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--Annotations courtesy of NoveList--

NEW ENGLAND!
Novels Set in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island & Vermont

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Novel Destinations, our 2011 Adult Summer Reading Program, is sponsored by the Friends of the Tewksbury Public Library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the MA board of Library Commissioners.
Connecticut

Berenson, Laurien. Unleashed
When the new co-publisher of a gossipy trade magazine for the dog show world turns up dead, strangled with a leather dog leash, Melanie Travis investigates the crime, which could reveal the dark secrets of a number of dog show exhibitors. [Part of a series]

Coulter, Catherine. Whiplash
Hired by a Yale professor to investigate the suspicious unavailability of a critical chemotherapy drug, Erin Pulaski discovers that its manufacturer is imposing a shortage to enable billions in windfall profits, a finding that is complicated by the brutal murder of a top employee. [A novel in the Savich/Sherlock FBI Suspense Thrillers series]

Green, Jane. Dune Road
A single mom working for a famously reclusive author in a tony Connecticut beach town stumbles on a secret that many of the eccentric and moneymed locals would love to get their hands on.

Gross, Andrew. Don't Look Twice
After a drive-by shooting in Greenwich, Connecticut, nearly kills him, detective Ty Hauck follows the trail to a sinister gambling scheme at an upstate casino and is caught in a deadly maze of cover-up and corruption.

Harris, Rosemary. Pushing Up Daisies
When landscaper Paula Holliday stumbles upon a mummified corpse on the overgrown property of a wealthy dowager's estate, she joins forces with an ex-colleague, an aging rocker, and a secretive Mexican laborer to solve the crime.

Lewis, Pam. Perfect Family
Devastated by the drowning death of his younger sister, William investigates the suspicious circumstances surrounding her accident and opens a Pandora's box of family secrets, including a dangerous fact that his mother has hidden for a generation.

McCullough, Colleen. On Off
Realizing that a brutalized young woman is the latest victim of a serial murderer, 1960s Lieutenant Carmine Delmonico traces clues that identify the killer as one of several secretive employees at a world center for neurological research. [First in a series]

Bredes, Don. The Fifth Season
Working at a homeless shelter, student Laurel Estabrook encounters Bobbie Crocker, a man with a history of mental illness and a box of secret photos, but when Bobbie dies suddenly, Laurel embarks on an obsessive search for the truth behind the photos.

Mayor, Archer. Open Season
A series of assaults and a bloody murder in Brattleboro, Vermont, appear unrelated until police lieutenant Joe Gunther realizes the victims were all jurors in the Kimberly Harris murder trial three years back. [First in a series, you'll have to reserve it. We have others in this series.]

Miller, Sue. The World Below
After being diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1919, a young woman is sent to a sanitarium, where she redisCOVERs the pleasures of unfettered youth and falls in love with a doomed man.

Morris, Mary McGarry. The Lost Mother
Enduring the Great Depression from within a tent during a Vermont summer, Henry struggles to support his two young children and considers a proposition from a wealthy neighbor, who would hire the children as companions for her homebound son.

Page, Katherine Hall. The Body in the Snowdrift
Traveling to Vermont to attend her father-in-law's birthday, Faith Fairchild discovers the dead body of a local lawyer and wonders if his death was accidental or intentional, in a case complicated by the disappearance of a ski resort's chef.

Schupack, Deborah. The Boy on the Bus
Noting strange differences in the boy who returns home from school that makes her suspect he is not her son, Meg Landry is unable to get support for her fearful theory from her husband or her rebellious teenage daughter.

Shreve, Anita. Testimony
A Vermont boarding school is rocked in the wake of a sex scandal in which participants were caught on videotape, a situation that derails the innocence and best intentions of students, parents, and others in life-shattering ways.

Where's Massachusetts?? We're preparing a separate booklist in honor of our state. Look for it in July!
Greene, Thomas Christopher. Envious Moon

Working at the side of his fellow Portuguese townies on a commercial fishing boat in Rhode Island, seventeen-year-old Anthony reluctantly participates in a burglary only to cause an accidental death.

Grippando, James. Intent to Kill

Having transitioned from a promising minor-league baseball career into sports radio after the hit-and-run accident that killed his beloved wife and rendered him a single parent, Ryan James receives an anonymous tip that his wife was actually murdered.

Pickard, Nancy. The Secret Ingredient Murders

Chef-turned-sleuth Eugenia Potter leaves her Arizona ranch to join her teenage great-nephew and great-niece at a vacation home on the Rhode Island coast, but their holiday is soon turned upside down by the murder of Stanley Parker, her cookbook collaborator. [Part of a series begun by Virginia Rich before she died; to read them in order place a hold on “The Cooking School Murders”.]

Rice, Luanne. Dance with Me

Returning to her hometown of Twin Rivers, Rhode Island, after a fourteen year absence, free-spirited Jane Porter is drawn to Dylan Chadwick, an ex-federal agent and recent returnee fleeing the nightmare of his former life.

Settle, Mary Lee. I, Roger Williams

The story of approaching civil war in England is told through the eyes of Roger Williams, who was taken from obscurity to clerk for the celebrated English jurist Sir Edward Coke, where he witnessed firsthand the brutal politics of Jacobean London.

Updike, John. Witches of Eastwick

Alexandra, Jane, and Sukie ply their individual witcheries in contemporary Eastwick, Rhode Island, and are themselves bewitched by a dark, wealthy, decadent stranger. [Sequel: “Widows of Eastwick”]

Vermont

Bohjalian, Chris. Double Bind

Working at a homeless shelter, student Laurel Estabrook encounters Bobbie Crocker, a man with a history of mental illness and a box of secret photos, but when Bobbie dies suddenly, Laurel embarks on an obsessive search for the truth behind the photos.

Rice, Luanne. What Matters Most

After a life-changing journey to Ireland with Tom Kelly, Bernadette Sullivan finds refuge within the cloistered walls of a convent, but years later their past returns to haunt them, and they journey across the sea to find the son they had given up for adoption.

Roberts, Nora. Vision in White

Wedding photographer Mackensie "Mac" Elliot is most at home behind the camera, but her focus is shattered moments before an important wedding rehearsal when she bumps into the bride-to-be's brother--an encounter that has them both seeing stars--and has Mac turning to her three best friends and business partners to see her way to her own happy ending. [First in the “Bride Quartet” series]

Seton, Anya. The Winthrop Woman

Elizabeth Winthrop endures two bad marriages before finding love with William Hallet and a welcome exile from the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Shelton, Sandi Kahn. A Piece of Normal

Advice columnist Lily Brown's long-lost sister Dana returns to their childhood home, a decade after their parents' deaths, forcing Lily to confront a long-buried family secret that could change her sense of self and family forever.

Spignesi, Stephen. Dialogues

A series of dialogues with the doctor assigned by the court to assess her competence to stand trial offers a glimpse inside the mind of Tory Troy, a young woman in a Connecticut mental hospital facing six charges of felony murder.

Weiner, Jennifer. Goodnight Nobody

Having relocated to an alienating Connecticut suburb after a mugging in her native New York City, wife and mother Kate Klein undertakes a murder investigation during her children's school hours when a local mom is killed.

Yates, Richard. Revolutionary Road

The devastating effects of work, adultery, rebellion, and self-deception slowly destroy the once successful marriage of Frank and April Wheeler, a suburban American couple.
Maine

Blake, Sarah. Grange House
A Victorian young woman faces the social restrictions of marriage and yearns for something more as she spends her summer at a resort in Maine.

Boyle, Gerry. Port City Shakedown
The first in a new series set in and around the dark waterfront of Portland, Maine, featuring Brandon Blake a lean loner who lives on an old wooden cabin cruiser.

Carey, Lisa. In the Country of the Young
A middle-aged artist in Maine is haunted by the ghost of a girl shipwrecked in the town more than 150 years earlier.

Connolly, John. The Whisperers
On the border between Maine and Canada, a dangerous smuggling operation is taking place. Drugs, cash, weapons, even people-- and something ancient and powerful and evil. [Latest in a series featuring Charlie ‘Bird’ Parker; to read them in order reserve “Every Dead Thing” which introduces Charlie. Book 2 in the series starts the Maine setting.]

Delinsky, Barbara. The Summer I Dared
The only survivors of a devastating boating accident off the coast of Maine, Julia, Noah, and Kim struggle with their brush with death, their feelings of guilt, and their changed perspectives on their lives.

Doiron, Paul. The Poacher's Son
Desperate and alone, game warden Mike Bowditch strikes up an uneasy alliance with a retired warden pilot, and together the two men journey deep into the Maine wilderness in search of a runaway fugitive-- Mike's father. But the only way for Mike to save his father is to find the real killer--which could mean putting everyone he loves in the line of fire.

Graves, Sarah. A Face at the Window
After more than three decades eluding justice, the man who murdered Jacobia "Jake" Tiptree's mother is finally about to stand trial--until he vanishes into thin air. Jake has a terrible foreboding of where Ozzie Campbell will turn up next. And while the local police chief is sure she's overreacting, the truth is far worse than even Jake's worst fears. [Part of a series; to read them in order place a hold on “Dead Cat Bounce”, the first in the series]

Rhode Island

Arsenault, Mark. Gravewriter
Losing his wife first to his gambling habit and then to a fatal car accident, Billy Povich spends his time writing obituaries, living with his elderly father and young son, and plotting to kill the man at the wheel the night of his wife's death.

Brogan, Jan. Confidential Source
Disgraced investigative reporter Hallie Ahern attempts to rebuild her reputation at a tiny Rhode Island paper, only to find both her job and her life on the line after she personally witnesses a murder.

Casey, John. Compass Rose
Ostracized at her new school for her illegitimacy, lower-income status and unfashionable figure, scholarship student Rose finds unexpected strength in her family ties to everyone in her Rhode Island fishing community. [“Spartina” is another good book by Casey and set in RI.]

Clark, Mary Higgins. Moonlight Becomes You
During a visit to her former stepmother's home in Newport, Rhode Island, Maggie Holloway, a young photographer and amateur sculptor, seeks the truth about the mysterious murder of her stepmother, an investigation that leads to a nursing home plagued by a series of sudden deaths.

Cumming, Barbara. A Killing in Retrospect
Trying to help a student discover the truth about his mother's death, Sister Agnes becomes embroiled in a mystery involving the death of a young scullery maid and an old gang member, all of which may be related to Rhode Island's underworld crime organization.

Dave, Laura. London is the Best City in America
Working at a tiny Rhode Island bait and tackle shop in the three years after ending her engagement and leaving the city, Emmy Everett learns that her brother is experiencing cold feet twenty-four hours before his own wedding, a situation in which Emmy accompanies her brother on a road trip to help him make the right decision.

Gardner, Lisa. The Survivors Club
A rapist left an indelible mark on three women's lives. All three women hated him and wanted him dead. When he is murdered on his way to trial the police must figure out which of the three women murdered him.
Eslick, Tom. Mountain Peril
Assisting search-and-rescue efforts to locate a boy who has gone missing on Mount Washington, high school science teacher Will Buchanan discovers the body of a murder victim and is drawn into a serial killer investigation at the side of his sheriff girlfriend, Laurie.

Jarvis, Tom. Train of Consequences
Two troubled teens run away to escape abuse and neglect, embarking on a journey that will change their lives forever. Along the way, an old drifter takes them under his wing and introduces them to an underground society of vagabonds, opening their eyes to a strange new world and unwittingly setting the course to a horrific chain of events that soon spiral out of control.

Lent, Jeffrey. Lost Nation
Seeking to make a fresh start and establish himself as a trader, Blood heads for Indian Stream, a wild, ungoverned territory in northern New Hampshire, but his arrival triggers an escalating series of clashes and violence.

Lipman, Elinor. The Dearly Departed
The untimely death of her single mother, Margaret Batten, brings Sunny back to small-town King George, New Hampshire, the scene of her unhappy adolescence, where she discovers old family secrets and a possible half-brother she never knew she had.

McNees, Kelly O’Connor. The Lost summer of Louisa May Alcott
The beloved author begins a love affair that would threaten her writing career—and inspire the story of Jo and Laurie in "Little Women."

Perry, Thomas. Death Benefits
When a huge death benefit is paid out, but not to the legitimate beneficiary, and the insurance agent who approved the payment mysteriously vanishes, John Walker joins forces with the enigmatic Max Stillman to find the missing agent.

Picoult, Jodi. Vanishing Acts
Working with the Search and Rescue bloodhound team to find missing people, single mother Delia Hopkins anticipates her upcoming nuptials, until a series of unsettling flashbacks threatens to devastate her life and the lives of those she loves.

Shreve, Anita. All He Ever Wanted
Years after escaping from a hotel fire and encountering an elusive woman, whom he subsequently married and divorced, a man travels from New England to Florida by train and remembers the relationship.

Green, Jane. Promises to Keep
The personal lives of sisters Callie and Steff, their friend, and their divorced parents are irrevocably changed throughout the course of an extraordinary summer in Maine that forces them to reevaluate their relationships and roles.

Gutcheon, Beth. Leeway Cottage
In a tale that spans a long-term twentieth-century marriage, wealthy Sydney Brant marries Danish pianist Laurus Moss on the eve of the Nazi invasion of Denmark and finds their marriage challenged by disparate views of the world. [Sequel: “Good-bye & Amen”]

Hayman, James. The Cutting
Moving away from New York to escape bad memories and raise his daughter, Detective Michael McCabe is assigned to a serial murder case of unexpected brutality with possible links to the social elite, an investigation that is complicated by the arrival of McCabe’s calculating ex-wife. [First in a series]

Jewett, Sarah Orne. The Country of the Pointed Firs
A wandering writer, who boards at an herbalist's house in Maine, finds herself becoming more and more involved in the lives of the villagers.

King, Stephen. Under the Dome
After an invisible force field seals off Chester’s Mill, Maine, from the rest of the world, it is up to Dale Barbara, an Iraq veteran, and a select group of citizens to save the town, if they can get past Big Jim Rennie, a murderous politician, and his son, who hides a horrible secret in his dark pantry.

Kline, Christina Baker. The Way Life Should Be
Feeling stuck in her personal life and career, thirty-three-year-old Angela pursues a seemingly idyllic online relationship with a sailing instructor from Maine, relocates there, and learns important truths about understanding her own heart in finding happiness.

Manning, John. The Killing Room
When she is hired by Howard Young to investigate a string of grisly family deaths, PI and ex-FBI agent Carolyn Cartwright journeys to the Young mansion in Maine where she, in order to stop the murders, must enter the room no one has ever left alive and make herself the next target.
Meier, Leslie. The Wicked Witch Murder

As Halloween rolls around again in Tinker's Cove, Maine, a murderer is dishing out some very nasty tricks. It's up to intrepid reporter Lucy Stone to unmask the killer. [Part of a series; to read them in order place a hold on “Mistletoe Murders”, the first in the series]

Minot, Susan. Evening

Now ailing and surrounded by her children, sixty-five-year-old Ann Grant Lord reminisces about a glorious summer weekend some forty years earlier during which she met and lost the love of her life.

Picoult, Jodi. Perfect Match

District Attorney Nina Frost and her husband, Caleb, face a nightmare when they discover that their young son Nathaniel has been molested, a trauma that has left him mute, terrified, and unable to reveal the identity of his attacker.

Russo, Richard. Empire Falls

Milo Roby tries to hold his family together while working at the Empire Grill in the once-successful logging town of Empire Falls, Maine, with his partner, Mrs. Whiting, who is the heir to a faded logging and textile legacy.

Roberts, Nora. Homeport

After being attacked by an unknown assailant, art expert Miranda Jones journeys to Italy to verify the authenticity of a priceless artwork, only to find her professional reputation damaged, and is forced into an uneasy alliance with Ryan Boldari, a seductive art thief.

Senate, Melissa. The Secret of Joy

Rebecca looks for long-lost sister Joy to share her inheritance and deliver letters from their recently deceased father, but she soon realizes that in order to connect with Joy, Rebecca must change her way of life.

Sheehan, Jacqueline. Lost & Found

Starting her life over after the death of her husband, a New England psychologist takes a job as an animal control warden and slowly heals from her grief through friendships with a young anorexic, an archery instructor, and an injured oversized dog.

Strout, Elizabeth. Olive Kitteridge

At the edge of the continent, in the small town of Crosby, Maine, lives Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher who deplores the changes in her town and in the world at large but doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her.

Tappley, William G. Bitch Creek

Working as a fishing guide in Maine, Stoney Calhoun, an amnesiac with no memory of his past, turns sleuth when his friend and fellow fishing guide is found murdered and discovers, much to his surprise, that he may have been the original target of the killer and that he has had training in the process of investigation.

Von Ziegesar, Cecily. Cum Laud

Delves into the varied lives of a group of college students, including the campus beauty, her edgy roommate, a jock with an artsy side, his pot-smoking roommate, an older guy who never left school, and a loner who lives at home with his parents.

Watson, Jan Elizabeth. Asta in the Wings

Growing up in an isolated house in woodland Maine, seven-year-old Asta Hewitt exists as one of a three-person society including a delusional mother and a bookish older brother before circumstances push her into the outside world, where she struggles to assimilate while remaining true to her fractured family.

Woods, Stuart. Dark Harbor

Investigating the unlikely murder-suicide case of his cousin, who secretly worked for the CIA, Stone Barrington is surprised to learn that his cousin had named him the executor of his estate just prior to his death. [Part of a series featuring Stone Barrington; to read in order reserve “New York Dead” (which doesn’t take place in Maine)]

New Hampshire

Barrett, Lorna. Bookplate Special

When her uninvited college roommate Pammy Fredericks, a freeloading thief, is found dead in a dumpster, bookstore owner Tricia Miles must solve this puzzling mystery.

Chenoweth, Emily. Hello Goodbye

A family travels to a New Hampshire resort to allow their dying mother a week to say goodbye to friends, as their daughter, who doesn't know that her mother's condition is terminal, explores her feelings about love and family.

Cleland, Jane K. Killer Keepsakes

When one of the mainstays of Prescott's Antiques and Appraisals is accused of murder, Josie—with a crack team of antiques appraisers at her side—sets out to find the real killer and bring her assistant home safely, no matter the cost.