

Cottage & Beach Reads

FOR A SUMMERTIME READ, YOU'LL WANT A BOOK THAT ISN'T TOO DEMANDING. Some of the best reading is done at the cottage or the beach where you don't have the distractions of everyday life. Cottage reads should have a good plot, rich characters and above all be entertaining. There are good "beach" reads for those who like different kinds of genres – mysteries, romances, thrillers or literary books. After consulting some of the staff and a few readers, here are some suggestions. With many of the picks, we have chosen authors who write series or have written many titles.

COTTAGE READS FOR MYSTERY FANS:

- Alexander McCall Smith's No. 1 Ladies Detective agency series. Lovable, quirky characters and classic plot lines.
- Janet Evanovich Stephanie Plum novels feature a sassy bounty hunter and are totally addictive.
- Diane Mott Davidson's culinary mysteries – Goldy Bear, a caterer and crime solver stars in this fun series of mysteries focussed on food themes.
- Patricia Cornwell's Kate Scarpetta mysteries – Cornwell is the queen of forensic mysteries. Good plots but lots of gory detail. Try Kathy Reichs too for this kind of mystery.
- P.D. James Adam Dalgeish series - Classic British mysteries about a poet-police inspector



COTTAGE READS FOR THRILLER FANS:

- James Patterson: Woman's Murder Club series (1st to die etc.) There are eight in this series with fast action plots and lots of twists and turns.
- Robert Ludlum The Bourne novels – One reviewer says if you start this series be prepared not to go to work for the rest of the day.
- Michael Connelly – Connelly is a highly recommended thriller suspense writer. Some books feature the quirky investigator Harry Bosch but all these books are riveting,

COTTAGE READS FOR ROMANCE AND CHICK LIT FANS:

- Maeve Binchy – You can't go wrong with the Irish writer of gentle feminine fiction loaded with a wide variety of characters

- Jane Green – Probably one of the funniest of the British chick lit writers.
- Danielle Steel, Nora Roberts and Nicholas Sparks are tried and true romance writers who usually publish a book a year. Spark's The Notebook is particularly poignant
- Anita Shreve - Any of her books are worth reading. She specializes in relationships between the sexes in a contemporary and recent past setting.
- Penny Vincenzi – Her books have been described as bonbons for romance readers. Lots of titles to choose from...

COTTAGE READS THAT ARE INTERESTING:

- Ken Follett – Pillars of the earth and World without End. Thick reads about medieval cathedral builders. Any book by Follett is well plotted and gripping.
- Geraldine Brooks – She has written three novels with historical settings and any one would be a great choice. You are instantly swept up in the characters and setting. Her latest is People of the Book, which follows the history of a rare document through several centuries and geographic locations.
- Patrick O'Brian's Aubrey/Maturin series – O'Brian has been called the best historical novelist of the 20th century. These books are for readers who love the stories about the sea.
- Audrey Niffenegger's Time Traveller's wife – This book is perfect for readers who enjoy time travel. An interesting twist on an old theme.
- Kim Edward's The memory keeper's daughter succeeds in being an intelligent and thought-provoking book as well as a real tear-jerker.
- Elizabeth Strout: She is a Pulitzer Prize winner who writes excellent novels about New England communities. Her last one is called Olive Kittridge, a series of 13 interlinked tales revolving around the life of a retired junior-high teacher. Splendid!