



BookMarks!

You've got to read this!

Produced by:
CPCC Libraries

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 11, 2005

It's Fun to Let Summer's Sun Melt Your Brain

Quick Picks

BookMarks Check List

Books I want to read:

Pawleys Island : A Low Country Tale 🎵🎵

Skinny Dip 🎵🎵

Blindsided 🎵🎵

Standing in the Rainbow 🎵🎵

Just One Look 🎵🎵

Thank You for Smoking 🎵🎵

No Second Chance 🎵🎵

On the Street Where You Live 🎵🎵

Emma's Secret 🎵

Dumping Billy 🎵

Hissy Fit 🎵

The Geographer's Library 🎵🎵

Ratings Scale

♫ - Just like really bad karaoke

♫♫ - More like a Cruise Ship entertainer

♫♫♫ - The joy of hearing my favorite music singer/group

♫♫♫♫ - Mozart could not have done better

Aren't you ready for some summer fun? You probably have thoughts of vacation in your brain. Maybe you have plans to visit castles in Europe or join caravans in the Middle East. Maybe your plans run to something more traditional like going to the beach. The idea of basking in the warm sun and hearing the low roar of the ocean is, well, depressing because we are at work and not on vacation. BUT, books can provide an instant vacation. Just by reading a book, you can become a secret agent, meet a ravishing stranger, or lead the country. And the beauty of that is that you can do all of those things anywhere—even on vacation! So enjoy this issue of BookMarks where we celebrate those wonderful paperback vacation reads. Call them "brain fluff," "brain candy," or "trash novels," they're still great to read!



This could be you!

BookMarks: The Summer Event

Celebrate fun summer reading by joining the library staff on Wednesday, May 11, at the Levine Campus. The CPCC Libraries invite all students, faculty, and staff, to join us for "**BookMarks...Great Books in Search of Readers.**" Bring a bagged lunch and join us from 12:00-1:30 p.m. in Room 3432. We will be discussing the books recommended in this newsletter.

We are also happy to announce a special guest speaker for this event. You don't want to miss this!! Author Dorothea Benton Frank will be meeting with us by phone to talk about her latest book, *Pawleys Island*, reviewed by CPCC librarian Sonia Coffin in the Tuesday, May 4, *Charlotte Observer* ([The review is also available on the next page](#)). Ms. Frank writes entertaining stories set in the Low-country near Charleston, South Carolina. They are perfect for summer reading!!! Check out her website at <http://www.dotfrank.com/>.

And don't forget, staff and faculty can get professional development for this event. Log into Learner Web to register. Credit plus dessert and drinks for lunch - it's too much fun to miss!!

Help celebrate brain fluff!

Island Adventure

Pawleys Island: A Low Country Tale by Dorothea Benton Frank

New York Times best-selling author Dorothea Benton Frank's loyal readers will love her fifth novel set in idyllic Pawleys Island.

The rhythms of the island, the eccentricities of the characters, the island ghosts hovering before the storms, the sumptuous Lowcountry foods all transport the readers to a place like unto no other.

Rebecca Simms, an artist and abandoned wife and mother, has come to Pawleys Island to heal from an abusive relationship with her estranged husband, Nat, who has taken custody of her children. There she finds employment and friendship with Huey Valentine, the courtly gay owner of an art gallery; his 86-year-old mother, Miss Olivia; and Abigail Thurmond, a semi-retired divorce attorney.

Abigail, who is battling her own demons of grief, guilt and despair, after the deaths of her husband and son, decides to come out of retirement to fight to get Rebecca's children back. With the help of a private investigator, Abigail unravels the secret life of Nat and salacious details of that life are presented in the courtroom. Divorce can be ugly where assets and children are concerned and the reader is shown how bitter the process can become.

Lost loves, familiar loves and hidden loves are all interwoven against the background of the custody battle. So are questions about a woman's beauty and how to be grateful and happy with what life brings us.

After the trial, Rebecca is pursued by the national news media and subsequently is interviewed on her views of the source of a woman's beauty as she ages.

Frank's characters also deal with other questions of loss. When death and divorce and betrayal strike, how does one cope? What Frank reveals is that a life is made worthwhile by friendship and the love of the people surrounding us.

The book is humorous, the customs are generations old, the characters are ones the reader loves to be around, and the locale fits them perfectly. - Sonia Coffin



Skinny Dip

by Carl Hiaasen

Carl Hiaasen is back in true form with his latest. Chaz Perrone is a sleazy, amoral biologist in the Florida Everglades who's been doctoring water samples for a large corporation that wants to treat the Glades like their own private septic tank. When he suspects his lovely wife Joey of stumbling upon his plan, he takes her on a romantic "anniversary" cruise and heaves her off the side of the boat in the middle of the night, hoping she'll end up as shark bait. However he underestimates the feisty Joey and her excellent swimming skills (plus a convenient floating bale of marijuana she latches onto), and Joey is picked up by the loner ex-cop Mick Stranahan. Instead of going to the police, she wants to find out why her husband turned homicidal and to make him pay in a sweet game of revenge. Funny, well-written, smart, and his unique brand of crazy characters made this an enjoyable page-turner. - Erin Payton



Blindsided

by Richard M. Cohen

Richard Cohen is married to Meredith Vieira, a well-known television personality. This book is his story of his struggle with multiple sclerosis, which was diagnosed when he was 25. It is not a technical medical description, but rather an optimistic, hopeful book about his career (he is a successful television producer and Emmy award winner), his marriage and his family, and his constant struggle to overcome all the physical obstacles accompanying his disease. Sometimes one has to read between the lines to realize what a struggle his life has been and continues to be. This is an amazing man, as exemplified by one quote near the end of his book, "A resilient man returns each night to my house." We can all hope to meet our adversities with such determination.— Sallie Jenkins

Standing in the Rainbow by Fannie Flagg

It'll make you laugh, it'll make you cry, it'll make you nostalgic for the warm, neighborly, small-town, southern living where a radio program is broadcast from the kitchen of a real home, where gospel singers weave in and out of the lives of the folks, where children of varying ages fill the landscape with activities and changing color. Flagg has written other delightful books, such as: "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistlestop Cafe", and "Welcome to the World, Baby Girl!", but this one is my favorite. - Vicky Tsai

Just One Look by Harlan Coben

This is the perfect beach book; once you start reading, you won't be able to stop until you've finished. A woman finds a 20 year old photo in with new pictures, and shortly after she questions her husband about it, he disappears with the picture. There are serial killers, thugs, tragic events and people from the past, and people who are not who they seem. Harlan Coben has mastered the art of keeping you turning pages, which means you shouldn't start this if you have something else important to do.—Sallie Jenkins

Thank You for Smoking by Christopher Buckley

How can you resist a book with this opening sentence: "Nick Naylor had been called most things since becoming chief spokesman for the Academy of Tobacco Studies, but until now no one had actually compared him to Satan." This is one book I like to read every few years, and it's time again. Funny, irreverent, politically incorrect, witty and smooth, this book has everything it takes to keep me from falling asleep on the beach.—Amy Burns



No Second Chance

by Harlan Coben

Mark Seidman wakes in the hospital to find that his wife is dead and his baby daughter has been kidnapped. He quickly becomes a suspect, and faces a dilemma when the kidnappers contact him, telling him if he notifies the police he will never see his 6 month old daughter again. The novel covers 18 months of twists and turns, introducing many interesting characters. The ending will make you satisfyingly sad. This is the best Coben book I have read. He deserves his Edgar, Anthony, and Shamus awards. All his books are "can't put down" reads.—Sallie Jenkins

On the Street Where You Live

by Mary Higgins Clark

Opening with a killer recounting a series of murders that took place in the 1890's, the book follows the story of Emily Graham, an attorney who has recently become very wealthy. Emily decides to move to her seaside hometown of Spring Lake. She starts receiving threatening notes soon after her arrival. Emily's investigation into the threats and the identity of a body recently dug up in her back yard, takes you into a mystery spanning two centuries. If you can suspend disbelief and the reflex to say "Oh, come on!", you will enjoy the very interesting ending. I enjoy all of Mary Higgins Clark's novels and this is another tried and true effort by her. Her novels are a great escape! - Gena Moore

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bookreview.htm](http://www.cpcc.edu/library/forms/bookreview.htm)



Hissy Fit

by Mary Kay Andrews

Keely Murdock on the eve of her wedding in Madison, Ga., stumbles upon her bridegroom, A. J. Jemigan, and her maid of honor Paige Plummer in the ultimate compromising situation and throws a "hissy fit" in front of the assembled rehearsal dinner guests. The wedding is called off and the Jemigans retaliate by sabotaging Keely's interior design business. Add in solving of the mystery surrounding the disappearance of Keely's mother nearly 25 years before, the arrival in town of a handsome and wealthy entrepreneur who jump-starts the local bra factory as well as hiring Keely to restore a dilapidated antebellum mansion - and then mix in a town gossip and a gold-digging female attorney from Atlanta and you have a rollicking tale that is truly hard to put down.

If you are interested in interior design, antiques, Southern manners and customs, fashion trends, heartache and romance or just a well-told story, this book is for you. I loved it. It didn't hurt that my husband and I were married in Madison 33 years ago. - Sonia Coffin



Emma's Secret

by Barbara Taylor Bradford

Emma's Secret is the fourth novel in the series that started with A Woman of Substance, a best-selling novel released 25 years ago. Bradford was interviewed about her long-running series on NPR recently. The story begins in 2001 with forays back to World War II when Emma Harte, protagonist of the first novel, was writing her diaries. Emma's revelations will change the lives of her descendants - granddaughter Paula and her daughters Linnet and Tessa - who are continuing Emma's financial and fashion empire. Add in fashion designer Evan Hughes and family members become enmeshed in rivalry, passion and family secrets. The diaries play a pivotal role in the plots. Descriptions of scenery are lush but the plot predictable and the characters, albeit very strong women in most cases, are loosely developed.. This is a standard Bradford novel, interesting but light reading. - Sonia Coffin

Dumping Billy

by Olivia Goldsmith

Billy is gorgeous. Billy dates a lot of women. Billy dumps them all. However, every girl that Billy dumps marries the next man she meets. Kate Jameson hopes to set up her best friend, Bina, with Billy, so that Bina's ex-fiancé can be lured back to Bina right after Billy has dumped her. Unfortunately, Kate falls for Billy (of course). This is a very light romance, with humor and slightly far-fetched plot twists. In other words, this is a perfect beach read. This is Goldsmith's last book, published after she died on the operating table while having cosmetic surgery.—Sallie Jenkins



The Geographer's Library

by Jon Fasman

In The Geographer's Library, a young reporter writing the obituary of a local college professor stumbles upon the story of a lifetime and a mystery for the ages. It seems that someone is once again collecting a powerful set of ancient artifacts related to alchemy, and is willing to do anything to get them - though the artifacts' protectors aren't giving up so easily, either. Stories of the artifact's fascinating origins are interspersed with the reporter's current day investigation. Overall, the story is compelling and the narrative moves quickly as the investigation proceeds. Fellow author Alan Furst calls this novel "a real reader's book, magnetic and sharply written, with excellent history, a strong narrative, and a mind of its own." - Jennifer Arnold