

July 2018 Staff Picks

Eileen



The Guest Cottage by Nancy Thayer

The Guest Cottage was my introduction to the wonderful world of Nantucket summer fiction. You get all the amazing descriptions of the play places of the wealth and semi-wealthy. I could almost take you on a tour! Sophie Anderson is on an island for the summer with her two teenagers, contemplating divorce. Trevor Black and his young son are mourning the loss of wife and mother. Sophie and Trevor have accidentally rented the same house. As the summer goes on, they wonder if a guest cottage is all they want to share.

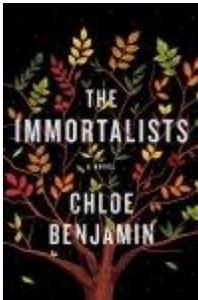
Katherine



Death Watch by Ari Berk

After his father's sudden disappearance, Silas is forced to take on his role as an Undertaker, with the responsibility of bringing peace to dead souls still trapped on Earth. This entrancing YA novel is both fantasy and mystery: Silas has many secrets to uncover about his father's work and disappearance. Creepy and beautiful, this is recommended for those who want to get lost in a dark, magical world.

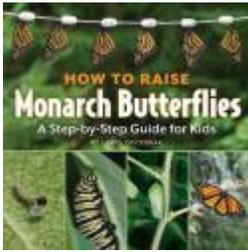
Sarah



The Immortalists by Chloe Benjamin

If you were told the date of your death, what would you do with your life? Set in 1969 New York, the Gold Children are coming of age and have heard rumor of a fortune teller who can tell anyone the date of their death, so the siblings sneak out and seek their fortunes. Years later, they have traversed life into adulthood but the memory of their shared secret and what was said still haunts them. In alternating chapters their lives, choices, and fortunes play out. Will they be able to change what was predicted for them? Can they save each other? A moving exploration of beliefs, familial bonds, and love spanning the backdrop of decades of social change.

Cheryl



How to Raise Monarch Butterflies by Carol Pasternak

Wings aflutter, I delight in the seemingly carefree flight of the butterfly in the garden. She pauses from flower to flower, in search of the most flavorful nectar. Her time with us is limited to a brief few weeks, but her beauty in the garden is majestic and magical.

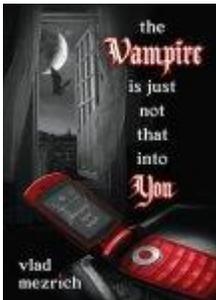
I am reminded of the many butterfly releases I have enjoyed with children over the years, and wanted to bring this book to mind. It is a delightful and informative book that teaches young and old how to raise Monarch

Butterflies. In New Hampshire it is the late summer generation of Monarchs that hatches in September and October, and prepares for its migration to Mexico, a place it has never been. Such is the wonder of nature!

For young and old, from searching for the milkweed plants, to the awe of the hatch and release, this experience is a most memorable family experience, and will delight all.

If this book ignites your interests (and I hope it does) you may want to mark the following on your calendar: The 6th Annual Monarch Festival will be held on 9/8/18, rain or shine, at Petals in the Pines in nearby Canterbury. A great family event!

Elizabeth



The Vampire is Just Not That into You by Vlad Mezrich

The Vampire is Just Not That into You is a ridiculous and comical read made from the sort of joining of “He’s Just Not into You” and “Twilight” with a quiz book format twist. It’s full of all of the ever important do’s and don’ts of dating a vampire, and has guidelines for the hard moments, like initially identifying real vampire’s profiles from the posers, and introducing them to your parents. If you are looking for a quick and funny read this book just might be for you!

Kelly



They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera

“Hello. I’m calling from Death-Cast. I regret to inform you that sometime in the next twenty-four hours you’ll be meeting an untimely death. On behalf of everyone here at Death-Cast, we are so sorry to lose you. Live this day to the fullest, okay.”

Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio both received this message from the death predicting service “Death-Cast” while in rather different scenarios. Mateo gets his while lying in his bed, thinking of his father who is in a coma. Rufus gets his while beating his ex-girlfriend’s boyfriend into a pulp. Mateo accepts his call

filled with anxiety and Rufus accepts his with rage. The two spend half of their days doing what they would do normally; Mateo cleaning his house and exploring *CountDowners*, (a website for Deckers, those predicted to die), and Rufus hanging out and celebrating with his loving friends, The Plutos. In a random stroke of luck, the two boys meet on an app called Last Friends that specializes in finding a final friend for people on the verge of death to share their last day with. The boys meet up and begin to explore their town with fresh eyes, going to restaurants, parks, and clubs, and visiting friends and family. As the day winds down to their eminent demise, the boys begin to realize that “It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live” (Marcus Aurelius).