Summer Reading 2012

American sniper: the autobiography of the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history by Kyle, Chris (Non-Fiction)

Recounts the life and military experiences of Chris Kyle, a U.S. Navy Seal, who recorded the most career sniper kills in United States military history, was so feared by Iraqi insurgents that they placed a bounty on his head, and presents an eye-witness account of war in Iraq, shares the strains of war on his marriage and family, and honors his fellow warriors.

Before the poison by Robinson, Peter

After his wife's death, Chris Lowndes, a composer, returns to Yorkshire where they grew up and buys a charming old mansion, but he soon learns that the former owner was supposedly poisoned by his wife in the 1950s and was hanged and the more he discovers about that past the more he believes that the wife was innocent.

Behind the beautiful forevers by Boo, Katherine (Non-Fiction)

From Pulitzer Prize-winner Boo comes a landmark work of narrative nonfiction that tells the dramatic and sometimes heartbreaking story of families in India striving toward a better life in one of the 21st century's great, unequal cities.
The big miss: my years coaching Tiger Woods by Haney, Hank (Non-Fiction)

Hank Haney’s account of his tumultuous six-year journey with Tiger Woods, during which the golfer collected six major championships and rewrote golf history.

Billy Lynn's long halftime walk by Fountain, Ben

A ferocious firefight with Iraqi insurgents has transformed the eight surviving men of Bravo Squad into America’s most sought-after heroes in this riotously funny and exquisitely heartbreaking portrait of our time.

Blood, bones & butter: the inadvertent education of a reluctant chef by Hamilton, Gabrielle (Non-Fiction)

A memoir in which Gabrielle Hamilton discusses her childhood, directionless youth, and her decision to open the Prune restaurant in New York’s East Village in spite of the fact that she had no previous experience as a chef.

The book of lost fragrances: a novel of suspense by Rose, M. J.

Jac and her brother have inherited the company along with its financial problems. But when her Robbie hints at an earth-shattering discovery in the family archives and then suddenly goes missing, Jac is plunged into a world she thought she had left behind.
The book whisperer: awakening the inner reader in every child by Miller, Donalyn (Non-Fiction)

Sixth grade teacher Donalyn Miller describes the instructional approach she uses to turn children into readers, based on a combination of individual choice, a program of independent reading, a collection of high-interest books, and appropriate and authentic reading behavior modeling.

Bring up the bodies: a novel by Mantel, Hilary

The sequel to Mantel's 2009 Man Booker Prize winner and "New York Times"-bestseller "Wolf Hall" delves into the heart of Tudor history with the downfall of Anne Boleyn.

Broken harbor by French, Tana

The mesmerizing fourth novel of the Dublin murder squad by New York Times bestselling author Tana French Mick "Scorcher" Kennedy, the brash cop from Tana French's bestselling Faithful Place, plays by the book and plays hard. That's what's made him the Murder squad's top detective-and that's what puts the biggest case of the year into his hands.

Buried in the sky: the extraordinary story of the Sherpa climbers on K2's deadliest day by Zuckerman, Peter (Non-Fiction)

In August 2008, when 11 climbers lost their lives on K2, the world's most dangerous peak, two Sherpas survived and are two of the most skillful mountaineers on earth.
The cat's table by Ondaatje, Michael

Michael, now an adult, recalls the three-week long sea voyage he took as a boy in the early 1950s to meet his mother. During the trip across the Indian Ocean the boy meets a variety of characters on board.

Catherine the Great: portrait of a woman by Massie, Robert K.

A biography of Russian empress Catherine the Great, discussing her childhood, her rise to the throne, the values and beliefs she used to guide her rule over Russia, contacts she had over the years, and more.

The crown by Bilyeau, Nancy

In this debut historical thriller, an aristocratic young nun must find a legendary crown in order to save her father's life and preserve all she holds dear from Cromwell's ruthless terror.

Cures for hunger --a memoir by Bechard, Deni Y (Non-Fiction)

At once an extraordinary family story and a highly unconventional portrait of the artist as a young man, this singular, deeply affecting memoir, is about Bechard's quest to uncover his father's past as a bank robber and the highs of living.
The dark monk: a hangman's daughter tale by Potzsch, Oliver

Traces the 1648 investigation by hangman Jakob Kuisl, his headstrong daughter and the town physician into the poisoning murder of a priest whose demise is precariously linked to the Crusades and the Knights Templar treasure.

Defending Jacob: a novel by Landay, William

When his 14-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student, assistant district attorney Andy Barber is torn between loyalty and justice as facts come to light that lead him to question how well he knows his own son.

Dream Team by McCallum, Jack (Non-Fiction)

They were the Beatles of basketball, the Mercury Seven in sneakers. In Dream Team, acclaimed sports journalist Jack McCallum delivers the untold story of the greatest team ever assembled: the 1992 U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team that captivated the world, kindled the hoop dreams of countless children around the planet, and remade the NBA into a global sensation.

The dressmaker of Khair Khana: five sisters, one remarkable family, and the woman who risked everything to keep them safe by Tzemach Lemmon, Gayle (Non-Fiction)

Recounts the true story of Kamila Sidiqi, a woman who was forced to support herself and her five siblings after the Taliban seized control of the city of Kabul and her father and brothers fled the country.
Drop dead healthy: one man's humble quest for bodily perfection by Jacobs, A.J.

A.J. Jacobs attempts to become the healthiest man in the world by trying a range of diets and exercise advice.

Eat & run: my unlikely journey to ultramarathon greatness by Jurek, Scott

Ultrarunner and star of "Born to Run," Jurek delivers an inspiring memoir of a remarkable running career, fueled, surprisingly, by an entirely plant-based diet.

Elizabeth the Queen: inside the life of a modern monarch by Smith, Sally Bedell

Chronicles the life of Queen Elizabeth II, discussing her childhood, education, royal responsibilities, marriage, family challenges, and the tragedy and traditions of her life. (Non-Fiction)

Fall from grace: a novel by Patterson, Richard North

After the death and funeral of his estranged father, CIA operative Adam Blaine is left to deal with his father's complicated legal and financial arrangements to settle his estate, which send Blaine on a quest to uncover his father's killer and leads him to suspect the involvement of members of his own family.
The flight of Gemma Hardy: a novel by Livesey, Margot

Gemma Hardy, an orphan originally from Iceland, sets out on a journey to escape her oppressive upbringing, and finds independence and love.

Fooling Houdini: magicians, mentalists, math geeks & the hidden powers of the mind by Stone, Alex (Non-Fiction)

A dazzling tour through the colorful world of magic and magicians in an exploration that probes the limits of perception, the mysteries of consciousness, the road to mastery, and the art of deception.

The gods of Gotham by Faye, Lyndsay

In 1845 New York City Timothy Wilde, a twenty-seven-year-old Irish immigrant, joins the newly formed NYPD and investigates an infanticide and the body of a twelve-year-old Irish boy whose spleen has been removed.

Gone girl: a novel by Flynn, Gillian

Golden boy Nick Dunne, brings his wife, Amy, back to his hometown on the Mississippi River where she is miserable and on their fifth wedding anniversary she disappears, and soon Nick finds himself lying, being deceitful, and acting inappropriately but continues to claim his innocence with his twin sister at his side.
**Gone Missing** by Castillo, Linda

Chief of police Kate Burkholder is called to find a young teen who disappeared during Rumspringa, but when the search turns up a dead body, Kate and state agent John Tomasetti must find a murderer, and, after delving into the life of the teen, they discover links to cold cases that may go back years.

**The good father** by Hawley, Noah

Dr. Paul Allen searches for the truth after his estranged son is blamed for shooting of the Democratic candidate for president, overwhelmed by guilt for his failed marriage and neglect for his son he can believe that his son is the shooter.

**Guitar zero: the new musician and the science of learning** by Marcus, Gary F.

On the eve of his 40th birthday, a professor of no discernible musical talent earns to play the guitar and investigates how anyone of any age might master a new skill. (Non-Fiction)

**The hangman's daughter** by Potzsch, Oliver

Hangman Jakob Kuisl is called upon to investigate when a dying boy is pulled from the river in 1659 with a mark crudely tattooed on his shoulder, and with rumors of witchcraft fueling a mounting hysteria in the small Bavarian town of Schongau, Kuisl rushes to find the culprit before he is forced to execute the very woman who aided in the birth of his children.
The happiness project, or, why I spent a year trying to sing in the morning, clean my closets, fight right, read Aristotle, and generally have more fun by Rubin, Gretchen Craft (Non-Fiction)

Gretchen Rubin chronicles her year-long happiness project, during which she drew on scientific research, ancient wisdom, and lessons from popular culture to find the key to true happiness.

The hare with amber eyes: a family's century of art and loss by De Waal, Edmund (Non-Fiction)

Recounts the history of the Ephrussis family during the tumultuous events of the twentieth century, intertwined with the story behind a collection of netsuke that was smuggled away by a loyal maid when family members were imprisoned or scattered and their books are art were confiscated by Nazis.

Imagine: how creativity works by Lehrer, Jonah (Non-Fiction)

Discusses the science behind creativity and how it can be used to make cities, companies, and culture more creative.
The invisible ones by Penney, Stef  Hovering between paralysis and delirium in a hospital bed, half-Romany private investigator Ray Lovell evaluates a case involving the missing wife of a charismatic traveling Gypsy whose hostile family is hiding a tragic secret.

Iron house by Hart, John
Michael, an enforcer for a New York organized crime family who fled the Iron Mountain Home for Boys after taking the blame for the murder of another orphan, falls in love with Elena and wishes he can start a new life and build a family with her, but the past and brother he left behind, as well as the vengeful son of the mob boss for whom he works, threaten his chance at happiness and he must confront them in order to have a future with Elena.

Killing Lincoln: the shocking assassination that changed America forever by O'Reilly, Bill (Non-Fiction)
Provides an account of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, discussing how actor John Wilkes Booth and his fellow Confederate sympathizers hatched their murderous plot, and following the ensuing manhunt, trials, and executions of the conspirators.

The language of flowers: a novel by Diffenbaugh, Vanessa
Eighteen-year-old Victoria Jones, having been emancipated from the foster care system and planted a flower garden in the park in which she slept, is hired to work for a local florist, and, after meeting a mysterious vendor at the flower market, she is forced to confront her past and decide what she wants for her future.
The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection by McCall Smith, Alexander

Private investigator Precious Ramotswe is called in to tackle a mysterious disciplinary problem at her adopted daughter's school, and her assistant, Grace Makutsi, is having trouble adjusting to married life, but the agency receives a surprise when Clovis Andersen, author of The Principles of Private Investigation—the No. 1 Ladies' prized manual—arrives on a case of his own.

Lots of candles, plenty of cake by Quindlen, Anna (Non-Fiction)

Bestselling author Anna Quindlen writes about her life and the lives of women today, looking back and ahead—and celebrating it all—as she considers marriage, girlfriends, mothers, faith, loss, all that stuff in closets, and more.

Moloka'i by Brennert, Alan

Rachel Kalama, forcibly removed from her idyllic Honolulu home in the 1890s when it is discovered she has leprosy, grows up in the isolated leper colony on the island of Moloka'i where she forms a family of friends, and meets the man who will one day become her husband.

My dyslexia by Schultz, Philip (Non-Fiction)

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Philip Schultz shares his experiences as a dyslexic and discusses how he was able to overcome the disability.
The newlyweds: a novel by Freudenberger, Nell

Amina grew up in Bangladesh and her family always dreamed of sending her to the United States. She gets her chance when she meets George, an engineer in Rochester, NY, on an online dating site. As Amina adjusts to married life with the kind but somewhat rigid George, she slowly assimilates to American culture while planning to bring her parents to Rochester. Family feuds in Bangladesh, a rough patch in her marriage, and the economic downturn put this plan in jeopardy.

One breath away by Gudenkauf, Heather

In the midst of a sudden spring snowstorm, an unknown man armed with a gun walks into an elementary school classroom. Outside the school, the town of Broken Branch watches and waits. Officer Meg Barrett holds the responsibility for the town's children in her hands. As tension mounts with each passing minute, the hidden fears and grudges of the small town are revealed as the people of Broken Branch race to uncover the identity of the stranger who holds their children hostage.

The orphan master's son: a novel by Johnson, Adam

Son of an influential father, Pak Jun Do rises through the ranks in North Korea to a life of espionage, kidnapping, and torture, and eventually falls for the dictator's favorite actress.
The power of habit: why we do what we do in life and business by Charles Duhigg, Charles (Non-Fiction)

Charles Duhigg, business reporter for the "New York Times," discusses the science behind habits and explains how habits work, why they exist, and how a person can endeavor to change their nature.

Rogues and redeemers: when politics was king in Irish Boston by Gerard O'Neill, Gerard O'Neill (Non-Fiction)

A behind-the-scenes portrait of the Irish power brokers who influenced twentieth-century Boston, including Honey Fitz, Rascal King, Michael Curley, and Kevin White.

Service: a Navy SEAL at war by Marcus Luttrell, Marcus Luttrell (Non-Fiction)

American Navy SEAL and team leader Marcus Luttrell continues his story of recuperating from his mission in Afghanistan and returning to battle field in Iraq as part of SEAL Team 5.

Shadow of night by Deborah E. Harkness, Deborah E. Harkness

Diana Bishop, an Oxford scholar and reluctant witch, and Matthew Clairmont, an vampire geneticist, are in the center of the battle over an enchanted manuscript when they are unexpectedly sent on a dangerous journey together.
The shoemaker's wife: a novel by Trigiani, Adriana

Enza and Ciro meet as teenagers despite growing up in villages just a few miles apart in the Italian Alps. When Ciro catches the local priest in a scandal, he is banished from his village and sent to hide in America, leaving behind a bereft Enza. Unbeknownst to one another, they both build lives in America, until fate intervenes and reunites them, but not before Ciro has volunteered to serve in World War I.

The snow child: a novel by Ivey, Eowyn

Homesteaders Jack and Mabel struggle to survive in the harsh Alaskan wilderness, but the couple's quiet life of hard work and routine suddenly changes when a small girl named Faina magically appears on their doorstep.

State of wonder by Patchett, Ann

Dr. Marina Singh, a research scientist with a Minnesota-based pharmaceutical company, is sent to Brazil after the death of her friend and colleague, to take up his mission of finding Dr. Annick Swenson, a ruthless woman, now in her seventies, who has been conducting research among the Lakashi tribe on a reputed miracle drug, and refuses to let anything stand in her way.
**Steve Jobs** by Isaacson, Walter  (Non-Fiction)

A biography of Steve Jobs, focusing on his intense personality and creative success as the founder of Apple, based on interviews with Jobs and more than a hundred, friends, family, and colleagues.

**The tiger's wife: a novel** by Obreht, Tea

Natalia, a young doctor on a medical mission to an orphanage in the Balkans, ponders the mystery of her beloved grandfather's recent death. She finds the answers she seeks in the story of an abused deaf-mute woman in the village of his childhood who formed a bond with a tiger that escaped from the zoo following the German bombardment in 1941.

**The underside of joy** by Halverson, Sere Prince

After Joe is killed in the Pacific Ocean, his wife, Ella Beene, struggles to keep the children she helped raise when the children's birth mother arrives challenging the belief that she had abandoned the children.

**The weird sisters** by Brown, Eleanor

Three estranged sisters are surprised when they all show up at their childhood home, each hoping to spend time with and help care for their ailing mother while they escape their own troubles, and as the sisters struggle to find common ground they each come to realizations about their sisterhood and the small town they all sought to leave as children.
When she woke: a novel by Jordan, Hillary

Hannah Payne has devoted her life to her church and family, but when she is accused of murdering her unborn child and turned into a Chrome, transplanted into a new body that matches the color classification of her crime—red for murder—and left in a bare room where cameras broadcast her every move to the public for their entertainment, Hannah vows to protect the identity of her child's father, a public figure who would be ruined if their affair is revealed.

Wild: from lost to found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Strayed, Cheryl (Non-Fiction)

Cheryl Strayed recounts the impact of her mother's death on her life at age twenty-two and chronicles her experiences after she made the impulsive decision to hike the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert all the way into Washington State.

You had me at woof: how dogs taught me the secrets of happiness by Klam, Julie (Non-Fiction)

Julie Klam tells the story of how her search for love came in the form of Otto, a Boston terrier who taught her what she needed to know about relationships, and discusses the role of terriers in her family after she married and had a daughter.

*Annotations are from www.titlewave.com

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