

Summer Beach Reads

One definition of a good beach read is a thick book, which you want to read before the sunscreen wears off. Beach or cottage reads can be random encounters – sometimes old dog-eared paperbacks found in a cottage drawer that are a lot more fun than the literary masterpiece you brought along.

Here are some ideas for “summer reads” from our staff.

For those who like thrillers

Larssen, Steig. *The girl with the dragon tattoo.*

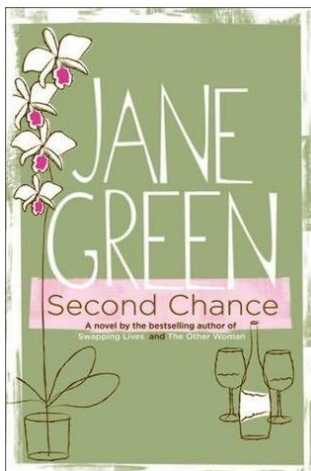
(also the sequels *The girl who played with fire* and *The girl who kicked the hornet’s nest*)

Larssen, a Swedish writer who died shortly after his third book was finished, has created an unforgettable character in Lizbeth Salander, a heavily tattooed, brilliant computer hacker with a mysterious past. If you like thrillers, political intrigue, books about corruption in high places, this is the series for you. Guaranteed to be real page-turners but as a warning, there is a fair amount of violence.



Brown, Dan. *Lost symbol.*

Like his earlier *Da Vinci Code* and *Angels and Demons*, this new thriller about the secret world of the Freemasons, is full of esoteric codes and clues. It is a regular roller-coaster ride of a book and makes great beach reading.



For those who like chick lit

Green, Jane. *Second chance.*

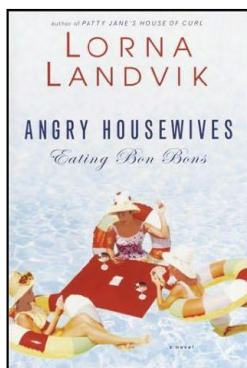
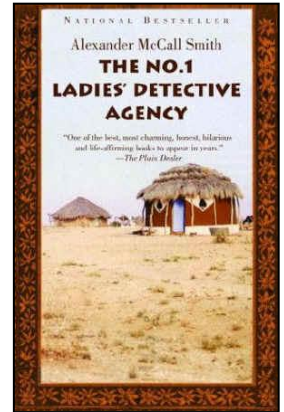
(or any of her earlier titles)

Jane Green is a British author who now lives in the United States. Her light, breezy style and humorous observations of marriage, relationships and friendships are just the right light touch for chick lit readers. This particular book shows what happens when four college friends, out of touch for many years, reunited at the funeral of a mutual friend. Hint: Green usually believes in happy endings.

For those who like light mysteries

McCall Smith, Alexander. *The Number One Ladies Detective mysteries.*

Precious Ramotswe runs a private detective agency in Botswana. Through intuition, her own wisdom and her detective manual, she solves a number of very human mysteries...cheating husbands, missing children, incompetent doctors. If you like classic cozy mysteries such as Agatha Christie, these are the books for you. There are now five books in this great series.



For those who like fearjerkers

Landvik, Lorna. *Angry housewives eating bonbons.*

Five friends live through 30 years of marriage, child raising, bad husbands and national changes. The Freesia Book Club is started in 1968 when Faith Owen moves to Minnesota. People who have read it call it heart-warming, entertaining and hard to put down. It is a real bon-bon of a book.

For those who like emotional drama

Shreve, Anita. *Testimony: a novel.*

A sex scandal is captured on videotape at a prestigious school in Vermont. The novel shows how one small reckless act can change, ruin and derail lives. A compassionate drama written with the pace of a thriller...Any of Anita Shreve's books make great beach reads.

