

Sizzling summer reads: An armful of books to keep you entertained all season

Kathleen Daley\For The Star-Ledger June 26, 2009

Debut novels

Some readers have favorite authors they return to with delight. These seven new novels may prompt readers to crave more from these new writers.

One imagines the narrator of a 1940s film noir is telling the story in Harry Dolan's "Bad Things Happen" (Amy Einhorn Books, \$24.95).

"The man who called himself David Loogan," a writer in Ann Arbor, Mich., finds himself entangled in a murder that threatens to expose his mysterious past.

Korea, under Japanese occupation during World War II, is the setting for "The Calligrapher's Daughter" (Henry Holt and Company, \$26), inspired by author Eugenia Kim's family history.

Author **Naseem Rakha** delivers a portrayal of the power of forgiveness in "**The Crying Tree**" (Broadway Books, \$22.95). Here, the Stanley family has moved from southern Illinois to Oregon. When their son is murdered, agony unfolds, as does the future of the killer on death row.

Those in the mood for a magical-realist fairy tale should pick up "Of Bees and Mist" (Simon & Schuster, \$25). Author Erick Setiawan is suited to spinning this tale, having grown up in Jakarta, Indonesia, surrounded by storytellers.

Thirty-five-year-old Sulaiman S.M.Y. Addonia emigrated from the Sudan in Africa to Saudi Arabia. It is there that the young hero of his first novel discovers "The Consequences of Love" (Random House, \$25).

A historical novel set during World War I centers on the Christmas truce of 1914, when German and Allied soldiers put down their arms, crawled out of their foxholes and shared a holiday. A British soldier is given a photo by a German soldier of his English fiance and asked to

find her when he returns home and tell her her fiance is alive.
Mackenzie Ford's first novel, "Gifts of War" (Nan A.
Talese/Doubleday, \$26) takes some expected and unexpected turns.

And, for a delightful and moving story of an Olympic gold-medal
winner growing up and competing in Kansas, there is Nicola Keegan's
"Swimming" (Alfred A. Knopf, \$24.95).