

LIFESTYLES

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Favorite authors, titles to keep your brain sharp

Summer, some people want to read light titles by their favorite authors, or maybe you are looking to keep your brain sharp. Here are some new titles that will meet either desire.

Walter Mosley has a new book out called *Stepping Stone: Love Machine*. The book is two short stories from the *Crosstown to Oblivion* world in which Mosley ‘entertainingly explores life’s cosmic questions.

James Grippando has a new novel called *Blood Money* featuring Miami criminal defense attorney Jack Swyteck in the most sensational murder trial since O.J. Simpson’s. The case sounds much like something we’d read about in today’s papers from ‘tv jurors’ to mobs seeking their own justice. A book I’d definitely read in bright sunshine or I’d succumb to thinking all humanity was depraved.

Okay for some lighter fare, Elizabeth Berg



Diane ADAMS

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has a new book called *Tapestry of Fortunes* and features four women venturing into their pasts to shape their futures, fates and fortunes. Cecelia, Lise, Joni and Renie are four women living together in a beautiful old house in St. Paul, Minn. They embark on a journey to connect with parts of themselves long denied.

Karen Joy Fowler’s newest book is titled *We are All Completely Beside Ourselves*. Meet the Cooke family, a mother, father, older brother and two sisters. The narrator is Rosemary, a

child who never stopped talking, but who has since been silenced by something that happened, something ‘so awful she has buried it in the recesses of her mind.’ It changed her, but destroyed her family.

There is a lot of brain research going on these days, resulting in lots of books being published on keeping your brain young, improving your brain’s ability to process and think.

Quickly, here are five new titles. *Mastermind: how to think like Sherlock Holmes* by Maria Konnikova. Sherlock definitely seems to be a central part of the new world, authors are telling new Sherlock tales, there are at least two television series about him and many want to have his powers of deduction and reasoning. No promises, but this is an interesting read.

The Art of Thinking Clearly by Rolf Dobelli focuses on what the

author calls cognitive biases, simple errors all of us make in day-to-day thinking. He seeks to help us identify those biases and thus avoid them, making better choices.

Beyond Human Nature by Jesse J Prinz seeks to show how culture and experience shape the human mind. This book looks at the nurture versus nature question that just keeps on appearing without any clear answers.

And after you read this book, you’ll want to read *The Genius in Every Child* by Rick Ackerly, especially if there are children in your life. Learn some fantastic ways to encourage character, curiosity, and creativity in children.

I’ll end this column with a book of puzzles. *399 games, puzzles & trivia challenges specially designed to keep your brain young* by Nancy Linde. Again, no promises that this book will keep your brain young.

MEMORIAMs

In loving memory of our dear nephew, cousin, son, brother and uncle, **Randy S. Berg**, who passed away July 17, 2011.

*A thousand times we missed you,
A thousand times we cried;
If love alone could of saved you,
You never would of died.
A heart of gold stopped beating,
Two loving eyes closed to rest;
God broke our hearts to prove,
He only took the best.*

There is never a day that goes by that you’re not in our hearts and souls.

Lovingly remembered -
**Mike, Carol and family
Caroline and Todd
Cory, Mindy and Savannah**

In loving memory of our dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, **Eugene Leerssen**, who passed away July 17, 2012.

*God saw he was getting tired,
And a cure was not to be;
So He put His arms around him,
And He whispered, “Come with Me.”
With tearful eyes we watched him suffer,
And saw him fade away;
Although we loved him dearly,
We could not make him stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands put to rest;
God broke our hearts to prove,
He only takes the best.*

Sadly missed by
**Rose Leerssen
Audrey and Dave Winger
Ken and Amber Leerssen
Randy and Janice Leerssen
Rick and Robbie Leerssen
Kevin and Jan Leerssen
Doug and Mary Leerssen**

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