



# Book Lovers Dispatch

No. 5

[www.bookloversdispatch.com](http://www.bookloversdispatch.com)

Summer 2024

## The Great Summer Reading List



The “summer reading list” was an academic invention to retain and enhance the reading skills of students during their academic hiatus. Studies show that many students suffer what some call the “summer slide,” meaning a loss in reading ability and related skills.

As a child, I looked forward to the summer reading list. Why did reading in the summer feel more gratifying than any other time of the year? Perhaps it was the slower pace and lack of competing priorities. Reading would be fun, rather than academic.

For adults, summer reading signifies a reward for all the hard work we do during the rest of the year. Again, the summer approaches with the promises of vacations, a lighter schedule, and summer reading.

I have a confession. As an adult, I miss summer

reading. Below are suggestions for your summer reading:

- *Where the River Bends* by Elissa Matthews
- *My Pilot* by Sarajane Giere
- *Cognition Chronicles: Destiny's Orphans* by J.R. Bale

(Continued on Page 2)



To subscribe to **Book Lovers Dispatch**, go to [www.bookloversdispatch.com](http://www.bookloversdispatch.com)

## We're Back. New Season. New Energy.

Yes, we've been away for a while. Putting together the *Book Lovers Dispatch* became a bit of a challenge, and so fell by the wayside. Now, we've recruited reinforcements, specifically the talented and energetic Elissa Matthews, the author of *Where the River Bends*. You can learn more

about this talented author at her website, [www.epmatthews.com](http://www.epmatthews.com).

We plan to deliver issues on a more regular schedule with content that will enrich our fellow book lovers. As ever, we encourage feedback. Let us know what you'd like to see more of, (or less of). Until then, *happy reading!*



Elissa Matthews

### Recommendations for your Summer Reading List (Continued from Page 1)

- *The Queen of Second Chances* by D.M. Barr
- *The Turncoat's Widow* by Mally Becker
- *Wreck & Return* by Tom Kranz
- *Typecast* by Andrea Stein
- *What a Trip* by Susen Edwards
- *The Straight Spouse: A Memoir* by Vivian Fransen
- *Golden Fire* by Pamela Hegarty
- *Soul Source* by Reyna Favis
- *Traitor Among Us* by Amy M. Reade
- *A Stillness in the Pines* by Neil MacNeill
- *Reflections on My War* by Maurice Meyers MD
- *Second Term* by John Adams
- *Not So Dead* by Charles Levin
- *Accidental P.I.* by David B. Watts
- *Best Friend for Hire* by Mary Carlomagno
- *Searching for Yankee Doodle* by Robert A. Mayers
- *The Pharm House* by Bill Powers
- *The Girl on the Bus* by Kristina Garlick
- *Starting with Goodbye* by Lisa Romeo
- *Runaway* by J.B. Schroeder
- *The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty
- *The Place You're Supposed to Laugh*

by Jenn Stroud Rossman

To share your summer reading recommendations,  
go to [www.bookloversdispatch.com/2024/05/28/the-summer-reading-list](http://www.bookloversdispatch.com/2024/05/28/the-summer-reading-list)

**Act 2 Books**

24 Central Station, Flemington, NJ 08822  
[www.Act2Books.com](http://www.Act2Books.com) 1-908-968-3711

The *Book Lovers Dispatch* is now accepting advertising as a way to support its mission of talking about all things bookish. Our advertising rates:

Half page	\$50	Quarter page	\$25
Third Page	\$35	One-eighth page	\$15

To support our mission and arrange an ad, please go to [www.BookLoversDispatch.com/contact](http://www.BookLoversDispatch.com/contact).

© Balefire Communications LLC 2024. All rights reserved.

Permission is granted to transmit or reproduce this newsletter in whole and unaltered only. Transmitting or reproducing edited versions or excerpts without permission is strictly forbidden.



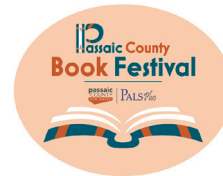
# Upcoming Book Events in 2024

**June 8, 2024**

Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm

**Passaic County Book Festival**

Weasel Brook Park  
794 Park Drive  
Clifton, NJ 07011



**July 13, 2024**

Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm

**BookFest PA**

Schlow Centre Region Library  
211 S. Allen Street  
State College, PA 16801  
[www.arts-festival.com/bookfest](http://www.arts-festival.com/bookfest)



**September 7, 2024**

Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm

**Authors Grove at Belvidere Heritage Day**

Garret Wall Park  
Belvidere, NJ 07823  
[www.BelvidereHeritage.com](http://www.BelvidereHeritage.com)

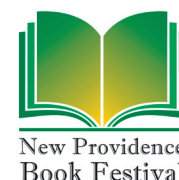


**September 21, 2024**

Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm

**New Providence Book Festival**

Grounds of the Salt Box Museum  
1350 Springfield Avenue  
New Providence, NJ 07974  
[www.NewProvidenceBookFestival.com](http://www.NewProvidenceBookFestival.com)



**October 5, 2024**

Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm

**Collingswood Book Festival**

Haddon Avenue  
Collingswood, NJ 08108  
[www.CollingswoodBookFestival.com](http://www.CollingswoodBookFestival.com)



Additional events are listed at [www.bookloversdispatch.com/book-events](http://www.bookloversdispatch.com/book-events)

*Sorry, Sir.  
According to the library authorities,  
"War & Peace" is not considered  
"Summer Reading."  
You'll have to come with me.*



[www.BookLoversDispatch.com](http://www.BookLoversDispatch.com)



Follow us on X (Twitter)  
[@bookdispatch](https://twitter.com/bookdispatch)

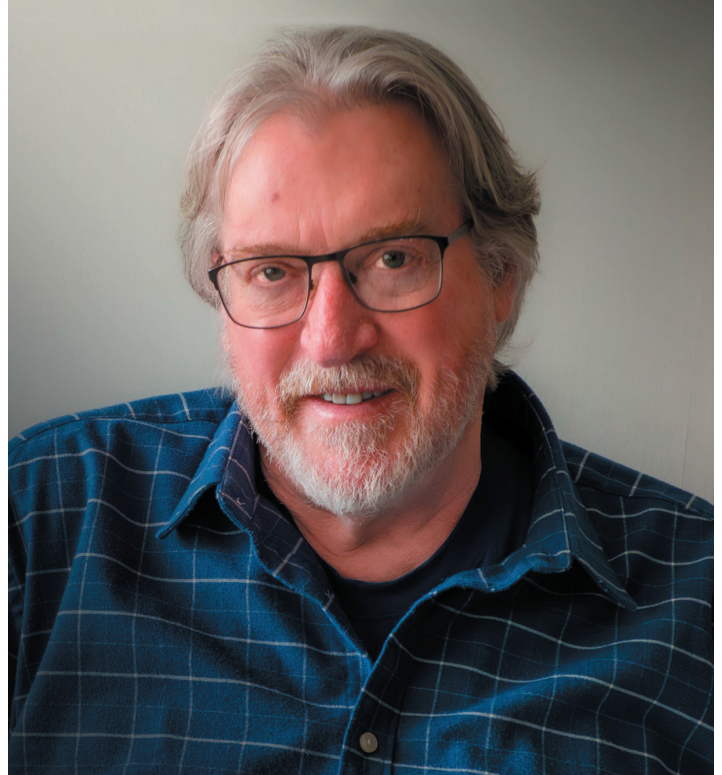
# Michael Stephen Daigle, Man of Mystery

By **Elissa Matthews**, *Book Lovers Dispatch*

Michael Daigle, author of the popular Frank Nagler mystery series, set in New Jersey, sat down with *Book Lovers Dispatch* for a fascinating look into his writing process and what he's working on next. Reflecting on his series of six books (so far), Michael talked about having "just plain fun" creating the world and evolving the characters. He continues to be surprised by the twists and surprises that come with writing. Michael has more Frank Nagler books on their way, and is considering new possibilities, including one story set in an old hotel in a small town in Maine.

In addition to having fun, Michael talked about being in the writing zone. He compares it to being in a sports zone, where muscle memory takes over and writing becomes instinctive. He emphasizes the importance of getting past physical blocks and not being hindered by spelling or details initially, they can be fixed later. Instead, he focuses on immersing himself in the setting and characters, allowing the story to unfold naturally. He highlights the thrill of discovery during writing, acknowledging that sometimes he needs to backtrack or make unexpected turns in the plot.

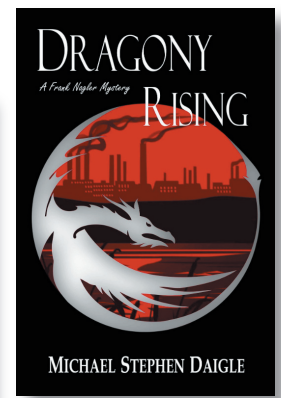
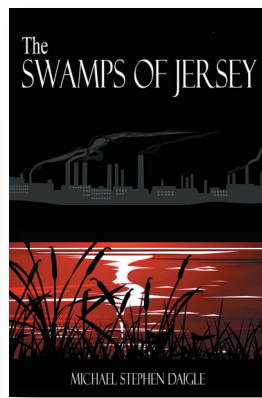
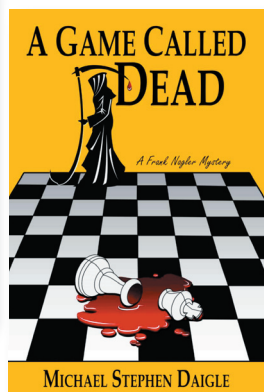
So where do his clever twists and plots come from? Michael finds inspiration in reading, real-life



Michael Stephen Daigle

Photo by Joan Zachary

experiences, and the fascination of places. His favorite books to read and reread seem to be anything written by someone named John: John Updike, John Cheever, John Gardner. He admires John McPhee's ability to frame stories effectively. Note that he also recommends *The Book Thief* and *Bridge of Clay* by Markus Zusak and the books by mystery writer Walter Mosley.

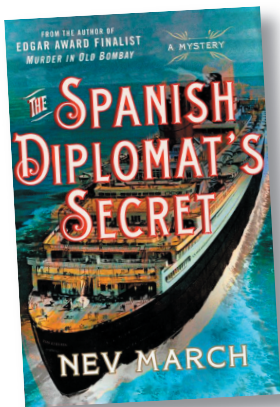


# Recent Book Releases

## ***Cognition Chronicles: Destiny's Orphans***

By J.R. Bale

The Earth burned. That's what the historical records say. Two thousand years later, a long-range mission is sent to Earth from the lone colony of Refugia to discover what happened to humanity's ancestors. As they approach Earth, the crew of the *Saranja* discovers something beyond their wildest dreams, a surviving group of humans called Destiny's Orphans. Despite their initial elation at the discovery, Jason Ford, the mission's historian, comes to realize there's a secret that could tragically alter the course of humanity forever, and cost him his very soul. This is the exciting sequel to J.R. Bale's *Cognition Chronicles: The Redstone Legacy*.



## ***The Spanish Diplomat's Secret***

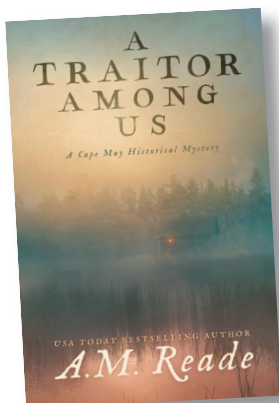
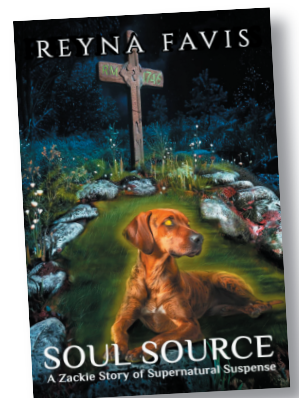
By Nev March

Captain Jim Agnihotri and his wife Lady Diana Framji are traveling+ to England in the summer of 1894. On their first evening, Jim meets an intriguing Spaniard, a fellow soldier with whom he finds an instant kinship. But within twenty-four hours, he is murdered, his body discovered shortly after he asks rather urgently to see Jim. Together, Jim and Diana must learn why one man's life came to a murderous end. *The Spanish Diplomat's Secret* is the third novel in the Captain Jim series.

## ***Soul Source***

By Reyna Favis

In a world where crypts, secret passages, and broken cell phones are occupational hazards, psychic medium Fia, her cantankerous mentor Cam, and canine Psychopomp Zackie face another haunting challenge. When they encounter the headless spirit of a Jacobite hero, they embark on a mission to save this cursed soul from wandering the Scottish Highlands for all eternity. But their quest for his missing head is snookered by gaps in the historical record, not to mention modern British security systems that could net them more police attention than a chip shop.



## ***A Traitor Among Us***

By A.M. Reade

The American Revolution rages just 70 miles away from the Rutledge family tavern in southern New Jersey. Tensions run high between those supporting the Continentals and those who remain loyal to the English crown. When Etta Rutledge stumbles upon the body of a British sympathizer on her family's property, unsettling questions regarding her brother, Jesse, begin to arise. What was his connection to the victim and why keep it hidden? Another shocking death, closer to the heart of the family, draws Etta closer to unlocking the secrets swirling around her—secrets that someone will go to any length to protect. Will Etta survive the discovery of the traitor in their midst?