

Mademoiselle

JULY 1998

arts BOOKS





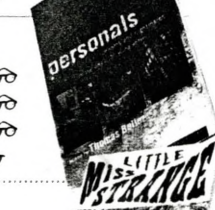
Read yourself like an open book

laughs, love, life lessons

Whatever you need, we've got a paperback. And you can't beat the price

BY CATHI HANAUER

AH, JULY. BELLY BUTTON RINGS. BOARDWALK FLINGS. Or, in my case, air conditioning and iced coffee. No matter what, I need a juicy read. Knowing you feel the same, here's a roundup of the best new softcovers—to keep your beach bag light and your budget freed up for, well, belly button rings.

Your Mood	Read	Why	Warning	Verdict
Hungry for Thrills	Déjà Dead BY KATHY REICHS (POCKET, \$6.99)	Dismemberment, murder, maggots: How can you resist? This gripping mystery stars Temperance Brennan, a forensic anthropologist, who is everything you want in a heroine: smart, brave and just bitchy enough. When she examines a butchered 23-year-old female corpse, she suspects a serial killer, but the (all male) detectives on the case won't back her. So she investigates alone, endangering herself, friends, family	Since our heroine Brennan is "on a first-name basis with the odor of death," don't even think about reading this alone late at night—or before, during or just after a meal	
Could Use a Laugh	Chicana Falsa BY MICHELE M. SERROS (RIVERHEAD, \$12)	No one escapes the brutal yet affectionate pen lashings of Mexican-American poet and performance artist Michele M. Serros, whether it's the "Chicana Child" who almost chokes while gorging on pork-skin <i>chicharrones</i> or the "Shower Power Hippie Man," complete with "pink, freckled . . . hairy hippie butt," at which four Chicana girls sneak peeks. Serros's sassy poems and short stories are a multicultural joyride	With images like "passed out fathers on La-Z-Boy[s]" and "sweat rings saturating blouse," brace yourself for a reality that bites. And keep a Spanish dictionary close by	
Craving a Good Read	Personals: Dreams and Nightmares from the Lives of 20 Young Writers EDITED BY THOMAS BELLER (MARINER, \$13)	Not just shallow "Gen X" hype, these essays expertly evoke what it's like to be post-college but pre-"settled." You get, among others, Strawberry Saroyan on being a virgin at 25; Caitlin O'Connor Creevy on becoming a single Catholic mom; and Beller on working (and panicking) in a bagelry. A literary treat	May drag you into the angst of being in your twenties—just in case you aren't already wallowing there	
	Little Miss Strange BY JOANNA ROSE (SCRIBNER, \$12)	As a child of '60s love children, narrator Sarajejan Henry is content to drift—smoke pot from homemade pipes (toilet-paper roll, anyone?); witness Dad's drug busts; learn about sex from other kids. Then Sarajejan begins to question her life and search for her identity (and her mom). A colorful coming-of-age novel	For days afterward, you could find yourself saying things like "Far out!" and "My eyes love green, but my heart belongs to purple"	