

Summer
2007



The Fiction Connection

The Fiction Newsletter of Kansas City, Kansas Public Library

Summer is coming!

Check list for summer:

- ✓ *Sunglasses*
- ✓ *Hat*
- ✓ *Cool drinks*
- ✓ *KCKPL Library Card*

Good books for summer can vary as much as the colors of a July sunset. Whether you prefer paperback romances to throw in the beach bag or the works of the “great” novelists to contemplate on long summer evenings, KCKPL has them all!

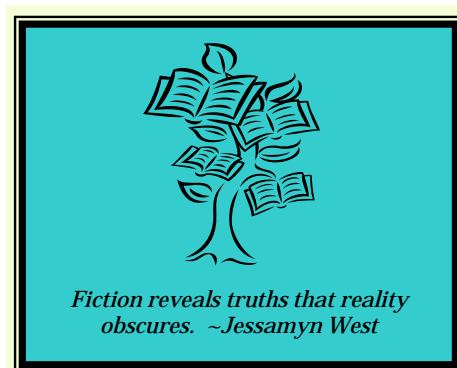
Come in often and checkout several books – you never know what summer will bring – a day at the beach or an evening on the porch swing.



”I figure that for summer, you need books at two opposite extremes: small, lightweight volumes to slip into your bag for trips, and fat, heavy volumes for long days at the beach” – Anne Tyler, Pulitzer Prize winning author.

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Mr. Thundermug by Cornelius Medvei

Described as a baboon with a luxuriant mane of silver hair, Mr. Thundermug's presence in the city (never identified by name by the author) is a mystery. "Clearly baboons are not native to this region; but, on the other hand, Mr. Thundermug spoke our language perfectly, with no trace of an accent, and there is no evidence that he knew any foreign languages." If you are delighted to immerse yourself in a society that concerns itself with enforcing building code violations and decency codes and never questions the extraordinariness of an articulate baboon, then *Mr. Thundermug* should be the next book you take from the shelf. Medvei's novel is the tale of an eloquent primate who himself, asserts "having no other choice, I try to adapt to human society-your society, which measures me sometimes by one standard, sometimes by another, but always to my disadvantage. When I behave as a human, I am treated as an animal, and when I follow the counsels of my animal nature I am judged by human standards and found wanting." *Mr. Thundermug*, Medvei's first novel, leaves the reader anxiously hoping that he is already at work on his second.

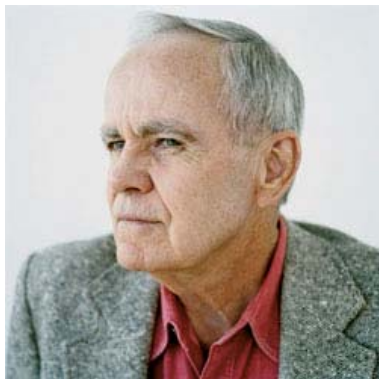


The Fiction Connection
is produced by
Rita Miziorko,
Reader's Advisory Librarian
Main Library
(913) 551-3280
rmiziorko@kckpl.lib.ks.us

Cormac McCarthy wins the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

McCarthy's *The Road* has been awarded the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for "distinguished fiction by an American author". McCarthy tells the story of the journey of a father and his son through the ash strewn landscape of a post-apocalyptic America. With only a pistol for defense against murderous roving bands, father and son face the devastation together. Shortly before the Pulitzer Prize was announced, *The Road* was chosen as a selection for Oprah's Book Club.

KCKPL call number: Fiction MCCARTHY



Other Cormac McCarthy books on KCKPL's shelves:

All the Pretty Horses
No Country for Old Men
Cities of the Plain
The Sunset Limited
Child of God
Blood Meridian or, the Evening Redness in the West
Suttree

What's New in the African American Fiction Collection?

***The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* by Dinaw Mengestu**

Mengestu is a debut novel by an Ethiopian born author told in the voice of Sepha Stephanos who fled the Ethiopian revolution after witnessing soldiers brutally beating his father. Sepha owns a small convenience store in a blighted neighborhood in Washington DC where his business is limited to schoolchildren by day and drug addicts and prostitutes by night. Lonely and longing for the family he was forced to leave 17 years before, his only companions are two fellow African immigrants who share his bitter nostalgia for their home continent. When a beautiful white woman and her biracial daughter begin to remodel the dilapidated house next door, a friendship develops which may be jeopardized as the neighborhood erupts with racial tension. Mengestu's novel narrates a deeply affecting story of what it means to lose one's family and country and begin anew.

KCKPL call number: African American Fiction MENGESTU

Other recent additions to the African American Fiction shelves:

Chasing Faith

by Stephanie Perry Moore

KCKPL call number: African American Fiction MOORE

In This Rain

by S.J. Rozan

KCKPL call number: African American Mystery ROZAN

They Tell Me of a Home

by Daniel Black

KCKPL call number: African American Fiction BLACK

Fiction Sampler

***Sharp Objects* by Gillian Flynn**

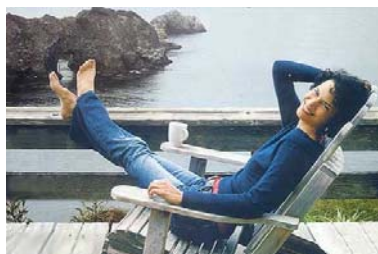
"To say this is a terrific debut novel is really too mild. I haven't read such a relentlessly creepy family saga [in thirty years]...An admirably nasty piece of work, elevated by sharp writing and sharper insights." Stephen King

KCKPL call number: Fiction FLYNN

***The Book of Air and Shadows* by Michael Gruber**

Jake Mishkin, an intellectual property lawyer, finds himself immersed in murder and conspiracy as he becomes involved in a search for a "lost" Shakespearean manuscript. Moving between current day America and Elizabethan England, readers are gripped by the suspense created by this intricately layered plot.

KCKPL call number: Fiction GRUBER



Summer Book Events

Argentine Library

2800 Metropolitan Ave

(913) 722-7400

Main Library & Bookmobile

625 Minnesota Ave.

(913) 551-3280

West Wyandotte Library

1737 N. 82 nd St.

(913) 596-5800

F.L. Schlagle Library

4051 West Drive

(913) 299-2384

Visit us online at:

<http://www.kckpl.lib.ks.us>

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Bookfix at Scooter's Coffeehouse

10 a.m., West Wyandotte Library

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Inspirational Book Club

7 p.m., West Wyandotte Library

Chasing Francis by Ian Morgan Cron

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Common Grounds Book Discussion Group

1:00 p.m., YWCA Corner Coffee Café

On Beauty by Zadie Smith Sponsored by Main Library

Monday, May 21, 2007

Classics Book Club

7:00 p.m., West Wyandotte Library

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Bookfix at Scooter's Coffeehouse

10:00 a.m., West Wyandotte Library

Special Topics in Calamity Physics by Marisha Pessl

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Reader's Corner Book Club

2:00 p.m., YWCA Corner Coffee Café

Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn

Sponsored by Main Library

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Inspirational Book Club

7:00 p.m., West Wyandotte Library

The Road to Home by Vanessa Del Fabro

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Reader's Corner Book Club

6:30 p.m., Main Library

Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Inspirational Book Club

7 p.m., West Wyandotte Library

Mozart's Sister by Nancy Moser

Monday, July 23, 2007

Classics Book Club

7 p.m., West Wyandotte Library

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

