

St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

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BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

IT seems like it has become a rather trendy thing to do, to devise a summer reading list.

I have done some interesting reading over the last year, and not all of it from the comics page of the *Toronto Star*. A couple of them have been very challenging in content, and it would take a brave soul to read them. The first was a book called *America Alone* by Mark Stein, a reporter for MacLean's magazine.

This is a statistical look at the demographics of the global population with the declining birthrate in the industrialized world, and how the countries of Europe are being bolstered by immigrants from Moslem countries creating a situation where by the middle of this century, Europe will be an Islamic state. The Netherlands will be Islamic by 2020.

The second challenging book is called *Shock Doctrine* by Naomi Klein, about how the global economy, rooted in a pure capitalist agenda, has wreaked havoc with the rights and concerns of indigenous people to the profit margins of multi-national corporations, and how big business has become a political force on the power scene of those poorer countries who find themselves in dire financial conditions because of natural disasters or man-made catastrophes.

On a lighter side, the book that gets my whole-hearted recommendation is *The Shack* by William Young. It is a fascinating novel about one person's journey through family tragedy by encountering the fullness of God, the Trinity. It is surprisingly refreshing, and gives us pause to reflect on our own preconceived images of God. This book has topped the *New York Times* best-seller list for over a year with little fanfare, but by a great grassroots movement.

It is the type of book that you don't want to end, and that you need to discuss. It gets recommended to family and friends and handed on from person to person.

I personally have lost two copies that have been loaned to at least five other people. As long as you get past the premise of the first few chapters, it is a book you can't put down, and it has great implications for all Christians. It is not a religious book per se, and it isn't pushing some hidden agenda.

It is an account of one person's struggle with coping, and his dialogue with God, looking for meaning and goodness in the face of evil. Happy reading!

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