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## Beach reads for summer 2019

We may all need to go somewhere else for it to be warm enough for the beach, but when we get there, there will be plenty of new books. Something about summer brings out the fluff – for the most part – so that we can read and be distracted by beach life (the sun, the sand, the water, the local establishments) all at once.

Having looked at a variety of beach reading recommendations, here are a few that make it onto more than one list and that provide good choices. If you start now, you can read them all (and check off a few squares on the Adult Reading Bingo card for prizes, please remember).

The first, already approved by one of our Books for Lunch readers, is **Daisy Jones and the Six**, a novel set in the early 1970's with a documentary interview style. It concerns a band that, in the opinion of one reviewer, becomes so real that it is disappointing to recall that the lyrics in the story aren't actually songs to be downloaded.

A popular author doesn't hurt. Elizabeth Gilbert (**Eat, Pray, Love**), gives us the fictional **City of Girls**. The plot sounds exactly like a beach read: Vivian, age 19, is kicked out of college and then pursues the theater and love. But in the hands of Gilbert, we can expect something better than average out of this basic story.

The discomfort of and resistance to one's cultural roots can also provide interesting fodder for a summer beach read. **Natalie Tan's Book of Love and Fortune** by Roselle Lim gives us the title character, a chef whose mother died. She inherits her grandmother's restaurant, but a fortune teller predicts that she must cook three of her grandmother's recipes for the restaurant to succeed. We find out why she's resistant to this and not interested in helping her neighbors in San Francisco's China Town – and how it all turns out. The bonus? This is one of those books with great recipes.

How many genres can be squeezed into one book? Chanel Cleeton's **When We Left Cuba** is described as historical fiction, romance, thriller, and drama in post-revolutionary Cuba. The protagonist becomes a CIA operative hoping to avenge the death of her twin brother.

For a dedicated thriller, you might want to try **Lock Every Door** by Riley Sager. The plot concerns the main character who gets a dream job apartment sitting in a fabulous place, part of a prestigious Manhattan building. However, the deal is she can have no visitors, no nights away, and cannot speak to neighbors. Although one reviewer thought this was an utterly unique story

line, it sure sounds a lot like Delaney's **The Girl Before** to me. But there's only one way to find out.

Karamo Brown's **My Story of Embracing Purpose, Healing, and Hope** falls into the category of celebrity memoir. Or maybe an inspirational or self-help book. (Always check all the categories on the Bingo card for your best fit.) I'm a fan of Brown's work as the emotional healing and personal growth guy on the Queer Eye team – for those of you who have watched that show – and am tentatively putting this one on my list. If Brown reads it, I might like it on audio.

Jasmine Guillory's third book in the series starting with **The Engagement is The Wedding Party**. This is the book, recommended on a bunch of lists, that gives us that all important beach read romance. Maddie and Theo can't stand each other and yet can't leave each other alone, and we know where that leads. This is the book described as "steamy."

No matter if we bundle up in jeans and a sweatshirt to hit the Michigan beaches or get lucky with an eventual heat wave, these books can see us through the summer.

See you at the Library!

**Upcoming Events:** This is the week that sees Summer Reading in full bloom. Follow our schedule of exciting events on FB and on our website Calendar. In addition, the Living Constitution series continues as well as Thursday Mah Jongg (come to learn, observe, or just play).