## Summer Reading 2015

**At the water's edge / Sara Gruen.** In this thrilling new novel from the author of *Water for Elephants*, Sara Gruen again demonstrates her talent for creating spellbinding period pieces. *At the Water's Edge* is a gripping and poignant love story about a privileged young woman's awakening as she experiences the devastation of World War II in a tiny village in the Scottish Highlands.

**Between you & me: confessions of a comma queen / Mary Norris.** A witty approach to the uses and misuses of the English language, featuring descriptions of some of the most common and vexing problems in punctuation, spelling, and usage, and explaining how to handle them.

**The bone tree / Greg Iles.** Penn Cage's father, Dr. Tom Cage, stands accused of murder and each effort to defend him unearths new, shocking secrets, leaving Penn to question whether he ever really knew his father at all. Iles continues the electrifying story he began in his smashing *New York Times* bestseller *Natchez Burning* with this highly anticipated second volume in an epic trilogy of blood and race, family and justice.

**The book of Joan : tales of mirth, mischief, and manipulation / Melissa Rivers.** Joan Rivers was known all over the world--from the Palace Theater to Buckingham Palace, from the bright lights of Las Vegas to the footlights of Broadway, from the days of talkies to hosting talk shows. But there was only one person who knew Joan intimately, one person who the authorities would call when she got a little out of hand. Her daughter and best friend, Melissa.

**The book of speculation / Erika Swyler.** When a mysterious book detailing the history of a traveling circus arrives on the doorstep of newly unemployed librarian Simon Watson, he discovers his family's lineage includes tarot readers, professional mermaids, and misfortune. Simon soon grows obsessed with the show and its characters, like the young Wild Boy who eventually grows into a seer's apprentice, and his mermaid love, Evangeline. But tragedy lurks behind the costumes and tricks. Generations of women in the Watson family have committed suicide by drowning on July 24, and Simon fears that his card-reading sister, Enola, will be next.

**Book of Numbers / Joshua Cohen.** The enigmatic billionaire founder of Tetration, the world's most powerful tech company, hires a failed novelist, Josh Cohen, to ghostwrite his memoirs. The mogul, known as Principal, brings Josh behind the digital veil, tracing the rise of Tetration, which started in the earliest days of the Internet by revolutionizing the search engine before venturing into smartphones, computers, and the surveillance of American citizens. Principal takes Josh on a mind-bending world tour from Palo Alto to Dubai and beyond, initiating him into the secret pretext of the autobiography project and the life-or-death stakes that surround its publication.

**Born with Teeth / Kate Mulgrew.** Raised by unconventional Irish Catholics who knew "how to drink, how to dance, how to talk, and how to stir up the devil," Kate Mulgrew grew up with poetry and drama in her bones. But in her mother, a would-be artist burdened by the endless arrival of new babies, young Kate saw the consequences of a dream deferred. Determined to pursue her own no matter the cost, at 18 she left her small Midwestern town for New York, where, studying with the legendary Stella Adler, she learned the lesson that would define her as an actress: "Use it," Adler told her. Whatever disappointment, pain, or anger life throws in your path, channel it into the work.

**The Boston girl: a novel / Anita Diamant.** Eighty-five-year-old Addie tells the story of her life to her twenty-two-year-old granddaughter, who has asked her "How did you get to be the woman you are today." She begins in 1915, the year she found her voice and made friends who would help shape the course of her life. From the one-room tenement apartment she shared with her parents and two sisters, to the library group for girls she joins at a neighborhood settlement house, to her first, disastrous love affair, Addie recalls her adventures with compassion for the naïve girl she was and a wicked sense of humor.
An ember in the ashes: a novel by Sabaa Tahir. Laia is a Scholar living under the iron-fisted rule of the Martial Empire. When her brother is arrested for treason, Laia goes undercover as a slave at the empire's greatest military academy in exchange for assistance from rebel Scholars who claim that they will help to save her brother from execution.

Dead wake: the last crossing of the Lusitania / Erik Larson. Chronicles the last and fatal voyage of the Lusitania, moving between events on the luxury ocean liner as it returned to its home port of Liverpool from New York City to those on the German submarine U-20. Dead Wake brings to life a cast of evocative characters, from famed Boston bookseller Charles Lauriat to pioneering female architect Theodate Pope to President Woodrow Wilson, a man lost to grief, dreading the widening war but also captivated by the prospect of new love.

Dietland / Sarai Walker. Dietland is a bold, original, and funny debut novel that takes on the beauty industry, gender inequality, and our weight loss obsession--from the inside out, and with fists flying.

An ember in the ashes: a novel by Sabaa Tahir. Laia is a Scholar living under the iron-fisted rule of the Martial Empire. When her brother is arrested for treason, Laia goes undercover as a slave at the empire's greatest military academy in exchange for assistance from rebel Scholars who claim that they will help to save her brother from execution.

Empire of Deception: the Incredible Story of a Master Swindler Who Seduced a City and Captivated the Nation / Dean Jobb. In a time of unregulated madness, nowhere was it madder than in Chicago at the dawn of the Roaring Twenties. It was the perfect place for a slick, smooth-talking, charismatic lawyer named Leo Koretz to entice hundreds of people to invest as much as $30 million--upwards of $400 million today--in phantom timberland and nonexistent oil wells in Panama. It was an ingenious deceit, one that out-Ponzied Charles Ponzi himself.

A fall of marigolds / Susan Meissner. "September 1911. On Ellis Island in New York Harbor, nurse Clara Wood cannot face returning to Manhattan, where the man she loved fell to his death in the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. Then, while caring for a fevered immigrant whose own loss mirrors hers, she becomes intrigued by a name embroidered onto the scarf he carries...and finds herself caught in a dilemma that compels her to confront the truth about the assumptions she's made.

Finders Keepers / Stephen King. Wake up, genius." So begins King's instantly riveting story about a vengeful reader. The genius is John Rothstein, an iconic author who created a famous character, Jimmy Gold, but who hasn't published a book for decades. Morris Bellamy is livid, not just because Rothstein has stopped providing books, but because the nonconformist Jimmy Gold has sold out for a career in advertising. Morris kills Rothstein and empties his safe of cash, yes, but the real treasure is a trove of notebooks containing at least one more Gold novel.
God help the child / Toni Morrison. Sweetness, a light-skinned African American, never gave her dark-skinned daughter, Bride, her full love because of the hue of her skin. As an adult, Bride is beautiful and successful, but she has never overcome that childhood rejection, something Sweetness is only now coming to understand.

A god in ruins: a novel / Kate Atkinson. Kate Atkinson's dazzling Life After Life explored the possibility of infinite chances and the power of choices, following Ursula Todd as she lived through the turbulent events of the last century over and over again. A GOD IN RUINS tells the dramatic story of the 20th Century through Ursula's beloved younger brother Teddy--would-be poet, heroic pilot, husband, father, and grandfather--as he navigates the perils and progress of a rapidly changing world. After all that Teddy endures in battle, his greatest challenge is living in a future he never expected to have.

The Great War of Our Time --an insider's account of the CIA's fight against al Qu'Ida / Mike Morell. An unprecedented assessment of the CIA while at the forefront of our nation's war against al-Qa'ida and during the most remarkable period in the history of the Agency. Called the "Bob Gates of his generation," Michael Morell is a top CIA officer who saw it all--the only person with President Bush on 9/11/01 and with President Obama on 5/1/11 when Osama Bin Laden was brought to justice.

H is for hawk / Helen Macdonald. Explores the story of Helen Macdonald, who purchases Mabel, a goshawk, as she battles with the reality of losing her father, a falconer, and turns to T.H. White's book, 'The Goshawk', ready to embark on the business of trying to train the bird as a way of dealing with her grief.

In the unlikely event / Judy Blume. Thirty-five years after a series of airplane accidents rocked Elizabeth, New Jersey, Miri Ammerman returns to her hometown for an event commemorating the disasters, and finds herself surrounded by three generations of families, friends, and strangers whose lives were irrevocably altered by those events in the 1950s.
The ingenious Mr. Pyke --inventor, fugitive, spy / Henry Hemming. This is the extraordinary story of Geoffrey Pyke, an inventor, war reporter, escaped prisoner, campaigner, father, educator--and all-around misunderstood genius. In his day, he was described as one of the world's great minds, to rank alongside Einstein, yet he remains virtually unknown today. Pyke was an unlikely hero of both world wars and, among many other things, is seen today as the father of the US Special Forces.

Inside the O'Briens: a novel / Lisa Genova. Seasoned, respected Boston police officer Joe O'Brien discovers that he has Huntington's disease and that each of his four adult children have a fifty percent chance of inheriting it, and as they watch the disease progress in their father, the children must find the courage to live with a life at risk or to learn their fate.

It's a long story: my life / Willie Nelson with David Ritz. This is the unvarnished, complete story of Willie Nelson's life, told in his distinct voice and leaving no moment or experience unturned, from Texas and Nashville to Hawaii and his legendary bus. Having recently turned 80, Nelson is ready to shine on a light on all aspects of his life, including his drive to write music, the women in his life, his collaborations, and his biggest lows and highs-from his bankruptcy to the founding of Farm Aid.

Jack of Spades --a title of suspense / Joyce Carol Oates. A model family man and good citizen of his upscale New Jersey town, Andrew J. Rush has sold millions of copies worldwide of his 28 tastefully elegant mysteries. You'd think he wouldn't be caught dead reading the dark and lurid series penned by the pseudonymous Jack of Spades. But in fact he is the Jack of Spades, and when he's accused of plagiarism, upright Andrew starts thinking more like nasty Jack.

The Jezebel Remedy / Martin Clark. One character says it all: "Hired guns and secret formulas. Damn." On the other hand, that's not quite all there is to this fourth crime novel by Clark, who's also a Virginia circuit court judge. Certainly there's at least one secret formula at stake. But before all that happens, there's the matter of a cranky, tattooed, stray-animal-collecting recluse named Lettie VanSanding, who's found dead in a house fire set off by cooking crystal methamphetamine. Recommend this book to fans of Scott Turow and John Grisham, then don't be surprised when they come back looking for more.

The Last Bookaneer / Matthew Pearl. In the late 1800s, copyright laws were so lax that books could be published without the author's consent, as literary pirates called bookaneers haunted harbors, hangouts, and printers' shops in hopes of stealing a manuscript that would net them (and some lucky publisher) a fortune. With an international treaty looming to end this practice, two survivors of the trade compete for one last catch-a novel by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Last Man Off--a True Story of Disaster and Survival on the Antarctic Seas / Matt Lewis. There's nothing that armchair adventure lovers relish more than a gripping true story of disaster and heroism, and Last Man Off delivers all that against a breathtaking backdrop of icebergs and killer whales. On June 6, 1998, twenty-three-year-old Matt Lewis had just started his dream job as a scientific observer aboard a deep-sea fishing boat in the waters off Antarctica. As the crew hauled in the line for the day, a storm begins to brew. When the captain vanishes and they are forced to abandon ship, Lewis leads the escape onto three life rafts, where the battle for survival begins.

Leaving Berlin / Joseph Kanon. Called a "fast-moving thinking man's thriller" by The Wall Street Journal—comes a sweeping, atmospheric novel of postwar East Berlin, a city caught between political idealism and the harsh realities of Soviet occupation. Filled with intrigue, and the moral ambiguity of conflicted loyalties, Joseph Kanon's new novel is a compelling thriller and a love story that brings a shadowy period of history vividly to life.

The Life and Death of Sophie Stark / Anna North. A haunting story of fame, love, and legacy told through the propulsive rise of an iconoclastic artist. Sophie Stark begins her filmmaking career by creating a documentary about her obsession, Daniel, a college basketball star. But when she becomes too invasive, she finds herself the victim of a cruel retribution. The humiliation doesn't stop her. Visionary and unapologetic, Sophie begins to use stories from the lives of those around her to create movies, and as she gains critical recognition and acclaim, she risks betraying the one she loves most.
**The liar / Nora Roberts.** Devastated to learn that her unfaithful husband had actually married her using an alias, Shelby returns with her young daughter to her Tennessee hometown and pursues a new relationship before her husband's past poses dangerous threats.

**Little black lies / Sharon Bolton.** In such a small community as the Falkland Islands, a missing child is unheard of. In such a dangerous landscape it can only be a terrible tragedy, surely...When another child goes missing, and then a third, it's no longer possible to believe that their deaths were accidental, and the villagers must admit that there is a murderer among them. Even Catrin Quinn, a damaged woman living a reclusive life after the accidental deaths of her own two sons a few years ago, gets involved in the searches and the speculation.

**Lock in / John Scalzi.** Fifteen years from now, a new virus sweeps the globe. 95% of those afflicted experience nothing worse than fever and headaches. Four percent suffer acute meningitis, creating the largest medical crisis in history. And one percent find themselves "locked in"—fully awake and aware, but unable to move or respond to stimulus.

**Luckiest girl alive – a novel / Jessica Knoll.** With a singular voice and twists you won't see coming, *Luckiest Girl Alive* explores the unbearable pressure that so many women feel to "have it all" and introduces a heroine whose sharp edges and cutthroat ambition have been protecting a scandalous truth, and a heart that's bigger than it first appears. The question remains: will breaking her silence destroy all that she has worked for—or, will it at long last, set Ani free?

**A lucky life interrupted: a memoir of hope / Tom Brokaw.** Television journalist Tom Brokaw shares his experiences after he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in the summer of 2013.

**The Martian / Andy Weir.** Astronaut Mark Watney, having been stranded on Mars during a dust storm, relies on his ingenuity and engineering skills to stay alive and try to contact NASA. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

**Memory man / David Baldacci.** For a man who has total recall to forget a serial killer he disrespected could be deadly. It is a year after he found his wife and daughter murdered in their home, and the horrific night is still vividly seared into his mind. Time will never lessen the grief, because a blow to Decker's head two decades ago gave him a perfect memory. It is both a blessing and a curse. Now a man has come forward confessing to the murders. Did he do it?

**Missoul : rape and the justice system in a college town / Jon Krakauer.** The Department of Justice investigated 350 sexual assaults reported to the Missoula police between January 2008 and May 2012. Few of these assaults were properly handled by either the university or local authorities. Chronicles the... experiences of several women in Missoula -- the nights when they were raped; their fear and self-doubt in the aftermath; the way they were treated by the police, prosecutors, defense attorneys; the public vilification and private anguish; their bravery in pushing forward and what it cost them.

**Murder at Marble House : a gilded Newport mystery / Alyssa Maxwell.** With the dawn of the twentieth century on the horizon, the fortunes of the venerable Vanderbilt family still shine brightly in the glittering high society of Newport, Rhode Island. But when a potential scandal strikes, the Vanderbilts turn to cousin and society page reporter Emma Cross to solve a murder of a fortune teller and the disappearance of Consuelo Vanderbilt.
Pedro / Pedro Martinez. In Pedro we relive it all in Technicolor brightness, from his hardscrabble days in the minor leagues clawing for respect; to his early days in lonely Montreal, where he first struggled with the reputation of being a headhunter; to his legendary run with the Red Sox when start after start he dazzled with his pitching genius; to his twilight years on the mound as he put the finishing touches on a body of work that made him an icon.

The Patriot Threat / Steve Berry. Cotton Malone, a retired member of an elite intelligence division within the Justice Department, is asked by his former boss, Stephanie Nelle, to track a rogue North Korean who may have acquired some top secret Treasury Department files that suggest that the federal income tax is illegal, information that could bring the United States to its knees.

The nightingale / Kristin Hannah. Bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of WWII and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. The Nightingale tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

On the burning edge: a fateful fire and the men who fought it / Kyle Dickman. On June 28, 2013, a single bolt of lightning sparked an inferno that devoured more than eight thousand acres in northern Arizona. Twenty elite firefighters--the Granite Mountain Hotshots--walked together into the blaze, tools in their hands and fire shelters on their hips. Only one of them walked out.

One Mile Under -- A Ty Hauck Novel / Andrew Gross. When an old friend contacts Ty Hauck and says his daughter is in trouble, he doesn't hesitate to get involved. Together, the two step into a sinister scheme running deep beneath the surface of a quiet, Colorado town that has made a deal with the devil to survive. But in the square off between giant energy companies and beaten-down ranchers and farmers, one resource is even more valuable in this drought-stricken region than oil. They both will kill for it—water.

The road to character / David Brooks. Responding to what he calls the culture of the Big Me, which emphasizes external success, Brooks challenges us, and himself, to rebalance the scales between our "résumé virtues"—achieving wealth, fame, and status--and our "eulogy virtues," those that exist at the core of our being: kindness, bravery, honesty, or faithfulness, focusing on what kind of relationships we have formed.

Radiant Angel / Nelson DeMille. After a showdown with the notorious Yemeni terrorist known as The Panther, John Corey has left the Anti-Terrorist Task Force and returned home to New York City, taking a job with the Diplomatic Surveillance Group. Although Corey's new assignment with the DSG-surveilling Russian diplomats working at the U.N. Mission—is thought to be "a quiet end," he is more than happy to be out from under the thumb of the FBI and free from the bureaucracy of office life.

Pirate hunters: Treasure, obsession, and the search for a legendary pirate ship / Robert Kurson. "Pirate Hunters is a fantastic book, an utterly engrossing and satisfying read. It tells the story of the hunt for the rare wreck of a pirate ship, which had been captained by one of the most remarkable pirates in history. This is a real-life Treasure Island, complete with swashbuckling, half-crazy treasure hunters and vivid Caribbean settings--a story for the ages.

Natural born heroes: how a daring band of misfits mastered the lost secrets of strength and endurance / Christopher McDougall. Investigates how a small band of Resistance fighters on the island of Crete in World War 2 were able to abduct a German general while surrounded by German troops; discovers that techniques for extraordinary endurance, natural movement, and nutrition allowed the ancient Greek soldiers and Cretan shepherds to cross mountains on all-night missions; and provides inspiration for readers to leave the gym and take fitness routines to nature to climb, swim, skip, throw, and jump to heroic feats.
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<th>Title</th>
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<td><strong>Saint Mazie</strong></td>
<td>Jami Attenberg. Meet Mazie Phillips: big-hearted and bawdy, she's the truth-telling proprietress of The Venice, the famed New York City movie theater. It's the Jazz Age, with romance and booze aplenty—even when Prohibition kicks in—and Mazie never turns down a night on the town. But her high spirits mask a childhood rooted in poverty, and her diary, always close at hand, holds her dearest secrets.</td>
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<td><strong>The scarlet gospels</strong></td>
<td>Clive Barker. The long-beleaguered detective Harry D'Amour, investigator of all supernatural, magical, and malevolent crimes faces off against his formidable, and intensely evil rival, Pinhead, the priest of hell. Barker devotees have been waiting for <em>The Scarlet Gospels</em> with bated breath for years, and it's everything they've begged for and more. Bloody, terrifying, and brilliantly complex, fans and newcomers alike will not be disappointed by the epic, visionary tale that is <em>The Scarlet Gospels</em>. Barker's horror will make your worst nightmares seem like bedtime stories. The Gospels are coming. Are you ready?</td>
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<td><strong>Seveneves</strong></td>
<td>Neal Stephenson. Five thousand years after a catastrophic event rendered the Earth a ticking time bomb, the progeny of a handful of outer space explorers—seven distinct races now three billion strong—embark on yet another audacious journey: to return to Earth.</td>
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<td><strong>Something must be done about Prince Edward County—a family, a Virginia town, a Civil Rights battle</strong></td>
<td>Kristen Green. In the wake of the Supreme Court's unanimous <em>Brown v. Board of Education</em> decision, Virginia's Prince Edward County refused to obey the law. Rather than desegregate, the county closed its public schools, locking and chaining the doors. The community's white leaders quickly established a private academy, commandeering supplies from the shuttered public schools to use in their all-white classrooms. Meanwhile, black parents had few options: keep their kids at home, move across county lines, or send them to live with relatives in other states. For five years, the schools remained closed.</td>
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<td><strong>The soul of an octopus—a playful exploration into the wonder of consciousness</strong></td>
<td>Sy Montgomery. In this astonishing book from the author of the bestselling memoir <em>The Good Good Pig</em>, Sy Montgomery explores the emotional and physical world of the octopus—a surprisingly complex, intelligent, and spirited creature—and the remarkable connections it makes with humans.</td>
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<td><strong>A spool of blue thread</strong></td>
<td>Anne Tyler. The changing needs of aging parents impact a family gathering during which Abby Whitshank relates how her husband and she fell in love during the summer of 1959 and shares decades of marriage impacted by children and long-held secrets.</td>
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<td><strong>The storied life of A.J. Fikry</strong></td>
<td>Gabrielle Zevin. When his most prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, is stolen, bookstore owner A. J. Fikry begins isolating himself from his friends, family and associates before receiving a mysterious package that compels him to remake his life.</td>
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<td><strong>The Stranger</strong></td>
<td>Harlan Coben. Adam Price has a lot to lose: a comfortable marriage to a beautiful woman, two wonderful sons, and all the trappings of the American Dream: a big house, a good job, a seemingly perfect life. Then he runs into the Stranger. When he learns a devastating secret about his wife, Corinne, he confronts her, and the mirage of perfection disappears as if it never existed at all. Soon Adam finds himself tangled in something far darker than even Corinne's deception, and realizes that if he doesn't make exactly the right moves, the conspiracy he's stumbled into will not only ruin lives—it will end them.</td>
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<td><strong>The Swede</strong></td>
<td>Robert Kariel. A Swedish security agent is summoned to interrogate a terror suspect held by the FBI. In the process of uncovering the prisoner's true identity, Grip discovers the man's ties to a group of other suspects—a ruthless American arms dealer, a Czech hit man, a mysterious nurse from Kansas, and a heartbreakingly naive Pakistani. The closer Grip gets to the truth, the more complicated the deception becomes. Who is real and who is leading a double life?</td>
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The Wright brothers / David McCullough. Despite their achievement, the Wrights could not convince the US government to take an interest in their plane until after they demonstrated its success in France, where the government instantly understood the importance of their achievement. Now, in this revelatory book, master historian David McCullough draws on nearly 1,000 letters of family correspondence—plus diaries, notebooks, and family scrapbooks in the Library of Congress—to tell the full story of the Wright brothers and their heroic achievement.

The Turner house / Angela Flournoy. “The Turners have lived on Yarrow Street for over fifty years. Their house has seen thirteen children grown and gone—and some returned; it has seen the arrival of grandchildren, the fall of Detroit's East Side, and the loss of a father. The house still stands despite abandoned lots, an embattled city, and the inevitable shift outward to the suburbs. But now, as ailing matriarch Viola finds herself forced to leave her home and move in with her eldest son, the family discovers that the house is worth just a tenth of its mortgage. The Turner children are called home to decide its fate and to reckon with how each of their pasts haunts—and shapes—their family's future.

World gone by / Dennis Lehane. Working as a consigliere to the Bartolo crime family, traveling between Tampa and Cuba, former crime kingpin Joe Coughlin, who has everything — money, power, anonymity and a beautiful mistress — is forced to pay for his lifetime of sin when the dark truth of his past emerges.

The Visitors / Sally Beauman. Eleven-year-old Lucy becomes good friends with Frances, the daughter of an American Archeologist, in Egypt during the search for Tutankhamun's tomb. Their friendship sustains them through childhood and the class-ridden colonial society in which they grow up and as they reach adulthood it looks as if they will have a well fulfilled life until it veers toward heartbreak.

The water knife / Paolo Bacigalupi. The American Southwest has been decimated by drought. Nevada and Arizona skirmish over dwindling shares of the Colorado River, while California watches, deciding if it should just take the whole river for itself. Into the fray steps Las Vegas water knife Angel Velasquez. Detective, assassin, and spy, Angel "cuts" water for the Southern Nevada Water Authority and its boss, Catherine Case, ensuring that her lush, luxurious arcology developments can bloom in the desert and that anyone who challenges her is left in the gutted-suburban dust. When rumors of a game-changing water source surface in Phoenix, Angel is sent to investigate.

To the last breath : a memoir of going to extremes / Francis Slakey. Georgetown University physics professor Francis Slakey describes the rigidly scheduled and isolated existence he led before embarking on a life-risking effort to climb the world's highest mountains and surf every ocean.