



Page Turners

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Monroe Township Library

Summer Camp/ Retreat- August 2026

The Optimistic Decade – by Abel, Heather

FIC ABEL

This novel about a utopian camp and its charismatic leader takes us into the lives of five unforgettable characters, and is a sweeping saga of idealism, love, class, and a piece of land that changes everyone who lives on it.

If You Tell a Lie – by Berry, Lucinda

FIC BERRY

(Available through the Consortium)

A blackmail note reunites former friends who swore themselves to silence after a reckless lie led to the murder of their handsome tennis coach at a summer camp for gifted children 20 years prior.

Until Next Summer – Brady, Ali

ROMANCE BRADY

Two former best friends each find love at an adults-only summer camp in this romantic and nostalgic novel that proves "once a camp person, always a camp person." Growing up, Jessie and Hillary lived for summer, when they'd be reunited at Camp Chickawah. The best friends vowed to become counselors together someday, but they drifted apart after Hillary broke her promise and only Jessie stuck to their plan, working her way up to become the camp director. When Jessie learns that the camp will be sold, she decides to plan one last hurrah, inviting past campers—including Hillary—to a nostalgic "adult summer camp" before closing for good. Jessie and Hillary rebuild their friendship as they relive the best time of their lives—only now there are adult beverages, skinny dipping, and romantic entanglements. Straitlaced Hillary agrees to a "no strings attached" summer fling with the camp chef, while outgoing Jessie is drawn to a moody, reclusive writer whose rented a cabin to work on his novel. The friends soon realize this

doesn't have to be the last summer. They'll team up and work together, just like the old days. But if they can't save their beloved camp, will they be able to take the happiness of this summer away with them?

What Wild Women Do – by Brown, Karma

FIC BROWN

To get a break from a stalled career as a Hollywood screenwriter, Rowan retreats to an isolated cabin in the Adirondacks with her fiancé, Seth. There in the wilderness, Rowan finds herself drawn to a local mystery—that of the infamous socialite-turned-feminist-crusader Eddie Callaway, who vanished in the same woods forty years earlier and was never heard from again. A handbook found in the abandoned ruins of the Callaway camp gives Rowan a glimpse into who Eddie was—until a fateful discovery begins to unravel what might have happened to her.

As Rowan draws closer to the truth, she realizes that the past, and the Adirondacks woods, may hold two keys: one that reveals what really happened to Eddie Callaway and another that unlocks a future beyond her wildest imagination.

The Happy Camper: an essential guide to life outdoors– by Callan, Kevin

796.54 CAL

The Happy Camper is the essential guide to the great outdoors. Every page is packed with information on how to enjoy camping as the adventure it can be rather than a bug-infested endurance test. Kevin Callan, one of North America's top canoeing and outdoors experts, explains how to get the most from a camping trip no matter the location, the weather and the company.

Kevin Callan has an enthusiasm for wilderness camping that experienced campers can relate to and novice campers will find contagious. In The Happy Camper he combines decades of wilderness experience with his trademark humor to create a comprehensive, heavily illustrated and highly entertaining compendium of basic wilderness instruction and campsite advice.

The Happy Camper- by Carlson, Melody

FIC CARLSON

(Available through the Consortium)

When Dillion Michaels returns home after a breakup, her grandfather gifts her a vintage camp trailer that needs restoration. Intrigued by the work, and the charming hardware store owner, she's hopeful for a fresh chance at love-until a surprise visit from her ex-boyfriend turns everything upside down

The Second Home – by Clancy, Christina

FIC CLANCY

After a disastrous summer spent at her family summer home on Cape Cod, seventeen-year-old Ann Gordon was left with a secret that changed her life forever, and created a rift between her sister, Poppy, and their adopted brother, Michael. Now, fifteen years later, her parents have died, leaving Ann and Poppy to decide the fate of the Wellfleet

home that's been in the Gordon family for generations. Just when the sisters decide to sell, Michael re-enters their lives with a legitimate claim to the house.

The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore – by Fu, Kim

FIC FU

A sensitive, evocative exploration of how the past threads itself through our lives, reemerging in unexpected ways."—Celeste Ng, #1 New York Times bestselling author
At Forevermore, a sleepaway camp in the Pacific Northwest, campers are promised adventures in the woods, songs by the fire, and lifelong friends. Bursting with excitement and nervous energy, five girls set off on an overnight kayaking trip to a nearby island. But before the night is over, they find themselves stranded, with no adults to help them survive or guide them home. The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore follows Nita, Andee, Isabel, Dina, and Siobhan beyond this fateful trip, showing us the lives of the haunted and complex women these girls become. From award-winning novelist Kim Fu comes a stunning portrait of girlhood, the nuances of survival, and the pasts we can't escape. "[Fu] is a propulsive storyteller, using clear and cutting prose to move seamlessly through time . . .

Wildfire – Grace, Hannah

FIC GRACE

(Available through the Consortium)

Maple Hills students Russ Callaghan and Aurora Roberts cross paths at a party celebrating the end of the academic year, where a drinking game results in them having a passionate one-night stand. Never one to overstay her welcome (or expect much from a man), Aurora slips away before Russ even has the chance to ask for her full name. Imagine their surprise when they bump into each other on the first day of the summer camp where they are both counselors, hoping to escape their complicated home lives by spending the summer working. Russ hopes if he gets far enough away from Maple Hills, he can avoid dealing with the repercussions of his father's gambling addiction, while Aurora is tired of craving attention from everyone around her, and wants to go back to the last place she truly felt at home. Russ knows breaking the camp's strict "no staff fraternizing" rule will have him heading back to Maple Hills before the summer is over, but unfortunately for him, Aurora has never been very good at caring about the rules. Will the two learn to peacefully coexist? Or did they one night together start a fire they can't put out?

The Summer of Songbirds – by Harvey, Kristy Woodson

FIC HARVEY

Nearly thirty years ago, in the wake of a personal tragedy, June bought Camp Holly Springs and turned it into a thriving summer haven for girls. But now, June is in danger of losing the place she has sacrificed everything for, and begins to realize how much she has used the camp to avoid facing difficulties in her life. June's niece, Daphne, met her two best friends, Lanier and Mary Stuart, during a fateful summer at camp. They've all helped each other through hard things and the three are inseparable even in their

thirties. But when attorney Daphne is confronted with a relationship from her past -- and a confidential issue at work becomes personal -- she is faced with an impossible choice. Lanier, meanwhile, is struggling with tough decisions of her own, and when a big secret comes to light, she finds herself at odds with her best friend . . . and risks losing the person she loves most. But in spite of their personal problems, nothing is more important to these songbirds than Camp Holly Springs.

Happy Place – by Henry, Emily

FIC HENRY

Harriet and Wyn have been the perfect couple since they met in college—they go together like salt and pepper, honey and tea, lobster and rolls. Except, now—for reasons they're still not discussing—they don't.

They broke up five months ago. And still haven't told their best friends.

Which is how they find themselves sharing a bedroom at the Maine cottage that has been their friend group's yearly getaway for the last decade. Their annual respite from the world, where for one vibrant, blissful week they leave behind their daily lives; have copious amounts of cheese, wine, and seafood; and soak up the salty coastal air with the people who understand them most.

Only this year, Harriet and Wyn are lying through their teeth while trying not to notice how desperately they still want each other. Because the cottage is for sale and this is the last week they'll all have together in this place. They can't stand to break their friends' hearts, and so they'll play their parts. Harriet will be the driven surgical resident who never starts a fight, and Wyn will be the laid-back charmer who never lets the cracks show. It's a flawless plan (if you look at it from a great distance and through a pair of sunscreen-smear sunglasses). After years of being in love, how hard can it be to fake it for one week...in front of those who know you best?

Into the Woods – by Holiday, Jenny

FIC HOLIDAY

(Available through the Consortium)

Teddy Knight's band has just broken up in spectacular fashion after his longtime bandmate and-he'd thought-closest friend decides to go solo. So, when he's offered a last-minute gig to fill in as an artist-in-residence at a summer arts camp--which comes with a lake cabin and lots of free time to work on a revenge album--he takes it. No matter that he knows nothing about nature, dislikes kids, and is generally a grump.

Gretchen Miller is having a mid-life crisis. Luckily, her summer job as the dance teacher at Wild Arts summer camp will allow her to drop out of society for a while. Having sworn off dating, she decides she'll go into the woods and become a crane. She might skip the "luring innocent children to their death" part of cronedom, but she's all for the "curse men" aspect. Teddy and Gretchen clash from the get-go when he mistakes her for a fan, and she relegates him to the "entitled jerk" ash heap. Despite their determination to dislike filled each other, a wary friendship blooms as the magic of the woods starts to unwind them, and they spend long hours by the campfire talking about art, being stuck,

and the idea of starting over. But woods are often with monsters, and Teddy and Gretchen will have to face their fears if they want to start over together.

Goldenseal – by Hummel, Maria

FIC HUMMEL

Downtown Los Angeles, 1990. Alone in her luxury hotel suite, the reclusive Lacey Crane receives a message: Edith is waiting for her in the lobby. Former best friends, Lacey and Edith haven't spoken to one another in over four decades.

As young adults meeting at summer camp in Maine, and later making their way in the glitzy spotlight of postwar Hollywood, Edith and Lacey share a deep-rooted bond that once saved them from isolation and despair, providing comfort from the public and private traumas that they had each endured and which a newly optimistic world was eager to forget. Told through a continuous, twisting conversation that unfolds over the course of a single evening, in which each woman tells her story and reveals long-hidden secrets, the narratives of Edith and Lacey burn with atmosphere, mystery, resentment, and regret.

Set against the vivid landscapes of Los Angeles and unfolding with the evanescence of a dream or a memory, *Goldenseal* peels away the layers of an intimate female friendship to reveal a stirring and haunting story about the search for connection and the lingering echoes of lost love.

You Will Pay – by Jackson, Lisa

FIC JACKSON

Investigating remains found at a summer camp where a prank gone wrong led to the disappearances of two teens decades earlier, detective Lucas Dalton struggles with his father's ties to the case while meeting with five former counselors to piece together what happened.

The Box in The Woods – by Johnson, Maureen

YA MYS JOHNSON

Amateur sleuth Stevie Bell needs a good murder. After catching a killer at her high school, she's back at home for a normal (that means boring) summer.

But then she gets a message from the owner of Sunny Pines, formerly known as Camp Wonder Falls—the site of the notorious unsolved case, the Box in the Woods Murders. Back in 1978, four camp counselors were killed in the woods outside of the town of Barlow Corners, their bodies left in a gruesome display. The new owner offers Stevie an invitation: Come to the camp and help him work on a true crime podcast about the case. Stevie agrees, as long as she can bring along her friends from Ellingham Academy. Nothing sounds better than a summer spent together, investigating old murders. But something evil still lurks in Barlow Corners. When Stevie opens the lid on this long-dormant case, she gets much more than she bargained for. The Box in the Woods will make room for more victims. This time, Stevie may not make it out alive.

Camp Girls – by Krasnow, Iris

796.542 KRA

Iris Krasnow started going to summer camp at age 5. She sat around a fire roasting marshmallows until they burned; chased fireflies that dotted the night sky; swam in the expansive Blue Lake; and made friends that have lasted a lifetime, learning lessons along the way that she follows to this day. Now decades later, she returned to Camp Agawak in Wisconsin as a staff member to help resurrect Agalog, the camp's defunct magazine that she wrote for as a child. She's been doing this every summer for five years, participating in the same activities she loved as a young girl now filled with the wisdom, perspective, and appreciation that comes with age. A nostalgic, reminiscent memoir written from the heart, CAMP GIRLS details the essential life skills that formed who Iris became, and also the feelings of belonging to a family, not of blood, but of history, loyalty, and tradition. For Iris and many others, camp is key to fulfillment and success in life

A House at The Bottom of a Lake – by Malerman, Josh **FIC MALERMAN**

Both seventeen. Both afraid. But both saying yes. It sounded like the perfect first date: canoeing across a chain of lakes, sandwiches and beer in the cooler. But teenagers Amelia and James discover something below the water's surface that changes their lives forever. It's got two stories. It's got a garden. And the front door is open. It's a house at the bottom of a lake. For the teens, there is only one rule: no questions. And yet, how could a place so spectacular come with no price tag? While the duo plays house beneath the waves, one reality remains: Just because a house is empty, doesn't mean nobody's home.

One Sweet Southern Summer – by Maynard, Janice **FIC MAYNARD**

(Available through the Consortium)

Life in Blossom Branch hasn't always been sweet for Leah Marks. Growing up in the shadow of her overachieving siblings, the shy psychology grad has struggled to find her own place in the world. So when she inherits a long-forgotten summer camp, Leah sees an opportunity to help other kids who are struggling—and maybe find happiness for herself.

Her plan takes an unexpected turn, however, after a scorching encounter with the local fire chief, Lucas Carter. He's brave, he's kind...and he's not quite ready to settle down. Leah is drawn to the rugged firefighter—but she fears she'll be burned if she gets too close.

Still, Leah and Lucas can't help but fall harder for each other, until the ill-fated uncertainty of their future can no longer be ignored. As another sizzling summer unfolds in Blossom Branch, will they both finally find the home—and the love—they've been searching for?

God of the Woods – by Moore, Liz

FIC MOORE

"When Barbara Van Laar is discovered missing from her summer camp bunk one morning in August 1975, it triggers a panicked, terrified search. Losing a camper is a horrific tragedy under any circumstances, but Barbara isn't just any camper, she's the daughter of the wealthy family who owns the camp--as well as the opulent nearby estate, and most of the land in sight. And this isn't the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared in this region: Barbara's older brother also went missing 16 years earlier, never to be found. How could this have happened yet again? Out of this gripping beginning, Liz Moore weaves a richly textured drama, both emotionally nuanced and propelled by a double-barreled mystery. Chasing down the layered secrets of the Van Laar family and the community working in its shadow, Moore's multi-threaded drama brings readers into the hearts of characters whose lives are forever changed by this eventful summer: Barbara's wounded, grieving mother; the "townie" whose family makes a living off this land; the 13-year-old camper struggling to find her way; and the outsider tasked with seeing the bigger picture, and uncovering the truth.

That Summer Feeling – by Morrissey, Bridget

FIC MORRISSEY

(Available through the Consortium)

Turns out you're never too old for a summer camp romance. Or a change of heart. When a divorced woman attends a sleepaway camp for adults only, she reconnects with a man from her past--only to catch feelings for his sister instead. Garland Moore used to believe in magic, the power of optimism, and signs from the universe. Then her husband surprised her with divorce papers over Valentine's Day dinner. Now Garland isn't sure what to believe anymore, except that she's clearly never meant to love again. When new friends invite her to spend a week at their reopened sleepaway camp, she and her sister decide it's an opportunity to enjoy the kind of summer getaway they never had as kids. If Garland still believed in signs, this would sure seem like one. Summer camp is a chance to let go of her past and start fresh. Nestled into the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains, Camp Carl Cove provides the exact escape Garland always dreamed of, until she runs into Mason--the man she had a premonition about after one brief meeting years ago. No matter how she tries to run, the universe appears determined to bring love back into Garland's life. She even ends up rooming with Mason's sister Stevie, a vibrant former park ranger who is as charming as she is competitive. The more time Garland spends with Stevie, the more the signs confuse her. The stars are aligning in a way Garland never could have predicted. Amid camp tournaments and moonlit dances, Garland continues to be pulled toward the beautiful blonde outdoorswoman who makes her laugh and swoon. Summer camp doesn't last forever, but if Garland can learn to trust her heart, the love she finds there just might.

Wilderness Reform – by Query, Matt
(Available through the Consortium)

FIC QUERY

Thirteen-year-old Ben is sent to a remote reform program for troubled teens by a juvenile court judge. But when he arrives at the camp, located on the edge of the vast wilderness of northwestern Montana, he immediately recognizes that there is something off about the counselors. They're too friendly and upbeat... yet Ben can tell there's an undercurrent of menace. As he gets to know the boys in his cabin, he soon discovers that they each have far more going for them than whatever crime landed them there. And each has a different critical skill, one that could help them unearth what is really going on in this place -- and how to make it out alive. They are inching ever closer to the truth, and the hidden evil beneath the camp's surface will make itself known in order to deter them.

The Summer Retreat – by Roberts, Sheila

ROMANCE ROBERTS

A recently-dumped Celeste Jones heads for Moonlight Harbor, where her big sister, Jenna, is determined to help her find new love, even though she's not exactly an expert herself.

The Last Time I Lied – by Sager, Riley

FIC SAGER

In the new novel from the bestselling author of *Final Girls*, *The Last Time I Lied* follows a young woman as she returns to her childhood summer camp to uncover the truth about a tragedy that happened there fifteen years ago. Two Truths and a Lie. The girls played it all the time in their tiny cabin at Camp Nightingale. Vivian, Natalie, Allison, and first-time camper Emma Davis, the youngest of the group. The games ended when Emma sleepily watched the others sneak out of the cabin in the dead of night. The last she--or anyone--saw of them was Vivian closing the cabin door behind her, hushing Emma with a finger pressed to her lips. Now a rising star in the New York art scene, Emma turns her past into paintings--massive canvases filled with dark leaves and gnarled branches that cover ghostly shapes in white dresses. The paintings catch the attention of Francesca Harris-White, the socialite and wealthy owner of Camp Nightingale. When Francesca implores her to return to the newly reopened camp as a painting instructor, Emma sees an opportunity to try to find out what really happened to her friends. Yet it's immediately clear that all is not right at Camp Nightingale. Already haunted by memories from fifteen years ago, Emma discovers a security camera pointed directly at her cabin, mounting mistrust from Francesca and, most disturbing of all, cryptic clues Vivian left behind about the camp's twisted origins. As she digs deeper, Emma finds herself sorting through lies from the past while facing threats from both man and nature in the present. And the closer she gets to the truth about Camp Nightingale, the more she realizes it may come at a deadly price.

The Drowning – by Smith, J. P

FIC SMITH

(Available through the Consortium)

Twenty-years-ago Alex Mason's negligence as a camp counselor lead to Joey Proctor's disappearance, but Alex was never found out and is currently a successful millionaire, but it looks like Joey Proctor may be back for revenge.

Making Friends Can Be Murder – by West, Kathleen

FIC WEST

(Available through the Consortium)

Thirty-year-old Sarah Jones gets caught up solving a murder in her new neighborhood after unknowingly befriendng a dangerous con artist (who's nothing like what she seems) in this playful, twisty mystery from acclaimed author Kathleen West. It feels like kismet when Sarah Jones, newly relocated to Minneapolis after abruptly calling off her engagement, gets invited to join a group of women who share her same very common name. For years Sarah has received all types of correspondence intended for different Sarah Joneses, but now it seems that this mistake has given her the opportunity for an instant community. But what starts as a low-stakes meet-up called "The Sarah Jones Project" soon turns far more sinister when another local Sarah Jones is found dead, under suspicious circumstances, at the base of the downtown Minneapolis bridge. After fielding numerous calls from concerned loved ones ruling out their Sarah as the victim, the surviving Sarahs decide to take matters into their own hands. Aided by the dead woman's nanny, a newly commissioned (and very handsome and eligible) FBI agent, and a cloistered nun with a complicated past, the motley crew of unlikely friends are determined to get to the bottom of the murder of one of their own. Between a budding romance and best friendship, Sarah feels like she's in the right place at the right time, right up until the facts of the murder case begin stacking up too close to home. Can their team piece together where the deceptions lead before the killer silences someone else?

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