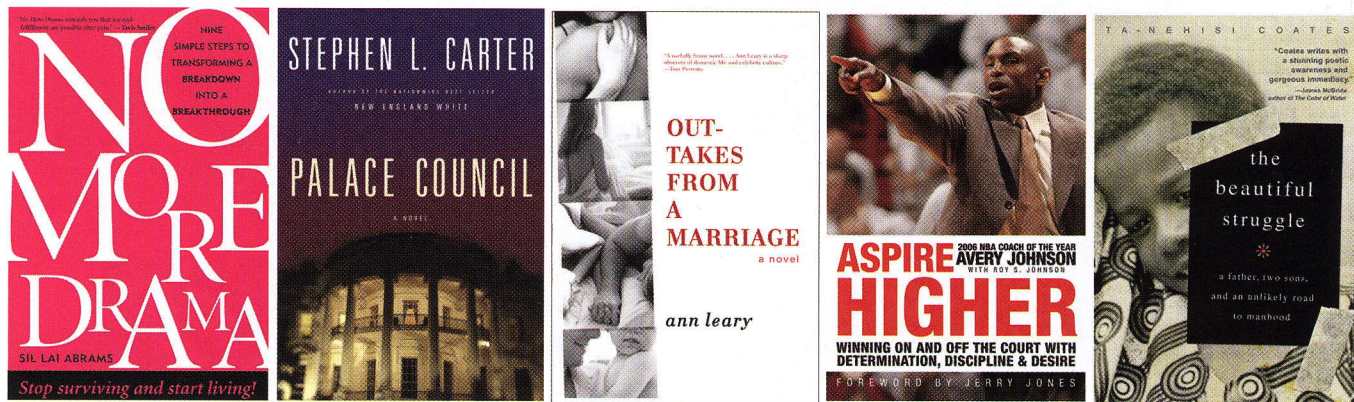


# Summer Sabatical

Take time out for a great read or a little self-improvement with these books.

By Jessica Dufresne



## NO MORE DRAMA

By Sil Lai Abrams (Sepia)

If Mary could do it, so can you—say good-bye to the drama in your life with help from Sil Lai Abrams' engaging, sister-to-sister-style guide to living stress-free. If you crave a more personal touch, Abrams will be on tour this summer spreading her words of wisdom and inspiration. See [sepiaprocess.com](http://sepiaprocess.com) to find out when she'll be in a city near you.

## PALACE COUNCIL

By Stephen L. Carter (Knopf)

Best-selling author Stephen Carter's latest thriller, *Palace Council*, finds a young Harlem journalist and his girlfriend thrown into a whirlwind search for answers following a series of strange events, including murder and suicide. This politically charged page-turner, set in the tumultuous 1950s and 1960s, will keep you engrossed as the mystery unfolds.

## OUTTAKES FROM A MARRIAGE

By Ann Leary (Shaye Areheart Books)

In *Outtakes from a Marriage*, Julia DeLuca's husband hits it big in his acting career. The couple is enjoying the success until Julia accidentally hears a voicemail left for him by a mystery woman. You'll laugh and cry along with Julia as she decides what to do after her world is turned upside down in this realistic look at how infidelity damages lives.

## ASPIRE HIGHER: WINNING ON AND OFF THE COURT WITH DETERMINATION, DISCIPLINE & DESIRE

By Avery Johnson with Roy S. Johnson (Collins)

From his humble beginnings as a non-drafted hopeful deemed too short for the NBA to winning coach of the year in 2006, Avery Johnson knows a thing or two about success. Luckily he's willing to share what he's picked up along the way.

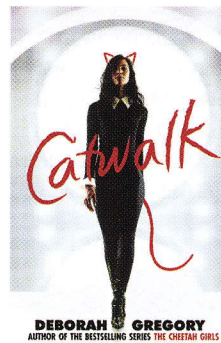
## THE BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE

By Ta-Nehisi Coates (Spiegel & Grau)

*The Beautiful Struggle* is a poignant exploration of the relationships between a young boy, his wayward eldest brother, and the revolutionary-minded father trying to keep them from the lure of the streets. Set against the backdrop of 1980s Baltimore in the thick of the crack epidemic and development of hip-hop culture, this authentic coming-of-age tale will hit home with many Gen X readers.

## TEEN READS

It won't be too hard getting the kids to crack open a book during summer vacation if they have fun, easy-to-read options with just enough drama to hold their interest. Here are UPTOWN's picks:



## CATWALK

By Deborah Gregory

(Delacorte Press)

Budding fashionista and high school junior Pashmina Purrstein gets to lead her own mock fashion house in a fierce competition to win a trip to Italy and a chance to launch a label and star in a reality show. But it won't be easy when all the angst, infighting, and fun that define high school and fashion get in the way.



## HOTLANTA

By Denene Millner and Mitzi Miller (Point)

Privileged twins Sydney and Lauren appear to have it all: looks, boys, designer gear, and rich parents. However, looks are not all they seem, and these teens definitely have some secrets, which threaten to ruin their lives and the lives of the people they love. □