

Summer Reading Recommendations

My latest novel is entitled Finding Kony. It is available from amazon.com. This engaging saga reveals the veracity of ravages of the Lord's Resistance Army interwoven around a quest to find the elusive, enigmatic leader Joseph Kony. Accurately set in contemporary Africa, the novel captures the pain inflicted by Kony's forces, as well as the hope engendered by the necessity to move on. - Bob Gribbin

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt is the loveliest book I have read in a long time. It is a great book to take on vacation. The characters are well-defined and intriguing from the start. The plot flows along with surprising twists and turns. That the main character is an octopus named Marcellus makes you want to keep reading. I found that I read the last pages slowly as I didn't want the book to end. - Kathleen Stark

And There was Light, Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle a biography of Abraham Lincoln by Jon Meacham
Jon Meacham is a favorite author of mine not only because he writes so well, but he also researches his subjects exhaustively. At first glance, this new book is daunting as it looks very much like a door stop. However, one soon finds that the book is really only 420 pages of text followed by 200 pages of notes. Typically, I would be tempted to skip the notes. But with this book, the notes are far too interesting and helpful to miss.

Meacham explores Lincoln's politics of faith and noble compromise, suggesting that they would serve us well even now. He is able to interpret the many aspects of Lincoln's life. Contained within this commentary is Meacham's interpretation of Lincoln's impact on the life of the United States.

I recommend this book and hope that anyone who reads it will agree. - Anne Radway

The majority of books I read are mysteries or detective stories. Perhaps it's a form of escapism, particularly in these tumultuous times. I can shut out all the fallout from the current political impasse in the U.S. and immerse myself into whatever situation the mystery leads me.

One of my favorite authors is Archer Mayor, who lives near my hometown of Brattleboro, Vermont, and has written 29 books about detective **Joe Gunther**. Many of the books have been set in Brattleboro, and I know exactly what part of town or surrounding area is being described. Another is Sara Paretsky. She has written 21 novels (I recently finished the latest) focused on **V.I. Warshawski**, her (fictional) "hard-boiled" female investigator who works out of Chicago. Her specialty is dealing with murder cases connected to white-collar crime.

Donna Leon, an American who lives and writes in Venice, writes about the cerebral **Commissario Guido Brunetti**. Daniel Silva writes "thrillers" about **Gabriel Allon** who becomes the chief of the Israeli Mossad. I also recommend the **87th Precinct** series by American author Ed McBain; the **Marshal Guarnaccia** series by Magdalen Nabb; the police procedural novels featuring **Martin Beck** by Swedish authors Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö; and Henning Mankell's mystery novels featuring **Kurt Wallander**, which were made into popular TV and movies series in Sweden and England. - Jonathan Barber

Love Is the Way by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Sara Grace

This book describes Michael Curry's faith, ancestry, and personal journey, both in his growing-up years and as a priest. The way he writes and learning about the things he did after seminary made for a compelling read. - Shirley Newman

Kafka on the Shore by Haruki Murakami

My favorite recent book is Kafka on the Shore by Haruki Murakami. I was attracted to it when I read the passage below in a blog. It's a somewhat surrealistic novel that really held my interest. It's about a young person who is on the run encountering talking cats, spirits, and the specter of his father's curse. My copy is available in the parish Library if you want.

And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what the storm's all about.

"[A] fabulous trail through identity, mythology, philosophy, and dreams.... Breathtaking." - *The Boston Globe* - Len LeRoy

Calling all fans of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers!

Who doesn't love a good English mystery? Whether set in London, the English countryside, or among the "dreaming spires" of Oxford, these stories beg for a cup of tea and a scone, though they're equally appealing on the beach. I recently discovered – and devoured – two series set in England during the interwar period, known as the Golden Age of English mystery. Both feature engaging heroines, intricate plots, a touch of humor, and even a little romance.

Posie (short for Rosemary) Parker becomes the most famous Lady Detective in 1920's London. Author L.B. Hathaway has a deft touch with dialogue, plot, and the details that capture the feel of the age. Posie's rather complicated romantic life only adds to her appeal. The first book in the series, Murder Offstage, introduces a cast of appealing characters who appear in subsequent books – 15 and counting!

The Catherine Tregowyn series, by G.G. Vandagriff, is set in 1930's Britain. Catherine is a poet who moves from her flat in London to Oxford, where she becomes a tutor and soon finds herself solving mysteries. Vandagriff knows Oxford well, and her love of the University shines through. Catherine is smart, accomplished, and touchingly human, and the many plot twists kept me guessing until the end. Begin with An Oxford Murder and continue through all seven books in the series. There will be more. - Beth Harper

Civility by Stephen L. Carter

Just when you think it's just craziness in our society, this book helps you get a grip and realize all is not lost. I found it to be a beacon of sanity and hope. - Sharon Jones