

# For the Love of Reading

## Fall Books!



Even though the days are still hot and it technically isn't fall yet, the students are back so

we know summer is on its last legs. Fall book previews are out and I am excited to see that some of my favorite authors have new titles coming out in the next few months.

One of my favorite nonfiction authors, Malcolm Gladwell has a new book out this fall called *David and Goliath*. His previous books include *Outliers* (my favorite), *Blink* and *The Tipping Point*. Gladwell is a journalist who has turned some pop and academic research on the social sciences on its head. The chapters usually are distinct journalistic pieces unto themselves and make for some unexpectedly fascinating reading.

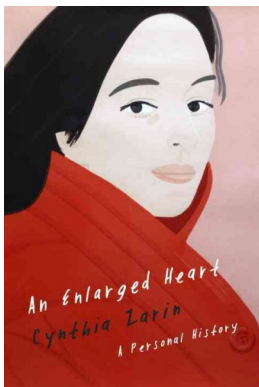
Dave Eggers has a new thriller coming out in early October called *The Circle*. I didn't love his most recent novel, *A Hologram for a King*. I liked the story and found the Saudi Arabian setting interesting but I found the main character too unsympathetic. I did love the characterization, setting and unique narrative voice of 2007's *What is the What* so much that I might possibly have to read everything he ever writes. [Read more »](#)

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Posted by Sarah B. on Aug 27, 2013 [Sarah B.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



## An Enlarged Heart



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**ISBN:**

9781400042715

Summer--a great time for reading novels--is also a good time to catch up on more episodic reading. This memoir is perfect for a short period listening to the cicada orchestra from the porch swing, or a quick read before bed.

In twelve varied segments, poet and former *New Yorker/Talk of the Town* writer Zarin shares

important milestones in her life as well as a passion for several material objects that she has become attached to over the years.

The strongest and most emotionally-charged piece is the title one in which Zarin describes a typical day on the Cape with her and her husband's assorted brood of kids, when the youngest gets ill. It began with a cough. Her brother had a cough. And, after all, what was a cough?? By this time, Zarin had treated countless upset tummies and sore throats. But two emergency visits later, she found herself kneeling next to her daughter while the ambulance raced to Children's Hospital in Boston.

The diagnosis: the rare Kawasaki Disease, which is the leading cause of heart damage in children. This segment shows how quickly our ordinary lives can turn frightening and possibly tragic. **[Read more »](#)**

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## [The Rosies Are Ready for Some Football](#)



August means back to school, the first touch of a chill in the morning air, and football, of

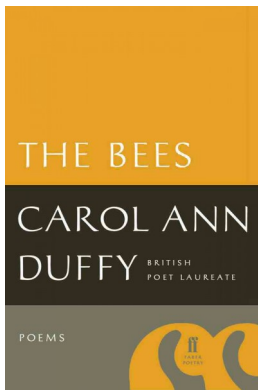
course! This year, three of the Rosie Award nominees are about or related to football in very special and different ways. Geoff Herbach's novel *Stupid Fast* is set in the exciting and bewildering world of high school football, where Felton Reinstein has gone from being a bullied failure of a stand-up comedian to a seriously fast, seriously *gigantic* football player in his sophomore year. There's a decent amount of football action (including off-season training) and a bit of romance, but Herbach's strong point is how he balances a story about a neglectful mother with Felton's often hilarious struggles to control his newly grown-up body and the popularity it brings. Fans of [Carl Deuker](#) or [Paul Volponi's](#) sports novels will enjoy this one. **[Read more »](#)**

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Posted by Chris H. on Aug 15, 2013 [Chris H.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



## [The Bees](#)



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**ISBN:**

9780865478855

Before we slide into autumn, and the lightning bugs, daddy long legs, and bees disappear, take time to enjoy Carol Ann Duffy's new collection of poems, *The Bees*. No, it has nothing to do with the dark subject of colony collapse. Instead many of these poems center on this communal insect and its work in the world. Other poems are about love and family and the desolation of winter, yet even in these, bees hover over the edges of the poems, providing a small celestial moment of grace and fortitude (especially in those set during cold months.)

Duffy writes lyrical poetry that resonates with imaginative and sometimes unexpected images. Examine how the title poem begins: "Here are my bees / brazen, blurs on paper, / besoted: buzzwords, dancing / their flawless, airy maps."

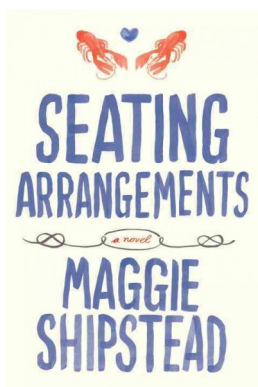
In this poem she compares bees to words, how they dive deeply into everything and bring back scents that pervade her "shadowed, busy heart, / and honey is art." [Read more »](#)

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Posted by Dory L. on Aug 13, 2013 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



## Wedding Complications



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**ISBN:**

9780307599469

In *Seating Arrangements*, Winn Van Meter and his family descend upon the family's summer retreat house on the New England island of Waskeke. His pregnant daughter Daphne is about to tie the knot. Bidy, her mother, is deeply involved in final wedding preparations, and Winn finds himself strongly drawn to one of the bridesmaids, Agatha. Meanwhile, Daphne's sister, Livia, who just terminated her own pregnancy, is trying hard to get over a big breakup with Teddy Finn. And to her father's horror, Livia plans to become a marine biologist rather than a lawyer.

This lovely, slyly humorous novel is brimming with very believable and flawed characters; it captures the insanity, tension, and chaos of a modern wedding.

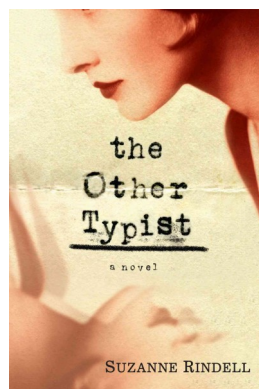
Winn, an upper-crust, stoic accountant likes things just so. Imagine his consternation when he arrives a day late for the weekend party to find his spiritual retreat taken over by women: his wife and two daughters, three other bridesmaids, and the alcoholic Aunt Celeste, who sees right through Winn's holier than thou exterior to his traitorous heart. During one pre-wedding party with the new in-laws, she follows him up to the widow's walk and warns him, not to ruin Bidy's weekend. [Read more »](#)

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## Those Rollicking 1920s



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**ISBN:**

9780399161469

Interested in all the hoopla surrounding *The Great Gatsby*? If this new flick has spurned your interest in 1920s New York, *The Other Typist* is the book for you. Talk about unreliable narrators. Rose Baker, a former orphan & Catholic schoolgirl, has joined the new wave of women working where men only used to work?big city police stations.

And even though she is still doing women's work?stenography & typing--she's listening to risqué and bad language-spiced stories from speakeasy gangsters and murderers including one serial killer who offs several wives in a row for their money. They each end up drowned in the bathtub, yet he keeps convincing juries that he is innocent.

Strong and stoic as Rose is, she soon becomes mesmerized by the new (somewhat incompetent) typist, Odalie, who is beautiful, rich, and ever so modern. She bobs her hair, wears the new slinky dresses with long beads, and is not afraid to make her own way in the world, including visiting the aforementioned speakeasies. But where does Odalie get her money? And is the daddy who pays her rent really her daddy? [Read more »](#)

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