Literary Libations

Ready to curl up with a good book and a refreshing tipple? Indulge in one of these pairings to while away a summer afternoon

Broken Promise

by Linwood Barclay is the first novel in his planned trilogy centred on the disturbing secrets of a small New York town, from kidnappings to a serial predator to ritualistic animal sacrifices. ***Pairing*** *Mix yourself a Scotch cocktail, like the appropriately named Blood and Sand.*

Confidence,

Russell Smith's new short story collection, takes an unflinching look at everything from violent tenants to ecstasy-taking PhD students to mommy bloggers and sex tapes. ***Pairing*** *Something this of-the-moment requires trendy refreshment, so try a mezcal Negroni for a smoky* au courant *cocktail.*

The Water Knife

by Paolo Bacigalupi is a genre-bending dystopian thriller set in the Southwestern U.S. where water has become a scarce commodity and the Colorado River sits at the centre of an armed conflict. ***Pairing*** *Obviously, this one will have you reaching for your water. Add some flavour with seasonal drinking vinegar.*

The Birthday Lunch

by Joan Clark is set in motion by the sudden death of Lily on her 58th birthday – a day fraught with the competing attentions of her loving husband and doting sister. ***Pairing*** *For this thoughtful and compassionate read, sip on a sherry, which is enjoying a serious resurgence in popularity.*

The Girl on the Train,

the runaway bestseller by Paula Hawkins, follows voyeuristic divorcee Rachel Watson, who peers into strangers' windows on her daily commute. After she witnesses an infidelity, her role in a high-stakes mystery is clouded by her drunken blackouts. ***Pairing*** *Forgo Rachel's canned premixed gin and tonics and pour yourself a more sophisticated version using Dillon's Unfiltered Gin 22.*

Circling the Sun

by Paula McLain – who brought Ernest Hemingway's first wife to life in *The Paris Wife* – centres on 1920s aviator Beryl Markham and the complicated love triangle she shared with hunter Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*. ***Pairing*** *Nothing says high-living ex-pats like Champagne. Drink as is or indulge in a mimosa.*

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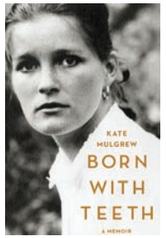

GET REAL

Escape into the pages of a memoir or biography

Gods and Kings: The Rise and Fall of Alexander McQueen and John Galliano by Dana Thomas chronicles how these visionaries changed the face of fashion. Kate Andersen Brower shares the intimate accounts of the service staff in **The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House** while **Capital Dames** by Cokie Roberts explores how the Civil War transformed the lives of women in Washington. Memoirs **Born With Teeth** by actress Kate Mulgrew and **It's A Long Story** by Willie Nelson give an unwavering look at these artists' lives through their own eyes. Meanwhile, **Let's Be Less Stupid** is a humorous look at former *SNL* writer and *The New Yorker* staffer Patricia Marx's attempt to maintain her mental faculties as she ages. *–AM*

Miss Emily

by Nuala O'Connor is a reimagined look at the life of reclusive American poet Emily Dickinson and her friendship with her young Irish maid. ***Pairing*** *Dickinson penned, "I bring an unaccustomed wine, To lips long parching," so consider a chilled crisp white, such as an Italian Pinot Grigio or an Old-World Chenin Blanc.*

Killing Monica

by Candace Bushnell, the author of *Sex and the City*, follows a writer whose novels about a young woman in Manhattan have spawned a series of blockbuster films. Now, the writer wants to try something new to the dismay of her publisher and fans. How meta. ***Pairing*** *Anything other than a Cosmopolitan just seems wrong.*

Disclaimer,

Renée Knight's unsettling psychological thriller, explores the blurred lines between fiction and real life. Catherine, a documentary filmmaker, finds a book on her bedside table that is based on her long-buried secrets. ***Pairing*** *Contrast the dark plot with some colourful sangria. Bonus: if you make a pitcher, you don't have to put the book down to go get a refill.*

In the Unlikely Event,

Judy Blume's first adult book in more than 15 years, is a fictionalized account of real events in her hometown in the 1950s, when a series of plane crashes sparked fear and confusion. At its centre is a coming-of-age story of 15-year-old Miri Ammerman. ***Pairing*** *Embrace the inherent femininity associated with Blume's work and go pink by uncorking a bottle of sparking rosé.*

The Buried Giant

by Kazuo Ishiguro is a post-Arthurian romance. As a fog of forgetting rolls over England, an elderly couple set forth in search of their son, only to find dragons, knights and unfathomable secrets. ***Pairing*** *Its setting and Arthurian qualities cry out for a tankard of mead, of which many craft breweries are producing modern versions.* *—Athena McKenzie*

COOKING WITH FIRE

Need a spark when it comes to your summer BBQ?

Full of "badass grilling secrets," **Hot and Hip Grilling Secrets: A Fresh Look at Cooking with Fire** by Bonnie Matthews helps raise your barbecue game. Or elevate your next picnic with **The Outdoor Table: The Ultimate Cookbook for Your Next Backyard BBQ, Front-Porch Meal, Tailgate or Picnic** by April McKinney. In **Texas BBQ: Meat, Smoke & Love** by Jonas Cramby, learn the techniques for making the "best" barbecue in the world, while **The Picnic Cookbook** by Laura Mason will inspire you to take your next meal al fresco. *–AM*