

— SPIES, P.I.s & GADFLIES —

TEN GREAT BOOK SERIES FOR SUMMER READING

by **Debby Montague**
Entertainment Correspondent

Whether you have a vacation planned for this summer, you're staying home to paint the house, or if, like many of us in the Lakes Region, you'll be hard at work in the tourist industry, you'll need a break. Slinging drinks in Meredith? Have a beer with Nero Wolfe. Paint spattered pants? Jeeves can take care of that. Need a little respite from the sun and the beach? Prowl some dark casinos with *Midnight Louie*. Why not pick a fiction series and spend the summer with it? Here are ten suggestions:

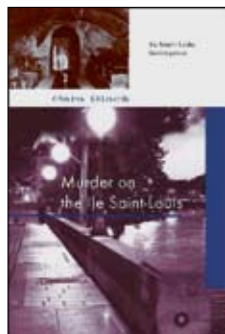
James R. Benn - Billy Boyle



Billy Boyle is a Boston cop turned Army detective, sent to Europe by his "Uncle

Ike" as Eisenhower's special investigator. These mysteries involve some of World War II's less known incidents, and Billy is a great guide to the war-time doings of the Mafia in Sicily and guns in the green fields of Ireland.

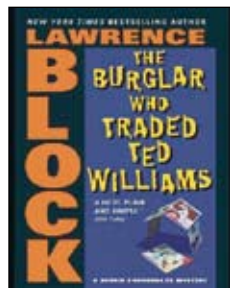
Cara Black - Aimée Leduc:



Aimée Leduc mysteries, set in Paris in the 1990's, are a boon for the arm-chair traveler, Francophile and mystery lover. Computer detective Aimée Leduc spends more time solving crimes in the arrondissements of Paris than she does keeping hackers out of her client's computer systems.

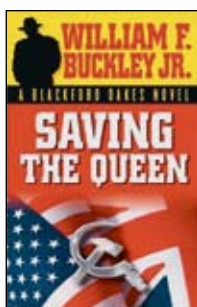
Lawrence Block - Bernie Rhodenbarr, The Burglar Who

Bernie really can't help it. He was born to be a



burglar. He's tried to live on the right side of the law with his Barnegat used book store, but in spite of his attempts to stay straight he's continually mixed-up in burglaries that unearth a corpse.

William F. Buckley, Jr. - Blackford Oakes



If you think of William F. Buckley, Jr. only as the founder of "National Review" or the host of "Firing Line" you're missing out. Buckley is also the creator of Blackford Oakes, Cold War CIA agent extraordinaire.

Blackie can do anything from saving the Queen to setting up a meeting with Che Guevera.

Carole Nelson Douglas - Midnight Louie and his person, Temple Barr



Temple Barr is a petite PR specialist with a penchant for designer heels, but things get really special when she gets involved with murders. *Midnight Louie* is a cat with attitude and Temple's coolest confidante and colleague.

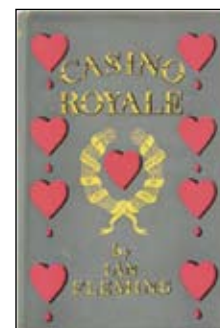
Janet Evanovich - Stephanie Plum

Stephanie is a bounty hunter (and gadfly) in Trenton, N.J. with a jerk of an ex-husband, a cop for a boyfriend, and a



thing for the sexiest bounty hunter in the business. You have to give Stephanie an "A" for effort and somehow she gets her man, even if getting him means burning down a funeral parlor or blowing up Cluck-in-a-Bucket.

Ian Fleming - James Bond



"Bond. James Bond." You've seen the movies, now go to the source. Nothing beats Ian Fleming

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