Reading the Atmosphere

More than anything else, we often choose to read a book based on the feelings we get when we read. Which is really simply the sensations, sentiment or “stirring” that we experience when we read the story. Sometimes we get it from the very beginning line or within the first few pages. Atmosphere conveys to us the moods, the textures or even the fabric that the author is creating. It builds anticipation or whets our appetite for what is coming in the book. Think of the well-worn phrase that began many a childhood tale, “It was a dark and stormy night”. With that one single sentence a child may already have the beginnings of gooseflesh, is wide-eyed and keen, receptive to whatever is about to happen.

I do not think that we have changed that much. As an adult reader, I am still pulled into a story when there is delicious atmosphere. Many people can read across genres and classifications because the tenor, or undertone is seductive to our senses or similar to another story that captivated us before.

Pacing, narrative, setting and character are decisive factors for most of us, but a good atmospheric read can often trump. Each of these novels have indefinable and disparate atmosphere, and are ready in our libraries for you to sample.

Tangerine

This story is simple but it plays out in the hot, smoky, mysterious Tangier amongst unstable personalities within a loose concept of a plot.

You should be able to feel the damp blanket of heat. The prickly, unfocused worry. The smell of very old, musty air... and the fetid decay in it.

The 7 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle

With the first sentence you will hit the ground running, inside the body of a weak and cowardly man with no memory of who he is or where he is or why there is danger. And there is a lot of danger. And it’s not his body.

The next day you wake up in the body of a fat man. The next day in the body of a rapist. Etc.

You only have so many bodies left and, believe me, you have to figure this out. Quickly.
The Improbability of Love

Don’t take this book seriously and don’t read it to judge the writing or the style. Whether it’s labelled as suspense or romance or mystery, I think it is mislabeled. Primarily it is an adventure centered around art and in the world of art, from an author who both loves and lives art.

The cast of characters is huge and varied.
The beginning is the ending.
The painting narrates itself.
There are subplots and there are also some sub-subplots.
And it can be both grubby and entrancing.

Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize winner.

Child 44

Stalinist Russia, 1953 and a chillingly, desperate premise. The inspiration came from the real crimes of Andrei Chikatilo, also known as the Rostov Ripper, the Butcher of Rostov, and the Red Ripper.

It is bleak, paranoid and fast.
Not literature.
Just a hard, fast, cold read.

Anthony Award and Man Booker Prize for Longlist nominees.
Along with a plethora more award nominations.

4321

This book is quite unusual. It has 944 pages.
Full of detail and history and science and passion and bizarre premises.
And of course, at 944 pages, it is also, simply, full.

If you read this auspicious volume with all the divergent threads and plotlines, you’re going to have to keep up.
Don’t complain to me if you lose your place, or your mind, I told you, you were going to have to work for this one.

Nominated for both the Man Booker Prize and the Andrew Carnegie Medal.
If you’ve never read Michael Crichton, you ought to rectify that right now and with this particular book. It’s a classic thriller and it happens to be one of his very best. Time magazine says, it is “ingenious and beguiling” and I say, you better believe it.

If you’ve never been to the Pacific Ocean floor because a completely sealed spherical object has frightened the most powerful nations with nuclear power in the world… then this is your chance. Do not miss out.

The vertebrae in your spine are waiting to see if they really can tingle.

Atmospheric. The definition of.

You can request books sent to your campus with a couple of clicks. Even easier, call ext. 1199.

Renew it online or call in.

All of Cyndi’s Summer Reads.

My pen name if I was an author?

Torbin Wright would be my pseudonym.

I would pronounce it 'puh-suedo-nim'.

Big time readers pronounce things the way they first read it … forever.

Now you'll recognize one.