

Rockport Public Library
2011 Summer Reading for Grown-Ups

Eilperin, Juliet **Demon Fish: Travels Through the Hidden World of Sharks**
Eilperin, an environmental reporter and a scuba diver, describes her travels throughout Asia, South Africa, and the United States in search of shark information and folklore. She provides a well-written overview of current and past attitudes toward sharks and discusses shark species, physiology, genetics, reproduction, evolution, navigation, and attacks on swimmers. –*Library Journal*

Fey, Tina **Bossypants**
Fey provides a fascinating glimpse behind the curtain of modern comedy with wit, candor, and self-deprecation. *Bossypants* gets to the heart of why Tina Fey remains universally adored: she embodies the hectic, too-many-things-to-juggle lifestyle, but instead of complaining about it, she laughs it off. -*Amazon*

Fitzgerald, F. Scott **A Short Autobiography**
An intellectual autobiography [that] should inspire Fitzgerald readers new or returning . . . a pleasure to read." -*Library Journal*

Foer, Joshua **Moonwalking with Einstein:
the Art and Science of Remembering Everything**
In this intriguing look at the nature of memory, Foer reassures us that we don't need to acquire a better memory; we just need to use the one we have more effectively. He explores various ways we test our memories and discusses how we can train ourselves to remember better. An engaging, informative, and encouraging book. –*Booklist*

Folkenflik, David **Page One:
The New York Times and the Future of Journalism**
The news media is in the middle of a revolution, but where is the future of great journalism? Folkenflik has convened some of the smartest media savants to discuss the future of news. Behind all the debate is the *New York Times*, and the inside story of its attempt to navigate the new world, embracing the immediacy of the web without straying from a commitment to accurate reporting and analysis. –*Amazon.com*

Fukuyama, Francis **The Origins of Political Order:
From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution**
The evolving tension between private and public animates this history of the state. In his chronicle of humanity's attempts to build strong, accountable governments that adhere to the rule of law, Fukuyama advances two themes: the effort to create an impersonal state free from family and tribal allegiances, and the struggle against wealthy elites who capture the state and block reforms. As germane to Afghanistan as it is to congressional battles, this is a history with up-to-the-minute relevance. –*Publishers Weekly*

Fuller, Alexandra **Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness**
This work traces the lives of Fuller's British parents. Her mother—the central figure—was born Highland Scottish, grew up in Kenya, learned to ride, and married a dashing Englishman before settling down on their farm, first in Kenya, then Rhodesia. Civil war in the mid-1970s resolved the family to dig in deeper on their farm rather than flee. Under a legendary Tree of Forgetfulness (where ancestors are supposed to reside and help resolve trouble) they ruminate over the long-gone days, full of death and loss, the ravages of war, and a determination to carry on. –*Publishers Weekly*

Greene, Melissa Fay **No Biking in the House Without a Helmet**
A heartfelt memoir. [Greene] infuses each chapter with a strong dose of humor and does not shy away from the difficulties of adopting older children. It's all one big, happy family but also a very real one. Call them the 21st-century Waltons, and revel in the joy they have brought home for keeps. –*Booklist*

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Greenlaw, Linda The Maine Summers Cookbook

Recipes showcase seasonal Maine treasures, such as blueberries, seafood, and plenty of garden vegetables. Dishes are geared toward entertaining. Abundant are grilled dishes like blue cheese burgers with bourbon-black tea ketchup and swordfish kebabs with peanut-ginger dipping sauce. Essays on rafting, the annual pig roast, and cooking aboard ship personalize the book. —*Publishers Weekly*

**Hamilton, Gabrielle Blood, Bones & Butter:
the Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef**

Just what a chef's story should be—delectable, dripping with flavor, tinged with adrenaline and years of too-little sleep. What sets Hamilton apart, though, is her ability to write with as much grace as vitriol, a distinct tenderness marbling her meaty story. The constant thread running through this patchwork tale is Hamilton's slow simmering passion for cooking and the comfort it can bring. —*Amazon*

Hillenbrand, Laura Unbroken

In May 1943 an Army Air Force bomber disappeared into the Pacific, leaving a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gas, and blood. Then, a face appeared--Lt. Louis Zamperini. Captured by the Japanese and driven to the limits of endurance, he would meet desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor.

Howe, Ben Ryder My Korean Deli: Risking it all for a Convenience Store

A former editor of *The Paris Review* recounts his participation in a family effort to buy and run a Korean convenience store for his in-laws, a pursuit that raised issues about work and family. Howe transforms a string of amusing vignettes into a humorous but heartfelt look into the complexities of family dynamics and the search for identity. —*Publishers Weekly*

Jacobs, Michael Andes

The Andes include rain forests, deserts, deserted areas, massive cities, Incan, pre-Incan and Spanish ruins, and more. Enduring high altitude, terrifying bus rides, endless delays, crime-ridden cities, and mystics, Jacobs conveys the region's difficulties and challenges as well as its beauty and fascination.

Area 51:

Jacobsen, Annie An Uncensored History of America's Top Secret Military Base

An account of the mysterious military installation, which the author contends is the home of secret espionage programs. —*The New York Times*

Jacoby, Susan Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age

As baby boomers approach 65, marketers offer an abundance of "age defying" products and services. But is aging as trouble free as they say? Jacoby is enraged by efforts to redefine old age without facing up to the unavoidable realities. She focuses on distinctions between the young old and the old old as well as the very different prospects for the elderly who are poor or minorities. —*Amazon.com*

Junger, Sebastian War

Embedded as a journalist in an infantry platoon of the U.S. 2d Battalion, Junger tracks the unit's 15-month deployment in eastern Afghanistan in 2007–08. Trying to capture in words the elements of combat, fear, and ennui through the eyes of the soldiers, he communicates with a level of objectivity that the soldiers cannot. Although ostensibly about combat, *War* examines the raw, brutal reality of combat and why men fight. More than anything else, soldiers fight for one another, and Junger paints them as humans, heroes, and brothers. —*Library Journal*

**Kempe, Fredrick Berlin 1961: Kennedy, Khrushchev,
and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth**

The back story of the Berlin Wall and escalation of the Cold War. "History at its best." Zbigniew Brzezinski

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Kihn, Martin **A Bad Dog: A Love Story**

Not a cozy *Marley and Me* duplicate or training book (though readers will learn a lot about the value of appropriate training), this sharply written, darkly funny memoir–cum–dog story–cum–recovery tale is a quick, absorbing read that will serve a wide audience well. –*Library Journal*

Kissinger, Henry **On China**

Kissinger's take on diplomacy, strategy, and negotiation throughout its history, draws upon his participation with policy making, and gives consideration to China in the globalization of the 21st century as well as some hints of his legacy.

In the Garden of Beasts:

Larson, Erik **Love Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin**

Larson surveys 1933 Berlin from the perspective of two Americans: Ambassador William Dodd, a Jeffersonian liberal who hoped Nazism would de-fang itself, and his daughter. At first dazzled by the Nazi elite, they soon noticed its true nature: beatings of Americans who failed to salute storm troopers, oppressive surveillance, incessant propaganda, intimidation and persecution of friends, and fanaticism beneath the surface charm of officialdom. A vivid panorama of the Third Reich and its leaders.

Lelyveld, Joseph **Great soul: Mahatma Gandhi and His Struggle with India**

An unexpected perspective that focuses more on Gandhi's failures and vexations than triumphs. Gandhi dreamed of Hindu-Muslim solidarity in a united India, acceptance of lower castes by upper-caste Hindus, and an economy based on self-sufficient villages. Lelyveld pairs a sympathetic but critical analysis of Gandhi's politics with a vivid portrait of his charismatic strangeness: his makeover from business-suited, English-educated upper-caste lawyer to loincloth-clad sage. An even-handed account that relates the failure of Gandhi's politics while attesting to its enduring power. –*Publishers Weekly*

Linden, David J. **The Compass of Pleasure: How Our Brains Make Fatty Foods, Orgasm, Exercise, Marijuana, Generosity, Vodka, Learning, and Gambling Feel So Good**

By merging an evolutionary perspective with cutting-edge research in neuroscience, Linden addresses provocative questions about the relationship between pleasure and addiction. His conversational style, abundant use of anecdotes, and coupling of wit with insight make the book a joy to read.
–*Publishers Weekly*

Mailer, Norris Church **A Ticket to the Circus: A Memoir**

Mailer's sixth wife was a 26-year-old divorced mother and hippie art teacher when 52-year-old Mailer swept her off her feet. Aged and mellowed, he is still a handful: he throws a drink in Gore Vidal's face, gets busted with marijuana, hangs with Fidel Castro and the Ramones, and womanizes compulsively. Norris has retaliatory affairs and a past that includes trysts with a young Bill Clinton. The author looks beyond her marital melodrama in well-wrought scenes that include a scary portrait of Jack Henry Abbott—a convict-writer Norman befriended—and an evocative travelogue in post-communist Russia. A smart, intimate portrait of the glitterati and their discontents. –*Publishers Weekly*

McCullough, David **The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris**

The inspiring story of 19th century American artists, writers, doctors, politicians, architects, and others who set off for Paris, ambitious to excel in their work. McCullough presents a colorful parade of educated, Victorian- travelers and their life-changing experiences in Paris. What they achieved for themselves and their country profoundly altered American history.

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Mezrich, Ben

**Sex on the Moon: The Amazing Story
Behind the Most Audacious Heist in History**

In 2002, NASA fellow Thad Roberts hatched a daring heist: steal NASA's moon rocks. With the help of his girlfriend and another female cohort, Roberts successfully stole the rocks, but selling the invaluable stones proved to be his downfall. Mezrich has perfected his intensely readable brand of nonfiction: talented, often unscrupulous, young people skyrocketing to the top only to tumble back to earth. —*Publishers Weekly*

**Miller , James Andrew
& Shales, Tom**

Those Guys Have All the Fun: Inside the World of ESPN

The history of ESPN based on interviews with nearly 500 current and former employees, featuring announcers and analysts as well as sports stars including LeBron James, Peyton Manning, and Jeff Gordon.

**Morgenson, Gretchen
& Ferris, Joshua**

**Reckless Endangerment: How Outsized Ambition, Greed,
and Corruption Led to Economic Armageddon**

A look at Fannie Mae, the mortgage-finance giant that grew through the 1990s with the support of the Clinton administration, becoming a major opponent of government oversight as it was receiving public subsidies. The role of enablers at Countrywide Financial, Goldman Sachs, the Federal Reserve, HUD, Congress, the FDIC, and the biggest players on Wall Street is exposed to show how greed, aggression, and fear led officials to ignore the warning signs of imminent disaster. —*Amazon.com*

Penn, Rob

It's All About the Bike: The Pursuit of Happiness on Two Wheels

Welshman Penn has biked 25,000 miles and his expertise is evident. He met with top bike mechanics in order to customize an ergonomically efficient dream machine: "I want a bike that shows my appreciation of the tradition, lore and beauty of bicycles." He sought out the U.K.'s few remaining artisan frame builders, where he analyzed the angles of frame geometry. Along the way, he looked back at bike history. Packed with facts, illustrations and two-wheeled tales, the book maps a path into the heart of cycling culture. —*Publishers Weekly*

Prud'homme, Alex

**The Ripple Effect:
The Fate of Fresh Water in the Twenty-First Century**

We frequently take the availability of water for granted. The book investigates numerous issues surrounding water: its quality, availability, ownership, and infrastructure in the U.S. and the rest of the world. The author takes readers on an "intellectual adventure" to better understand why water is "the most valuable resource on earth" and why it is "the resource that will define this century."

Roberts, Andrew

The Storm of War: A New History of the Second World War

A new retelling of World War II, mainly analyzing German operations and Allied reactions. In some ways, a psychological study of the leaders. Roberts blames Hitler, rather than German army leaders, for the Axis defeat. However, he takes the German military to task for not standing up to their leader. A well-sourced and well-told introduction that will be enjoyed by those in the know. —*Publishers Weekly*

Schiff, Stacy

Cleopatra: A Life

Though few reliable records remain regarding the Egyptian queen, this book peels back the layers of mystery surrounding Cleopatra and attempts to reveal a legend in her own time. The narrative does not so much bring forward new information as it presents Cleopatra in a more accessible and engrossing way. Schiff's prose is elegant, easy to read and briskly paced. Fans of biography or ancient history, and those seeking an introduction to Cleopatra will delight in this take on the near-mythical last queen of Egypt.

Sciolino, Elaine

La Seduction: How the French Play the Game of Life

Reveals the role of seduction in French culture while explaining how crucial the game of seduction is to understanding France, identifying seduction as a key ideology that shapes how the French conduct business, politics, and relationships. Analyzes the limits and power of seduction in French life.

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The Man in the Rockefeller Suit:

Seal, Mark

The Astonishing Rise and Spectacular Fall of a Serial Imposter

Unravels the case of "Clark Rockefeller," a clever con man who, over three decades, insinuated himself into the highest echelons of American society using only his wits and a borrowed name. —*Kirkus Reviews*

Slawenski, Kenneth

J.D. Salinger: A Life

In the year since his death, we've heard much more about J.D. Salinger's reclusiveness and eccentricities, both real and exaggerated, than we have about the writing that made him famous in the first place. The author avoids such scandal-mongering in order to deliver a sensitive, but not fawning, portrait of Salinger the writer. Die-hard fans and those who last read Salinger in high school will find it enlightening. —*Amazon*

Twain, Mark

Autobiography of Mark Twain, Vol 1

Twain's meander through his life and times published 100 years after his death.

Tyler, Steven

Does the Noise in my Head Bother you?: A Rock 'n' Roll Memoir

Tyler's memoir is a wild ride. Explicit and filled with expletives, it reads like an even wilder and louder version of Richards' best-selling *Life*. Tyler, 63, tells story after story about life in the "most decadent, lecherous, sexiest, nastiest band in the land." —*Associated Press*

Wasdin, Harold

& Templin, Stephen

Seal Team Six: Memoirs of an Elite Navy SEAL Sniper

A Navy SEAL Team Six sniper chronicles how he became an elite warrior and the ferocious battle that nearly cost him his life.

Weber, Katharine

**The Memory of All That: George Gershwin,
Kay Swift, and My Family's Legacy of Infidelities**

The story of Weber's colorful family and the scandalous—but monumentally transformative—love affair between her grandmother, Kay Swift, and George Gershwin. Rich details of a dazzling but painful family past fraught with betrayals, infidelities and other assorted dysfunctions, illuminating." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Wickenden, Dorothy

**Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education
of Two Society Girls in the West**

The captivating story of Wickenden's grandmother and her grandmother's best friend who left their affluent East Coast lives to "rough it" as teachers in the wilds of Colorado in 1916. In addition to a cross-section of life in the American West, but book focuses on the girls' adaptation to a society very different from the one in which they were raised, and their evolution from naive society girls to strong-willed, pragmatic women who later married and raised families in the midst of the Great Depression. —*Publishers Weekly*

Wilber, Del Quentin

Rawhide Down: the Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan

A minute-by-minute account of the 1981 assassination attempt on the fortieth president reveals how close he came to dying, in a report that pays tribute to the individuals who saved his life and oversaw national security throughout the crisis. Not a political book; purely a human-interest story that shows how Reagan's courage and grace under pressure endeared him to the American public. —*Library Journal*

Winchester, Simon

**Atlantic: Great Sea Battles, Heroic Discoveries,
Titanic Storms, and a Vast Ocean of a Million Stories**

A "biography" of the Atlantic Ocean, from its origins through the population of its shores by humanity and their interactions with it. Winchester sees the Atlantic as the vital ingredient in the blooming of Western civilization. With excellent research and engrossing anecdotes about the ocean as "a living thing," he notes its inspiration on poets, painters, and writers. Necessary reading for those who want to understand the planet better, even as the waters are rapidly changing from pollution, overfishing, and climate change.

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Wright, Robin

**Rock the Casbah:
Rage and Revolution Across the Islamic World**

An up-close portrait of the struggle between Islamic moderates and extremists taking place today. Why don't Muslims challenge the violent extremists among them? Well, they do. Wright cites the clerics, comedians, and rappers who challenge al Qaeda violence; the women who are launching liberation movements; and the former jihadists who now reject violence. These Muslims want to build a better Islam, on their own, not Western, terms. Wright sums up what is at stake for the nations in turmoil and questions the Obama administration's wavering policies. An accessible and riveting account for readers looking to learn more about the post-9/11 Islamic world by an expert on the subject. *—Publishers Weekly*

Wu, Tim

The Master Switch: The Rise and Fall of Information Empires

Although the Internet has created a world of openness and access unprecedented in human history, Wu points out that the early phases of telephony, film, and radio offered similar opportunities for the hobbyist, inventor, and creative individual, only to be centralized and controlled by corporate interests, monopolized, broken into smaller entities, and then reconsolidated. Wu questions whether the Internet is different, or whether we are merely in the early phase of a technology that will ultimately be usurped and controlled by profiteering interests. Central in the power struggle is the difference between the way Apple Computer and Google treat content, with Apple attempting to control the user experience while Google endeavors to give the user choice and openness.

Zakaria, Fareed

The Post-American World: Release 2.0

Zakaria delivers a stimulating, largely optimistic forecast of where the 21st century is heading. We are living in a peaceful era, he maintains; world violence peaked around 1990 and has plummeted to a record low. Burgeoning prosperity has spread to the developing world, raising standards of living in Brazil, India, China and Indonesia. Zakaria predicts that America will stay strong, buoyed by a stellar educational system and the influx of young immigrants who give the U.S. a more youthful demographic than Europe and much of Asia where workers support an increasing population of unproductive elderly. A thought-provoking appraisal that will engage readers on both sides of the political spectrum. *—Publishers Weekly*

Zuckoff, Mitchell

**Lost in Shangri-La: A True Story of Survival,
Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue of World War II**

A page turner about the survival and ultimate rescue of three American service people who crashed in the dense jungles of New Guinea toward the end of World War II. The interaction between the survivors and the indigenous tribe they encountered makes Zuckoff's story an essential read. This excellent book will be enjoyed by anyone who loves true adventure stories of disaster and rescue such as Alfred Lansing's *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*.