

Beach Reads

By Laura Stoll, Assistant to the Director

What's the best part about summer? Some would say the sunshine, warm temperatures, fresh foods, and time with family. I definitely enjoy all of those things but what I look forward to most are the new books!

Beach reads are fiction books that one might enjoy during vacation because they are engaging, entertaining, and easy to read. People familiar with my reading list would probably say I enjoy beach reads all year long, but there's something about reading them on my favorite chair in the backyard sunshine and cool breeze that makes them more delightful.

Here are some titles on my "to be read" list this summer.

It wouldn't be June without my favorite author Elin Hilderbrand's latest book. This year's release, "Swan Song," will be the last of her Nantucket stories. According to the publisher, Little, Brown and Company, it's a "propulsive medley of glittering gatherings, sun-soaked drama, wisdom and heart, featuring the return of some of her most beloved characters, including, most importantly, the beautiful and timeless island of Nantucket itself." Don't worry, though, Elin's not giving up her entire writing career. In September 2025, she'll release the first in a new series that takes place in a New England boarding school.

"Same as it Ever Was" by Claire Lombardo, "traverses the rocky terrain of real life, - exploring new avenues of maternal ambivalence, intergenerational friendship, and the happenstantial cause-and-effect that governs us all" (Doubleday). Lombardo's first novel, "The Most Fun We Ever Had" was one of my 2019 beach reads so I can't wait for this book!

I heard about Jenny Holiday's book "Earls Trip" on a list of Bridgerton read-alikes. This Regency-era story follows three handsome earls on their annual getaway. "Even an earl needs his ride-or-dies, and Archibald Fielding-Burton, the Earl of Harcourt, counts himself lucky to have two. Archie (the jock), Simon (the nerd), and Effie (the goth) have been BFFs since their school days, and their annual trip holds a sacred spot in their calendars" (Kensington Books).

I love Abby Jiminez's books but listening to them on audio is an even better experience. Her latest release is "Just For The Summer." "Justin has a curse, and thanks to a Reddit thread, it's now all over the internet. Every woman he dates goes on to find their soul mate the second they break up. When a woman slides into his DMs with the same problem, they come up with a plan: They'll date each other and break up. Their curses will cancel each other out, and they'll both go on to find the love of their lives. It's a bonkers idea... and it just might work" (Forever).

While romance and family drama make a great beach read, a good mystery can be even better. "The Resort" by Sarah Ochs is "a searing vacation thriller set on a remote island in Thailand following two mysterious women, a charismatic group of expats, and the one murder poised to bring their paradise crashing down" (Sourcebooks Landmark).

Liz Moore's first book "Bright River" was amazing so I can't wait to read her latest, "The God of the Woods." "An immersive, propulsive novel about a missing child whose disappearance sends equal shockwaves through three very different worlds - an opulent Adirondack summer estate, the rustic teen summer camp that operates in its shadow, and the blue-collar community that serves them both" (Riverhead Books).

As we welcome the first official days of summer, be sure to stop by the Kirkland Town Library to request some good reading!