

# Dive into a Good Book:

## Great Summer Reads Recommended by Nancy Pearl

**Midnight Riot**, Ben Aaronovitch

A rookie English cop (with hitherto unknown magical powers) works with his new wizard mentor to solve a case of murder most foul (witnessed only by a ghost) and to mediate between feuding families who happen to be personifications of the rivers of London.

**Instead of a Letter**, Diana Athill

A well known British editor pens the story of her childhood and adolescence, including her loves and losses, in transcendent prose.

**The Last Werewolf**, Glen Duncan

When you finish this—and it is impossible to put down—you'll never be able to see the world of werewolves (and vampires) in any other way.

**Blood, Bones, and Butter**, Gabrielle Hamilton

The story of Hamilton's difficult childhood, her life as a foodie and restaurateur, and her unconventional marriage are the subjects of this well-written memoir. Make a reservation at Prune the next time you're in New York.

**The Gone-Away World**, Nick Harkaway

No annotation will do for this exceptional post-apocalyptic novel because the plot is so complex and woven together with the three-dimensional, generally sympathetic characters, that I'm afraid anything I say will give too much away. Ignore the covers in both the cloth and paper editions.

**Blind Sight**, Meg Howrey

A teenage boy who has grown up with his mother and two older sisters finally meets his father, a Hollywood actor, and goes to spend the summer with him, an event that precipitates secrets told and surprises revealed.

**The Silver Sparrow**, Tayari Jones

Growing up in 1980s Atlanta, Dana realizes how different her life is from other girls her age when she learns that her father—who doesn't live with her and her mother—has another family, including another daughter almost exactly her age.

**House Divided**, Mike Lawson

Joe DeMarco, a "fixer" who works off the books for the powerful Speaker of the House of Representatives, has to solve a particularly sticky problem arising from illegal wiretapping by the National Security Agency—a case which hits close to home, since his cousin has been murdered in the course of the crime. You can see Nancy's interview with Mike Lawson at [www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=3031002](http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=3031002)





**To Be Sung Underwater**, Tom McNeal

Judith Whitman always thought that she would marry her high-school boyfriend, Willy Blunt, but when they are separated—by class, by choice, by circumstance—neither of them believes they will ever meet again.

**Last Letter From Your Lover**, JoJo Moyes

Jennifer Stirling wakes up in the hospital suffering from amnesia—she can't remember the car accident that caused her injuries, nor anything about her earlier life, including her husband. Then she finds a mysterious letter...

**The Watery Part of the World**, Michael Parker

This elegantly written tale reflects on the nature of race, love, regret, dependence, fear, sorrow, honor, and envy—the eternal challenges of being human; it's set both in the middle third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the 1970s, on a barrier island off the coast of North Carolina.

**The White Woman on the Green Bicycle**, Monique Roffey

The story of post-colonial Trinidad is told through the experiences of a British couple who arrive in the country when they are 25 and newly married. They continue to live there—one happily, one not—for the next 50 years.

**The Coffins of Little Hope**, Timothy Schaffert

This lovely novel, narrated by 83-year-old Essie Myles, who is the obituary writer for the *County Paragraph*, her grandson Doc's small town Nebraska newspaper, is a triumph of storytelling, featuring quirky characters, humor, compassion, and insight into human strengths and foibles.

**Stone Arabia**, Dana Spiotta

Now in her late 40s, Denise looks back over her relationship with her older brother Nik, a self-destructive genius.

**Tooth and Claw**, Jo Walton

As Walton herself put it, this novel is “the result of wondering what a world would be like if the axioms of the sentimental Victorian novel were inescapable laws of biology.” In other words, think Anthony Trollope's *Framley Parsonage* populated with dragons.

## Notable Books Coming This Fall!

**The Art of Fielding**, Chad Harbach

**The Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President**, Candice Millard

**The Night Circus**, Erin Morgenstern

**The Leftovers**, Tom Perotta



The *New York Times* calls Nancy Pearl “the talk of librarian circles.” Nancy speaks to library and community groups across the country and she regularly recommends books on NPR's *Morning Edition*. She's even had a librarian action figure modeled in her likeness. Nancy is the author of *Book Crush: For Kids and Teens – Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Interest*; *Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Interest*; *More Book Lust: 1,000 New Reading Recommendations for Every Mood, Moment, and Interest*; and *Book Lust to Go: Recommended Reading for Travelers, Vagabonds, and Dreamers*.