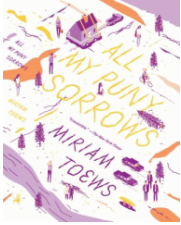


BKLYN BookMatch for West Elm: Beach Reads

This list was created by a librarian in partnership with West Elm (blog.westelm.com). Would you like your own personal list of reading suggestions? Visit Bklyn BookMatch at bklynlibrary.org/bookmatch.

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All my puny sorrows

Miriam Toews.

Toews' novel might not be the first to spring to mind when thinking of a beach read. If you can appreciate that darker turns of life can be balanced with some levity (however inappropriate), then you just might tear through these pages as I

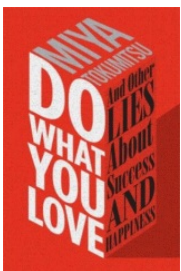
did.



The blue fox

Sjaon ; translated from the Icelandic by Victoria Cribb.

This fantastical sliver of a book filled my eyes with wonder and sent me into a dreamlike state when I finished reading. Victoria Cribb's translation also made me feel that I should learn Icelandic.



Do what you love

Miya Tokumitsu.

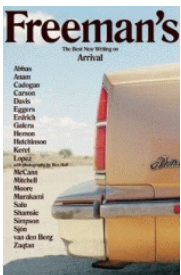
Sure, the last thing you want to read in order to relax your mind is a book about work. Should you be in the mood for a very brief but gripping argument about how requiring passion for one's job can be problematic, look no further.



Exit wounds

Rutu Modan.

A cabbie and a soldier search all over Tel Aviv for the missing figure who binds them together. Translated from Hebrew by Noah Stollman, Modan's subtle humor pokes fun at the detachment from everyday terror.

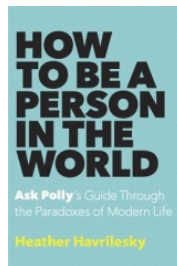


Freeman's arrival

edited by John Freeman.

The first issue in an anthology of writings, all hand-picked by former Granta editor John Freeman. I was especially taken with Lydia Davis' method of learning Norwegian, Kamila Shamsie negotiating gender and class with Pakistani military intelligence, and Fatin Abbas on relations

in a NGO in Sudan.



How to be a person in the world

Heather Havrilesky.

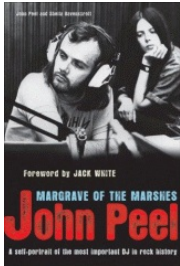
If you're between the ages of 20 and 50 but are unable to afford a therapist, Heather Havrilesky's column may provide temporary relief. Even if a lot of "Polly's" advice is couched in goofy and slightly

snarky language, the underlying common sense still shines through.

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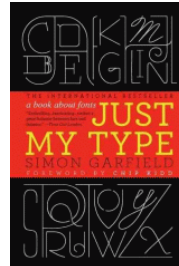
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John Peel

John Peel and Sheila Ravenscroft ; [foreword by Jack White].

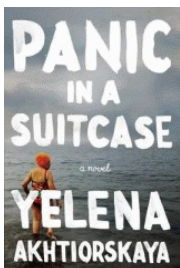
I never got the pleasure to listen to this legendary DJ's shows when he was still spinning records and promoting music with BBC. Fortunately, this compelling autobiography paints a very clear picture of Peel's passion--and I'll admit it, makes me envious of all the folks he's worked with.



Just my type

Simon Garfield.

It's a layperson's guide to fonts--I mean, typefaces! Garfield has helped me better appreciate the much-maligned Comic Sans and revealed why Gotham worked for the Obama campaign. Honestly, who knew?! (Besides designers, that is.)



Panic in a suitcase

Yelena Akhtiorskaya.

Another novel one can read quickly, not because its characters are likeable but more that they're intimately familiar. It begins with the persnickety uncle set in his ways and ends with the "third culture kid," trying to reconcile her Ukrainian heritage with her Brooklyn upbringing.



Why not me?

Mindy Kaling.

A strong contender for "writing at which I would snort aloud while riding public transit." Kaling's brand of humor is particular, to be sure, but she also displays her self-confidence and her drive to work hard for what she wants.