anything too "heavy". Some of my favorite beach authors are Mary Janice Davidson, Meg Cabot, Gemma Townley, etc. If you want something a little heavier, if you haven't read all of Gregory Maguire's books (Wicked, A Lion Among Men), I really enjoyed them.

Just Finished "**Best Intentions**" by Emily Listfield.

Takes place in Manhattan and as the cover says is "sophisticated, suspenseful and artfully constructed". Deals in relationships, betrayal, murder and suspense. Something for everyone!

### **trojan32foot**

The Bunola Boaters share books all summer long at our Marina aka "The Bunola Boaters Book Club". I shared Nora Roberts "The Reef" this past season and it was a great hit with us. annie-o

### **plmrod**

Also anything by Harlan Coben.. great suspense!

I did find a selection of K. Morton today at the library in paperback so have those. Also found a Nora R. recycled book. Will go back to the library next week to stock up.

Thanks all.

I am loving a new author these days....Kate Morton. She wrote The House at Riverton ( first novel) and since has released The Forgotten Garden and Distant Hours....I have read the Forgotten Garden and it was excellent...there could be a copy at the P because I left it behind. I am almost through The House at Riverton and it is just as good...I can't wait to get to the end at this point!! She tells beautiful stories and these are filled with secrets and relationships etc.....a great book for vacation!

### **annie-o**

The Reef is an older book. My paperback copy is dated 1998. My favourite Nora Roberts is the 4-book Chesapeake Bay series.

### **boatchick**

I think "The Reef" came out mid - late 2000's, Meg has the book so I can't check the publishing date. Check Amazon or Barnes & Noble's web sites, they may have it as a used book and you can get them really cheap. I'm reading Mary Kay Andrews, "The Fixer Upper" and can't put it down. I also just finished "Life Lessons of a Legend" by Captain Tony Tarracino and Brad Manard. Yes Capt. Tony had quite a reputation, as well as being mayor of Key West, but this book was very insightful and showed what compassion this man had for people in general.

### **Blueskies**

I love Nora Roberts ! Ill be picking up this book for next vacation. Thanks

### **boatchick**

**"The Reef" by: Nora Roberts**

The Caribbean, sunken treasure, coral reefs, all wrapped up in mystery and suspense when a marine archaeologists and a salvager search for a legendary treasure. The Bunola Boaters absolutely love this book!

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Also by Adriana Trigiani  
**The Queen of Big Time**

Follow the lives of Italian immigrants who left their homes in the Bari region of Italy to re-create their lives in Roseto Pennsylvania. Very good read with lots of interesting characters.

Yes, Loke, that was a fun read. Just reading the description of her internet search had me laughing out loud!

Here's a new book about Mayan Intrigue.

<http://www.sweetwaterreporter.com/content/view/298609/60/>

**loke**

If you liked *Very Valentine* by Adriana Trigiani, you will love *Brava Valentine..* This is the 2nk book that features Valenine Roncalli, a custom shoemaker from New York. The book opens at a wedding in Tuscany of Valentine's 80 year old grandmother.

This is said to be Trigiani's best book yet.

Very light beach book for dog lovers and others.

**Stay** by Allie Larkin

In her despair Savannah has a few cocktails and ends up buying a dog over the internet from Slovakia.

**Outstanding book** (Thanks Kern for the recommendation) - This would be appropriate for males or females

**Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese**

"Twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a British surgeon. Orphaned at birth, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution."

**A work of non-fiction for the Ladies: A memoir.** Now a major motion picture (Personally I prefer to read the book before seeing the movie)

**Eat Pray Love by Elizabeth Gilbert**

One woman's search for everything across Italy, India and Indonesia

**threesons**

I did read the new Phillipa Gregory book, The Red Queen...it was awesome. If you decide to get it, read The White Queen also because they are some of the same events but from different womens perspectives. I have just finished *The Blessings of the*

**Animals by Katrina Kittle.** Wonderful read for anyone who loves animals. Lots of human drama in this read which is soothed and healed by the proximity of animals. Glad you're enjoying Cutting for Stone. It is definitely a good read!! Did you read it on the airplane? Thinking of you today as you prepare to head south with Abby soon.

Another exciting adventure!

[Login](#) to reply to this comment.

**Cutting for Stone** by Abraham Verghese

Hi Loke,

I read both of those books your daughter recommended. Very good.

For anyone wanting a very quick,light read, i just finshed Debbie Macomber's new book, "**Hannah's List**"

**loke**

I am currently reading 'Trojan Odyssey' by Clive Cussler. My husband read this adventure story & I am really enjoying it as well. My daughter just gave me 2 books that she enjoyed 'The Secret Life of Bees' by Sue Monk Kidd & 'Three Cups of Tea' by Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin.

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**If you have a favorite beach book or two please log on and post.**

I'm on my 2nd book by Belinda Acosta, writing fiction about families in America with Mexican/American backgrounds.

I would read **Damas, Dramas, and Ana Ruiz** first then **Sisters, Strangers and Starting Over**

"Beautiful Maria of my Soul" by Oscar Hijuelos. Very well written. Take place in Cuba. I have just finished the latest installment of the " #1 Ladies Detective Agency" series by Alexander McCall Smith entitled *The Double Comfort Safari Club* Very light and fund reading for ladies and men. There are now 11 books in the series. While it is not necessary to read them in order I would start with "No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency."

Hi Kern,I started Peony and realized that I had read it - I do that alot.

For anyone who has enjoyed the books of Jhumpa Lahiri,which I highly recommend,I suggest *Half Life* by Roopa Farooki.

*On the morning that changes everything, Aruna Ahmed Jones walks out of her Victorian apartment in London wearing only jeans and a Tshirt and keeps on walking,leaving behind the handsome Dr.Patrick Jones, her husband of less than a year.*

I am reading a lot as we have a great library and it has been beach weather for awhile. I have Peony in the car. (Was in a rush when I went to the library the other day as Abby was sitting in the car waiting for me and it was 90 degrees out!) Shanghai girls was very

good. Read that at the P. (Maybe you have my copy!) I read a mystery recently which I posted below. Otherwise nothing that stands out. Did you finish *The Help*? Glad you're enjoying *Cutting for Stone*. It is definitely a good read!!

**Cutting for Stone** by Abraham Verghese

Hi Loke,

I read both of those books your daughter recommended. Very good.

For anyone wanting a very quick, light read, I just finished Debbie Macomber's new book, **"Hannah's List"**

**loke**

I am currently reading 'Trojan Odyssey' by Clive Cussler. My husband read this adventure story & I am really enjoying it as well. My daughter just gave me 2 books that she enjoyed 'The Secret Life of Bees' by Sue Monk Kidd & 'Three Cups of Tea' by Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin.

**If you have a favorite beach book or two please log on and post.**

I'm on my 2nd book by Belinda Acosta, writing fiction about families in America with Mexican/American backgrounds.

I would read **Damas, Dramas, and Ana Ruiz** first then **Sisters, Strangers and Starting Over**

"Beautiful Maria of my Soul" by Oscar Hijuelos. Very well written. Take place in Cuba. [Login](#) to reply to this comment.

I have just finished the latest installment of the " #1 Ladies Detective Agency" series by Alexander McCall Smith entitled *The Double Comfort Safari Club* Very light and fun reading for ladies and men. There are now 11 books in the series. While it is not necessary to read them in order I would start with "No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency."

Hi Kern, I started *Peony* and realized that I had read it - I do that alot.

For anyone who has enjoyed the books of Jhumpa Lahiri, which I highly recommend, I suggest *Half Life* by Roopa Farooki.

*On the morning that changes everything, Aruna Ahmed Jones walks out of her Victorian apartment in London wearing only jeans and a Tshirt and keeps on walking, leaving behind the handsome Dr. Patrick Jones, her husband of less than a year.*

***ad a mystery recently which I posted below. Otherwise nothing that stands out. Did you finish The Help?***

OK I just finished another Phillipa Gregory book that is not that well known I think but it was awesome...the end is great! I got it at the library myself ...called *The Little House*. It was hard to put down as I went along and not too long. Let me know how you like the

Anne Easter books as I like historical novels and I have read all of Phillipa Gregory's books so I am looking for some new authors. Happy reading!

## loke

My husband is reading the new Dan Brown book *The Lost Symbol*, not as good as the *Da Vinci Code* though. He bought a couple of new Clive Cussler books for the trip. I have Anne Easter Smith to read. I have not read her books before so hope they are good. It is about English history which sounds a bit boring but it looks like she has written it in interesting stories. I am not a strong history buff but if it is written in light form I do enjoy English history. Her books are *A Rose for the Crown*, *Daughter of York* & *The King's Grace*. I just finished a book by Karen Harper, *The Queen's Governess* & it was pretty good.

I have just finished *Bulls Island* By Dorothea Benton Frank. This author was born and raised in this part of South Carolina and her books are light, and take place in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. A fun beach read.

I recently finished *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. This is a best seller and takes place in 1962 in Mississippi. "The "help" are the maids in many homes in Mississippi during this time. They come together to undergo a clandestine project with the assistance of a 22 yr. old who just returned from college and is determined to make a difference.

I like to read lots of different things myself and I end up looking at second hand places mainly so I can leave books behind. I took a book this year which I could not leave behind...too funny and hope to lend it around. It was called *Incontinent on the Continent*...My Mother, Her Walker, and our grand tour of Italy by Jane Christmas. I found myself laughing out loud a number of times and reading endless sections to my husband throughout the book. Great books for daughters with mothers who are moving up in age...it is funny but also there are those moments in it that touch on all relationships with mother and daughter and growing older.

I also really like Philippa Gregory and her historical novels. She did *The Other Boleyn Girl* but she has many others and they are very good....she really keeps your attention and draws you into the plot. Just finished her *Fallen Skies* which had a great ending. I also like the other author that people have mentioned already, I read the one...can't think of the title about the baby born to a white couple and the baby was dark skinned. It was a great story. *The Red Tent* came out a couple of years ago but is a great story also.

I loved reading *Snow Flower* and have *Shanghai Girls* on order at the library. Can't wait to get it. I have heard that it isn't as good as *Snow Flower* though. What did you think, Anne? A friend recommended *The Help*, which is at the top of the bestsellers list. [Login](#) to reply to this comment.

**Posted On: 2/10/2010 at 10:24 am**

anyone who liked *Snow Flower & the Secret Fan* will enjoy *Shanghai Girls*, by **Lisa See**  
Very good read.

You will love Heart and Soul. Maybe you can read it on the beach!

## loke

Posted On: *1/18/2010 at 7:33 pm*

I just picked up Heart & Soul but have not had time to read it! Yes Jodi Picoult is a good author.

## doglovers

I have enjoyed many books by Jodi Picoult. The story endings always surprise me.

**I**

I know we have a lot of readers here. Anyone who loves Maeve Binchy will enjoy her newish (2009) book **Heart and Soul**.

Kern, I found *Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri at a book sale today. Very good.

## Recent suggestions

**Boatchick** "Just finished *Nature Girl*" by same author and is making the rounds of our "Literary Society" Girl gets back @ overzealous telemarketer for seling swamp land in Florida. Reading now: *The Girl Who Stopped Swimming* by: Joshilyn Jackson, a mystery and ghost story. Pretty good so far.

While down there last week, I put one of my favorite beach books in the Library @ Hemmingway's. *Skinny Dip* by' Carl Hiassen. It made it's way through the Bumola Boater's "Literary Society" and wanted to leave it for someone to read in Mexico. I put a note in the front cover.

**Kern responds** "Carl Hiassen writes satirical fiction, and his books' settings are always in Florida where he laments the environmental exploitation of his home state. His books are hilariously funny and light. I've enjoyed listening to several of them on tape in the car. In *Skinny Dip*, a guy throws his wife off of a cruise ship. I won't tell the rest, but I think you'd find it entertaining.

**Kern** Jhumpa Lahiri won the Pulizer Prize for her short story collection entitled *Interpreter of Maladies*

**Kern & Anne** Can also suggest *The Namesake* by the same author. "An exquisitely detailed family saga."

**Anne** *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, written by a dog named Enzo & Garth Stein. Lovers of dogs or anyone interested in race cars will love this book. Very well done and a touching story.

*On Mystic Lake* by Kristin Hannah. A page turner that you'll love.

While in Mexico I read another in the series of the #! Ladies Detective Agency books which I always enjoy (good reading for guys and ladies) by Alexander Mc Call Smith: *The Miracle at Speedy Motors*

I also re-read Maeve Binchy's *Echoes...* *The cover reads: "Laughter and tears, it's what Bincy does best"* Reading Maeve Binchy's stories of contemporary Ireland is always like visiting old friends.

While at the Palladium I visited Hemingways and found a good, lightweight paperback entitled "*Flirting with Forty*" by Jane Porter. The ladies will enjoy this.

I just finished a very touching book which the cover calls, "tender touching and completely compelling" I agree...Very hard to put down. *Souvenir* by Therse Fowler. "Firefly Lane" by Kristin Hannah. Story of two friends growing up in the 70s whose friendship spans 30 years.

### **Boatchick**

Savannah Breeze: by Mary Kay Andrews, A women scorned and sweet revenge make for a great read. Skinny Dip: by Carl Hiaasen, Funny! What to do after your husband throws you off a cruise liner for your money.

Bumfuzzle: Just out Looking for Pirates: by Patrick Shulte. The journal of Pat and Ali Shulte, who decide to sell everything, buy a sailboat (no boating or sailing experience)and set out to sail the world.

**Helen from Bali** "The Ripley Novels" by Patricia Highsmith

### **Anne**

I took the advice of Jamaica Fan and read "The Pirates Daughter" by Margaret Cezair Thomspn. Great beach book. Takes place in Jamaica.

Also read "Every Sunday" by Peter Pezzelli. He wrote two other good books, "Francesca's Kitchen", and "Home to Italy".

"The Used World" by Have Kimmel.

### **Jamaica fan**

"The Pirate's Daughter" by Margaret Cezair-Thompson

### **Anne on Cape Cod**

Barefoot by Elin Hilderbrand. Takes place during a summer on Nantucket, an island off the coast of Cape Cod. "You will alsmot be tempted to check your own shoes for sand by the end of this engaging story about a season of change on Nantucket."

Keeping Faith by Jodi Picoult.

### **Vinny Veg**

Some of my favorites: For Civil War buffs the Newt Gingrich and William Forstchen fictional seriesof Gettysburg, Grant Comes East and Never Call Retreat. Theyr'e based on, "What if Lee never fought at Gettysburg..." Fascinating stuff.

Ken Follett's World Without End, the second in a series that started with The Pillars of the Earth.Set in 12th and 13th century England, it revolves around the building of a cathedral and the city that grows around it. Great characters.

Nelson DeMille for light fiction... The Generals Daughter was OK but The Lions Game and Up Country were both very good.

For real fun reading, I like Raymond Chandler. He's a pulp fiction writer from the 30s and 40s. He wrote the Big Sleep (Bogart and Bacall) and Farewll My Lovely. Los Angeles crime and detective short stories and novels.

### **Huskergal**

I read The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini while in Costa Rica in March. I will be reading A Thousand Splendid Suns by the same author while at the P. Plus I love all the Torey Hayden books!

### **Anne on Cape Cod**

Rush Home Road by **Lori Lansens**

**Books by Adrianna Trigiani**, i.e. Big Stone Gap Lucia, Luci, Milk Glass Moon, Big Cherry Hotter!

Fun mysteries for the guys or gals by **Lawrence Sanders**, i.e. McNally's Files, McNally's Dilemma and more.

"Sheer Abandon" by Penny Vincenzi. Hard to put down. The cover reads, "#1 Bestseller. An all-consuming story revolving around the consequences of a desperate act

"Garden Spells by Sarah Addison Allen", a special garden, an enchanted tree and the extraordinary people who tend it.

"The Secret Life of CeeCee Wilkes" by Diane Chamberlain " *She lived a lie to keep her daughter*"

**JayneRI** Just finished "Fatal Forecast" by Michael Tougias. I think it was way better than the perfect storm

**Anne on Cape Cod** "Firefly Summer" by Maeve Binchy. Full of rich characters in a small Irish village.

"Plain Truth" by Jodi Picoult. Couldn't put this down. A newborn infant is found in an Amish barn.

"Blackbird House" by Alice Hoffman. Takes place on Cape Cod and covers generations of families who live in the same house.

**Boatchick** "Tales from Margaritaville" by Jimmy Buffett, where his songs and stories blend for a fun, adventure.

"Hoot" by Carl Hiaasen, set in South Florida, kids come to the rescue of the endangered Burrowing Owl.

"Isle of Palms" by Dorothea Benton Frank, funny, easy read, set off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina.

"Honeymoon" by James Patterson & Howard Roughan, a beautiful woman with a deadly appetite, rich handsome men and off-shore bank accounts. It's a thriller.

**Anne** "Magic Hour" by Kristin Hannah. I could not put this down!

**Ralph** "Travis McGee novels by John D. MacDonald have proven to be fun to revisit"

**Mexicolover**

*"Two books I'd recommend are: PS I love you, And American Gangster. Both are now movies. Love the libraries at the resort. Great idea. Read a book, leave a book."*

**Zeno**

*"Anything by Tim Dorsey. His books are all set in Florida and have a tropical feel to them and his hero - Serge Storms is quite, shall we say "unique". He is a serial killer (but he only kills people who REALLY, REALLY deserve it) who loves Florida history, the environment, sex, drink and drugs (except his meds) and who has a terrific sense of humour. The books are off-the-top and hilarious but not for the easily offended. Great beach reads!*

*If you like mystery/crime novels I suggest pretty much anything by Giles Blunt. His books are set in Northern Ontario and have a kind of sweet sadness and a wonderful sense of place about them. He is the only male mystery writer I can think of who really can write movingly but believably about love (for a child or for a mate or for a friend.) I finished "By the Time You Read This" at the Palladium (his best so far). "The Ice Storm" will make you shiver even in the heat and "Forty Words for Sorrow" will make you weep.*

*If you like realistic historical fiction - anything by Patrick O'Brian. "Master and Commander has tons of great detail about the Royal Navy and "The Far Side of the World" is a very real adventure/travelogue from an 18th century view.*

### **Anne**

*New paperback by Maeve Binchy : "Whitethorn Woods". Fun & light reading.*

*"Skylight Confessions" by Alice Hoffman. Hard to put down.*

### **Previous posts**

Family Tree by Barbara Delinsky

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

The Accidental Mother by Rowan Coleman

### **Kern**

Water for Elephants by **Sara Gruen**

### **Rios**

Flags of our Fathers by James Bradley & Ron Powers

Anything by James Patterson

### **Catsfam**

- Sleeping Beauty by Philip Margolin, Someone to Watch Over me by Judith McNaught and The Beach House by James Patterson. I generally read a lot of James Patterson, but these other two books were new authors for me. Best part was I got them for 50 cents at my local library.

My husband read Searching for Bobby Orr while there. He thought it was excellent and enjoyed telling our girls (hockey fans) all about it and read various excerpts from the book to them. From what I understand, its not really about Bobby Orr, but the hockey system in Canada and US during that time. For any hockey fans, it comes highly recommended.

My husband also enjoys anything by **James Patterson**

### **Val & Vince**

The Mermaid Chair & Secret Life of Bees by **Sue Monk Kidd**.

### **Loke**

Anything by **Jodi Picoult** for the ladies

### **Anne on Cape Cod**

### **Some light reads**

While at the P recently I read "Digging to America" by **Anne Tyler**

Just re-read "Where the Heart Is" by Billie Letts- Very uplifting

### **Anything by Susan Wiggs**

" Summer by the Sea", "Lakeside Cottage", "Table for Five"

### **Anything by Debbie Macomber**

The Shop on Blossom Street, 6 Ranier Drive, Morning Comes Softly....

### **Anything by Maeve Binchy**

Scarlett Feather, Quentins, and her earlier books, Tara Road, Circle of Friend, he Evening Class. You will love her characters.

**Dorothea Benton Frank**. Any book by DBFrank is light and takes place in South Carolina, USA. Many have "beach" themes. "Plantation", "Shem Creek", Sullivans Island..

Most books by Anne Rivers Siddons, ie "Islands", "Up Island and Low Country"

"Entering Normal" by **Anne LeClaire**

"Mitford" Series, ie., "At Home in Mitford" by **Jan Karon**. "Enter the world of Mitford and you won't want to leave."

On a previous trip my husband and I both enjoyed the series by **Alexander McCall Smith** #1 Ladies' Detective Agency. There are now 8 books in the series. I just finished the most recent; "The Good Husband of Zebra Drive". These books are very light reading and humorous. While they don't have to be read in order, I would start with the #1 Ladies Detective Agency" first.

A little more substantial

Snow Flower & the Secret Fan by **Lisa See**. The story of two girls growing up in China during the era of footbinding,

Fruit of the Lemon by **Andrea Levy**. A young woman returns to find her Jamaican roots.

Love Walks In by **Marisa de los Santos**. A little girl looks for a new family in which to belong.

The Bookseller of Kabul by **Asne Seirstad**. A true story about life in an Afghan family.

Geisha by **Arthur Golden**. An in depth look at the life of a geisha.

The Samurai Garden by **Gail Tsukiyama**. A touching story about a young man from China living in Japan during the war.

**PattiM**

Penny Vincenzi & David Baldacci are 2 more good authors.