

# PAGES

## Books for the beach

BY ANNE HOWLAND  
Staff Writer

"Kiss me again, you fool," she whispered huskily as he enfolded her in his muscular embrace, crushing her against his chest. "Stay, stay, and let me kiss you," he begged. She resisted his smouldering, straying hands. Always, she promised, sealing his vow with a passionate kiss, sweeping Cassandra from her feet and carrying her deep into the hayloft.

Agent Kalmore took the turn at

high speed, motorcycle tires squealing. The wares of the Bombay market vendors scattered as he sped down the narrow lane, police cars hard on his trail. Through his dark visor, he could see the lumbering aircraft carrier as it pulled into the busy docks. The ship's searchlight caught the man from a rusty balcony. The light slowed long enough for her to leap onto the bike, clamping her leather clad legs around him. The pair flew down the long dock and were airborne, carving a perfect arc over the turbid water and

landing safely on the huge ship.

Get your flip-flops, suntan lotion and the comfiest deck chair you can find. It's summertime and the reading is easy.

"People are on holidays, they want a good read," says Heidi Winter, publicity manager for H.B. Fenn & Co. "Something quick and easy, no heavy literature."

What sells well, Winter says, are the season's hot thrillers, mysteries and romances. For thrills, she recommends *Parallel Lies* by Ridley Pearson, T. Jefferson Parker's *Silent Joe* and anything

from James Patterson. In mysteries, she points to Janet Evanovich's *Seven Up*, the latest in the quirky Stephanie Plum detective series, or the newest from Canadian Eric Wright, *Death of a Hired Man* with reformed convict Tom Will Pike.

Bookstore manager suggests Anita Sherrin's *The Last Time They Met*. If size doesn't matter, Winter says Wilbur A. Smith's epic historical dramas are summer favourites; the newest is *Warlock: A Novel of Ancient Egypt*. She suggests children over 10 pick up Tom Colfer's *Artemis Fowl*, a Harry

Potter-like book reviewed as *"Die Hard with fairies"*.

As for non-fiction, while Winter says it generally doesn't cut it on the beach — "people want to escape into a fantasy world" — you can live vicariously with autobiographies by Shaquille O'Neal (*Shaquille*), *Cher*, Charlotte Church (*Voice of an Angel*) and Marc Osmond (*Behind the Smile*).

At Penguin Books Canada, publicist Debby de Groot is serious about summer reading.

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