

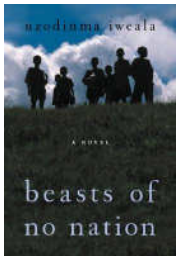
BULLITT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Recommended Reading

Due to recent staff changes, our recommended reading list (formerly Nancy's List) is undergoing a format change! As the new reference and information librarian, I will do my best to continue to provide great book choices. This list includes both fiction and nonfiction, and everything from suspense and romance to more "literary" fare. I have even included a few longstanding favorites to give you an idea of my tastes. Also, in an effort to satisfy a variety of interests, other staff members will contribute their picks as well. I hope you find something that appeals to you. Happy reading!

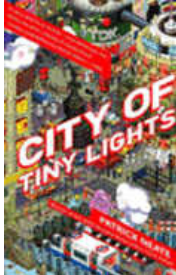
—Tracy Weikel, September 2007

Tracy's List



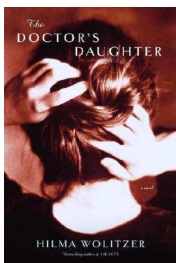
BEASTS OF NO NATION- Uzodinma Iweala *Adult Fiction*

This book is a challenging read. Written from the point of view of a child soldier in an unnamed African nation, the challenge comes from the content rather than the reading level. The young boy's account is matter-of-fact and not at all self-pitying, which makes the novel all the more affecting and beautiful. Gut-wrenching and terrifying in its unstinting description of the brutalities of war, *Beasts of No Nation* takes readers outside of our comfortable world and forces us to face what is going on around us.



CITY OF TINY LIGHTS- Patrick Neate *Adult Fiction*

Funny, suspenseful, and thought-provoking, this novel about a quirky London P.I.'s investigation into a prostitute's disappearance has it all. The novel harkens back to the old Philip Marlowe detective stories, but with a decidedly modern twist. Tommy Aktar is a vividly drawn character, full of cynicism and frequent bursts of sarcastic flair, and his "simple" missing person case leads him into an increasingly dangerous spiral of murder, terrorism, and underworld crime.



THE DOCTOR'S DAUGHTER- Hilma Wolitzer *Adult Fiction*

This is a magnificent novel about a woman who simply wakes up one morning with an overwhelming feeling that something is wrong. She can't pinpoint what is bothering her, and so begins to question her entire life. Her preoccupation further threatens a marriage that is already unsound and reveals a new side of her parents' supposedly perfect marriage. With her lyrical prose and powerful insights into human nature, this author really blew me away. I can't wait to read her next book!

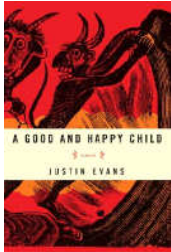


EATS, SHOOTS AND LEAVES- Lynne Truss *428.2 TRUS*

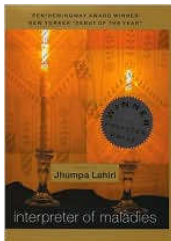
Okay, I confess: I am a grammar geek. I actually think that it is important to use the semi-colon and colon properly and I am aggravated by comma splices and split infinitives. (Well, maybe that's a slight exaggeration.) But if you love the English language—or just enjoy a good laugh—you should try this book. It's an amusing commentary on the foibles of grammar and punctuation, along with some fantastic illustrations of Truss's points. (Not to mention, you must be wondering about the book's title.) Writers especially might want to pick this one up.



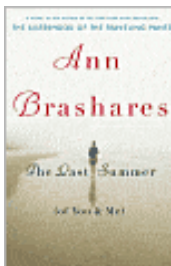
THE END OF THE AFFAIR- Graham Greene *Adult Fiction* William Faulkner called this book “one of the most true and moving novels of [his] time.” It’s certainly a personal favorite of mine; I discover something new each time I read it. This tragic story, set in World War II-era London, recounts the adulterous love affair and the ideological struggles of its protagonists. *The End of the Affair* is haunting as it questions what constitutes love—jealous passion and obsession vs. spiritualism and self-sacrifice—and hate.



A GOOD AND HAPPY CHILD- Justin Evans *Adult Fiction* Fans of *The Exorcist* and other psychological thrillers won’t want to miss this one. When a new father feels unable to hold his infant son, he contacts a psychiatrist for help and opens up a forgotten period of his own childhood. Author Justin Evans’s debut novel is wonderfully written and disturbingly sinister—so you might not want to read it too close to bedtime!



INTERPRETER OF MALADIES- Jhumpa Lahiri *Adult Fiction* This is another personal favorite. Lahiri won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for this beautiful and eclectic collection of short stories. The title story is unforgettable as it delves into the small, secret fantasies and observances of a lonely interpreter/taxi driver as he guides an American family through India. But my favorite of the nine tales is the collection’s first, “A Temporary Matter,” in which a young Indian American couple are forced by a blackout to actually *talk* to one another after months of unexpressed estrangement. Poignant and beautifully written, this story alone merits an award!

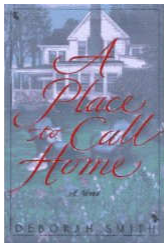


THE LAST SUMMER (OF YOU AND ME)- Ann Brashares *Adult Fiction* I pulled an all-nighter to finish this one. It’s a magical coming-of-age story about two sisters and the boy they grew up with on Fire Island, a summer beach community. Riley is the headstrong tomboy who has been best friends with Paul for forever; Alice is her adoring, gentle sister who has loved him for as long as she can remember. Paul’s return to the island after three years’ absence ignites repressed desires and propels the fiercely loyal trio into a new adult world where allegiances are tested and secrets are revealed. The emotional intensity of the characters’ struggles kept me captivated, and Brashares’s writing style was both breezy and sincere.

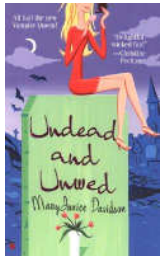


LOVE IN THE PRESENT TENSE- Catherine Ryan Hyde *Adult Fiction* Unforgettable characters and an unsolved mystery highlight this story about faith, love, and redemption. Pearl is a poverty-stricken teenage mother who wants a better life for her child, the precociously intelligent Leonard. Mitch is their neighbor, a self-absorbed young man trying to start his own business. When Pearl disappears, Mitch and Leonard discover that family is what you make it and that love has a power all its own. The author, best known for *Pay It Forward*, has created a touching story that is almost mystical in its beauty.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME- Deborah Smith *Adult Fiction* Smith is a master writer when it comes to Southern women’s lit, and with *A Place to Call Home* she is at her best. As children, Claire (the feisty, protected daughter of the



town's first families) and Roan (the withdrawn son of the town drunk) had a bond that no one else in their small town understood. When they were separated by a near tragedy, neither was able to let go. Twenty years later, they are reunited, but family obligations and secrets from the past threaten their relationship. This novel has all the hallmarks of a dramatic family saga, but there is also a healthy dose of laugh-out-loud country humor. If you love this author as much as I do, you might want to try *When Venus Fell*, *On Bear Mountain*, or *Stone Flower Garden* next.



UNDEAD AND UNWED- MaryJanice Davidson *Adult Fiction*

This is my “guilty pleasure” book for the list. *Undead and Unwed* is delightfully cheesy and thoroughly entertaining. It is the wacky and hilarious tale of Betsy Taylor, a mouthy, shoe-obsessed, and slightly ditsy twenty-something who wakes up in the morgue after an accident to discover that she is a vampire. But Betsy isn't your run-of-the-mill vampire—none of the usual rules seem to apply to her, which lead the other vampires of Minneapolis to believe she is their prophesied vampire queen. With a rich cast of quirky characters and Davidson's trademark irreverent style, *Undead and Unwed* is just pure fun.

More Great Picks from Library Staff

Barbara (Ridgway Memorial)

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL- Fern Michaels *Adult Fiction, Large Type & Audio*

Years after leaving her hometown of Crestwood, South Carolina, Trinity Henderson comes home to confront the mother who gave her up for adoption.

Cindy (Ridgway Memorial)

THE BABYSITTER- Diana Diamond *Mystery*

A congressional candidate and his wife get more than they bargain for when they hire a young minority woman to attract votes.

Nancy (Mount Washington)

THE BREAKDOWN LANE- Jacquelyn Mitchard *Large Type & Audio*

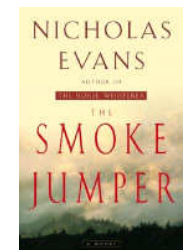
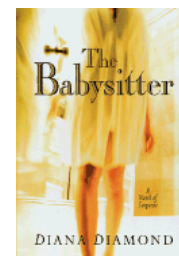
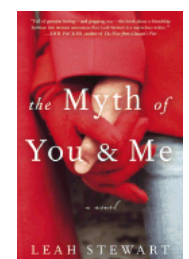
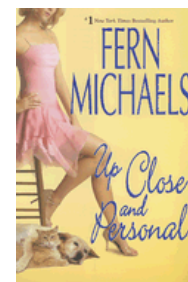
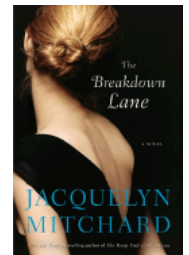
An advice columnist needs to find her own answers when she is diagnosed with a serious illness shortly after her husband takes a “sabbatical” from their marriage.

THE MYTH OF YOU AND ME- Leah Stewart *Adult Fiction*

As teenagers, Cameron and Sonia were best friends—until their bond was destroyed. Nearly a decade later, Cameron receives an letter from her former friend.

THE SMOKE JUMPER- Nicholas Evans *Adult Fiction & Large Type*

The odd one out in a love triangle, Conner Ford tries to escape his heartache by recklessly chasing the world's worst wars and disasters .



To check for availability, ask at your local library location or search for it on the Web at <http://pac.bcplib.org>