

Laura's Recommended Reading for Summer 2019 and Other Mental
Vacations (43rd – and final – edition)

“First, there has to be quiet about us, peace within us; then we are ready for them. Of an evening, on an evening returning home from tiresome errands; some day at noon when he is weary of his fellow men; in the morning when one is cloudily half-awake after dream-laden sleep—only then is one ready for books.”

--John David Marshall, *Of, By, and For Librarians: Further Contributions to Literature*

THE ALL-STAR TEAM

Tara Westover, *Educated* (memoir of surviving isolation, fanaticism, violence to gain an education that transforms her)

Amor Towles, *A Gentleman in Moscow* (house arrest in a grand hotel leads a man into imagination, loves on many levels, and purpose)

Min Jin Lee, *Pachinko* (Korean immigrants in 20thc Japan)

Tan Twan Eng, *The Garden of Evening Mists* (Malaya post-WWII)

Leif Enger, *Virgil Wander* (Midwestern man and town revive themselves)

Rachel Joyce, *The Music Shop* (music shop owner connects customers with just what they need)

Sue Monk Kidd, *The Invention of Wings* (historical fiction: abolitionist/suffragette and slave narrate)

Louise Penny, *Kingdom of the Blind* (Gamache series)

Robin Oliveira, *My Name is Mary Sutter* (Civil War midwife/surgeon)

“She has always been an unashamed reader of novels.”

--Barbara Pym, *Quartet in Autumn*

OTHER GOOD FICTION

Anne Tyler, *Clock Dance* (woman's choices through the decades)

Bill Richardson, *Bachelor Brothers' Bed & Breakfast* (epistolary novel)

Kate Quinn, *The Huntress* (WWII war criminals)

Alexander McCall Smith, *Emma: A Modern Retelling* (Austen based)

Theodora Goss, *The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter* (19thc. characters meet)

“We read to know we are not alone.”

--C.S. Lewis

MYSTERIES

Robert Galbraith (JK Rowling), *Lethal White* (Cormoran Strike #4)

Ausma Zehanat Khan, *The Unquiet Dead* (Muslim values and a crime linked to the Srebrenica massacre of 1995)

Dorothy Sayers, *Strong Poison* (1930. I'm rereading Lord Peter in order)

Alan Bradley, *The Golden Tresses of the Dead* (Flavia de Luce series)

Jacqueline Winspear, *The American Agent* (Maisie Dobbs)

Craig Johnson, *The Cold Dish* (Walt Longmire)
Abir Mukherjee, *The Rising Man* (Calcutta, 1919)
G.M. Malliet, *Wicked Autumn* (English vicar/former MI5); *Fatal Winter* (#2)
Ann Cleeves, *Raven Black* (Shetland Islands)
Andrew Shaffer, *Hope Never Dies* (Obama/Biden mystery)
Cara Black, *Murder in the Marais* (Paris with Holocaust backstory)
Jeffrey Deaver, *The Cutting Edge* (Lincoln Rhyme series)
David Baldacci, *The Camel Club* (#1 in series)
Sara Blaedel, *Forgotten Girls* (Denmark. Louise Ricks series)
Sabrina Flynn, *From the Ashes: A Ravenwood Mystery* (San Francisco, 1899)
Naomi Hirahara, *Strawberry Yellow* (California with Hiroshima backstory)
JA Jance, *Field of Bones: A Brady Novel of Suspense*
Steph Cha, *Follow Her Home* (Juniper Song #1)
Margaret Frazer, *The Novice's Tale* (Medieval)
Susan Elia MacNeal, *The Prisoner in the Castle* (Maggie Hope)
Catherine Lloyd, *Death Comes to the Village* (Kurland St. Mary #1); *Death Comes to London* (#2); *Death Comes to Kurland Hall* (#3); *Death Comes to the Fair* (#4); *Death Comes to the School* (#5); *Death Comes to Bath* (#6)
Mark Stevens, *Lake of Fire* (forest fire)
Shelley Freydon, *A Gilded Grave* (Newport. Gilded Age)
Anna Katherine Green, *That Affair Next Door* (1897)
Janet Evanovich, *Look live Twenty-Five* (Stephanie Plum)

“...in detective stories virtue is always triumphant. They're the purest literature we have.”

--Lord Peter Wimsey, in Dorothy Sayers, *Strong Poison*

NON-FICTION

Kate Moore, *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women*
(radium poisoning backstories and trials)
Jim McKean, *Bound* (essays about the women in his life)
Maryanne Wolf, *Reader, Come Home: The Reading Brain in a Digital World*
Lent and Easter Wisdom from Henri J. M. Nouwen, compiled by Judy Bauer

POETRY

Mary Oliver, *Why I Wake Early* (note “Breakage”)
Cathy Bobb, *Among the Missing*

“she will not be alone.
She will have a book to open
And open and open.
Her life starts here.”

--Naomi Shihab Nye, from “Because of Libraries We Can Say These Things”