

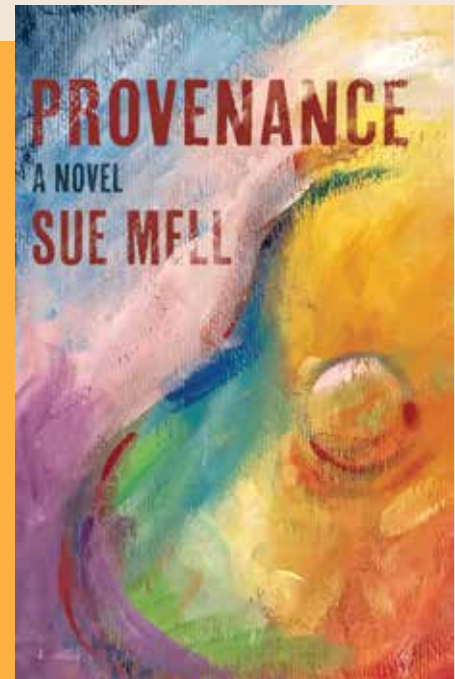
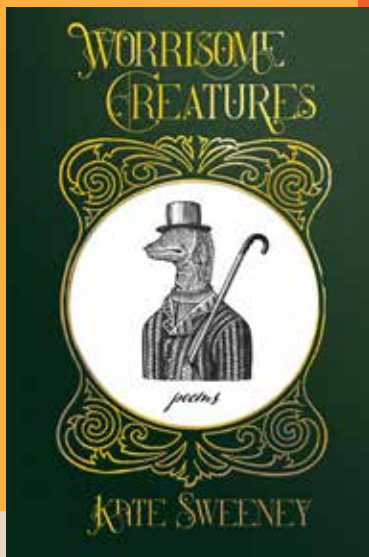
# Summer Reading List

SUSAN O'DELL  
UNDERWOOD

GENESIS  
ROAD

## Summer novels

In *Genesis Road*, by Susan O'Dell Underwood, Glenna Daniels faces a midlife cul-de-sac. She bears a recent miscarriage and third divorce the way her Appalachian parents taught her to cope with tragedy—in stoic secrecy. She quits her social work position in Knoxville and runs away from home at the age of thirty-six, heading west with childhood friend, Carey, a gay professor in Atlanta. During their years in school, Glenna protected him from bullies. Now Carey is her savvy guide as she tries to heal her fractured life. Through the wilds of America Glenna grapples with the past and reconciles a way back home.



Sue Mell's *Provenance* tells the story of DJ, still grieving his wife's early death. He has spent the last three years—and the money from her insurance policy—collecting guitars, composing music, and continuing to shop the Brooklyn stoop sales and flea markets they'd always enjoyed. When his building is sold, he takes refuge in his younger sister's half-finished basement, imagining a comfortable and solitary retreat in Hurley, the small Hudson Valley town where they grew up. Instead, he finds himself caught up in her troubling divorce, drafted as caregiver for his 11-year-old niece, and unable to face or afford a storage unit crammed with hundreds of vinyl records and every other scrap of his former life. DJ gifts his niece a marbled glass egg, a porkpie hat, and one of his prized guitars. But what's asked of him, on his return to Hurley is not to give the perfect object—it's to give of himself.

## Fresh New Poetry

Kate Sweeney's debut collection *Worrisome Creatures* bursts with beauty, humor, frank confidences, and nifty resolution. With pitstops across America and the decades, these poems range over everything from pregnancy, motherhood and exes to cockroaches, invasive trees, her own jealousies and other people's stupidity.

*Secret City* by Katherine Smith explores belonging and power through the eyes of children and adults, whether the relationships in question are to a family, to a religion, to a region or to a country. The imagery of the natural world weaves in and out of the dreams of a young Jewish girl brought to live with a Christian family in Oak Ridge, Tennessee during World War II.

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