



Here are books that you might enjoy reading during the summer.

Have a wonderful summer.



***Available in the IMC**

***Elsie V Aidinoff - The Garden**

A revision of the Fall as written in Genesis, *The Garden* is told from the perspective of Eve. Young Eve takes her first breath in the Garden attended by her guardian, the beautiful, nurturing Serpent. Daily it teaches her about all of life, including the all-powerful Creator, God. When the Serpent finally takes her to meet God and Adam, the boy he teaches, Eve is fascinated. But when she questions God in order to understand more, God is annoyed, demanding that she obey unquestioningly.

Isabel Allende - Zorro

Allende's novel follows young Diego de la Vega as he gains initiation into the fencing and wisdom traditions of his parents, a Spanish military man and a female Shoshone warrior. As he witnesses the brutality of the colonial regime, he becomes devoted to the cause of the poor and the powerless. Allende's *Zorro* portrays its lead character as a man becoming a hero who continues to capture our imagination. (also reads are ** Daughter of Fortune and The House of Spirits* available in the IMC)

***David Baldacci - Split Second**

Sean King is a former Secret Service agent who, eight years ago, botched the job of protecting a presidential candidate. When he meets Michelle Maxwell, an attractive agent whose political charge has just been kidnapped, the two disgraced operatives uncover an ominous connection between the incidents. They team up, and -- as bodies begin to pile up -- they find themselves racing against the clock to prevent an assassin from striking again along the campaign trail. (Be sure to check out **Baldacci's The Hour Game*)

Michael Cunningham - Specimen Days

Cunningham uses Walt Whitman as his muse to weave a captivating, strange and extravagant novel of human progress and social decline. The novel tells three stories separated in time with Manhattan as a backdrop where the actors mirror each other (a deformed, Whitman-quoting boy, Luke, is a terrorist in one story and a teenage prophet in another; a world-weary woman, Catherine, is a would-be bride and an alien; and a handsome young man, Simon, is a ghost, a business man and an artificial human) and the themes of love and fear, loss and connection, violence and poetry. (*The Hours* is on the shelf in the IMC)

Nelson DeMille – Night Fall

It's summer 2001, five years since TWA Flight 800 went down in the ocean under mysterious circumstances. The official explanation is mechanical failure, but John Corey and wife Kate Mayfield (last seen in *The Lion's Game*) suspect a cover-up involving a steamy videotape and a guided missile. Even though both Corey and Mayfield work for an antiterrorist task force made up of cops and CIA and FBI agents, there is resistance to their finding anything to contradict the official reports. As usual, DeMille spins a well-crafted, timely, and exciting tale.

Janet Evanovich - Eleven on Top

Trenton's best-known bounty hunter has up and left her cousin Vinnie's employ. There's no real reason why Stephanie Plum has turned in the phony badge she bought off the Web. She's just had enough chasing after the kind of lowlifes who run out on bail bonds and spit in her face when they're caught. And the funny thing is, quitting doesn't change her life a bit. (This is the 11th in the series about Trenton bounty hunter Stephanie Plum, but you can read it without reading the other ten, but once you read one of her books, you'll be hooked)

Khaled Hosseini - The Kite Runner

A poignant tale of two motherless boys growing up in Kabul, a city teetering on the brink of destruction at the dawn of the Soviet invasion. Despite their class differences, Amir, the son of a wealthy businessman, and Hassan, his devoted sidekick and the son of Amir's household servant, play together, cause mischief together, and compete in the annual kite-fighting. But one day, Amir betrays Hassan, and his betrayal grows increasingly devastating as their tale continues. Amir will spend much of his life coming to terms with his initial and subsequent acts of cowardice, and finally seek to make reparations.

***John Grisham - The Last Juror**

Willia Traynor, a 23 college dropout, owns the Ford County newspaper and reports all the details of the murder and rape of a young mother. The murderer, Danny Padgitt, was tried and convicted and sentenced to life in prison. He threatened revenge against the jurors and nine years later Danny Padgitt managed to get himself paroled. He returned to Ford County, and the retribution began.

Haddon, Mark - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Christopher Boone is a fifteen and has Asperger's, a form of autism. He knows a great deal about math and very little about human beings. When he finds his neighbor's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey, which will turn his world upside down.

***Sue Monk Kidd - The Mermaid's Chair**

When Jessie is summoned home to Egret Island to cope with her eccentric mother's seemingly inexplicable act of violence, she is living a conventional life with her husband, Hugh, a life "molded to the smallest space possible." Jessie loves Hugh, but once there, she finds herself drawn to Brother Thomas, a monk who is soon to take his final vows (If you haven't read Monk's *The Secret Life of Bees*, you are in for a sweet treat)

***Dean Koontz - The Taking**

A couple in an isolated California home endure a phosphorescent rain and learn that, around the world, something is attacking humans and laying waste to communications.

(be sure to check out other novels such as **The Face, The Watchers and Cold Fire*)

Elizabeth Kostova - The Historian

When a motherless American girl living in Europe finds a medieval book and a package of letters, all addressed ominously to "My dear and unfortunate successor..." she begins to unravel a thread that leads back to her father's past, his mentor's career, and an evil hidden in the depths of history.

In those few quiet moments, she unwittingly assumes a quest she will discover is her birthright -- a hunt that nearly brought her father to ruin and may have claimed the life of his adviser and dear friend, history professor Bartholomew Rossi. What does the legend of Vlad the Impaler, the historical Dracula, have to do with the 20th century?

Sue Miller - Lost in the Forest

Lost in the Forest is a novel set in the vineyards of Northern California that tells the story of a young girl who, in the wake of a tragic accident, seeks solace in a damaging love affair with a much older man.

(Miller also wrote **While I was Gone*)

***Jodi Picoult - My Sister's Keeper**

Conceived in vitro, 13-year-old Anna Fitzgerald has decided to sue her parents to stop them from using her as "spare parts" for her older sister, Kate, who suffers from leukemia. After years of having her bone marrow and blood used to keep Kate alive, Anna now refuses to donate a kidney and strives for her own personal freedom. She hires lawyer Campbell Alexander to represent her, even as her own mother, a former civil defense attorney, fights her in court. (Highly recommended by Ann Hill)

***Douglas Preston - Brimstone**

FBI Special Agent Pendergast, searching for the human villain behind the death of infamous art critic Jeremy Grove, found murdered in a crime that appears to have supernatural origins, follows the trail from New York to the Italian countryside where he learns a shocking secret. (Another book by Preston in the IMC is *The Relic and Mount Dragon*; follow Special Agent Pendergast's adventures in *Still Life With Crows*)

Kermit Roosevelt – In the Shadow of the Law

The powerhouse Washington, DC, law firm of Morgan Siler is so driven by the quest for "billable hours" that its head partner advises a young lawyer to bill the time he spends in the men's room because he's "thinking" about work. Both a legal thriller and a first-rate legal comedy of manners, this debut by a University of Pennsylvania law professor adeptly weaves together two complicated legal cases—a pro bono appeal of a death sentence and the defense of a manufacturing conglomerate accused of negligence in the death of several workers—with satisfying insider details to give readers a full sense of what life in such an environment is like

J. K. Rowling - Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Continues the story of Harry Potter's sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and his battle with good and evil. (Additional Harry Potter novels are available in the IMC)

Richard Russo - Empire Falls

set in a Maine town teetering toward oblivion, Russo introduces a cross section of society's also-rans; trapped between a past of minimal opportunity and a future unimaginable as anything better, characters settle for diminished returns on the dreams of their parents.

Gabrielle Zevin - Margaretton

A familiar tale: boys meets girl, boy likes girl, boys visits girl's hometown and meets the offbeat quartet of ladies she calls her family. He learns that all five women may be the product of a spell placed upon his new lover by her spinster aunt.



The following are “oldies but goodies” and must reads

***Elizabeth Berg - Never Change**

Resigned to her life alone, unmarried fifty-one-year-old Myra Lipinsky immerses herself in her career as a visiting nurse, in which role she is reunited with Chip Reardon, who has returned to his hometown to live while he deals with an incurable illness. (also reads *are Open House*, *Talk Before Sleep* and *What We Keep*)

***Tracy Chevalier - Lady and Unicorn**

Interweaves historical fact with fiction to explore the mystery behind the creation of the remarkable Lady and the Unicorn tapestries, woven at the end of the fifteenth century, which today hang in the Cluny Museum in Paris.

***Anita Diamant - The Red Tent**

Her name is Dinah. In the Bible, her life is only hinted at in a brief and violent detour within the more familiar chapters of the Book of Genesis that are about her father, Jacob, and his dozen sons. Told in Dinah's voice, this novel reveals the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood - the world of the red tent. It begins with the story of her mothers - Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Bilhah - the four wives of Jacob.

They love Dinah and give her gifts that are to sustain her through a damaged youth, a calling to midwifery, and a new home in a foreign land. Dinah's story reaches out from a remarkable period of early history and creates an intimate, immediate connection. (This was a IMC Book Club favorite)

***Ian Caldwell and Deisten Thomas - The Rule of Four**

A mysterious coded manuscript, a violent Ivy League murder, and the secrets of a Renaissance prince collide in a labyrinth of betrayal, madness, and genius. (If you liked *The DaVinci Code* and *Angel and Demons*)

***Ken Follett - The Pillars of the Earth**

Not his usual suspense novel, Follett's setting is 12th-century England and the story the concerns the building of a cathedral in the fictional town of Kingsbridge. The ambitions of three men merge, conflict and collide through four decades during which social and political upheaval and the internal politics of the church affect the progress of the cathedral and the fortunes of the protagonists. (This book comes highly recommended by Amy Carpinelli and the IMC Book Club)

***Karen Fowler – the Jane Austen Book Club**

As six Californians get together to form a book club to discuss the novels of Jane Austen, their lives are turned upside down by troubled marriages, illicit affairs, changing relationships, and love.

***Robert Harris - Pompeii**

When the aqueduct that brings fresh water to thousands of people around the bay of Naples fails, Roman engineer Marius Primus heads to the slopes of Mount Vesuvius to investigate, only to come face to face with an impending catastrophe. (Joanna Thomas loved this book)

***Jennifer Lauck - Blackbird: A Childhood Lost and Found**

Jennifer Lauck revisits her extraordinarily difficult childhood. Her mother's lengthy illness led to a reversal of roles, casting Lauck as the caretaker in the relationship. Worse, shortly after her mother's passing, Lauck's father married a woman who might best be described as an "evil stepmother." Lauck's pitch-perfect evocation of her younger self's point of view and her resilience in the face of emotional and physical hardship make this an unforgettable read. (This is one of Anne Moore's favorites)

***Gregory Maguire - The Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister**

In the classic tale of *Cinderella*, we only get to hear her side of the story. But what about her rivals, those ugly stepsisters, and their proud and haughty mother? Where did they come from? How did they become so wretched? And are there costs as well as consolations for an exceptional beauty such as Cinderella? Maguire's captivating and beautifully written second novel re-envision the familiar story through the eyes of one of the homely stepsisters, Iris, and suddenly, we see things in a whole new light.

***Alice Sebold - The Lovely Bones**

When we first meet Susie Salmon, she is already in heaven. As she looks down from this strange new place, she tells us, in the fresh and spirited voice of a fourteen-year-old girl, a tale that is both haunting and full of hope. Susie sees her loved ones pass through grief and begin to mend. Her father embarks on a risky quest to ensnare her killer. Her sister undertakes a feat of remarkable daring. And the boy Susie cared for moves on, only to find himself at the center of a miraculous event. (Nancy Scarpaci really likes this book)



Think of Suntan Lotion and the Lazy Hazy Days of Summer with These Books

Jane Kelly – Killing Time in Ocean City

After being jolted from a sound sleep by police early in her vacation, Meg Daniels discovers that her

former boss has turned up dead near her rented beach house in Ocean City, New Jersey. A series of suspicious circumstances turn Meg into a prime suspect in his murder, and the evidence against her seems to be mounting every minute. The action shifts from Ocean City to Atlantic City to the Pine Barrens, with Meg frantically hunting for answers while she herself becomes a target of the killer. The familiarity of the author to the shore areas of South Jersey brings a fun, real-life dimension for the local reader to this suspense-filled "whodunit."

***James McBride - The Color of Water**

This biography tells the story of James McBride and his mother-a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland and raised in the South, who fled to Harlem, married a black man, founded a church, and put twelve children through college. Lavishly praised by critics, and embraced by millions of readers, this tribute to a remarkable woman is an eloquent exploration of what family really means.

***Jacquelyn Mitchard - A Theory of Relativity**

At twenty-four, Gordon McKenna thinks he's already heard the worst news of his life when he learns that his sister Georgia is fatally ill. Then Georgia and her husband die in a car accident, leaving behind their baby daughter, Keefer. Gordon and his parents are able to survive their sorrow only by devoting themselves to the care of the beloved one-year-old. But the decision of who will raise Keefer is far from over, and soon Gordon's most basic assumptions about his family will be challenged in ways so provocative that he will be driven to disbelief and then to outrage. The ordeal will test the bonds of this closely knit family, challenging even love's ultimate capacity to heal. (If you enjoyed the *Deep End of the Ocean*, you will enjoy this book)

The Beach House – Mary Alice Monroe

Returning to her childhood home in the Low country at the request of her mother, Caretta Rutledge, who had thought she had forever buried her Southern roots and her troubled family, unexpectedly begins to reconnect with her friends and family while she fixes up the family beach house, learning that in order to live life to the fullest, she must forgive and forget the past (Debbie Carchidi loved this book)



The IMC has all of Oprah's books – Check Them out over the Summer