

# Summer Reading

A collection of titles to pass the long, warm days away.  
by Tom Elliott

It's time for the annual summer reading list, and I thought the books I recently received for my birthday would make an excellent start.

The first book in my stack is **Playing with the Devil: The True Story of a Rock Band's Terrifying Encounters with the Dark Side** by Marcus Griffin (Llewellyn), the highly literate and true recounting of rock band Entropy's encounter with a demonic entity that promised them fame and fortune...for a price. The fact you've never heard of Entropy is a clue to the choice they made—a wise one, in my opinion. And as long as we're in the twilight zone, also consider **Children of the Greys** by Bret Oldham (House of Halo), a personal account of alien abduction and interplanetary breeding. Like many abductees, Oldham warns people like me who'd love to be picked up some night for a grand tour of the galaxy: Be careful what you wish for.

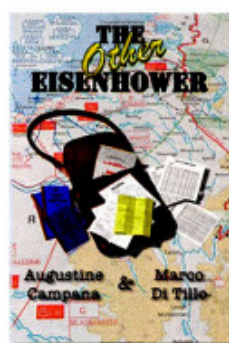
Are you a history buff? **A History of Longfellow's Wayside Inn** by Brian Plumb (History Press) recounts the rich saga of “the oldest operating inn in America” and site of Longfellow's *Tales of a Wayside Inn* and Henry Ford's boys industrial school experiment. If you're really into colonial inns, there's a companion volume, **As Ancient Is This Hostelry: The Story of The Wayside Inn** by C. Garfield, A. Ridley, and Robert Rees Evans (Porcupine Enterprises). Or how about **The Sun and the Moon: The Remarkable True Account of Hoaxers, Showmen, Dueling Journalists, and Lunar Man-Bats in Nineteenth-Century New York** by Matthew Goodman (Basic Books/Perseus Book Group)? If you get a guilty pleasure out of the newsstand tabloids of today, you would have loved the penny or story papers of the 1800s.

If suspense and thrills are your choice for a day at the beach, pick up an Andrew Gross novel such as **The Blue Zone** (Harper), in which Kate Raab, a medical researcher, and her family are offered sanctuary in a witness protection program when her father is accused of laundering drug money. But Kate elects to go it alone despite the risks. Or how about **Love Kills** by Edna Buchanan (Simon & Schuster), where Miami cold case squad member Britt Montero escapes to a remote desert island for solace after the murder of boyfriend Kendall McDonald? She finds a camera on the beach with photos of happy newlyweds, but trouble looms when she discovers the couple was lost at sea and the groom (later



rescued) is a suspect with many secrets. Still lusting for more? Try **Circle of Lies** by Douglas Alan (Tom Doherty Associates/Forge), which stars the crime-fighting legal team of ex-NYPD detective John Delaney and his wife Katherine Adams and their efforts to clear the name of Ted Jordan, a childhood friend of John's who has been charged with torture and murder of his law partner. To add to the challenge, Ted's fingerprints have been traced to the dead man's house, \$500,000 is found in his bank account, a second dead body is discovered in Ted's condominium, and an NSA agent orders the investigators to back off...or else.

A number of M-written books received this month are of a philosophical/spiritual bent, enabling you to put your beach time to good use. Let's get to them!



**The Other Eisenhower** by Augustine Campana and Marco Di Tillo (Webster House Publishing LLC). “Fast-moving,” “page-turning,” “captivating”—clichés perhaps, but never more aptly applied than to this novel, based on an actual security breach and events leading up to the D-Day invasion. Plans for the invasion blow out a war office window and into the hands of a simple London postman, Paul Eisenhower, a distant cousin of Ike, who becomes the innocent target of both the Allies, who want to keep him quiet, and the Germans, who want to learn what he knows. An abduction and escape take the non-stop action from Germany to Holland through Belgium and into Nazi-occupied France, then to the town of Laon, a mansion in Paris, and captivity in Rommel's headquarters, while in the background we follow Eisenhower and his staff as they implement plans to invade France and liberate Europe from Hitler's grasp. If you like wartime thrillers like this, be aware that the authors are already hard at work on *The Dollfuss Affair*, dealing with the first meeting of Hitler and Mussolini, and Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss's plans to assassinate the former.