



Reading Between the Wines author Pat Maaten (top); co-author Perry Jongsma sets out a platter of snacks for club members (above).

CLUBBING BOOK-STYLE

FORGET FACEBOOK! BOOK CLUBS ARE THE HOT SOCIAL TREND AND A GREAT EXCUSE TO ACTUALLY GET TOGETHER WITH YOUR FRIENDS. SO, NOW THAT OPRAH IS GOING OFF THE AIR, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO START YOUR OWN. ALL IT TAKES IS A BOOK TO SET IT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
BY ATHENA MCKENZIE-PARKIN



Written by Perry Jongsma, Pat Maaten and Kathleen Mundy, **Reading Between the Wines** (BGO Group, www.readingbetweenthewines.ca) serves up hosting tips, recipes and ideas for themed meetings. The authors also suggest 12 questions you should ask before starting your own.

- 1 Who should join your book club adventure?
- 2 What is the magic number of members?
- 3 What is the perfect mix of members?
- 4 Do you need a reading list?
- 5 What type of books should you read? (See

- the list on the right.)
- 6 How often should you meet?
- 7 Where do you find your books?
- 8 Who leads the book review discussions?
- 9 Where do you find discussion questions?
- 10 How do you organize your meeting schedule?
- 11 Where do you meet?
- 12 What should you serve to eat and drink?

plus
Read, Remember, Recommend (Knight) by Rachelle Rogers
 Knight is a journal to track your reading that includes useful lists of literary award-winners — perfect for any book lover or book club member.

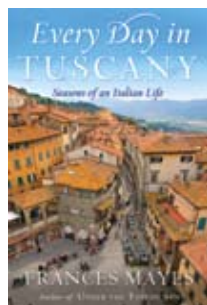
HOMEGROWN
 If you've already exhausted the better-known classics of CanLit, try these club-worthy

Canadian titles.
 ■ Explore regional differences by reading about Newfoundland in Michael Crummey's **Galore** (Anchor) and Saskatchewan in Dianne Warren's **Cool Water** (Harper Collins).
 ■ Embrace Canada's rich literary tradition of war novels with two new offerings, **Edith's War** (Axiom) by Andrew Smith or **The Promise of Rain** (McArthur) by Donna Milner.
 ■ Forget the notion that book clubs are only for the ladies. Man up with Derek Lundy's **Borderlands** (Knopf) or the timeless **King Leary** (Anchor) by Paul Quarrington.

editor's pick
 For more bookish inspiration, check out Noah Richler's **This Is My Country, What's Yours? A Literary Atlas of Canada** (M&S).

PHOTOGRAPHY: MADISON D'ANDREA (BOOKSHELF AND ENTERTAINING); CULTURA/CORBIS (WOMAN IN HAMMOCK)

HOT READ

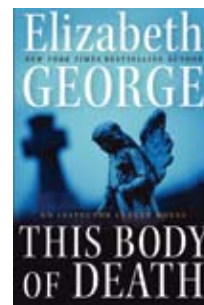


It's been 20 years since Frances Mayes bought Bramasole, her home in Italy; the restoration of which was lyrically recounted in her best-selling memoir *Under the Tuscan Sun*, which was later made into the hit film starring Diane Lane. Mayes plans on marking the anniversary with a "big hoopla" this July. "It will be practically like a wedding. A lot of friends are coming over and a lot of family who told me I was crazy to buy the house but have been thrilled to visit ever since," Mayes says. Though you may not be able to join the celebration, you can experience **Every Day in Tuscany** (Broadway). Mayes' latest memoir — the third inspired by her "muse," Italy — shares her continued infatuation with her adopted way of life as she recounts the pleasure of life in the piazza and sumptuous feasts in her garden. "I've come to appreciate so much how the Italians are able to enjoy everyday." ■

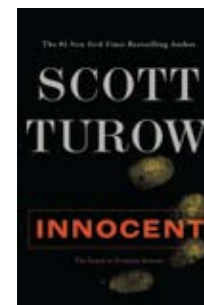


10 BIG & JUICY VACATION READS

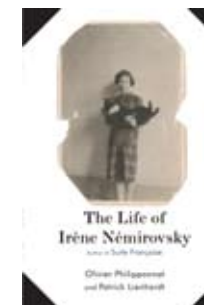
COMPLETE YOUR SUMMER ESCAPE WITH THESE TEMPTING TITLES



This Body of Death (Harper Collins) by Elizabeth George. Fans of George's series will be thrilled to learn that Inspector Lynley is back at Scotland Yard after a woman's body is found dumped in a London cemetery.



Innocent (Grand Central) by Scott Turow. Twenty years after the genre-defining *Presumed Innocent*, the sequel is here and finds Sabich accused in his wife's murder. Turow's court room dramatics do not disappoint.



The Life of Irène Némirovsky (Knopf) by Olivier Philipponnat and Patrick Lienhardt. Némirovsky's internationally best-selling novel *Suite Française* was published 52 years after her death in Auschwitz.



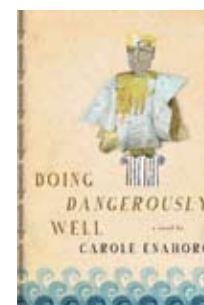
The Swimming Pool (Doubleday) by Holly Lercrow. The fallout of an illicit affair that ends in murder reverberates long after a fateful summer in Cape Cod. A skilled narrative disguised as steamy summer reading.



The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet (Random) by David Mitchell. The author of the beloved 2004 Man Booker Prize finalist *Cloud Atlas*, delivers a grand historical imagining where East clashes with West.



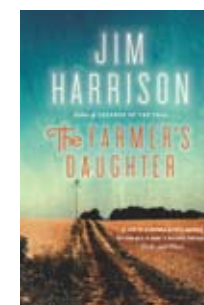
The Passage (Ballantine) by Justin Cronin. Conspiracy theorists will relish this tale of secret government experiments, catastrophic viruses and the young girl who might hold the key to save the world.



Doing Dangerously Well (Random) by Carole Enahoro. The first-time novelist mines the rich — and dark — comic terrain of disaster capitalism, as a catastrophe strikes Nigeria and the do-gooders and opportunists flood in.



The Pregnant Widow (Knopf) by Martin Amis. A master of modern literature returns with this satirical poke about the latent repercussions for the men and women who were caught up in the sexual revolution.



The Farmer's Daughter (Anansi) by Jim Harrison. Triple your pleasure with this compilation from the author of *Legends of the Fall*, containing three distinct novellas depicting the most extraordinary of lives.



Dead in the Family (Penguin) by Charlaine Harris. What's a summer reading list without vampires? This is the 10th in the series — the inspiration for HBO's *True Blood* — but start at the beginning to fully enjoy this erotic treat.



MARTEL'S MENAGERIE

ANIMALS, ART AND THE HOLOCAUST

HOW DO YOU FOLLOW UP an internationally bestselling, Man Booker Prize-winning novel dear to millions of readers around the world? It's been nine years since Canadian author **Yann Martel** published *The Life of Pi*. In the meantime, he has sold the movie rights for millions, sent Stephen Harper more than 75 letters with enclosed recommended reading — published in *What is Stephen Harper Reading?* — and worked on his follow-up to *Pi*. Martel himself admits the new novel is hard to sum up: *Beatrice & Virgil* (Knopf) is the tale of an internationally bestselling author Henry (whose prize-winning novel featured wild animals — sound familiar?) as he helps a taxidermist, also named Henry, who is trying to write a play starring a donkey (Beatrice) and a monkey (Virgil); a work the author Henry believes is really about the Holocaust.

Athena McKenzie-Parkin: In one of your early letters to Stephen Harper, you say that *Animal Farm* was an inspiration for this book. How?

Yann Martel: *Animal Farm* was the perfect allegory. It took the events of the Russian October Revolution and, using metaphor, transformed it into an accessible parable. Writers rarely approach the Holocaust in anything but a literal way. There are exceptions of course, but most are straightforward accounts. On the other hand, artists are constantly giving different representations of war — there are war action movies, war romances and comedies — and in doing so, they come to a fuller understanding of what war means. The Holocaust was an incredibly tragic event, but there is a danger in imposing one way of discussing it. That does the tragedy harm. It is the nature and strength of art to transform experience, including historical experience, into representations that bring out the essence of that experience. But the problem is that the Holocaust silences and steals voices. No one knows how to talk about such a horrible thing. Which is why in *Beatrice & Virgil*, the author Henry and the taxidermist Henry struggle with writing about it.

AMP: One scene has the author Henry struggling to explain to his publisher what his book is about? Is this a dreaded question for a writer?

YM: Depends. *The Life of Pi* was easy to summarize. It was about a boy stranded in a lifeboat with a tiger. *Beatrice & Virgil* is not as open to summarization. On one level, it's about a writer who meets a taxidermist who's been working on a play about a donkey and a monkey. On another, it's about the trauma of the Holocaust.

AMP: Henry, the author, says that he uses animals because readers trust them more. Is that why you use animals?

YM: Henry says this, but it is my theory. Humans are naturally suspicious of other humans. Using animals helps suspend my readers' disbelief. We're so familiar with our own species, so cynical about it that it makes it difficult to overcome the disbelief of a reader. Also, I like that I am the only one doing it. The metaphorical possibilities of animals in adult literature is sorely neglected. We confine animals to children's literature. What is childish about a tiger or a donkey? I'm using animals in the next one too — it has three chimpanzees. ■

THE ZOOMER MOVIE HOT LIST FOR SUMMER



The Kids Are All Right Annette Bening and Julianne Moore play a lesbian couple that conceived their family through IVF. Things go awry when the kids invite their biological father into their lives. Now that's a modern family!

Solitary Man Talk about mid-life crisis. Michael Douglas is an auto magnate whose life and romance falls apart due to his bad decisions.

Get Low Ever fantasize about who'd come to your funeral? In this Robert Duvall and Bill Murray film, an aging hermit holds his own funeral while he's still alive.

Inception Called "the only movie that matters" by the *Los Angeles Times*, this thriller stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Canadian Ellen Page.

Eat Pray Love Did a bad divorce make you want to reinvent yourself in a foreign land? Julia Roberts new flick is that very premise, adapted from the best-selling memoir and shot on location in Italy, India and Bali.

