

Mary Baldwin College Alumnae/i Book Club

July 2007

What we are reading in
2007/2008:

Apr 5: *Handmaiden's Tale* by
Margaret Atwood

May 3: *The Glass Castle* by
Jeanette Walls

June 7: *The Bean Trees* by
Barbara Kingsolver

July 5: *The Last
Witchfinder* by James
Morrow

Aug 2: *Snow Flower and the
Secret Fan* by Lisa See

Sept 6: *Tortilla Curtain* by
Alice Sebold

Oct 4: *The Girls Who Went
Away* by Ann Fessler

Nov 1: *The Same Sweet
Girls* by Cassandra King

Dec 6: *The Secret Agent* by
Joseph Conrad

Jan 3: *I Got Somebody in
Staunton* by William Henry
Lewis

Feb. 7: *Love* by Toni
Morrison

Mar 6: *The Kite Runner* by
Khaled Hosseini

Apr 3: *The Lovely Bones* by
Alice Sebold

Summer Reading!!

Only two months left in the summer. What have you read so far this summer and what is still left in your "to read" pile? Here are a few of my suggestions:

If you are in the mood for a "cozy" mystery I really enjoy John Lamb's books and JB Stanley's books.

Prior to being a mystery writer John was working in California as a street cop, hostage negotiator, a CSI, homicide investigator, a detective sergeant and the hostage negotiation team leader. Now he is writing a series of cozy mysteries featuring teddy bears. He and his wife have relocated from California to Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. I have read the first book in the series and really enjoyed it. I have met John twice now and he is really a great person to talk to.

JB Stanley is a local author (Richmond, VA) and I have also met her a couple of times now. My mystery group in Richmond loves her and always reads what she has out. After selling cars, working in a day center and teaching English JB Stanley decided to start writing mysteries. She currently has two series out. One of them is about her life-long passion of collecting antiques. Her other series is the Supper Club series. I have read and thoroughly enjoyed the first in this series called *Carbs & Cadavers*.

A few more books to escape for a few hours:

The Nanny Diaries by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus

The Debutante Divorcee by Plum Sykes

Life's a Beach by Claire Cook

Can't Wait to Get to Heaven by Fannie Flagg

I have read both *The Nanny Diaries* and *The Debutante Divorcee* and really enjoyed both of them. The other two books I came across in a magazine.

So what are you reading? What have you read so far this summer that you recommend?

We are on the MBC website!!
www.mbc.edu/alumnae

Join us online!!
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MBCAlumBookClub>

If you are in the Richmond, VA area we would love for you to join us! All meeting times are 7pm and last approximately 1 hour.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Theresa Cash Lewis '99 at tewis41203@yahoo.com or the Alumnae/i office at 1-800-763-7359.



Your Guide to the Classics: *Vanity Fair*

From the Publisher

"I think I could be a good woman, if I had five thousand a year," observes beautiful and clever Becky Sharp, one of the wickedest—and most appealing—women in all of literature. Becky is just one of the many fascinating figures that populate **William Makepeace Thackeray's** novel *Vanity Fair*, a wonderfully satirical panorama of upper-middle-class life and manners in London at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Scorned for her lack of money and breeding, Becky must use all her wit, charm and considerable sex appeal to escape her drab destiny as a governess. From London's ballrooms to the battlefields of Waterloo, the bewitching Becky works her wiles on a gallery of memorable characters, including her lecherous employer, Sir Pitt, his rich sister, Miss Crawley, and Pitt's dashing son, Rawdon, the first of Becky's misguided sexual entanglements.

Filled with hilarious dialogue and superb characterizations, *Vanity Fair* is a richly entertaining comedy that asks the reader, "Which of us is happy in this world? Which of us has his desire? or, having it, is satisfied?"

www.bn.com

About the author

Thackeray was born in India in 1811. At the age of 5 he was sent to England to be educated. He dropped out of the University in 1830. At the age of 21 he came into his inheritance but soon squandered it on gambling and on two unsuccessful newspapers. In 1836 he married his wife. They had three daughters. After which, he began "writing for his life", as he put it, turning to journalism in an effort to support his young family. After the birth of their third daughter his wife succumbed to depression and eventually had to be put into a home near Paris where she outlived Thackeray by 30 years. Thackeray died at the age of 53 from a stroke that surprised family, friends and readers. Approximately 7000 people attended his funeral

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Makepeace_Thackeray