

BEACH READS

What makes a book a "beach read"? In the 1990s, beach reads were blockbuster hits that were released in the summer months and very popular with the public. Over time, the definition has changed. Beach reads are books with mass appeal, light and fun to read, and not intellectually challenging.

A beach read can be any genre of book but many of them are romance novels. These books always have a happy, somewhat unrealistic ending and are rarely thought provoking.

TOP THEMES

Many beach reads include: Romance, psychological thrillers and stories that feature mainly female characters. Beach reads are not just for women! They are for anyone looking for a bit of fun and escapism.

WARNING!

Books should not be used as cover for low-flying sea gulls.

Book jackets are notorious for getting sand in them. Returning books with sand in them makes the staff yearn to be at the beach, which makes the staff sad. Please be cautious about sand in books.

Many of the books on this list are available for digital download through our Libby app. Reading digital books may be frowned upon by other beach goers, but we completely support your love of digital books!

Where to find these books:

Books are located in their respective sections under the author's last name.

Fiction=General Fiction Section
Romance= Romance Section
Mystery= Mystery Section

Get book recommendations:
westlinnoregon.gov/library/personalized-book-recommendations

Descriptions provided by Novelist Plus, a free book recommendation database accessible through LINCC.org.

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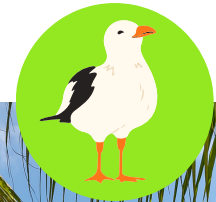


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ADULTS

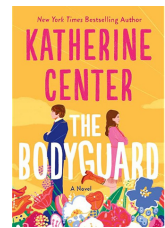
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The Boardwalk Bookshop

by Susan Mallery (Romance)

When fate brings three strangers to a charming space for lease on the California coast, the Boardwalk Bookshop is born. Part bookstore, part gift shop, part bakery, it's a dream come true for Bree, Mikki and Ashley. But while their business is thriving, their personal lives are... not.



The Bodyguard

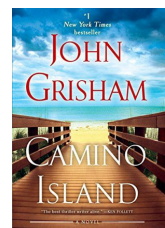
by Katherine Center (Romance)

Hannah Brooks looks more like a kindergarten teacher than somebody who could kill you with a wine bottle opener. Or a ballpoint pen. Or a dinner napkin. But the truth is, she's an Executive Protection Agent (aka "bodyguard"), and she just got hired to protect superstar actor Jack Stapleton from his middle-aged, corgi-breeding stalker.

Book Lovers

by Emily Henry (Romance)

Nora Stephens' life is books--she's read them all--and she is not that type of heroine. Not the plucky one, not the laidback dream girl, and especially not the sweetheart. In fact, the only people Nora is a heroine for are her clients, for whom she lands enormous deals as a cutthroat literary agent, and her beloved little sister Libby. Which is why she agrees to go to Sunshine Falls, North Carolina for the month of August when Libby begs her for a sisters' trip away.



Camino Island

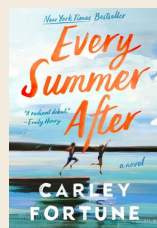
by John Grisham (Mystery)

A gang of thieves stage a daring heist from a vault deep below Princeton University's Firestone Library. Their loot is priceless, impossible to resist. Bruce Cable owns a popular bookstore in the sleepy resort town of Santa Rosa on Camino Island in Florida. He makes his real money, though, as a prominent dealer in rare books.

City of Girls

by Elizabeth Gilbert (Fiction)

1940: Vivian Morris has just been kicked out of Vassar College, and her affluent parents send her to Manhattan to live with her Aunt Peg, who owns a flamboyant, crumbling midtown theater called the Lily Playhouse. There Vivian is introduced to fun-chasing showgirls, a sexy male actor, a grand-dame actress, a lady-killer writer, and no-nonsense stage manager. But when Vivian makes a personal mistake that results in professional scandal, it ultimately leads her to a new understanding of the kind of life she craves.



Every Summer After

by Carley Fortune (Romance)

Five summers to fall in love. One moment to fall apart. A weekend to get it right. A magazine writer has to make a choice when she returns to the lake she grew up on, and to the man she thought she'd never have to live without, in this achingly nostalgic debut.

Fates and Furies

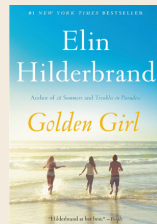
by Lauren Groff (Fiction)

A dazzling examination of a marriage, it is also a portrait of creative partnership written by one of the best writers of her generation. Every story has two sides. Every relationship has two perspectives. And sometimes, it turns out, the key to a great marriage is not its truths but its secrets.

The Getaway Girls

by Dee MacDonald (Romance)

Connie McColl is finally free to make her own decisions for the first time in decades. And when she meets glamorous Gill and downtrodden Maggie, at a rather dull flower arranging class, it seems that she's not the only one dreaming of adventure. The three very different women all agree it's about time they had a holiday to remember.



Golden Girl

by Elin Hilderbrand (Fiction)

Entering the afterlife due to a hit and run accident, a successful author learns she can observe the earthly lives of her nearly grown children and is also permitted three "nudges" to alter the outcome of events.

The Guest List

by Lucy Foley (Fiction)

On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together as one. The groom: handsome and charming, a rising television star. The bride: smart and ambitious, a magazine publisher. It's a wedding for a magazine, or for a celebrity: the designer dress, the remote location, the luxe party favors, the boutique whiskey. But perfection is for plans, and people are all too human. As the festivities begin, resentments and petty jealousies begin to mingle with the reminiscences and well wishes.

The Guncle

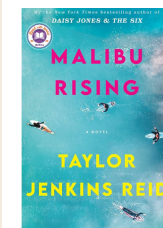
by Steven Rowley (Fiction)

A warm and deeply funny novel about a once-famous gay sitcom star whose unexpected family tragedy leaves him with his niece and nephew for the summer.

It Had to Be You

by Georgia Clark (Romance)

When her late husband leaves his half of their wedding planning business to his girlfriend, Liv Goldenhorn, who never saw this coming, finds herself shackled to her polar opposite in every way, whose inexperience may be just what the company needs.



Malibu Rising

by Taylor Jenkins Reid (Fiction)

Set against the backdrop of the Malibu surf culture of the 1980s this novel follows the daughter of a famous singer who, once she finds fame, must grapple with the fact that her father abandoned her and her siblings when they were young.

My Summer Darlings

by May Cobb (Reserve today)

Three lifelong friends plus a dangerous, sexy new stranger in town add up to a scorching summer of manipulation, obsession, and murder, from the acclaimed author of The Hunting Wives.

The Newcomer

by May Kay Andrews (Fiction)

After she discovers her sister Tanya dead on the floor of her fashionable New York City townhouse, Letty Carnahan is certain she knows who did it: Tanya's ex; sleazy real estate entrepreneur Evan Wingfield. Even in the grip of grief and panic Letty heeds her late sister's warnings: "If anything bad happens to me - it's Evan. Promise me you'll take Maya and run. Promise me."



Nora Goes Off Script

by Annabel Monaghan (Romance)

As a romance channel screenwriter, Nora Hamilton knows the formula for love better than anyone. When her too-good-to-work husband leaves her and their two kids, Nora turns her marriage's collapse into cash and writes the best script of her life; it's picked up for the big screen and set to film on location at her 100-year-old-home.

One Perfect Summer

by Brenda Novak (Reserve today)

When Serenity Alston swabbed her cheek for 23andMe, she joked about uncovering some dark ancestral scandal. The last thing she expected was to discover two half sisters she didn't know existed. Suddenly, everything about her loving family is drawn into question. And meeting these newfound sisters might be the only way to get answers.

Rosaline Palmer Takes the Cake

by Alexis Hall (Romance)

Rosaline Palmer is just barely holding her life together. Her paycheck might as well be parchment paper, her house is falling apart, and help from her parents is always served with a generous slice of disappointment and judgment. And the cherry on top? Now her daughter's school is charging all sorts of outlandish extra fees for trips that Rosaline can't afford. But where there's a whisk there's a way. . . and Rosaline has just landed a place on the nation's favorite baking show.

Seabreeze Summer

by Jan Moran (Romance)

While renovating an old beach house, Ivy and her sister, Shelly, suddenly have full occupancy after fire forces Summer Beach residents from their homes. Even the mayor, Bennett Dylan, who was Ivy's high school crush, moves in. As the summer heats up, attractions simmer and feuds erupt.

Seven Days in June

by Tia Williams (Fiction)

Brooklynite Eva Mercy is a single mom and bestselling erotica writer, who is feeling pressed from all sides. Shane Hall is a reclusive, enigmatic, award-winning literary author who, to everyone's surprise, shows up in New York. When Shane and Eva meet unexpectedly at a literary event, sparks fly, raising not only their past buried traumas, but the eyebrows of New York's Black literati. What no one knows is that twenty years earlier, teenage Eva and Shane spent one crazy, torrid week madly in love.

A Special Place for Women

by Laura Hankin (Fiction)

The Wing meets the Illuminati in the latest spellbinding novel, about a young reporter who infiltrates a women-only secret society made up of members who may be witches.

Summer at Firefly Beach

by Jenny Hale (Fiction)

Hallie Flynn's favorite place in the world is her great Aunt Clara's beautiful beachside house, with its inviting wraparound porch and enchanting views across the sparkling turquoise ocean. For Hallie, going to Firefly Beach, filled with magical childhood memories, feels like coming home. But all that is about to change...In one moment Hallie's world is turned upside down. She's left broken-hearted when her adored Aunt Clara passes away.

The Summer Hideaway

by Susan Wigg (Fiction)

Claire Turner is a nurse with a terrible secret in her past. George Bellamy is a sick old man trying to make up for past mistakes. George's grandson Ross is a man back from a war and wanting a future. When George's illness draws Claire and Ross together, will they dare to risk everything for love?

The Summer of Lost and Found

by Mary Alice Monroe (Fiction)

The coming of Spring usually means renewal, but for Linnea Rutledge, Spring 2020 threatens stagnation. Linnea faces another layoff, this time from the aquarium she adores. For her - and her family - finances, emotions, and health teeter at the brink. To complicate matters, her new love interest, Gordon, struggles to return to the Isle of Palms from England. Meanwhile, her old flame, John, turns up from California and is quarantining next door - is it possible to love two men at the same time.

Summer on the Bluffs

by Sunny Hostin (Fiction)

In the exclusive black beach community of Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard, the three unofficial "goddaughters" of Amelia Vaux Tanner, successful women from different backgrounds, gather for one last summer together before Amelia moves to the south of France and gives her home to one of them.

The Summer Place

by Jennifer Weiner (Fiction)

At her stepdaughter's wedding day to her pandemic boyfriend--the last gathering at the family's beach house in Cape Cod--Sarah is faced with lovers being revealed as their true selves, misunderstandings, and secrets, ensuring that nothing will ever be the same.

This Close to Okay

by Leesa Cross-Smith (Fiction)

On a rainy October night in Kentucky, recently divorced therapist Tallie Clark is on her way home when she spots a man precariously standing on the edge of a bridge. Without a second thought, Tallie pulls over and jumps out of the car into the pouring rain. She convinces the man to join her for a cup of coffee, and he eventually agrees to come back to her house, where he finally, reluctantly, shares his first name: Emmett. Over the course of the emotionally-charged weekend that follows, Tallie makes it her mission to provide a safe and comfortable space for Emmett, although she doesn't confess that she works as a therapist.

The Veiv Was Exhausting

by Mikaella Clements/Onjuli Datta (Romance)

The world can see that international A-list actress Whitman ("Win") Tagore and jet-setting playboy Leo Milanowski are made for each other. Their kisses start Twitter trends and their fights break the internet. From red carpet appearances to Met Gala mishaps, their on-again, off-again romance has titillated the public and the press for almost a decade. But it's all a lie. As a woman of color, Win knows the Hollywood deck is stacked against her, so she's perfected the art of controlling her public persona. Whenever she nears scandal, she calls in Leo, with his endearingly reckless attitude, for a staged date.

When Life Gives You Lululemons

by Lauren Weisberger (Fiction)

Welcome to Greenwich, CT, where the lawns and the women are perfectly manicured, the Tito's and sodas are extra strong, and everyone has something to say about the infamous new neighbor. Let's be clear: Emily Charlton, Miranda Priestly's ex-assistant, does not do the suburbs. She's working in Hollywood as an image consultant to the stars, but recently, Emily's lost a few clients. She's hopeless with social media. The new guard is nipping at her heels. She needs a big opportunity, and she needs it now.

Window by the Bay

by Debbie Macomber (Romance)

Jenna Boltz's life is at a crossroads. After a messy divorce nearly twenty years ago, she raised her two children on her own, juggling motherhood with her beloved job as a Seattle intensive care nurse. Now that Paul and Allie have gone to college and moved out, Jenna can't help but wonder what her future holds.

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