

Summer Reading

Sue Donaldson

Program Officer, Visual Arts & Museums, British Columbia Arts Council

Zia Haider Rahman *In the Light of What We Know* (2014); *Rachel Kushner* *The Flamethrowers* (2013); *Slavoj Žižek* *Violence* (2008); *Emmanuel LeRoy Ladurie* *Carnival At Romans* (1979); *George Packer* *The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America* (2013)

Francois Dion

Program Officer, Visual Arts Section, Canada Council for the Arts

Since I started putting up this list, I have finished: *Clément de Gaulejac* *Grande école* (2012); I have added one title (and finished reading it): *David Lonergan* *Acadie 72, Naissance de la modernité acadienne* (2013); I still want to read: *Self-Organized* *Stine Hebert and Anne Szefer Karlsen, Eds* (2013); *A.M Klein* *Short Stories* (1983); *John Boyko* *Blood and Daring: How Canada Fought the American Civil War and Forged a Nation* (2014); *Again, A Time Machine: from distribution to archives,* *Gavin Everall and Jane Rolo, Eds* (2012)

Wendy Frost
Senior Member Services Officer, CCEC
Credit Union

Leonardo Padura *The Man Who Loved Dogs* (2014): Cuban writer Padura tells the intertwined stories of Leon Trotsky, his murderer Raman Mercader, and a Cuban writer who meets and befriends Mercader in Cuba in the 70s. Publisher's description says it encompasses nothing less than a history of international communism after the 1917 Revolution.

Helen Oyeyemi *Boy, Snow, Bird* (2014): A modern retelling of the Snow White fairy tale. NY Times says Oyeyemi "uses the "skin as white as snow" ideal as the departure point for a cautionary tale on post-race ideology, racial limbos and the politics of passing."

Nalo Hopkinson *The New Moon's Arms* (2012): Afro-Caribbean magic realism from an award-winning Canadian novelist.

Nick Flynn *Another Bullshit Night In Suck City* (2005): Memoir by poet Nick Flynn, who in his 20s worked in a Boston homeless shelter, where he encountered his alcoholic, con-man and ex-con, homeless father.

Charles Yu *How To Live Safely In a Science Fictional Universe* (2011): This experimental SF

meta-narrative has been on my “For Later” shelf at the VPL for 3 years. Maybe this is the summer I finally get around to it. Reviews suggest similiarity to both Dougas Adams and Jasper Fforde.

Laura Lippman *After I'm Gone* (2014): For straight-up genre pleasure, Laura Lippman's latest crime novel. It's a stand-alone, but linked to her Tess Monaghan PI series.

Lydia Davis *Can't and Won't* (2014): I've been wanting to read Lydia Davis's short stories since The New Yorker profiled her this March. This, her latest collection, seemed an easier entrance to her work than her *Collected Stories*, which weighs in at a formidable 733 pages.

The Acrobat, Selected Poems of Celia Dropkin (2014): Celia Dropkin wrote her poems in Yiddish, in New York, in the 1920s and 30s. Her voice is modernist, vivid, emotionally and erotically frank. This bilingual volume provides each poem in both Yiddish and English, on facing pages.

Rebecca Solnit *Men Explain Things To Me* (2014): The title essay inspired the term “mansplaining”, which in itself is enough to make me want to read this book. It also starts with an anecdote about her fascinating 1993 book *River of Shadows*, about Eadweard

Muybridge, the 19th century pioneer of high-speed photography.

Dave Zirin *Brazil's Dance With the Devil* (2014): For my money, Dave Zirin is the best writer today on the politics of sports. His bulletins from the World Cup can be found on thenation.com. Publisher's description of *BDWTD*: As the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games approach, ordinary Brazilians are holding the country's biggest protest marches in decades. Sports journalist Dave Zirin traveled to Brazil to find out why. In a rollicking read that travels from the favelas of Rio de Janeiro to the fabled Maracanã Stadium, Zirin examines how athletic mega-events turn into neoliberal Trojan horses.

Teddy Cui

Engagement Manager at Pace Accounting

Jonathan Franzen *The Corrections* (2001);
Haruki Murakami *Kafka on the Shore* (2002);
Hitomi Kanehara *Hebi ni Piasu (Snakes and Earnings)* (2003)

*Marcia Belluce, Cultural Planner, Public Art,
Planning & Facilities Development*
*Diana Leung, Cultural Planner, Public Art,
Planning & Facilities Development*

*Cherryl Masters, Cultural Planner, Grants,
Awards and Support Programs*

*Rich Newirth, Managing Director, Cultural
Services*

*Marnie Rice, Cultural Planner, Grants, Awards
and Support Programs*

What Cultural Services at the City of
Vancouver is reading this summer:

*Muriel Barbery *The Elegance of The Hedgehog*
(2008); John Vaillant *The Golden Spruce: A
True Story of Myth, Madness and Greed* (2006);
Wayson Choy *Paper Shadows* (2005); Nicholas
Drayson *A Guide to the Birds of East Africa*
(2009); Jane Austen *Mansfield Park* (1814);
Maya Angelou *I Know Why the Caged Bird
Sings* (1969); Edward St. Aubyn *The Patrick
Melrose Novels: Never Mind, Bad News, Some
Hope, Mother's Milk* (2012); Jonas Jonasson
*The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out The
Window And Disappeared* (2012); Brene Brown
*The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You
Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who
You Are* (2010); Ruth Reichl *Tender at the Bone:
Growing Up at the Table* (1998); Ruth Reichl
Delicious! (2014); Donna Tartt *The Goldfinch*
(2013); Jo Nesbo *The Son* (2014)*