

OPEN THREAD: SUMMER SUNDAY AFTERNOON

It's a Sunday afternoon in the middle of a three-day holiday weekend. We're all feeling the weight of the last several weeks' horrors along with oppressive heat and humidity depending on where you live.

It's a good afternoon to kick back and sip something cold while cracking open a beach read or a book you've put aside for a slow day. We deserve and need the relaxation.

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"Summer is only the unfulfilled promise of spring, a charlatan in place of the warm balmy nights I dream of in April. It's a sad season of life without growth...It has no day."

– *F. Scott Fitzgerald, This Side of Paradise*

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"Dandelion wine. The words were summer on the tongue. The wine was summer caught and stoppered...sealed away for opening on a January day with snow falling fast and the sun unseen for weeks..."

– *Ray Bradbury, Dandelion Wine*

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"I have only to break into the tightness of a strawberry, and I see summer – its dust and lowering skies."

– *Toni Morrison, The Bluest Eye*

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What are your summer reads? I'm working on Carol Leonnig's *Zero Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Secret Service* while I dog sit for my kids.

Tony Ornato appears several times in this text,
by the way.

I think I may have made a mistake, though,
choosing this text to read while caring for
these two canines who are a lot like my kids –
one is serious and mildly anxious, the other is
as uncontrolled as an 11-month-old Aussie
Shepherd mix can be and as smart but ADHD as
their owner.

Not a good combo under my care when our white
trash neighbors give in to their annual not-to-
local-code zeal for fireworks. I don't have any
CBD for dogs on hand to give the jittery rat
terrier-spaniel mix or the spastic Aussie when
the sun sets and the neighbors' first
firecrackers are lit.

You may imagine me later this evening
experimenting with white noise applications
until I find one that works for dogs and
fireworks. Hope for the best.

I'll get as far as I can in the mean time while
the dogs continue to loll about in the grass
beneath the shade of my maple tree.

This is an open thread. Talk about your beach
reads, or barbeque, or what not.