

MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

# ADULT SUMMER READING BOOKLIST

ADVENTURE  
— BEGINS AT —  
YOUR LIBRARY.



All fiction and nonfiction titles listed are available at libraries in the Monroe County Library System.



# ADULT SUMMER READING BOOKLIST



Monroe County  
Library System  
[www.libraryweb.org](http://www.libraryweb.org)



Prepared by the Adult Services Librarians of Monroe County  
2024

# ADULT SUMMER READING BOOKLIST

## Adventure Starts at your local MCLS Member Library

### Alternate format definitions:

**BOCD:** book on CD

**ebook:** electronic book

**eAudiobook:** electronic audiobook

**LP:** large print

**Playaway:** portable preloaded audiobook device

## Fiction

### **Jackal**

by Erin E. Adams

2023; Book, Large Print, eBook, eAudiobook

A young Black girl goes missing in the woods outside her white rust belt town. But she's not the first, and she may not be the last.

### **The Storyteller's Death**

by Ann Dávila Cardinal

2022; Book

Isla Larsen Sanchez's life begins to unravel when her father passes away. Instead of being comforted at home in New Jersey, her mother starts leaving her in Puerto Rico with her grandmother and great-aunt each summer like a piece of forgotten luggage. When Isla turns eighteen, her grandmother, a great storyteller, dies. It is then that Isla discovers she has a gift passed down through her family's *cuentistas*.

### **Trust**

by Hernan Diaz

2022; Book, LP, eBook, eAudiobook

In glamorous 1920s New York City, two characters of sophisticated taste come together. One is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; the other is the brilliant daughter of penniless aristocrats. Steeped in affluence and grandeur, their marriage excites gossip and allows a continued ascent, all when the country is undergoing a great transformation.

### **The Plant Hunter: A Scientist's Quest for Nature's Next Medicines**

by Cassandra Leah Quave

2021; Book

Plants are the basis for an array of lifesaving and health-improving medicines we all now take for granted. Filled with grit, tragedy, triumph, awe, and scientific discovery, *Plant Hunter* illuminates how the path forward for medical discovery may be found in nature's oldest remedies.

### **The Pride Atlas: 500 Iconic Destinations for Queer Travelers**

by Maartje Hensen

2023; Book

Whether you're looking for relaxation, romance, or adventure, *The Pride Atlas* will help you plan your next gaycation.

### **The Sun is a Compass: A 4,000-mile Journey Into the Alaskan Wilds**

by Caroline Van Hemert

2019; Book

For fans of Cheryl Strayed, *The Sun* is the gripping story of a biologist's human-powered journey from the Pacific Northwest to the Arctic to rediscover her love of birds, nature, and adventure.

### **The Time Traveler's Guide to Elizabethan England**

by Ian Mortimer

2013; Book

Organized as a travel guide for the time-hopping tourist, Mortimer relates in delightful (and occasionally disturbing) detail everything from the sounds and smells of 16<sup>th</sup>-century England to the complex and contradictory attitudes toward violence, class, sex, and religion.

### **To Boldly Grow: Finding Joy, Adventure, and Dinner in Your Own Backyard**

by Tamar Haspel

2022; Book, eAudiobook

Journalist and self-proclaimed "crappy gardener" Haspel is on a mission: to show us that raising or gathering our own food is not as hard as it's often made out to be. Journey alongside Haspel as she goes from cluelessness to competence in the garden.

### **The Trauma Cleaner: One Woman's Extraordinary Life in the Business of Death, Decay, and Disaster**

by Sarah Krasnostein

2018; Book

The true story of an extraordinary person dedicated to making order out of chaos with compassion; revealing the common ground Sandra Pankhurst—and everyone—shares with those struck by tragedy.



### **Into the Planet: My Life as a Cave Diver**

by Jill Heinerth

2019; Book, eBook, BOCD, eAudiobook

From one of the worlds most renowned cave divers, a first-hand account of exploring the earth's final frontier: the hidden depths of our oceans and the sunken caves beneath our planet.

### **Kingdom of Lies: Unnerving Adventures in the World of Cybercrime**

by Kate Fazzini

2019; Book, eAudiobook

Follow the intertwined stories of cybercriminals and ethical hackers as they jump from criminal trend to criminal trend, crisis to crisis. A cybersecurity professional turned journalist, Fazzini illuminates the many lies companies and governments tell us about our security, the lies criminals tell to get ahead, and the lies security leaders tell to make us think they are better at their jobs than they are.

### **Ms. Adventure: My Wild Explorations in Science, Lava, and Life**

by Jess Phoenix

2021; Book, eBook

*Ms. Adventure* tells the story of Jess Phoenix's extraordinary career in geology—and how the barriers she faced along the way inspired her to advocate for more diversity in science.

### **Nerd: Adventures in Fandom from this Universe to the Multiverse**

by Maya Phillips

2022; Book

Spanning from the nineties through to today, *Nerd* is a collection of cultural criticism essays through the lens of fandom for everyone from the casual Marvel movie watcher to the hardcore Star Wars expanded universe connoisseur.

### **No Stopping Us Now: The Adventures of Older Women in American History**

by Gail Collins

2019; Book, LP, BOCD

In her lively social history of American women and aging, acclaimed *New York Times* columnist Gail Collins illustrates the ways in which age is an arbitrary concept that has swung back and forth over the centuries.

### **Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void**

by Mary Roach

2010; Book, eBook, BOCD

The best-selling author of *Stiff* and *Bonk* explores the irresistibly strange universe of space travel and life without gravity.

### **Scorched Grace**

by Margot Douaihy

2023; Book

When Saint Sebastian's School becomes the target of a shocking arson spree, the Sisters of the Sublime Blood and their surrounding New Orleans community are thrust into chaos.

### **The Villa**

by Rachel Hawkins

2023; Book, LP, BOCD, Playaway, eBook, eAudiobook

From the *New York Times* bestselling author Rachel Hawkins comes a deliciously wicked new gothic suspense, set at an Italian villa with a dark history, for fans of Lucy Foley and Ruth Ware.

### **People We Meet on Vacation**

by Emily Henry

2021; Book, LP, eBook, eAudiobook

Poppy and Alex. Alex and Poppy. They have nothing in common.

And somehow, they are the best of friends. For most of the year they

live far apart, but every summer, for a decade, they have taken one

glorious week of vacation together. Until two years ago, when they

ruined everything.

### **A Death in Tokyo**

by Keigo Higashino

2023; Book, BOCD, eBook, eAudiobook

Tokyo Police Detective Kyoichiro Kaga must discover the connection between a murder victim whose body was moved and a car crash victim found with the victim's wallet.

### **I Have Some Questions for You**

by Rebecca Makkai

2023; Book, LP, Playaway, eBook, eAudiobook

Part boarding school drama, part forensic whodunit, *I Have Some Questions for You* is a true literary mystery, haunting and hard to put down." —Jennifer Egan, author of *Candy House*

### **A World of Curiosities**

by Louise Penny

2023; Book, LP, BOCD, Playaway, eBook, eAudiobook

It's spring and Three Pines is reemerging after the harsh winter.

But not everything buried should come alive again. Not everything lying

dormant should reemerge.

**The Resemblance**  
by Lauren Nossett  
2023; Book

Lauren Nossett's artfully written debut is an exhilarating, atmospheric campus thriller reminiscent of *If We Were Villains* and *The Likeness*.

**Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers**

by Jesse Q. Sutanto

2023; Book, LP, eBook, eAudiobook

A lonely shopkeeper takes it upon herself to solve a murder in the most peculiar way in this captivating mystery by Jesse Q. Sutanto, bestselling author of *Dial A for Aunties*.

**The Dead Take the A Train**

by Cassandra Khaw and Richard Kadrey

2023; Book, eBook, eAudiobook

Bestselling authors Cassandra Khaw and Richard Kadrey have teamed up to deliver a dark new story with magic, monsters, and mayhem, perfect for fans of Neil Gaiman and Joe Hill. The first explosive adventure in the *Carriion City Duology*, *The Dead Take the A Train* fuses Cassandra Khaw's cosmic horror and Richard Kadrey's gritty fantasy into a full-throttle thrill ride straight into New York's magical underbelly.

**Americanah**

by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

2013; Book, LP, eBook, BOCD, eAudiobook

Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be Black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London.

**The Great Divide**

by Cristina Henríquez

2024; Book, LP, eBook

A powerful novel about the construction of the Panama Canal, casting light on the unsung people who lived, loved, and labored there. Searing and empathetic, *The Great Divide* explores the intersecting lives of activists, fishmongers, laborers, journalists, neighbors, doctors, and soothsayers—those rarely acknowledged by history even as they carved out its course.

**Bicycling With Butterflies: My 10,201-mile Journey Following the Monarch Migration**

by Sara Dykman

2021; Book, eAudiobook

Science, nature, and adventure come together in Sara Dykman's riveting account of a solo bike trip along the 10,201 mile-long migratory path of the monarch butterfly.

**Birdgirl: Looking to the Skies in Search of a Better Future**

by Mya-Rose Craig

2023; Book, eAudiobook

*Birdgirl* follows Mya-Rose and her family as they travel the world in search of rare birds and astonishing landscapes. But a shadow moves with them, too—her mother's deepening mental health crisis. In the face of this struggle, the Craigs turn to nature again and again for comfort and meaning.

**Brave the Wild River: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon**

by Melissa L. Sevigny

2023; Book, LP, eBook

The riveting tale of two pioneering botanists and their historic boat trip down the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon.

**Dogtripping: 25 Rescues, 11 Volunteers, and 3 RVs on Our Canine Cross-country Adventure**

by David Rosenfelt

2013; Book, LP, BOCD, eAudiobook

Moving his family from California to Maine, mystery writer David Rosenfelt tried to prepare for everything. They brought three GPSs, refrigerators full of food, and volunteers for help. But traveling in three RVs with twenty-five dogs turned out to be a bigger ordeal than he anticipated.

**Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail**

by Ben Montgomery

2014; Book, eBook, BOCD, eAudiobook

The story of Grandma Gatewood will inspire listeners of all ages by illustrating the full power of human spirit and determination, and answer the question so many have asked: Why did she do it?

**Anansi's Gold: The Man Who Looted the West, Outfoxed Washington, and Swindled the World**

by Yepoka Yeebo  
2023; Book, eBook

The astounding, never-before-told story of how an audacious Ghanaian con artist, John Ackah Blay-Miezah, pulled off one of the 20th century's longest-running and most spectacular frauds. When Ghana won its independence from Britain in 1957, it instantly became a target for home-grown opportunists and rapacious Western interests determined to snatch any assets that colonialism hadn't already stripped. A CIA-funded military junta ousted the new nation's inspiring president, Kwame Nkrumah, then falsely accused him of hiding the country's gold overseas. Into this big lie stepped one of history's most charismatic scammers, a con man to rival the trickster god Anansi.

**The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder**

by David Grann

2023; Book, LP, BOCD, Playaway, eBook, eAudiobook

A page-turning story of shipwreck, survival, and savagery, culminating in a court martial that reveals a shocking truth. The powerful narrative reveals the deeper meaning of the events on *The Wager*, showing that it was not only the captain and crew who ended up on trial, but the very idea of empire.

**22 Accessible Road Trips: Driving Vacations for Wheelers and Slow Walkers**

by Candy Harrington  
2012; Book

Contains useful and detailed information about accessible travel, aimed at those who use wheelchairs, walkers, or just have mobility issues.

**Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience**

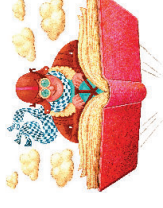
by Brené Brown  
2021; Book, LP, eBook, BOCD, eAudiobook

In *Atlas of the Heart*, Brown takes us on a journey through eighty-seven of the emotions and experiences that define what it means to be human. As she maps the necessary skills and an actionable framework for meaningful connection, she gives us the language and tools to access a universe of new choices and second chances—a universe where we can share and steward the stories of our bravest and most heartbreaking moments with one another in a way that builds connection.

**Here Comes the Sun**

by Nicole Dennis-Benn  
2016; Book, LP, BOCD

A cast of unforgettable women battle for independence while a maelstrom of change threatens their Jamaican village. Capturing the distinct rhythms of Jamaican life and dialect, Nicole Dennis-Benn pens a tender hymn to a world hidden among pristine beaches and the wide expanse of turquoise seas.



**Non-Fiction**

**Spirit Run: A 6,000-Mile Marathon Through North America's Stolen Land**

by Noé Álvarez

2020; Book, eBook, eAudiobook

For fans of Christopher McDougall's *Born to Run*, *Spirit Run* is an electrifying debut memoir of a son of Mexican immigrants who fled a life of labor in fruit-packing plant to run in a Native American marathon from Canada to Guatemala, challenging himself to reimagine North America and his place in it.

**The Power of Scenery: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Origin of National Parks**

by Dennis Drabelle

2021; Book, eBook

*The Power of Scenery* tells the story of how the world's national parks came to be, with Frederick Law Olmsted's insights and energy serving to link three American jewels: Yosemite National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and Niagara Falls State Park.

**Airplane Mode: An irreverent History of Travel**

by Shahnaz Habib

2023; Book

This witty personal and cultural history of travel from the perspective of a third world-raised woman of color, *Airplane Mode* asks: "What does it mean to be a joyous traveler when we live in the ruins of colonialism, capitalism and climate change?"

**The Catch Me If You Can: One Woman's Journey to Every Country in the World**  
by Jessica Nabongo  
2022; Book, eBook, eAudiobook  
In this inspiring travelogue, celebrated traveler and photographer Jessica Nabongo, the first documented Black woman to visit all 195 countries in the world, shares her journey around the globe with fascinating stories of adventure, culture, travel musts, and human connections.

**Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir by One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII**  
by Chester Nez, and illustrated by Judith Schiess Avila  
2012; Book

Chester Nez, the only surviving member of the original twenty-nine Navajo code talkers, shares the fascinating inside story of his life and service during World War II.

**Outdoor Kids in an Inside World**  
by Steven Rinella  
2022; Book  
Here, outdoors expert Steven Rinella shares the parenting wisdom he has garnered as a father whose family has lived amid the biggest cities and wildest corners of America. Throughout, he offers practical advice for getting kids radically engaged with nature in a muddy, thrilling, hands-on way, with the ultimate goal of helping them see their own place within the natural ecosystem.

**Make Thrift Mend**  
by Katrina Rodabaugh  
2021; Book, eBook  
Join the sustainable fashion movement and make mending, stitching, and plant-dyeing your wardrobe acts of resilience, joy, and hope for the future.

**National Geographic Photo Basics: The Ultimate Beginner's Guide to Great Photography**  
by Joel Sartore  
2019; Book  
This fun, easy how-to guide reveals the essentials of taking great pictures from an experienced *National Geographic* photographer.

**Sigh, Gone: A Misfit's Memoir of Great Books, Punk Rock, and the Fight to Fit In**  
by Phuc Tran  
2020; Book, eAudiobook  
A portrait of a young punk refugee and of heartland America itself, each of them as defiant and compelling as the other.

**100 Things to Do in Rochester Before You Die**  
by Robin Flanigan  
2023; Book

Take your own tour of this affordable, accessible gem with *100 Things to Do in Rochester Before You Die*, a local's lowdown on what makes this place so remarkable no matter the month or weather.

**Day Trips Around Rochester, New York: Your Guide to Exploring within Two Hours of Rochester and the Finger Lakes Region**  
by Debi Bower  
2023; Book, eBook  
Find hundreds of easy day trips within two hours of Rochester. Explore the beauty and hidden gems of the Rochester, New York, area with local travel expert Debi Bower.

**100 Ways to Change Your Life: The Science of Leveling Up Health, Happiness, Relationships & Success**  
by Liz Moody  
2023; Book  
Veteran journalist Liz Moody translates her years of experience interviewing the world's leading doctors, scientists, and thinkers into a smart, choose-your-own-adventure-style read that offers concrete solutions to some of life's biggest hurdles—physical, mental, emotional, or otherwise.

**The Rebel's Clinic: The Revolutionary Lives of Frantz Fanon**  
by Adam Shatz  
2024; Book  
In the era of "Black Lives Matter", Frantz Fanon's shadow looms larger than ever. He was the intellectual activist of the postcolonial era and his writings about race, revolution, and the psychology of power continue to shape radical movements across the world. In this searching biography, Adam Shatz tells the story of Fanon's stunning journey, which has all the twists of a Cold War-era thriller.