

Summer Books

So, what are people recommending for summer reading? Of course I'm recommending my latest novel *The First Rule* (Kindle versions of my two novels are on sale this week to coordinate with a couple of speaking events, if you're interested).

Anyone else on Solosez have novels that might make good summer reading?

Other than my novels, I've found a couple of great new authors that would be perfect beach reads: Lori Rader-Day (latest is *The Day I Died*) and Bill Loehfelm, who writes a great series featuring a woman cop relocated from New York to the New Orleans. Also, Hank Phillippi Ryan -- she's winning almost every award out there for mystery/thriller writers -- and John Gilstrap for shoot 'em up / blow 'em up thrillers.

If you are looking for something more serious (vacation killers): suggest *The Warmth of Other Suns* about the African-American migration between WWI and 1970, and *American Prometheus*, the biography of J. William Oppenheimer.

What's everybody else reading / suggesting?

"Aztek" Steve Terrell, Indiana

I just put a hold at the public library for "Heir to the Empire", a Star Wars book. I have never read any Star Wars, so I decided I'll give it a try and see if I like it...should be interesting. Also, when I did the search on the library's website for "heir to the empire", it also returned a result for "Heir to the Empire City", a short book about how New York City influenced Theodore Roosevelt more so than the West (at least, that's the author's claim). I've been fascinated with TR for years and read several biographies of him. This one is pretty short (I think less than 300 pages), so I went ahead and reserved that, too.

Ryan Phillips, South Carolina

I think it came out last fall, but if you haven't read it yet, I would suggest Amor Towles "A Gentleman in Moscow" as well as his first book "Rules of Civility".

Andrew M. Ayers, New York

Just off the top of my head:

The Devil's detective, and
The Devils Evidence, by Simon Kurt Unsworth;

Fantasy novels set in Hell. Kind of odd but I enjoyed them.

Harry Bingham's Fiona Griffiths novels, police procedurals set in Wales; All available in Ebook form and pretty cheaply at that; first one is Talking to the Dead

<https://www.amazon.com/Talking-Dead-Novel-Fiona-Griffiths-ebook/dp/B007QPH8XE>

It's 99 cents in kindle form, if you don't like it you're not out much money, if you do like it there's series of 5 books. Personally, I love the series.

Ronald Jones, Florida

Just finished rereading Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series.
Ironically it was my mother who introduced me to this series.

I'm also reading The Cat Who series. I prefer the later ones set in Mosse County.

John Davidson, Pennsylvania

Take a look at "Tepper Isn't Going Out" by Calvin Trillin. I am not sure that I loved the ending, but the book overall was a fun read and relatively quick.

Justin Meyer, New York

I'm slowly working my way through Neal Stephenson's Cryptonomicon and any Asimov that pops up in my local used bookstore (King's Bookstore <<http://www.kingbooksdetroit.com/>>, which is a 5 story treasure trove of used and rare books that I highly recommend for anyone who visits Detroit).

Also reading through Getting Things Done for a second time. I started using GTD right before we moved into our first house back in November and things are now finally calming down again where I feel like I can have another go at implementing his ideas.

Would love to hear any sci-fi recommendations fellow Sezzers have, I don't have anything lined up for when I finally finish Cryptonomicon.

Noel French, Michigan

Here is on my current and upcoming list:

- Phil Collins - Not Dead Yet
- The Case For Christ
- The Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii Lost and Found by Mary Beard
- Robert Harris - An Officer and a Spy
- John Cleese - So, Anyway
- PG Wodehouse - Summer Moonshine

I hope to get through all those.

Rob Thurston

I highly recommend the Harry Bingham Fiona Griffiths series-Talking to the Dead, Love Story with Murders, This Thing of Darkness, Dead House and the Strange Death of Fiona Griffiths (not listed in order). Interesting, different and well written. Not your ordinary police detective heroine. Great character and character development over the series.

Fredric J. Gruder

This is not directly responsive to Noel's question, since it is fantasy, but: former law firm associates interested in sci-fi/fantasy may enjoy, or have PTSD flashbacks from, the Craft Sequence by Max Gladstone:
<http://www.maxgladstone.com/series/the-craft-sequence/>

In a nutshell, a magical society that has advanced out of the stone age and into some semblance of the modern world will need all the things modern societies need: zoning, bookkeepers, insurance agents, and (gasp) BigLaw. But since spells are contracts, and the economy is powered by exchange of souls, all of those jobs have a magical aspect. (Lawyers = wizards; bankers = priests; etc.) And of course they'll have some of the same problems: gentrification (caused by magical businesses), water shortages (caused by old gods), tension between associates and partners, etc.

Anyway, not for everyone, and some people on this list may find it all hits a bit close to home, but I've thoroughly enjoyed the entire series.

Luis (more thoughts on summer legal reading, sci-fi reading, etc., this weekend if the thread gets that far) Villa, California

I recently read the autobiography of Graham Nash (of Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young fame). It was really interesting, well-written, and entertaining. It definitely felt as if it was 100% his writing, and not a ghostwriter's.

Ryan Phillips

Cory Doctorow's new novel, *Walkaway*, his first adult sci-fi novel in quite a long time. (ObFullDisclosure, Cory is a friend and an EFF colleague, but that doesn't change the fact that he's a helluva good writer.)

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/cory-doctorow/walkaway-doctorow/> Doctorow (*Information Doesn't Want to Be Free*, 2014, etc.) offers a counterintuitive alternate (possible?) future in this gritty yet hopeful sci-fi epic.

Inspired by Rebecca Solnit's *A Paradise Built in Hell* (2009), Doctorow offers meticulous worldbuilding and philosophizing about how the world just around the corner might be. In an age of makers, 3-D printers, mobile fabricators, and endless

food sources, the book asks what life would be like—or should be like—in a post-scarcity, post-employment world. The short answer is the rich have gotten insanely richer and everyone else has chucked it—walking away from society to live communally in environmentally gutted rural areas and dead cities. Our entry into this new societal framework is multinamed Hubert, known as Hubert, Etc., his pal Seth, and their new friend Natalie Redwater, the daughter of a member of the 1 percent. In the wilds of Canada, they fall in with a tech-savvy barkeep, Limpopo, who explains the precarious, money-less walkaway culture to the newbies: “In theory, it’s bullshit. This stuff only works in practice.” It’s a world where identity, sexuality, and perception are all fluid, enlivened by fiercely intellectual debates and the eternal human collisions that draw people together. Visually and culturally, it’s also a phantasmagorical scene with beer made from ditch water, tactical drone fleets, and the occasional zeppelin or mech—all technology that exists today. The tense situation escalates when the walkaways discover a way to scan and preserve consciousness online—if the body is gone, does perception remain? What threat might a tribe of immortal iconoclasts present to their capitalist overlords? Much of the novel focuses on Natalie (now “Iceweasel”), who is kidnapped by her father’s mercenaries. Doctorow sticks the landing with a multigenerational saga that extends this tale of the “first days of a better nation” to a thrilling and unexpected finale.

A truly visionary techno-thriller that not only depicts how we might live tomorrow, but asks why we don’t already.

James S. Tyre, California

Four legal thrillers by Charles Rosenberg:

1. Death on a High Floor
2. Long Knives
3. Paris Ransom
4. Write to Die

Available on Amazon.

On the development of personal computers and the Internet:

The Innovators, by Walter Isaacson

On modern psychology:

The Undoing Project, Michael Lewis [Moneyball author]

Recorded lectures

The History of the Supreme Court, The Teaching Company, Peter Irons [36 thirty minute lectures, probably available at your local library at no cost to you]

*The Fall of the Pagans and the Origins of Medieval Christianit*y, The Teaching Company, Kenneth Harl [24 thirty minute lectures]

How We Learn, Teaching Company, Monisha Pasupathi [24 thirty minute lectures]

Podcasts

New Books Network

Roger Rosen

Ryan:

Does Graham Nash speak about his non-music experiences? I understand that he invented some form of printer to reproduce fine art prints—a rather different activity from his music endeavors.

Brian H. Cole, California

I don't know about Graham Nash's book, but I have been listening to the Hollies a lot lately and he was just 2d fiddle to the leader Allan Clarke, whom he met in 1st grade, I recall. Stop All the Dancing, Carrie Ann, Carousel.

Roger M. Rosen

Brian -

Yes! That and among other very interesting photography and painting anecdotes are super interesting. He is a very interesting guy.

Along with his experience with the Hollies, his autobiography is very cool.

Ryan Phillips

I just picked up Charlaine Harris's old Aurora Teagarden mystery novels.

Oh the late 80s/early 90s fashion. Shoes with bows. Women with gold chains. Also, no cell phones.

Corrine Bielejeski, California

Did you know you can watch those on the Hallmark Mystery channel?

Of course, it goes without saying, the book is always better!

Sharon Campbell, Texas

I reviewed *Write to Die* for our bar newsletter:

When lawyers write fiction involving legal documents or proceedings they walk a fine line between providing too much detail for lay readers, and annoying lawyers who read their books by being unrealistic about what really happens in the legal system. I can suspend disbelief to some extent, but I can't bring myself to enjoy books such as those written by John Grisham because they offer such a superficial, unrealistic view of the law.

Happily, there are alternatives. Santa Monica attorney Charles Rosenberg's *Write to Die* (Thomas & Mercer 2016) is one. A big firm partner handling a film studio's copyright litigation discovers the studio's general counsel dead at his desk. The partner comes close to firing a brash young associate who lies to him in the hope of figuring out where crucial evidence went. The murderer, of course, turns out to be someone you'd least expect. The story is gripping, yet Rosenberg skillfully weaves in the nuances of seeking an injunction and challenging expert testimony. The direct and cross-examination that Rosenberg incorporates helps tell the story at the same time it illustrates the way lawyers should, but rarely do, question witnesses. Like Rosenberg's previous mysteries, *Death on a High Floor* and *Long Knives*, *Write to Die* is well worth taking on a vacation weekend.

Also, if you haven't caught this thrilling biography, make *Eve of A Hundred Midnights* one of your summer reads. (Must confess that my son is the author, and that it was published a year ago; it's still getting five-star reviews.

Eve is the entirely true story of TIME Magazine journalists Mel and Annalee Jacoby, escaping from China ahead of the Japanese army, then from a burning dock as Manila fell, to the tunnels of Corregidor with General Douglas MacArthur, and finally threading their way through small islands and across the open sea to Australia for one last assignment. The book's still available on Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/Eve-Hundred-Midnights-Star-Crossed-Correspondents-ebook/dp/B015W3G5AI> and through HarperCollins

<https://www.harpercollins.com/9780062375209/eve-of-a-hundred-midnights> .

Wendy Lascher, California

Defending Jacob, by William Landay .. fiction, there's lots of legal stuff in there... but it's so much more.. It's a psychological thriller murder mystery.

All our Wrong Todays, by Elan Mastai... time travel novel, but with some very different and unique twists

Read on the Run series, published by Smoking Pen Press (full disclosure - I'm one half of this publishing company)... short story anthologies, wide variety of genres.. stories are all short and easy to read 'on the run'. *A Step Outside of Normal*, and *A Bit of a Twist* are out there now... *Uncommon Pet Tales* will be coming out later this week. more disclosure, A couple of the stories in each anthology are mine... and in *A Bit of a Twist*, you'll also find a story from our very own Andrew Wentzel

Laurie Axinn Gienapp, Massachusetts

If you like reading about TR, you should read *Mornings on Horseback* by David McCullough. Covers his early years and how he conquered his health issues. Extremely well written.

Sharon Campbell

Case for Christ is on my list, too. Want to read it before the movie comes out

Sharon Campbell

I stopped reading Grisham when I realized that his books were about solo practitioners and at the end they were all disaffected and disillusioned with law practice. Why would I spend my free time reading that?

I like reading biographies and in preparation for my upcoming European trip, have been reading about notables in Austria and France.

I read the biography of Prince Talleyrand, currently reading a biography of General DeGaulle. Previously read biographies of Lafayette and Coco Chanel. Thinking about then moving on to Louis XIV (the Sun King) and maybe Alexander Dumas.

For Austria, started reading a biography of Metternich and didn't like the particular one I have; will look for another one because I want to read about him. Thinking about a biography of Gustav Klimt; Empress Elizabeth.

On recommendation of a friend, bought Moveable Feast by Hemingway because it is about his time in Paris.

Also, on the lookout for books set in Austria and France. Have read some mysteries set in Vienna; also read Woman in Gold. Have read a lot of books about espionage during the Napoleonic wars.

Still reading my historical mysteries as new ones come out by my favorite authors. I read the latest Deborah Crombie, A Garden of Lamentations.

Latest Captain Lacey mystery by Ashley Gardiner.

Latest Napoleonic espionage book by Teresa Grant.

Funny about the Kindle issue. I really prefer reading actual books but have reluctantly come around to appreciate the Kindle, especially for travel. Really, I only use it for travelling. So I have been trying to load it up to get ready for my trip. So, looks like I just need reading material for the flights over and back.

I can't wait for my trip!

Sharon Campbell

First, congrats on your trip.

Second, yeah, I like physical books too; but I've gotten very used to Kindle (actually, an iPad/iPhone). All other things being equal, I'd rather have physical book but things rarely are equal. If I can borrow physical book at library, I'm doing it; but library frequently doesn't have them, or there's waiting list of several weeks to a couple of months. Kindle book is nearly always cheaper than hardback, and frequently cheaper than paperback version; and I don't have to wait for it to ship. Also, there is always the problem of what you do with the book after you're done with it; I've bought probably thousands of paperbacks over the years, I don't have space to store them. and I either 1) trade them in to used paperback shop (which is getting tougher to find and I wind up with like \$100 worth of "credit" but they don't necessarily have anything that I want to read that I haven't read) 2) donate them to library, most of the time they get sold for \$1, or 3) simply throw them out. Kindle books don't take up any physical space and very little memory; and if push comes to shove I can always delete books from my device (haven't had to but it can be done). And it's convenient; when I go on a cruise I can load up 3 or 4 books to read on the plane or on the cruise, and it takes no space beyond my iPad/iPhone.

Ronald Jones

Sharon -

Thanks, I'll check that out. I love the books about TR written by Edmund Morris.

I've also got a biography of Warren Zevon I need to read.

Ryan Phillips

I tend to read a lot of non fiction books, for fiction I watch movies. Two very good books I've read recently are The Slight Edge by Jeff Olson and Grit by Angela Duckworth.

Deborah Kaminetzky, New York

Ron -

if you like fantasy novels set in hell, then you should absolutely look at Richard Kadrey's Sandman Slim series.. Which begins with Sandman Slim, then Kill the Dead, then Aloha from Hell. There are another 4 or 5 beyond that.
Very well done.

Laurie Axinn Gienapp

Los Amantes de Coyoacan/ The Lovers of Coyoacán by Gerard De Cortanze (in Spanish, about Frida Kahlo's affair with Leon Trotsky)

Jenkins of Mexico: How a Southern Farm Boy Became a Mexican Magnate by Andrew Paxman

Mexico: Stories by Josh Barkan

Hungry Heart: Adventures in Life, Love, and Writing by Jennifer Weiner

jennifer rose, Mexico

I like Story Bundle for "curated" batches of e-books. Quality varies immensely from book to book and bundle to bundle, but I feel better that the authors get a better chunk of the money, and usually there are two or three standouts in each batch.

Latest bundle: The Military SF Megabundle

https://storybundle.com/scifi?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=militarysf

Bruce Wingate, New York

Not exactly a book, but for Hulu subscribers and Spanish (also has subtitles or I wouldn't understand) series buffs, The Time Between is the English title, and I think that the Spanish title is El Tiempo Entre Costuras. Starts in Madrid just around the

Spanish Civil War, then goes to Morocco and follows the heroine's adventures into WWII. Not a telenovela/soap, but a pretty good multi-season story worth streaming.

Miriam N. Jacobson, Pennsylvania
