



Dear REACH families,

Summer 2013

## Note from Vicki

We are reaching the end of the first year of the REACH study. We have interviewed about 1/3 of you this year. If you graduated from high school in 2009, we will be contacting you this next year. **If you are moving out of the area, please contact us ASAP so we can interview you this summer.** If you graduated from high school in 2010, we will contact you in another year.

Once again, we have been very pleased with how responsive, helpful, and accommodating all of you have been. It is YOU who make this study successful.

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Note from Vicki 1

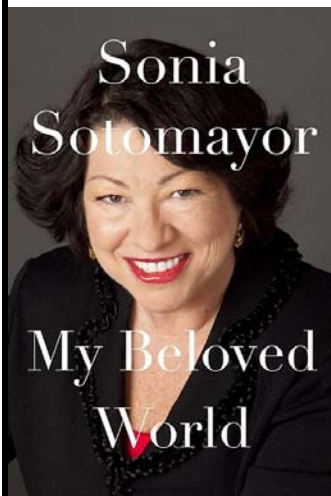
Summer Reading  
Recommendations 2

Summer Reading  
Recommendations 3

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## Summer Reading Recommendations

The REACH staff thought we would provide you with a few recommendations for summer reading to help pass the dog days of summer. We hope you enjoy and will check out some of the recommendations we have come up with.



### Vicki's Choice: Sonia Sotomayor, *My Beloved World*

I loved this book. I have to confess that I have a fascination with Supreme Court justices, but this book really has nothing to do with the Supreme Court. It is a story of a Puerto Rican girl who grew up in the Bronx and overcame a lot of adversity—growing up with very

little money, an alcoholic father, and a difficult relationship with her mother. On top of all that, she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when she was not quite 8 years old. She learned to boil the water on the stove to sterilize the needle and give herself her own injec-

tion because her parents were fighting about it. The story ends with her first judgeship—which happened about 20 years ago. It is an inspirational story.

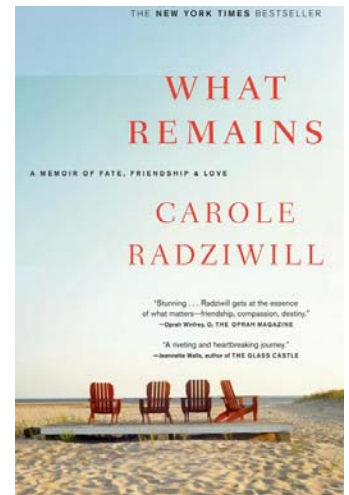
### Gianna's Choice: Carole Radziwill, *What Remains*

I actually discovered Carole Radziwill on the *Housewives of New York City*, but whether that discourages or encourages you, *What Remains* is a great read. Radziwill tells her story of rising through the ranks at ABC news,

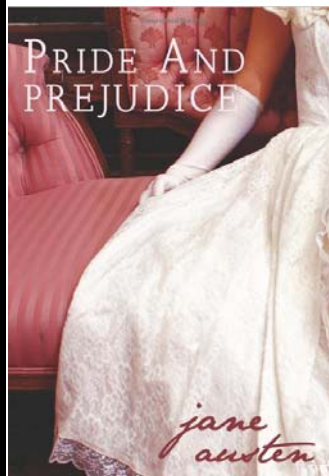
marrying a prince, and being best friends with JFK Jr. and his wife. It all sounds like quite the fairy tale, but sadly Radziwill deals with more personal tragedy than one person should have to handle. I shed plenty of tears through-

out this read but Radziwill has a way of throwing in a light-hearted story just when you need it. This is a great book for summer.

Enjoy!



### Abby's Choice: Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

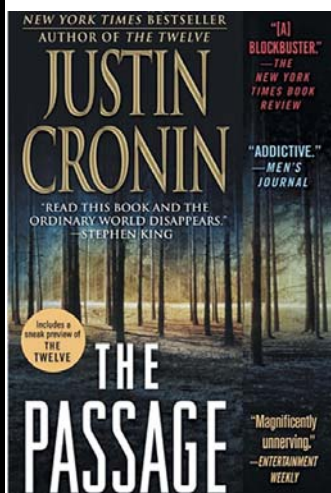


While often thought of only as a romance novelist, Jane Austen is much more than that. While she certainly does excel in romantic tales, her novels, including *Pride & Prejudice*, are also sharply critical of 19<sup>th</sup> century morals and society. This, however, does not make her books any

less fun to read. I first started reading P&P because I felt like I should familiarize myself with some classic novels. It did take me a few chapters to get used to the grammar and sentence structure – an annotated version helped – but once I was able to understand the language more easily,

the novel was surprisingly engaging. Full of memorable characters, witty dialogue, and unexpected plot twists, P&P is a lovely introduction to Austen's world. I also had fun watching all the various movie & TV adaptations when I was done with the novel!

## Dianne's Choice: Justin Cronin, *The Passage*



For context, it is important to know that, for better or worse, working as a bookseller for over 6 years left me with a rather snobby attitude about what is considered "worthwhile" reading. As I watched the most recent teen vampire-themed series skyrocket into commercial success I lamented daily at the degradation of modern society's literacy, and swore that I would never again read or watch anything that hinted at the inclusion of vampires in the cast of characters. Recently, however, Justin Cronin

changed my mind. No, he BLEW my mind. A trusted (equally book-snobby) friend insisted that I read *The Passage*, and I devoured this 800+ page novel in five nights. The beautifully written prose sung to me as I sprinted through its pages with disbelief and excitement. As a psychologist-in-training, I crave books that reflect on the human condition during times of challenge. Cronin does not disappoint as he directs the reader through a story of uncertain survival in a time when all hope is thought to be lost. Best of

all, the vampires, while crucial to the plot, are not the crux of the story, seemingly playing a more symbolic role. In *The Passage*, I present to you a post-apocalyptic survival story with a gripping plot, fascinating characters, and propelling intrigue. I strongly recommend it to anyone who has burned out on the vampire craze, and wants evidence that these blood-sucking fiends can contribute to a work of modern literary sophistication.

## Jamie's Choice: China Miéville, *The Scar*

*The Scar* is a novel by China Miéville and I compare it to the current music mash-up trend. It is a novel that mashes pirates, sea creatures, vampires, science, magic and conspiracy all in one package. Miéville is a beautiful wordsmith with the ability to convince readers that all these things can and should occupy the same book.

*The Scar* is Miéville's second novel set in his Bas-Lag universe and it continues to show his talent for blending fantasy, science fiction, and horror in a hybrid genre Miéville has

called 'weird fiction.' *Perdido Street Station* is the first novel set in Bas-Lag, but you do not need to read it to understand the events and characters in *The Scar*. The story follows Bellis Coldwine as she flees from New Crobuzon to one of its colonies. Along the way, she is press ganged into service by the floating pirate city of Armada.

Once Bellis reaches Armada is when the plot picks up. Uneasy alliances are formed and broken. Plots against Armada's leadership are uncovered. But at the core are Bellis, her

loneliness, and longing to go home again to New Crobuzon. Not only is Bellis a strong protagonist, the secondary cast of characters threatens to steal the show and assist with driving the story along instead of vanishing beneath it.

Miéville delivers something for readers who want to be swept up in the plot and like a book that remains tattooed in your memory long after the final page has been read.

