



THE VACATIONERS

Four volumes starring heroines of transformation: Slip'em in your bag

BEACHY, KEEN

Packing history, mystery, romance, danger, intrigue, and adventure, Beatriz Williams's Cocoa Beach (William Morrow) zigzags between World War I battlefields and the Prohibition-era boomtown of Cocoa Beach, Florida. Family secrets haunt restless American Virginia Fortescue as she signs on to the war effort as a Red Cross ambulance driver in Europe, where she meets and marries British Army surgeon Simon Fitzwilliam. Five years later, a widowed Virginia decamps to Cocoa Beach with her young daughter to settle her dead husband's vast, shadowy holdings in shipping, banking, and citrus groves. Ah, but is her husband really dead?

APRÈS LE DIVORCE, LE DÉLUGE

Drawn from notebooks she kept after leaving her marriage, Heather Chaplin's Reckless Years: A Diary of Love and Madness (Simon & Schuster) has the urgent inevitability of a Dante-esque downward spiral. Chaplin, founding director of the Journalism + Design program at the

New School in New York, doesn't hold back on her bouts with rage, sexual impulsiveness, depression, and intoxicationsweetened by her gifts for seeking redemption and resolve. She spends the first weeks of her separation practically housebound, aettina drunk and stoned every day and "eating a lot of Oreos dipped in vodka." Months later, on Manhattan's Lower East Side, Chaplin has "this sense...that if I accidentally open my mouth the wrong way, the fury in me would cause all of Avenue A to collapse on itself, buildings falling, people screaming, dust reaching up to the sky."

BETWEEN THE WORLD AND SHE

Like her main character, Thandi, Zinzi Clemmons is biracial, the daughter of a mixed-race South African mother and an African American father. In her fiercely intelligent, arresting debut novel, What We Lose (Viking), set in Pennsylvania and South Africa, Clemmons captures Thandi's strengths and vulnerabilities in the aftermath of her mother's death as she navigates

through friendships, boyfriends, marriage, and motherhood. Issues of race, identity, and family roots power the first-person narrative: "I've often thought that being a light-skinned black woman is like being a well-dressed person who is also homeless. You may be able to pass in mainstream society... But in reality you have nowhere to rest, nowhere to feel safe."

THE REBOOT

Laura Dave's Hello, Sunshine (Simon & Schuster) follows her breakout 2015 best-seller, Eight Hundred Grapes. and finds popular Web lifestyle diva Sunshine Mackenzie in the thick of it after a catastrophic hack exposes her carefully crafted celebrity existence. The novel asks, How do vou build an authentic life in an age of Internetdriven, entrepreneurial empire building? And: Will Sunshine's image takedown cause her to self-destruct, or start over? All Sunshine knows when she wakes up on her thirty-fifth birthday is that it's also the day "I lost my career and my husband and my home in one uncompromising swoop."-L.S.