

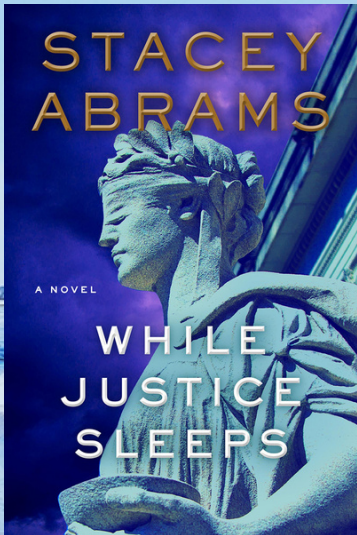
Beach Reads July 2022

Are Beach Reads simply books you bring to the beach or is there more to it?

Well, we did some research and contemplated the meaning behind 'beach read'. Waterbury Public Library-goers, we are here to tell you that beach reads is a category that spans all genres. It is about that **unputdownable, page-turning, what's going to happen next**, reading experience!

So, we put together this list to assist you on your journey to find your next awesome beach read!

All titles on this list are available in the Waterbury Public Library catalog.



While Justice Sleeps by Stacey Abrams

When scrupulous Judge Howard Wynn suddenly slips into a coma and leaves precocious law clerk Avery Keene with power of attorney she is thrust into a world of political intrigue. Upon discovering Wynn's secret dealings and covert operations, Avery must follow his clues to find the truth before she is in danger. For lovers of political intrigue and suspense, author, politician, lawyer, and voting rights activist Stacey Abrams treats readers to a deliciously clandestine world.

Mystery | FICTION Abrams, S.

When We Were Birds by Ayanna Lloyd Banwo

When you want an opposites attract love story, a supernatural journey, and a blend of magical realism and urban fantasy, check out *When We Were Birds*. Set in Trinidad and Tobago, we follow the lives of Yejide and Darwin - two people from different spiritual backgrounds. They are at odds with navigating their familial responsibilities while simultaneously embracing their traditions. With engaging characters, lyrical writing, and unique exploration of genre, debut author Banwo's *When We Were Birds* will ensnare all audiences.

Fantasy, Magical Realism, Romance | FICTION Banwo, A.





The Hacienda by Isabel Cañas

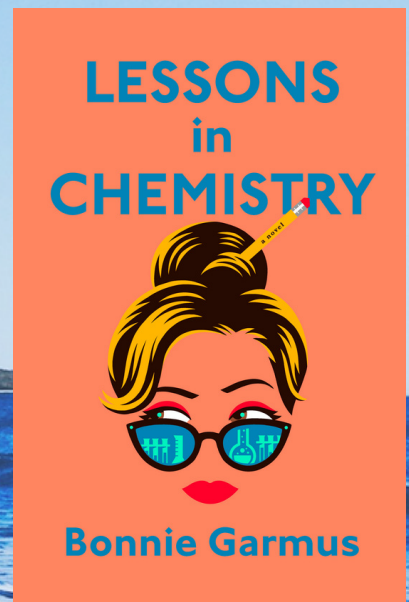
After Beatriz's father is executed during the political unrest of the Mexican War of Independence in the 1850s, Beatriz and her mother seek refuge from hostile family members. Out of desperation, Beatriz agrees to a marriage proposal from enigmatic but wealthy Don Rodolfo Solórzano. When Beatriz arrives at her new home in Hacienda San Isidro, she begins to question if she made the right choice. With forbidden love, foreboding haunted houses and suspense, *The Hacienda* will keep readers turning pages through the small hours of the night.

Horror | FICTION Cañas

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Lessons in Chemistry is food science meets The Donna Reed Show. Chemist Elizabeth Zott unexpectedly becomes the star of a popular cooking television show. Set in the 1960s, Elizabeth is not just cooking, but empowering women to challenge the status quo. This lighthearted historical fiction belongs in everyone's beach bag this summer.

Historical Fiction | FICTION Garmus, B.



Book Lovers by Emily Henry



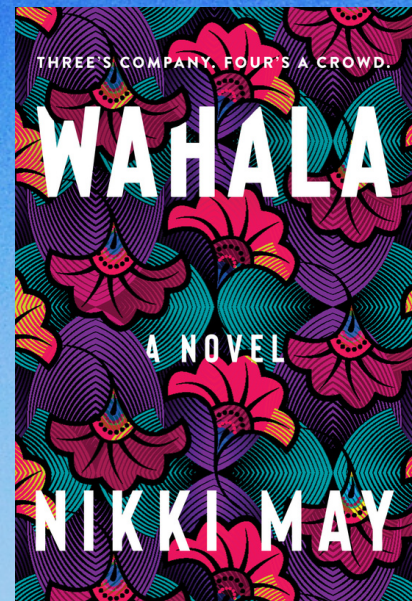
Finally, a romance for cynics! Cutthroat literary agent Nora Stephens goes above and beyond for her clients. She knows how to negotiate and always gets the best deal. Yes, she is a workaholic and no, she does not believe in the "small town romances" that are so common in love stories. So when Nora's younger sister insists they take a month long trip to North Carolina, Nora reluctantly agrees. Can this vacation prove Nora wrong? Will she finally get the relaxation she needs? *Book Lovers* is a treat for those who work hard, work too much, or are fans of Miranda Priestly from the *Devil Wears Prada*.

Romance | FICTION HENRY

Wahala by Nikki May

Ronke, Boo, and Simi have been best friends since college. Their relationships take center stage as they each battle with keeping secrets, uncertain circumstances, and unfulfilled dreams. Enter the charismatic Isobel. At first, her presence seems to alleviate all of their problems, but underneath her disarming exterior lies something more sinister and unsettling. *Wahala* is a deep look into female friendships and relationship dynamics.

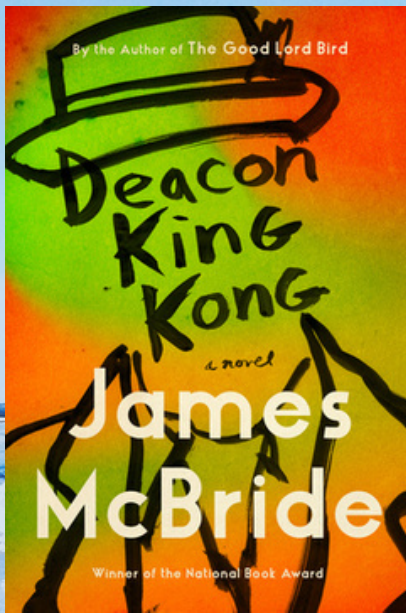
Mystery/Thriller | FICTION May, N.



Deacon King Kong by James McBride

Brace yourself for this character driven, comedic, and powerful work of historical fiction. Action-packed and unputdownable, *Deacon King Kong* begins when a retired deacon, Sportcoat, shoots the ear off of an infamous drug dealer in a Brooklyn neighborhood. The story follows the witnesses as the police investigate the absurd and alarming nature of the crime. McBride weaves together the intricate lives of the neighbors as they reveal their take on Sportcoat's crime.

Historical Fiction | FICTION MCBRIDE, J.

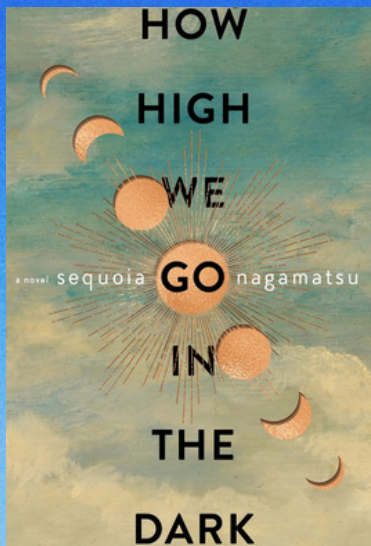


Red, White, & Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston

If you love romance and royalty, meet *Red, White, & Royal Blue*. Alex Claremont-Diaz, the son of American President Ellen Claremont, is constantly compared to British Prince Henry, whom he despises. During an event, Alex and Prince Henry get into a confrontation that sparks a campaign of tabloid headlines. On a mission to do damage control, Alex and Prince Henry must be seen out in public spending time together. Can this cause problems for President Ellen's political campaign? Will Alex change his mind about Prince Henry? Find out in this funny, feel good novel!

Romance | FICTION MCQUISTON, C.





How High We Go in the Dark

by Sequoia Nagamatsu

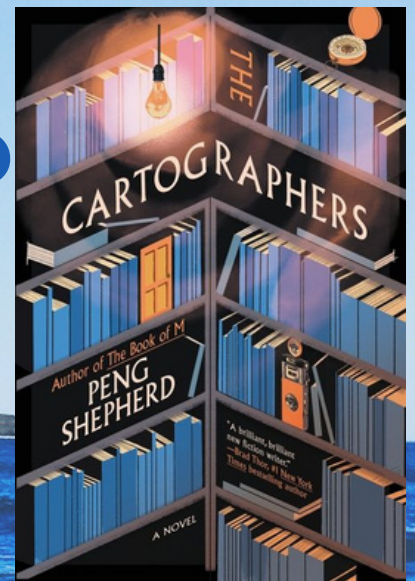
If interconnected short stories is your thing, look no further than Sequoia Nagamatsu's debut novel, *How High We Go in the Dark*. Exploring what happens in the aftermath of a climate plague, this novel tackles themes such as technology, science, death, public health, and astronomy. The interweaving of short stories creates a similar literary atmosphere to *Cloud Atlas* and *Station Eleven*.

Science Fiction | FICTION NAGAMATSU, S.

The Cartographers

by Peng Shepherd

Since her father, Dr. Daniel Young, fired Nell from the map archives department at the New York Public Library after a disagreement over an old 1930s highway map, Nell and her father have not spoken. Suddenly, Dr. Daniel Young is unexpectedly found dead in his office. When Nell goes to investigate, she discovers the very same old 1930s highway map hidden in his desk drawer - coincidence? *The Cartographers* is full of twists, history, secret societies, and the supernatural. A summer must-read for those who love being on the edge of their seat!



Fantasy/Mystery/Thriller | FICTION SHEPHERD, P.

Taste: My Life Through Food

by Stanley Tucci

In his heartfelt reflection on food, life, and family, Stanley Tucci gives readers a generous helping of his life behind the scenes. His memoir is peppered with anecdotes from his acting experiences, but Tucci focuses on the impact of creating, sharing, and having meals with his Italian American family. *Taste* inspires readers to appreciate their own family recipes and contemplate the roles of food in their own lives.

Memoir | BIO Tucci

STANLEY TUCCI



TASTE
My Life
Through Food