

Discussible Summer Reads

Summer Group
Icebreakers
June 2007

Dear Charlie,

What to do on your summer vacation? Read, of course!

Here are a few ideas to enjoy that time away from work and get ready to enjoy more time with your book group friends.

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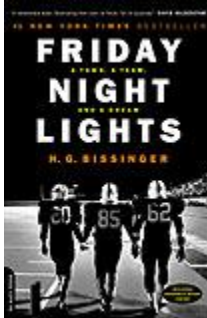
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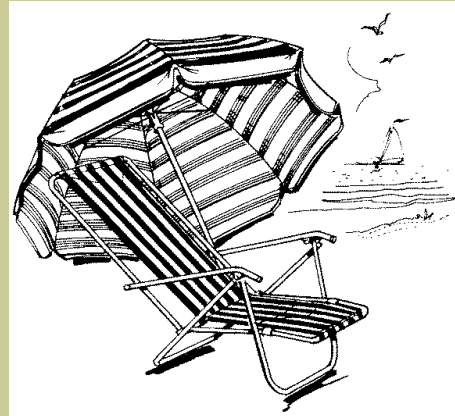
[Your Vacation Read Is Waiting!](#)

For All Americans



Friday Night Lights is a great read for all Americans -- young and old, men and women. This true story has themes of small town life and values, personal relationships, societal issues, plus a game that shapes, and sometimes shatters, the lives of its players.

Your Vacation Read Is Waiting!



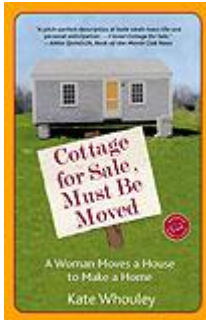
"Vacation" means different things for different people. Beach, mountains, lake, or just chilling at home -- there are books for all places. Here are some favorites to let your mind wander.

There are stories for the imagination or to warm your heart - *Cool Mind Warm Heart*, *Alphabet Weekends*, *The Thrall's Tale*, *Devils in the Sugar Shop*, *The Prestige*, *Love Walked In*. And there are stories to take you far away or remind you of home - *Japanland*, *I, Mona Lisa*, *For One More Day*, *Dreaming the Mississippi*, *The Sweet Life*, and *Broken Trail*.

Choose a few of these - or one of the discussible selections at the left - to pack in your summer suitcase.

R&R Read

For all book lovers going on vacation, ***Cottage For Sale, Must Be Moved*** is a rest and relaxation read and a funny and poignant narrative. After a classified ad for an abandoned vacation cottage sparks Kate Whouley's imagination, she becomes determined to attach the tiny building to her three-room house on Cape Cod. *Cottage For Sale, Must Be Moved* is the sometimes hilarious, often moving, story of Kate and her bossy gray cat persisting in their single-minded pursuit of a place called home. Her memoir is also a meditation on friendship, family, commitment, creativity, and the possibility of making our dreams come true.



Kate joins us in this month's **1-On-One**.

Please **enter** for a chance to win one of 20 copies that **must be moved** in our book drawing.

Deep Contemplation



Meredith Hall's moving but unsentimental memoir, ***Without A Map***, begins in 1965, when she becomes pregnant at sixteen. Shunned by her insular New Hampshire community and her parents, she gives her baby up for adoption and then wanders recklessly for years. She returns to New England and stitches a life together. Her lost son finds her. Their reunion is tender, turbulent, and ultimately redemptive. What sets *Without a Map* apart is the way in which loss and betrayal evolve into compassion, and compassion into wisdom.

Enter for a chance to win a copy

Flights of Fiction

Use your mind not to work but to read a book - now that's VACATION!

Quick Links

[Enter the Cottage Contest](#)

[Enter The Without a Map Melee](#)

[Icebreakers](#)

[1-On-One: Kate Whouley](#)

[1-On-One: Cammie McGovern](#)

[Discount Broadway Tickets - Use Code YMBKP92](#)

[On the Bookcase](#)

[Invite An Author](#)

[What's Your Group Reading?](#)

[Save Time - Register](#)

Reading Group Choices

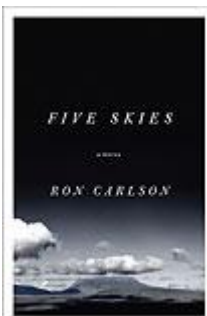


[Selecting Discussible Books Since 1995](#)

Over the next few months, **Reading Group Choices** will feature the Summer Flights of Fiction by Viking. At the end of the summer, **Reading Group Choices** will hold a drawing for 20 lucky winners to receive all seven titles in the Summer Flights of Fiction Collection. Stay tuned for more details. This month spotlights three titles in the Summer Flight of Fiction set.

***Five Skies* - Details, Structure, and Great Themes: What a Reading Group Choice!**

In his first novel in twenty-five years, Ron Carlson tells the story of three men—each locked in his own isolation, each trying to escape a painful past—who come together for a strange job: to build a stunt ramp in the "ruined mountains" seventeen miles south of Mercy, Idaho. In prose that is lyrical, precise, and deeply



attuned to the fluctuations of the human spirit, ***Five Skies*** offers readers an extended meditation on the relationship between past and present, grief and the unburdening of grief, self-concealment and self-revelation.

***In the Woods* - A MUST for the Mystery Reading Group!**



Tana French's debut novel, ***In the Woods***, offers readers a stunning look into the dark recesses of the human heart and a brooding reflection on the evils that are sometimes just a breath away. In the dark, deceptive world of *In the Woods*, French populates her psychological thriller with deftly drawn, unforgettable characters. The book weaves together a twenty-year old cold case with a new mystery to enthrall fans of *Mystic River* and ***The Lovely Bones***.

***Lulu Meets God and Doubts Him* - A Sophisticated and Witty First Novel**

[Order The Print Edition](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Danielle Ganek's delightfully funny and insightful first novel, **Lulu Meets God and Doubts Him**, paints the oddly captivating New York City art scene as it exists today.



Hick Hits Bestseller List

Hick by Andrea Portes, a **Reading Group Choices** selection and May 2007 release, just hit the *LA Times* Paperback Bestseller List. The *LA Times* calls the book, also selected for honors as a May Book Sense Pick and a Midwest Connections Pick, "a bracing drama, a study in tenacity against the gnarled teeth of domestic storms."



Summer Icebreakers



Do you need an icebreaker for a new reading group? What to do for your book selection month or holiday party? How about something to add more excitement to one of your meetings? Play a game and not the cheesy bridal shower games!

These games are perfect to get to know new members and find out something more about veteran members!

Do you have any creative ideas or games that proved fun and entertaining? Please email Barbara. We will put up some in our **Resources** section.

Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Marion and **The Cape Goddesses Book Group** from Stamford, Connecticut, for winning the random drawing of the **Discussible Book Choices Contest!**



"My book group, **The Cape Goddesses**, will be celebrating our 50th book this month! As a special treat, self-published author, Barbara Stretton will be our guest, and we will discuss her children's book *The Case of The Tiberian Tiger*. Some of our other guests will be a local librarian and the head of the English Dept of a local high school, as well as friends and neighbors."

We enjoy getting emails from book club members and sharing their choices with everyone. Please [email](#) us with your group's discussible choices, and you may win a book-related prize for every member of your reading group. Please remember to include your group name, number of people in your group, and mailing address to send the prizes.

Other Discussible Choices

**Chapter 2, book group expo
Afterword**



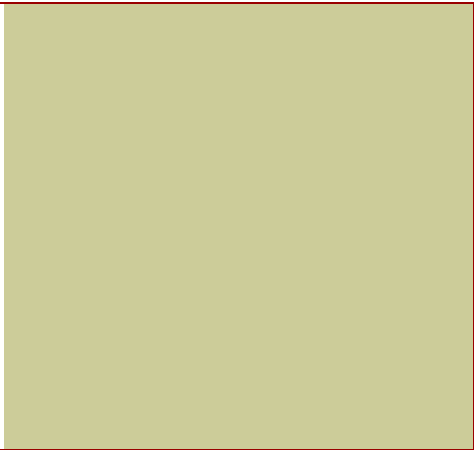
book group expo

The great adventure called Chapter 2, book group expo is over, and it was fantastic! But, alas, all good things must come to an end. If you weren't able to join the other 1,000 book group members in San Jose, check Barbara's "Afterword" (and more) in this month's **On the Bookcase!**

Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive,



Selecting Discussible Books for Reading Groups Since 1995



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