



Library Lines and Links

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NEWS AND NOTES

SUMMER READING is our theme for this issue, but we also have our new audio books, **Playaways**, currently in the library display case. A good choice for a long car trip, hike, or treadmill time!

TOP 10 RECENT FICTION

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen has become a book club favorite. The intriguing story of a traveling circus veterinarian during the Depression, recounted when he is 90 years old and in a nursing home, is suspenseful and richly descriptive.

For the romantic looking for a well-written beach read: James Collins's **Beginner's Greek** is the tale of a young man on a cross-country flight who meets the love of his life, Holly, in the seat next to him, and then loses her phone number.

Bridge of Sighs by Pulitzer prize winner Richard Russo is the story of an upstate New York convenience-store owner and his wife Sarah, preparing for the trip of their lifetime to Italy to see their best friend, a reclusive artist who has loved Sarah for many years.

Geraldine Brooks, another Pulitzer prize winner, has written an excellent historical fiction novel in **People of the Book**. Rare book expert Hanna Heath discovers a number of tiny artifacts hidden within the binding of a fifteenth-century Hebrew manuscript and begins to unravel the mysteries behind its past in a series of interconnected stories covering hundreds of years.

Run by Ann Patchett is the story of Bernard Doyle, former Boston Mayor and father of two adopted African-American sons, who has done his best to keep his sons interested in politics. One snowy evening an accident triggers into motion a series of events that will change their lives forever. This excellent writer's previous book was **Bel Canto**, another favorite with many readers.

Tin Roof Blowdown by the great detective fiction writer James Lee Burke takes place in post-Katrina New Orleans. Riveting and very dark.

The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards: Dr. David Henry, forced to deliver his own twins during a snowstorm in 1964 with only a

nurse to help him, makes a decision that has far-reaching effects on his life, and the lives of his wife and son, when his infant daughter is born with Down Syndrome. In a vain attempt to protect his wife, he orders the nurse to take the baby to an institution.

Looking for something very light and funny? **An Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England** by Brock Clarke will fill the bill. Sam Pulsifer is released from prison after accidentally burning down Emily Dickinson's home and begins to build a new life for himself, but when the homes of other New England writers are torched, Sam sets out to find the arsonist and clear his own name.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini, author of **The Kite Runner**, is a novel set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban. It tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite their nineteen-year age difference and initial rivalry as they suffer at the hand of a common enemy: their abusive husband.

The Appeal by John Grisham is another excellent legal thriller by the popular master. Billionaire Carl Trudeau, upset over a shocking verdict against his chemical company by a Mississippi jury and convinced that the Supreme Court will not be friendly to his appeal, decides to take the less expensive route of purchasing a seat on the Court by recruiting, financing, manipulating, marketing, and molding an unsuspecting young candidate.

NEW BOOKS

Another summer read is Jodi Picoult's newest novel, **Change of Heart**. June Nealon's life is shattered when Shay Bourne murders her husband and daughter. When her surviving eleven-year-old daughter, Claire, needs a heart transplant, Bourne decides that his only chance at redemption is to give Claire his heart after he is put to death, leaving June to decide if she wants to let the man who destroyed her life save her daughter's. Not as well reviewed as some of her others, but fans will want to read it.

Ha Jin's novel **A Free Life** provides insight into the lives of recent immigrants from China and their adaptation to life in the US. The Wu family cuts their ties with China after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre and start a new life in America, where each struggles to adapt to their new surroundings and find financial security and success.

And for hundreds of other great books, stop by your high school library and select something you will enjoy.
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