

September 2004

NANCY'S LIST

The kids have started back to school and I'm sure we are all glad to get back to a more regular routine. There are some good books to pick from on this list and something to suit every taste. Suggestions are always welcome, and thanks to so many of you that give me feedback and encouragement! Happy reading!

THE TURTLE WARRIOR-Mary Relindes Ellis

If you don't read another book on this list, read this one. This novel will break your heart. I wanted to bring this little boy home with me and heal his broken spirit. There is so much beauty in the story in spite of the sadness and pain.

THE AMATEUR MARRIAGE- Anne Tyler

This story chronicles the life of Michael and Paulina, two very different people, very much in love, but the differences lead to the end of the marriage. I found myself asking though, should it have ended?

HANDYMAN- Jean Heller

Extremely suspenseful serial killer tale, but the first chapter is very graphic. It definitely kept me on the edge of my seat.

PARANOIA-Joseph Finder

When a young man steals from the large corporation he works for, he is given a choice; jail, or become a corporate spy in a rival organization.

THE ART OF MENDING-Elizabeth Berg

This author has written some very powerful books, and, although not as memorable as her other books, this is still very good. One child is singled out in a family and endures abuse that her siblings do not seem to remember, or acknowledge.

THE TIE THAT BINDS- Kent Haruf

Although a little slow at times, this is a story of the power of family ties and shows how strong these ties can be.

WHEN THE FINCH RISES- Jack Riggs

This book is harsh in its depiction of two young boys trying to survive poverty, neglect, insanity and alcoholism in their families, but you will find yourself believing that they will come through.

THE WATER DANCERS- Terry Gamble

An Indian housemaid falls in love with her wealthy employer's son, a wounded World War II soldier wracked with pain and addicted to morphine. The beauty of their love is touching, and the descriptions of Native American beliefs and customs make for an unusual love story.

ANGRY HOUSEWIVES EATING BON BONS- Lorna Landvik

This a terrific girlfriend book about five friends that see each other through marriages, kids, divorces, illnesses and all the things life can throw at us. I have friends like this, and I can't imagine my life without their support! Share this one with your special pals!

JUST ONE LOOK- Harlan Coben

This author never fails to deliver! A photograph changes a woman's life and endangers her entire family. It is a rather complicated plot, but I devoured it.

GOODBYE, EARL- Jo-Ann Mapson

I was delighted to return to the girls of “Bad Girl Creek”. Earl leaves Beryl after moving her to Alaska, and all the women rally around her while facing challenges of their own with their typical spunk and humor. I love this series!

PROSPECT STREET- Emilie Richards

When a woman finds her husband in the arms of a MAN, her whole world is shattered. Left to pick up the pieces and start a new life for herself and her children, she decides to take over the old family home in Georgetown. In trying to renovate the old place and make sense of her life, she discovers healing and love among the secrets that the house has been hiding.

LUCIA, LUCIA- Adriana Trigiani

I loved getting to know Lucia and her family! Lucia is a beautiful talented Italian girl living in New York in the 50's. She refuses to give up everything to be the dutiful wife and mother, which is the normal path for a girl in her traditional family, and falls head over heels in love with the “wrong man.”

LOVING DONOVAN- Bernice L. McFadden

I haven't been so touched by a love story in ages! This author is always fantastic. It is so tragic when childhood scars leave one unable to trust and accept genuine love when it is offered. This is a book that will haunt me for a while.

THE BOOK OF JOE- Jonathan Tropper

When a man writes a best seller exposing his hometown's dirty laundry, he shouldn't be surprised that they are not happy to see him when he returns! Laugh out loud funny and a must-read!

THE KING IS DEAD- Jim Lewis

This is an engrossing book telling the story of Walter Selby and his son Frank. It is a novel of love, madness, murder, betrayal and ultimately, redemption.

THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE- Kristin Hannah

This is an amazing book by a favorite author of many. A newly divorced woman longing for a child after several heartbreaking disappointments, takes in a homeless pregnant teen, much to the dismay of her family and friends. The friendship and love that grows between these two will warm your heart.

GOOD GRIEF- Lolly Winston

Dealing with the subject of grief with humor may sound tasteless, but the author manages to do just that with the spunky young widow that has just lost her husband to cancer. You will root for her and identify with her as she tries to navigate these dangerous waters.

That's it for this list! I wish you many hours of enjoyable reading