

Summer reading

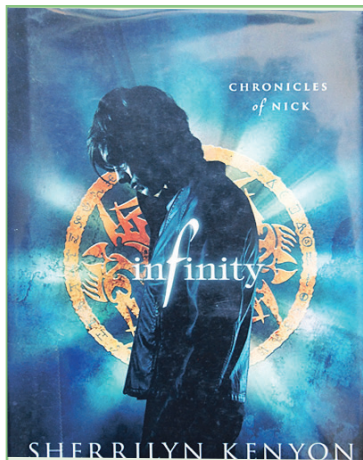
Library staffers review their favourite summer selections



**A Covert Affair:
Julia Child and
Paul Child in the
OSS
by Jennet Conant
(Non-Fiction)**

Many people know the story of Julia Child's rise to fame as a cookbook author and celebrity chef, but it is less well known that she entered into a culinary career until quite late in life. Earlier on, Julia Child had a vastly different job, working for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a citizen spy organization. In fact, it was through the OSS that she met her husband Paul. This book describes their unusual life with the OSS, their adventures overseas, the lively collection of fellow agents, and the fear and danger of being wrapped up in the McCarthy Red spy hunt of the 1950s. Through original letters and recently unclassified documents, this book paints a strikingly different picture of Julia Child and the work she did for her country.

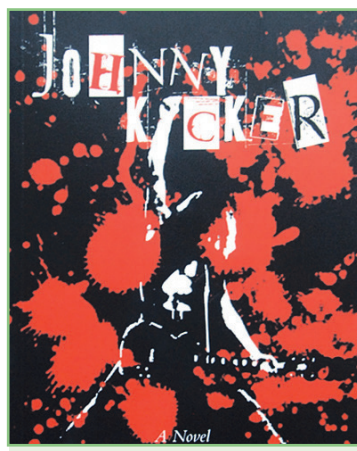
Reviewed by Clare Hanman



**Infinity
by Sherrilyn Kenyon
(Teen Fiction)**

There is a growing trend for mainstream authors to venture into the teen genre. Lately you will find teen novels by James Patterson, Kelley Armstrong and John Grisham on library shelves. Sherrilyn Kenyon, known for her supernatural romance novels, has also tried her hand at teen fiction with this book in the *Chronicles of Nick* series. Her young protagonist Nick is a streetwise, sarcastic 14-year-old. He becomes aware of the Dark Hunters, a secret group of immortal vampire hunters, when they save his life. Nick decides to join them in their battle to save humanity and finds himself fighting zombies. Nick and his mother are well drawn and engaging characters, the story is easy to follow and the action well paced. Fans of Sherrilyn Kenyon's adult novels should be aware that while this is an excellent action novel for teens it is missing her usual romantic flare.

Reviewed by Sherry Farago



**Johnny Kicker
by Jeremy Beal
(Fiction)**

This intriguing story is a debut novel from a local author. Johnny Kicker, the new kid at school, is led astray by one "friend" after another and winds up in the worst kind of trouble. Wanted by the police and living on the run, he starts an incredibly popular band whose members go to great lengths to keep their identities hidden from the media. The popularity of the band becomes a target, and others try to hijack their followers for their own purposes. This is a raw, complicated story of idealism, betrayal, manipulation, the power of music and the fight for survival in a mad, mad world.

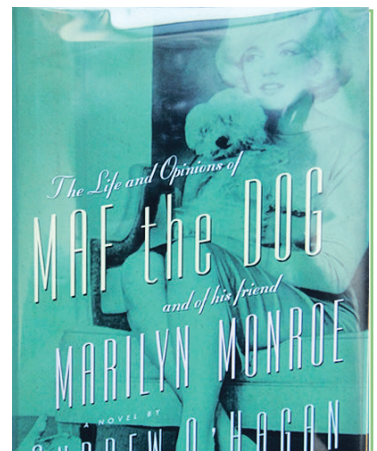
Reviewed by Elizabeth Debowy



**The King's Speech
by Mark Logue
and Peter Conradi
(Non-fiction)**

Inspired by the film of the same name, Mark Logue tells the story of his grandfather Lionel Logue, from his childhood in Australia in the 1880s, his training as an elocutionist and speech therapist, his remarkable relationship with King George VI, to his death in 1953. Mark draws detailed information from his grandfather's diaries, letters, photographs and newspaper cuttings. The book also offers an intimate insight into how Lionel helped the Duke of York, who reluctantly became King in December 1936 after the abdication of his elder brother Edward VIII, in his life-long struggle against a severe stammer that turned every public speech or radio broadcast into a terrifying ordeal. The diaries also reveal the extraordinary friendship that developed between Lionel and King George VI.

Reviewed by Etta De'ath



**The Life and
Opinions of Maf
the Dog and his
friend Marilyn
Monroe
by Andrew O'Hagan
(Fiction)**

This novel chronicles the last two years of Marilyn Monroe's life as narrated by her dog, Mafia Honey, a gift from Frank Sinatra. Maf is a lover of liver, prose, art and philosophy, but mostly he loves his owner. Since Marilyn takes him everywhere with her, he is able to give us the inside story of her lonely Hollywood life. At times both humorous and tender, this novel is an entertaining account of the turbulent early 1960's and celebrities of the day. Award-winning author Andrew O'Hagan has done a wonderful job of giving a voice to a beloved pet and telling Marilyn's story.

Reviewed by Sherry Farago



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