



*Some Summer Reading
Suggestions – from the
librarian, staff & faculty at
Marian Court College
2009*

Fantasy

Angels of Destruction and *The Stolen Child* by Keith Donohue

This author has written two books that have a mystical and fantasy feel without being too far out there. Ultimately they are mysteries that keep you wondering about other worlds. In *Angels of Destruction*, a nine-year-old girl arrives on the doorstep of a woman in a small Pennsylvanian town in 1985. How is this mystery child connected to her daughter who disappeared 10 years ago? And how do both tie in with the cult known as the Angels of Destruction? In his first book, *The Stolen Child*, he writes about an intriguing story about changelings - what happens when one boy is replaced by another? How are the children and the family affected?

~Pam Burch, Librarian

Historical Fiction

The Given Day by Dennis Lehane

Imagine a time when Anarchists blew up buildings and tensions between Management and Labor often led to violence and intrigue. Set the story in Boston from November 1918 - 1919, where richly developed characters (fictional and non-fictional, including Babe Ruth) lives are impacted by the Influenza epidemic, that great Molasses Flood and the Boston Police Strike and you have a wonderful summer read to be enjoyed by any one who likes a good story.

~David Ives (Pam's husband)

Inspirational Books

Grayson by Lynne Cox

"On a clear California morning when Cox was 17 years old, she had an unusual experience that stayed with her for 30 years, creating a spiritual foundation for her personal and professional success. In this slim and crisp memoir, Cox details a morning swim off the coast of California that took an unexpected turn: returning to shore, she discovered that she was being followed by a baby gray whale that had been separated from its mother." (Amazon) It is a quick but beautiful story about a girl's encounter with a baby whale. Her description of nature is amazing and her perseverance and dedication to save the whale is inspirational. It is a great story to remind us that there are other things more important in the world than ourselves sometimes.

~Professor Stephanie Maniscalco

The Fred Factor by Mark Sanborn

By putting passion into your work and life, the ordinary can become extraordinary!

~Professor Joan Thompson

Just Plain Great Reading

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz

I loved this novel because Diaz writes in a voice that is both funny and touching. He weaves together the tale of Oscar, taking us from New Jersey to the Dominican Republic and back again, while giving us the sordid history of the DR's changing political regime in often hilarious footnotes. Declared by the New York Times as a "first novel so original is can only be described as Mario Vargas Llosa meets "Star Trek" meets David Foster Wallace meets Kanye West."

~Professor Suzanne Cope

The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown

I couldn't put this book down - gripping plot and lots of twists and turns. If you haven't had a chance to read this one yet, try it.

~Jim Chatterton, CFO

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

This book depicts an interesting perspective of life after World War II and the impact of the German occupation on the British island of Guernsey. Written as a series of letters, you'll find this book easy to enjoy even when you only have a few moments.

~Professor Maddy McAuliffe

The Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry

I can't resist the chance to mention this local author! She lives in Salem and this is the locale for the book. Brunonia first self-published it and later sold it to a regular publisher. It has gone on to be translated into over 20 languages and plans are underway to make it into a movie. You will recognize many of the places mentioned in the book. The story is about a very complicated family, secrets, and the special bond that women share.

~Pam Burch, Librarian

Outlander by Diana Gabaldon

First book in a series. This historical novel gives a detailed view of Scottish Clan life. It takes place in the eighteenth and twentieth century Scotland. The heroine, Claire Randall, finds herself caught in time travel back 200 years and does not know how to return to her family. Needless to say when Claire appears on the Scottish countryside in a short skirt and has a hard time explaining herself to a gnarly Scotsman named Murtagh who has been out with a party rustling cattle. This novel could be considered a romantic novel, science fiction, or a historical novel.

~Linda Lundstrom, Registrar

Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult

The plot was so gripping that I just had to keep reading to find out how the book would end, and I enjoyed viewing life through the eyes of Amish, forcing me to see how our sense of morals and justice are swayed by our separate communities - nothing is black and white in this world.

~Kathy Angle, Financial Aid

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austin

This book has memorable characters such as Lizzie Bennet and modern-day concerns. I also recommend the video version with Jennifer Uhle which is marvelous!

~Professor Bob Lyons

True Colors by Kristin Hannah.

This book was excellent! It portrayed the life of three sisters who endured the loss of their mother at a young age, the multiple failed attempts at pleasing their father, the risk of losing their family ranch and the struggle to keep it afloat, as well as love and heart ache for all three. It painted a picture of how tragedy can affect people in different ways and the gift of not losing hope. I thought it was very well written and it kept me turning pages even when I knew I should go to bed!!

~Danielle Morse, Admissions Counselor

Long Leisurely Reads

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski

At 562 pages, you can't carry this one to the beach! But it is well worth the time reading this summer - especially if you love dogs. This story follows a boy born mute in rural Wisconsin as he grows up raising and training a special breed of dog with his parents. His strange uncle returns to live with the family, his father dies under mysterious circumstances and Edgar is forced to flee. Can he discover who killed his father and why?

~Pam Burch, Librarian

Mysteries/Suspense

The 13th Tale by Diane Setterfield

A compelling emotional mystery about family secrets and the magic of books and storytelling. A dying writer bids a young bookshop assistant to write her biography. Or is that the real purpose? Her motives for bringing the woman to pen her tale are intriguing. Her life contains a story about twins (or are they really twins?) and mistaken identities. The whole book has a gothic feel - great for some rainy days! It gets a bit complicated but that's what I liked about this book.

~Pam Burch, Librarian

The First Patient by Michael Palmer

An easy-read mystery by Swampscott author, Dr. Michael Palmer

~Professor Joan Thompson

Stranger in Paradise - Robert B. Parker

The fifth Book in Parker's Jesse Stone series about a small town police chief in Paradise Massachusetts. It is not necessary to have read the prior books. Paradise is Marblehead and it is fun to read about local landmarks, including restaurants by a different name. Add in rich characters, a good story and you have a fun summer read.

~David Ives (Pam's husband)

Non-Fiction

Galileo's Daughter: a history memoir of science, faith and love by Dava Sobel

This is an exchange of letters between Galileo and his daughter who is a nun, during the time while he was being condemned by the Church. Both fascinating and compelling!

~Sister Joanne Lappetito

Hot, Flat and Crowded by Thomas Friedman

No one takes complex global issues and explains them better than this author. This is a thoughtful look at where the environment has been and where it is headed. Advocacy for the United States to become the world leader in "ET" Environmental Technology just as it did with "IT". You cannot make something greener without making it smarter and that leads to cutting edge technology and good knowledge based jobs -- is the essential premise of the book.

~David Ives (Pam's husband)

The Middle Place by Kelly Corrigan

This book traces a San Francisco newspaper columnist's life experiences, describing her relationships with her husband, children, and Irish-American father before and during her battle with breast cancer. All nine members of my book group loved this book. It has a serious subject but is *full* of humor. It reminded so many of us of growing up.

~Sheila Palleschi, Receptionist

Start Late, Finish Rich by David Bach

Here is a no-fail plan for achieving financial freedom at any age.

~Professor Joan Thompson

Travel

Bella Tuscany: the sweet life in Italy by Frances Mayes

More on the wonders of Italy by the author who also wrote *Under the Tuscan Sun*.

~Sister Joanne Lappetito

