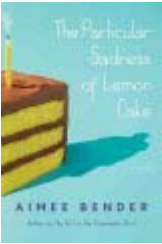


## *New Fiction*

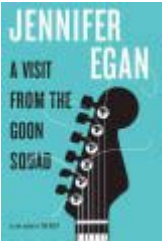
Next Reads - July 2010

Previously Purchased Fiction



### **The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake: A Novel - by Aimee Bender**

About to turn nine, Rose Edelstein swipes a piece of homemade cake only to find that she can taste the baker's emotions--in this case her mother's dissatisfaction. Since she can now taste emotions in everything she eats, meals become difficult for Rose, and for a while she simply subsists on junk food from a vending machine. Readers who enjoy stories tinged with magical realism--think Sarah Addison Allen's *Garden Spells*, Laura Esquivel's *Like Water for Chocolate*, or pretty much anything by Isabel Allende--will enjoy following Rose as she comes to terms with her new ability, while others will appreciate the way author Aimee Bender explores Rose's relationships with her similarly burdened family.



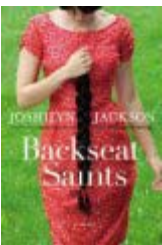
### **A Visit from the Goon Squad - by Jennifer Egan**

Leaping back and forth through time from 1970s San Francisco to the early 2020s in Manhattan and focusing on a broad cast of characters, this unusual novel centers (sort of) on music producer Bennie Salazar and his assistant, Sasha. But there's also Alex (Sasha's so-so date for an evening), Scotty (Bennie's former band mate), and a host of others who serve to emphasize the connections between people even as time marches ever onward. *Booklist* calls this a "hilarious, melancholy, enrapturing, unnerving, and piercingly beautiful mosaic of a novel," and you'll likely agree if you're interested in experimental writing that tackles a recognizable subject--growing up and growing old.



### **Beautiful María of My Soul: Or the True Story of María García y Cifuentes, the Lady Behind a Famous Song - by Oscar Hijuelos**

In this half-sequel/half-retelling of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author's *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*, María García, the inspiration for the Mambo Kings' biggest hit, reminisces about her days and nights in Havana, offering a different perspective on the story told in *Mambo Kings*. From the beautiful Cuban countryside to Havana's bright lights, Maria's doomed love affair with Mambo King Nestor Castillo fills this book with passion and informs her entire life story. It may not matter which order you read the two novels in, but you should definitely make sure to follow the reading of one with a reading of the other.



### **Backseat Saints - by Joshilyn Jackson**

Beginning with the unforgettable line "It was an airport gypsy who told me that I had to kill my husband," *Backseat Saints* follows Rose Mae Lolley (also known as Ro Grandee) as she flees her violent husband, searches for a former sweetheart, and tries to build a better life for herself. Those of you who have read *Gods in Alabama* might remember her part there, but Rose Mae has this novel all to herself, and while she's far from perfect, she's working her way toward a brighter future despite all the obstacles thrown in her way. If you love Southern fiction, Southern women, or tales of second chances, you won't want to miss Rosa Mae's adventures.



### **Stay - by Allie Larkin**

After she watches the man she's always been in love with marry her best friend, Savannah Leone takes to the bottle and the television. The next morning, she learns that she has apparently purchased a puppy on the Internet. The "puppy," however, turns out to be a highly trained 100-pound German shepherd police dog. The vet she takes him to...well, he turns out to be rather handsome--and single. But lest you think this is "just" another girl-meets-boy story, don't forget about that newly married couple, whose demands on Savannah's time might cause some problems. Equally, Savannah's painful awareness of class differences adds tension. Fans of chick-lit (or of dogs!) will eat it up.



### **Neighborhood Watch - by Cammie McGovern**

Distrust. Paranoia. Deception. These are the hallmarks of life for newly exonerated suburban librarian Betsy Treading, who has returned to her hometown determined to salvage her life and clear any lingering suspicion by discovering who really killed her neighbor, Linda Sue Nelson, 12 years ago. Unsurprisingly, it's not easy to gain the townspeople's trust, and even Betsy's one loyal friend on Juniper Lane seems to have secrets to hide. The tension ratchets up as Betsy delves deeper into the web of connections, secrets, and lies that ties suburban neighbors together, and fans of literary suspense "will be rewarded" (*Publishers Weekly*) by the twists this story takes.