

Booklover's August

A Treacherous Paradise

By Henning Mankell

About a young Swedish woman around 1904 when there was a big famine. Her mother told her she had to get out of there for her own good, she was about 19, so she found her way to being a cook on a ship that ended up being in Portuguese east Africa. She ended up in a bordello as a cook, so she's isolated and lonely, and ends up marrying the owner of the bordello. Goes through an amazing journey trying to better the life of the girls there. It's an amazing book and his writing is so fabulous. Read the book in two days I couldn't put it down. Highly recommended.

The Steel Kiss

By Jeffery Deaver

Best of his works that I've seen so far. Two or three integrated plots that don't interrupt each other. The villain is given enough space so he can explain why and how he's doing it in his own voice. The central character of some of the earlier books was a criminologist. His absolute pedantic approach to English was quite comical in ways. One of the powerful centers of this is a computer device which is installed on most machinery that will allow the manufacturer to keep accidents from happening. The villain has discovered this and manages to use it to his own advantage. As soon as you think you know what happened, you suddenly find out there's a better solution to it that you hadn't considered. Exceptionally good writer. Characters are extremely well developed.

Maisie Dobbs Series

By Jacqueline Winspear

Her attention to detail is what makes those books. She's a really engaging character.

Agatha Raisin and Love, Lies, and Liquor

By M. C. Beaton

Fairly light reading- Audio book- the readers are good. "Agatha Raisin still misses her ex-husband, James Lacey, so she welcomes his return to the cottage next door with her usual triumph of optimism over experience---especially when he invites her on holiday at a surprise location that was once very dear to him."

A Thousand Days in Venice

By Marlena de Blasi

Loved the descriptions of Venice, and thought her writing was good, but really didn't like the guy the main character ends up with. The woman is an American visiting Venice, and this man falls in love with her profile. They end up having a relationship when she goes back. What bothered me about it was she was so willing to give up her career and her home and her family to follow him to Italy.

Another Marvelous Thing

By Laurie Colwin

Her books are gems. Her writing is just fabulous. Very very funny. The way she gives her characters voice you feel like you know them.

Black Widow

By Daniel Silva

Most recent in a series. There's a central character named Gabriel who becomes an assassin for Mossad. In the first book he's one of the people who is chosen to go after the people responsible for the Munich massacre. In this book he's no longer a viable assassin- he's getting a little old, but he's become the director of Mossad. It's a lot of fun. This one is about a woman who is killing off people. His characterization is not outstanding, but it's driven by the plot.

The Hidden Brain: How our unconscious minds elect presidents, control markets, wage wars, and save our lives

By Shankar Vedantam

The author talks about various aspects of behavior regarding our unconscious minds. He talks about suicide bombers and their motivations. "In a series of compulsively readable narratives, Shankar Vedantam journeys through the latest discoveries in neuroscience, psychology, and behavioral science to uncover the darkest corner of our minds and its decisive impact on the choices we make as individuals and as a society."