

As the sun shines brightly and temperatures rise, we're excited to bring you another sizzling summer reading list, recommendations straight from our talented community of Milton grads. These alumni-authored books are perfect companions for your summer adventures. We hope you enjoy the insightful and captivating nature of these works.



***Wicked Marigold* (available for pre-order in July 2024) by Caroline Carlson '02**

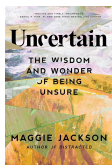
Carlson's upcoming release promises a captivating adventure with a touch of magic and mischief. *Wicked Marigold* is set to enchant readers with its imaginative storytelling and endearing characters, making it a highly anticipated addition to the summer reading list.

Wicked Marigold was named one of *PEOPLE Magazine's* Most-Anticipated Summer Books!



***Not Yet: The Story of an Unstoppable Skater* by Hadley Davis Rierson '89**

Rierson's inspiring story chronicles the journey of a determined skater who overcomes numerous obstacles to achieve her dreams. This memoir is a testament to perseverance and resilience, resonating deeply with anyone facing their own challenges.



***Uncertain: The Wisdom and Wonder of Being Unsure* by Maggie Jackson '78**

Jackson's exploration of uncertainty is both timely and thought-provoking, encouraging readers to embrace ambiguity in an ever-changing world. Her book combines philosophical insights with practical wisdom, making it a valuable guide for navigating life's uncertainties.



***Pay As You Go* by Eskor David Johnson '07**

Johnson's book is a gritty, contemporary tale that explores the nuances of modern-day survival and economic struggles. The narrative is sharp and insightful, offering a profound look into the lives of those living on the margins.

Pay As You Go is an epic journey through the neighborhoods, characters, and sub-worlds of Polis, as protagonist Slide hunts for an apartment. Vibrant and clever—sometimes totally wild—the novel received a starred Kirkus Review highlighting its “exceptional merit,” was named a best book of 2023 by NPR, and was shortlisted for the Center for Fiction’s 2023 First Novel Prize. Eskor also has been named one of five finalists for the New York Public Library’s Young Lions Fiction Award. Some of our current students read the novel this spring, in advance of Eskor’s reading at Milton in May, and found it addictive!”

—Lisa Baker, Milton Academy, Upper School English Faculty



This Strange Eventful History: A Novel by Claire Messud '83

This novel delves into the complexities of human relationships and the passage of time, weaving a tapestry of interconnected lives. Messud's storytelling is both poignant and detailed, making it a compelling read for those who appreciate literary fiction.

"As a long-time Claire Messud fan, I am always excited to dig into her new work, and *This Strange Eventful History* does not disappoint. Drawn from stories of Messud's own family, the novel is both sweeping and intimate—shedding light on important (and often untold) aspects of 20th century history, while also delving deeply into the lives of her characters. The engrossing narrative is enriched by Messud's characteristically stunning prose." —**Alixé Callen '88, Milton Academy, Head of School**



Tough Broad by Caroline Paul '81

Paul's *Tough Broad* is a celebration of strong, resilient women who defy societal expectations. Through compelling narratives and insightful reflections, Paul highlights the courage and determination of women who have made a significant impact.



Discipline by Debra Spark '80

In *Discipline*, Spark masterfully weaves a tale of artistic ambition and personal sacrifice. Her characters are vividly drawn, and the plot is both intricate and engaging, making it a must-read for fans of character-driven fiction.



Palm Beach Schemers (Charlie Crawford Palm Beach Mysteries Book 14) by Thomas Turner '66

Turner's latest installment in the Charlie Crawford series is a thrilling mystery set against the luxurious backdrop of Palm Beach. The plot is fast-paced and filled with twists, keeping readers on the edge of their seats from start to finish.



Democracy or Else: How to Save America in 10 Easy Steps by Tommy Vietor '98 et al.

Vietor and his co-authors present a bold and actionable roadmap for revitalizing American democracy. Their book is a call to action, filled with practical steps and passionate arguments aimed at fostering civic engagement and political reform.

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