

ADDITIONAL SUMMER READING

provided by MORGAN TALTY

***The Language of Trees: A Rewilding of Literature and Landscape* by Katie Holten**

For those who love literature and its intersection with place and storytelling, you'll be captivated by this indelible work of art.

***Chain Gang All Stars: A Novel* by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah**

This book is pure fire. If you're looking to be blown away, look right here.

***Trust* by Hernan Diaz**

What can I say? It won the Pulitzer. And for good reason. It is a masterful narrative that keeps you held word after word after word

***Sea Change* by Gina Chung**

This novel is so full of surprises that it's dazzling. You want something familiar but unfamiliar? Check this out.

***A Calm and Normal Heart* by Chelsea T. Hicks**

For readers looking to expand their knowledge of Indian Country, this story collection is a must read. As a native person, this book even helped me articulate feelings I didn't have the words for.

***Holding Pattern: A Novel* by Jenny Xie**

***Dearborn* by Ghassan Zeineddine**



**Morgan Talty, author of
*Night of the Living Rez***

READ ME



ADDITIONAL SUMMER READING

provided by MEGHAN GILLISS

***Kick the Latch* by Kathryn Scanlan**

This novel in vignettes, adapted from an extended interview the author conducted with a female horse trainer named Sonia, is a total powerhouse. The preserved, singular voice gives us the unexpected at every turn, with nothing wasted. As Scanlan said, “I wanted to preserve—amplify, exaggerate—Sonia’s idiosyncratic speech, her bluntness, her flair as a storyteller. I arrived at what you could call a composite portrait of a self.” Sonia is a force of nature, but she’s not without her vulnerabilities, if you know where to look.

***The Changeling* by Joy Williams**

The Changeling has been around for decades (a beautiful 40th anniversary edition was reissued by Tin House in 2018), but I’ve only just read it. I often do this—resist the very thing it is most appropriate for me to give in to. I can’t say why. In recent years, perhaps it was because insistence grew when I began writing my own novel set on an island; some part of me knew better than to put myself up against JW. (It doesn’t take much to crumple confidence.) *The Changeling*—hewing closely to the perspective of a young, increasingly alcoholic woman loosely overseeing a pack of feral children (including one who is at least in some way her own) on an island unoccupied by anyone but the family that has lived there since the patriarch of a few generations prior began slaughtering animals there—spelunks the chasms between experience and understanding, this world and the otherworldly until they start to merge and we begin to see the strangest things—either because we’ve lost our minds (and the protagonist has finally had too much chilled white wine and gin), or because we’re finally getting somewhere.



Meghan Gilliss, author of *Lungfish*

***The Nature Book* by Tom Comitta**

You might think that a novel collaged from descriptions of nature culled from more than 300 books in the Western literary canon and including no humans might lack drama, but you’d be wrong! Storms roll in. Small mammals fight. Tree limbs move in the night. To say this novel includes no humans is also sort of wrong; each description is an observation made by someone. At moments, this paradox feels like a wry little wink; at others, it feels urgently existential.

READ ME



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An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us by Ed Yong

Part of the pleasure of getting older, in my experience, is being humbled. Of getting comfortable with how little we know. Yong's wonderfully dense yet accessible book (which, I confess, I'm enjoying mostly vicariously through my husband's retelling of it, piece by piece) confronts us with the fact that we only see and experience a sliver of our world. Why and how and what do other species perceive? Can we fathom it? What does it mean to exist in a world that is simultaneously experienced so differently from the way we experience it? From scents to sounds to colors, there's much we humans simply can't perceive. Which means there's much we can't pretend to know.

You or Someone You Love: Reflections from an Abortion Doula by Hannah Matthews

While the political arguments over abortion access rage on and are often reduced to the most pungent and extreme clips, Maine writer and abortion doula Hannah Matthews has gifted us with a book that looks at the nuance each abortion story holds, how it is shaped by policy that is increasingly restrictive, and how communities do and can care for one another. Matthews reminds us that abortion has always—across time and cultures—been a necessary part of the human story. “Reproductive justice begins—as all things do—with this violated, exhausted, abundant, living, and breathing earth. I often say that humans have been having abortions for as long as there have been humans, but the truth is, abortion is bigger than our little species could ever conceive of, and older, I think. Mice and monkeys have abortions. Trees abort their offspring; plants abort their unripe fruits. Abortion is older than plastic, and hospitals, and laws, and the Catholic Church. Abortion is older than us.”

And sitting very enticingly on my To Be Read Pile are:

Cousins by Aurora Venturini

A History of Burning by Janika Oza

Breasts and Eggs by Mieko Kawakami

READ ME



ADDITIONAL SUMMER READING

provided by COLIN WOODWARD

Up For Grabs: Timber Pirates, Lumber Barons, and the Battles Over Maine's Public Lands by Thomas Urquhart

An important contribution to Maine history and our understanding of a massive swath of our state, the forested, barely-settled interior. Urquhart dug in the archives and came up with the goods on how generations of Maine leaders handled and mishandled the state's far-flung public lands.

How Ike Led: How Ike Led: The Principles Behind Eisenhower's Biggest Decisions by Susan Eisenhower

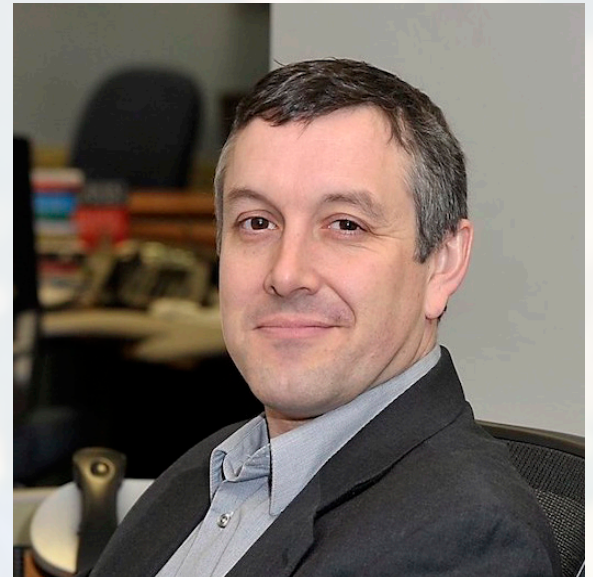
Eisenhower held the country together in the face of existential danger – Stalin's face, specifically – and he did it by holding together a bipartisan coalition in the center of U.S. politics that made the New Deal the Long New Deal, invested in our common purpose – Interstates, basic science, schools and universities, the national defense – and took key steps to support the dismantling of the southern apartheid system. His granddaughter, herself a strategic thinker and national security expert, reveals how he did this.

How Ike Led: How Ike Led: The Principles Behind Madison's Militia: The Hidden History of the Second Amendment by Carl T. Bogus

Bogus puts forward a meticulously researched historical case that the Second Amendment was written to reassure southern slaveholders that federal authorities couldn't use the new 1787 Constitution to dissolve their militias, which existed to prevent or respond to slave uprisings.

Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality by Danielle Allen

The anniversary of the Declaration is coming up in 2026. What does it mean? What's our country's purpose. This is the best book on this, a beautifully written, incisively wrought word-by-word examination of our opening statement as a people and what it means for us today.



**Colin Woodward, Read ME 2023
Recommending Author**

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