Looking for more great books?

Check out our reader’s advisory service...

Answer a few questions on our form. Within a week, we’ll send you a list of five books chosen just for you!

Visit our website for more information.

GREAT ADULT FICTION BOOKS FOR SUMMER 2020

This summer we explore the theme “Imagine Your Story” and consider worlds outside of our own. This reading guide was put together by RIPL Librarians to spark your curiosity, to entertain, and to help us all find the joy in new possibilities.
**SUMMER SCARIES**

*In The Valley of the Sun* by Andy Davidson

In this suspenseful, complex debut, author Andy Davidson skillfully works the traditional vampire legend into a cowboy yarn set in West Texas in 1980. Serial murderer Travis Stillwell wakes up pale, weak, and sensitive to sunlight after a one-night stand; he’s taken in by a motel owner and her son, who offer him odd jobs. All the while, a Texas Ranger is tracking him, and the vampire who turned Travis is annoyed by his pacific behavior. — Description by Katherine Bradley Johnson.

*Wanderers: a novel* by Chuck Wendig

A decadent rock star. A deeply religious radio host. A disgraced scientist. And a teenage girl who may be the world’s last hope. From the mind of Chuck Wendig comes “a magnum opus . . . a story about survival that’s not just about you and me, but all of us, together” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY NPR

*The Luminous Dead* by Caitlin Starling

A thrilling, atmospheric debut with the intensive drive of The Martian and Gravity and the creeping dread of Annihilation, in which a caver on a foreign planet finds herself on a terrifying psychological and emotional journey for survival. (Amazon) Bram Stoker Award nominee for Best First Novel!

**BOOK TO THE BIG SCREEN**

*Death on the Nile* by Agatha Christie

One of her best. Poirot, again on vacation, falls foul of a murder on board a Nile river steamer, followed by two successive murders, obviously connected. A sophisticated group, an ingenious plot, clever deduction, swift-paced narrative. A little romance on the side lends glamour. First rate entertainment. (Kirkus Reviews, February 1, 1938) Film to be released Oct. 2020 starring Gal Gadot and Armie Hammer

*News of the World* by Paulette Jiles

Readers fortunate enough to meet Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd, an old ex-soldier who makes a living reading the news to townspeople in 1870s Texas, and Joanna, the Indian captive he is charged with returning to her relatives, will not soon forget them. Everything, from the vividly realized Texas frontier setting to the characters is beautifully crafted, right up to the moving conclusion. Both the Captain and Joanna have very distinctive voices. Wonderful storytelling. (Beth Mills, Library Journal) Film to be released Dec 2020 starring Tom Hanks

*Dune* by Frank Herbert

Dune is to science fiction what The Lord of the Rings is to fantasy. Set on the desert planet Arrakis, this is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, who would become the mysterious man known as Muad'Dib, avenge the traitorous plot against his noble family, and bring to fruition humankind’s most ancient and unattainable dream. Film to be released Dec 2020 starring Timothée Chalamet
**FANTASTIC FICTION**

**The Song of Achilles** by Madeline Miller

Profoundly moving and breathtakingly original, this rendering of the epic Trojan War is a dazzling feat of the imagination, a devastating love story, and an almighty battle between gods and kings, peace and glory, immortal fame and the human heart. (Goodreads)

**Homegoing** by Yaa Gyasi

An engaging family saga following two half-sisters – one who marries into privilege and one sold into slavery – and their descendants as they navigate the politics of their separate countries and their heritage. Each is directly affected in some way by the choices of the past, and finding the parallels in the triumphs and heartbreak makes for an engrossing read. -- Amanda Monson (LibraryReads, June 2016)

**The Museum of Extraordinary Things** by Alice Hoffman

The daughter of a Coney Island boardwalk curiosities museum’s front man pursues an impassioned love affair with a Russian immigrant photographer who after fleeing his Lower East Side Orthodox community has captured poignant images of the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. 2014 GOODREADS BEST HISTORICAL FICTION

---

**SUMMER FLINGS**

**The Royal We** by Heather Cocks

This spin on the story of Prince William and Kate Middleton is the perfect beachy, weekend read for anyone who loves love stories with a healthy dose of humor. Here, Will and Kate are replaced by Nick and Bex—he’s the heir to the British throne, she’s the American who effortlessly steals his heart. Part fairy tale, part cautionary tale, the novel is pure fun from start to finish. (Library Reads ) Look for the sequel this summer The Heir Affair

**The Hating Game** by Sally Thorne

Resolving to achieve professional success without compromising her ethics, Lucy embarks on a ruthless game of one-upmanship against cold and efficient nemesis Joshua, a rivalry that is impossibly complicated by her growing attraction to him. 2016 Best Mainstream –Romantic Times Reviewers Choice Award

**Love in the Time of Cholera** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

In their youth, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall passionately in love. When Fermina eventually chooses to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Florentino is heartbroken, but he is a romantic. As he rises in his business career he whiles away the years in 622 affairs—yet he reserves his heart for Fermina. Her husband dies at last, and Florentino purposefully attends the funeral. Fifty years, nine months, and four days after he first declared his love for Fermina, he will do so again. (Goodreads)
MODERN MYSTERIES

The Ninja Daughter by Tori Eldridge
Lily Wong is living a double life, striving to appear as the perfect daughter to her matchmaking Chinese mother while secretly training in ninjutsu and providing rescue and security services to a Los Angeles domestic-violence shelter. Crushed after a young mother refuses the shelter’s protection and returns to her husband, Lily finds a welcome distraction in the intense new case. Tough, snarky, and grudgingly vulnerable, Lily Wong is an irresistible heroine set perfectly against a quirky millennial L.A. backdrop.

Penne Dreadful by Catherine Bruns
Chef Tessa Esposito is struggling to get back on her feet after her husband’s death. The police believe his death was no accident, and ask Tessa to fill in the blanks. To save her sanity in a time of stress, Tessa goes back to her first love—cooking. While visiting her husband’s favorite local pizza parlor, the last place he was seen alive, Tessa discovers anchovies aren’t the only thing that stink inside the family business. Will her late husband’s mess leave Tess in hot water?

Flowers and Foul Play by Amanda Flower
Fiona Knox lost her fiancé and her flower shop but when she flies to Scotland to inherit her godfathers cottage and possibly magical walled garden, she may lose her life as well when she’s swept into a murder investigation. First in the Magical Garden Mystery series!

EPIC FANTASIES

A Song for a New Day by Sarah Pinsker
After bombings and a viral pandemic spreads, the USA bans all public gatherings, including concerts. Luce Cannon, a rising star in music, feels the power of music is too great to lose and begins to perform small, illegal concerts. Rosemary Laws grew up in this new world, and cautiously sets off to start her dream job—recruiting artists to buy into VR concerts—encountering real crowds and cities for the first time. This timely novel helps us make sense of our current climate and the power of human connection.

Monstress Series by Marjorie M. Liu
"Set in an alternate matriarchal 1900’s Asia, in a richly imagined world of art deco-inflected steam punk, MONSTRESS tells the story of a teenage girl who is struggling to survive the trauma of war, and who shares a mysterious psychic link with a monster of tremendous power, a connection that will transform them both and make them the target of both human and otherworldly powers," --Amazon.com

The Three-Body Problem by Liu Cixin
Set against the backdrop of China’s Cultural Revolution, a secret military project sends signals into space to establish contact with aliens. An alien civilization on the brink of destruction captures the signal and plans to invade Earth. Meanwhile, on Earth, different camps start forming, planning to either welcome the superior beings and help them take over a world seen as corrupt, or to fight against the invasion. The result is a science fiction masterpiece of enormous scope and vision.