

Great Summer

The Good Earth

By Pearl S. Buck



This often-overlooked modern classic is set in pre-Revolution China. The story reminds us of our true ties to family and the land and just how precarious human survival can be. It makes us think about what our time on earth is about, how we use it, and what is important. Just the sort of book needed in these days of crazy gas prices, family division, and consumeristic alienation.

Maybe I got more from this book than most, having been on the land myself for a brief time.

It is one of my all-time favourite books. A week after I finished it, I still mourn the characters and am living in their mindset.

Good books can give us a secret glimpse into someone's life and we are left with a very nice feeling of friendship shared.

Lisa Shaskin

**Cheyenne Express Couriers
North Vancouver, BC**

The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, 10th Anniversary Edition

By John C. Maxwell



If you are looking for inspiration on how to improve your business or to better your relationships in general, this is a must read. Dr. Maxwell shares simple and practical ways to improve personal and organizational effectiveness.

**Tammy (Hoolsema) Morin
Notary Public, Richmond, BC**

They Call Me Naughty Lola

A compilation of Personal Ads from the *London Review of Books*. Edited and introduced by David Rose



I received this book last night and am half done . . . and I was late for work this morning . . .

In the Introduction, David Rose explains the *London Review of*

Books (LRB) was created in 1998 with the simple idea of helping people with similar literary and cultural tastes get together.

The first ad *LRB* received was from a man "on the lookout for a contortionist who plays the trumpet."

Another ad said, "I'd like to dedicate this advert to my mother (difficult cow, 65) who is responsible for me still being single at 36. Man, held at home by years of subtle emotional abuse and at least 19 fake heart attacks. Box no. 6207."

**Margot Rutherford
Notary Public, Courtenay, BC**

Consumption

By Kevin Patterson



A doctor wrote this novel about Victoria, an Inuit woman, and her community. The story takes place over a 40-year period, beginning with her childhood diagnosis of TB and subsequent internment in a TB hospital in northern Manitoba, through to her return to her community and her struggle to reintegrate.

The story examines the clash of two cultures (Inuit and Western) as the Inuit leave their nomadic past to settle in Western communities. Very well written.

Kabul Beauty School:

An American Goes Behind the Veil

By Deborah Rodriguez

A really fast read, this is the true story of an American hairdresser who leaves an abusive marriage and moves to Kabul to teach local women how to be successful businesswomen and hairdressers. Through her school, she empowers the women and experiences a wealth of learning and adventure as she acclimatizes to the alien land.

Lauren Carter

**BC Heritage Language Association
Vancouver, BC**

Happiness.

Lessons from a New Science.

By Richard Layard



The joy of this book is in the "Aha!" moments, when you say to yourself, *I knew it. I always knew it!* Because it links behavioural studies with economics, the book functions as an easily read critique of traditional economics.

The traditional discipline assumes "individuals are rational beings who respond in predictable ways to changes in incentives," but the happiness economists are more realistic. They began examining why "...as Western societies have gotten richer, their people have become no happier."

The man who initiated this approach claimed to a Graduate Studies Admissions Office that he could take economics as a foreign language, a conviction that may resonate with many of us.

Reading

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The book is divided into “The Problem” and “What Can Be Done.”

For those who would like to see more effective economics governing public policy, it’s a surprisingly digestible summary of a lot of academic studies. Great beach reading!

Donna Stewart
Advisory Committee Chair
A Place to Call Home
North Vancouver, BC

The Road

By Cormac McCarthy



If Great Summer Reading implies a light and funny book, read no further. This book is probably the darkest one I’ve ever read.

The Road is the story of a father and son walking the highway, years after some apocalyptic event has destroyed most of mankind and decimated the Earth. They are trying to reach the coast in the hope they’ll find something better.

This heartwrenching book leaves the reader shaken to the core. My book club—a group of the pickiest readers on the planet—gave this book the highest accolades ever. In fact, it is the only title we have ever all agreed was excellent.

The writing is amazing and each sentence is beautifully crafted. As the story moves along, we are at turns frightened, shocked, confused, filled with dread, and moved to tears. An incredible experience for the reader.

Marilyn MacDonald
Graphic Artist for *The Scrivener*

Suite Française

By Irène Némirovsky



Irène was born in Russia to a wealthy Jewish banking family that fled Russia during the Revolution, settling in France via Denmark.

This very beautiful and poignant novel set in occupied France in 1942 contains in-depth character studies of men and women in the bombing of Paris, the good and the ugly of wartime, and the lives of the French under the German occupation with soldiers billeted in their homes.

The appendices contain the author’s detailed notes on the situation in France as she was living it and her plans to write *Suite Française*—there were to have been five books. Her letters to family and friends and potential publishers show her deep concern for her family and ask that her two young daughters be cared for, should anything happen to her or her husband. Later that year, Irène died in a Nazi death camp at age 39.

Her daughters Denise and Elizabeth saved the papers, unread, for years, finding it too painful to look at what they thought were their mother’s well-kept notes. They finally decided to give them to an organization that preserved documents of war.

Before handing them over, Denise typed them and found not just diaries and notes, but their mother’s wonderful novel. It was finally published 64 years after it was written.

Martha Todd
Print Agent, Richmond, BC

Photo Show

The lush and lovely gardens of *Scrivener* readers Chuck and Joy, in North Vancouver

