

Choose Your Own Adventure

Our deliberately oversimplified guide to summer reading.

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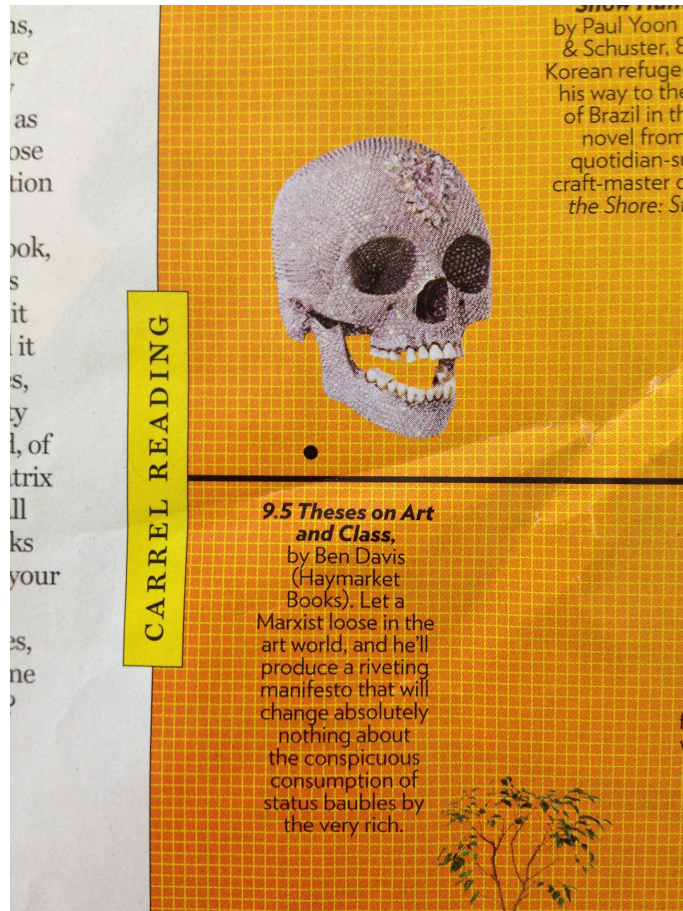


CHART SHEET
Choose Your Own Adventure
 Our deliberately oversimplified guide to summer reading.

MOUNTAINS OR BEACH? Rooftop film or A/C-blasted Netflix marathon? Summer is about options, and, now that books have largely escaped a strictly seasonal cycle, there are as many fresh reads to choose among as there are vacation destinations. But when deciding on a trip or a book, two key questions always come up: How long will it take, and how much will it take out of you? Two axes, in other words—difficultly and length—best plotted, of course, on a summer matrix encompassing (nearly) all the July and August books that are fit to read. Find your coordinates and explore from there: Hazy, witches, sex, brownstones, wartime trauma, or tranquil seas? Take your pick.

CAREER READING

Ten Crocodiles, by Foster, Doolittle, and Williams (New Directions, 7/16). The two novellas, one about a crocodile and the other about a crocodile and a crocodile.

The Man, by Chris Ware (Pantheon, 7/16). A 100-page comic book that is a love letter to the comic book.

Love, Dickerson, Merry, Die, by Cheryl Strayed (Random House, 7/16). The author's first novel, a love letter to the comic book.

Snow Hunters, by Paul Fournier (Simon & Schuster, 8/6). A collection of short stories about hunting.

Latero, by Mario Alberto Zambrano (Harper, 7/16). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

The Affairs of Others, by Amy Celia Lloyd (Doubleday, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

R.S. Thompson Art and Class, by R.S. Thompson (Harper, 7/16). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

Clare of the Sea Light, by Edwidge Danticat (Knopf, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

baboo yogo Toby Barlow, by Toby Barlow (PSC, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

Seeds of Hope: Wisdom and Wonder from the World of Plants, by Jane Goodall (Grand Central, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

Hushmore: The Art of Survival and the Survival of Art at America's Most Celebrated Publishing House: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, by Boia Kakilia (Simon & Schuster, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

Night Film, by Marisha Pessl (Random House, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

The Novel: An Alternative History 1600-1800, by Steven Moore (Doubleday, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

Necessary Errors, by Caleb Carr (Pantheon, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

Visitation Street, by Jay Pochocki (Ecco Press), Dennis Lehane edited (Pochodas murder-mystery portrait of Red Hook, Brooklyn's "neighborhood of ghosts.")

Kiss Me First, by Lottie Morggach (Doubleday). A shy young woman is drawn into a web of sex and identity theft, was that perfect Trojan horse, the Internet.

This Is How You Die: Stories of the Inscrutable, Infallible, Inescapable Machine of Death, edited by Matthew Bernades, David Malki, and Ryan North (Grand Central, 7/16). A follow-up crowd-sourced anthology by the editors of the best-selling Machine of Death—about a machine that knows how everyone will die.

TAKES A DAY

The Beast's Jump, by David Shields (Random House, 7/16). The author's first novel, a love letter to the comic book.

Ready for a Brand New Beat, by David Shields (Random House, 7/16). The author's first novel, a love letter to the comic book.

An Entirely Factual Account of a Year in a Large City, by Charles Sider (HarperCollins, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

I Hear the Black Hat Grappling With Villains, by Chuck Klesterman (Corgi, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

The Color-Master Stories, by Anselm Bieder (Doubleday, 8/16). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

Of Dice and Men, by David Levithan (Doubleday, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

My Education, by Sarah Chan (Viking). To spite her prof, a graduate student starts an affair with his wife.

The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P., by Anna Videman Berry (Holt, 7/16). A debut about a graduate student who is read on a subway car.

Lost Girls: An Unsolved American Mystery, by Robert Kolker (New York, 8/6). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

The People in the Trees, by Hanya Yanagihara (Doubleday, 8/16). A collection of short stories about the author's life in Puerto Rico.

Conversations, by Ben Evans and Ana Gardner (Simon & Schuster). We are told the conversations here are to read, but they could only be published years after her death.

Blue Plate Special: An Autobiography of My Appetite, by Kate Christensen (Doubleday). The novelist turns to food memoir, in the grand tradition of M.F.K. Fisher.

TAKES A WEEK

Necessary Errors, by Caleb Carr (Pantheon, 8/6). The critic and journalist turns to fiction with a novel set in Prague's expat heyday.

Visitation Street, by Jay Pochocki (Ecco Press), Dennis Lehane edited (Pochodas murder-mystery portrait of Red Hook, Brooklyn's "neighborhood of ghosts.")

Kiss Me First, by Lottie Morggach (Doubleday). A shy young woman is drawn into a web of sex and identity theft, was that perfect Trojan horse, the Internet.

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