

The Top 10 beach books of all time...

Each book comes and beach books go. Every season a new Judith Krantz or Sidney Sheldon bestseller turns up on the sand like so much Coppertone tanning lotion. But some books deserve permanent places in the beach bag every summer. Here are the Top 10 beach books of all time, in no order whatsoever.

1. "VALLEY OF THE DOLLS," by Jacqueline Susann: The book that spawned them all and won its author a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. "Valley of the Dolls" tells the story of three young lovelies who rise to the highest heights, only to crash down into the pill-popping hell of the Valley of the "dolls," or pills. The movie version of the book, melodramatically acted by stars like Patty Duke and the Manson-murdered Sharon Tate, was a hilarious camp hoot.

2. "LOVERS AND GAMBLERS," by Jackie Collins: British rock superstar Al King (think Tom Jones) and ex-hooker/

beauty pageant winner Dallas Lunce (raised in an Everglades reptile zoo) do the dirty deed around the globe, fight, drug, booze it up and finally get together in the Amazon jungle. Absolutely fantastic characters, from black, bisexual heroin-addict hooker Bobbie to groupies to the slick manager Bernie Suntas, help flesh out Collins' wildest novel. The pages of cheap glamour and sensationalism at its raunchy Hollywood best breeze by, thanks to Collins' fast pacing.

3. "THE CRAZY LADIES," by Joyce Kilmer: Four swinging New York girls in the late 1960s star in what Cosmopolitan called "The First Really Great TV Book." For kinky sex and hilariously bitchy dialogue, this book gets four stars.

4. "GOOD-BYE, JANETTE," by Harold Robbins: Unbelievably sordid story about three generations of women in the fashion industry. Unpleasant scenes, unpleasant people, un-

pleasantly raunchy sex and the classic line, "Without the pain, there is no pleasure."

5. "THE PRETENDERS," by Gwen Davis: Dripping with late 1950s Hollywood and New York ambience, this book about the repercussions resulting from the sudden death of a power broker was described as "a green salad of crunchy, chewy sex" and even spawned a record of music to read "The Pretenders" by.

6. "IT TOMORROW COMES," by Sidney Sheldon: Tracy Whitney, ex-con, becomes a glamorous jewel thief and finds love, too. Plus lots of money, which are two of the ingredients of a good trash novel, anyway. Notable as one of the few Sidney Sheldon TV miniseries without Jaclyn Smith.

7. "THE LONELY LADY" by Harold Robbins: Robbins attempts to get inside a modern woman writer's head and figure out her sorry life. His heroine sleeps with everything, gets raped

by a garden hose nozzle, becomes a stripper, has a nervous breakdown and becomes a lesbian. The novel's ending is a classic. Pia Zadora starred in the universally ridiculed movie version. "They made 'The Lonely Lady' in Italy," Zadora told the Daily Nebraskan in 1987. "They should have killed it there, too."

8. "MISTRAL'S DAUGHTER," by Judith Krantz: Three generations of fiery redheaded beauties, all involved with the maniac artist Julien Mistral. Fun, fast-paced, and the basis of a miniseries with Stefanie Powers.

9. "HOLLYWOOD WIVES," by Jackie Collins: The book that gave Collins recognition in America, this novel has hilarious characters, tongue-in-cheek scenes, extremely kinky sex and a dangerous psycho stalking the stars. Plus the unforgettable Gina Germaine, aging sex goddess who wants to be taken seriously. Look for the scene in which a Hollywood mogul has a heart attack while in

bed with a buxom starlet -- and the two have to go to the hospital for a reason too graphic to be explained.

10. "LACE," by Shirley Conran: Which one of four successful women is the mother of Lili, ex-porno star and international sex kitten? "Lace" became an all-star miniseries and contained the immortal line, "Which one of you bitches is my mother?" The book was made into a miniseries starring the beautiful and outrageously untalented Phoebe Cates.

HONORABLE MENTION: "FORTUNES," by Barney Leason: Sick, sick, sick is the word in this book, as people die in the saddle, vomit on each other during intimate moments and really wallow in the erotic mire when they're not engineering corporate takeovers. If you can get through it without needing an antacid, "Fortunes" deserves a place on every serious trash aficionado's bookshelf.

--By William Rudolph

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