One for the books

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Summertime provides the perfect opportunity to unwind with a page-turner. Whether you"re searching for a beach read to dive into while digging your toes in the sand or you want to get a jump on a summer reading project, visit these shops and stick your nose in a good book.

Blue Cypress Books

8126 Oak St., New Orleans, LA 70118

Locals drop in to not only to visit Kitty Meow, the Oak Street bookstore"s resident bookworm companion, but to browse the store"s curated collection of new and secondhand works of local fiction and history. Visitors are welcome to sell, trade or delve into the shelves displaying poetry, young adult novels and collectibles.

Faulkner House Books

624 Pirate"s Alley, New Orleans, LA 70116

Housed in the lemon meringue-hued former home of William Faulkner, this shop provides a warm haven for local history and literature buffs alike. Faulkner once shared the four-story Pirate"s Alley building with artist William Spratling. The structure"s first floor has since been reincarnated as a modern bookshop, containing floor-to-ceiling shelves stacked with Faulkner"s legendary works and other classic titles from Southern authors.

Kitchen Witch

If you"re seeking to build a spellbinding cookbook collection, visit this French Quarter haunt. Sitting in an early 19th century building, Kitchen Witch may be small in stature but boasts a vast, eclectic compilation of kitchen essentials, specializing in both rare food publications as well as modern Creole and Cajun cuisine cookbooks. The shop also offers a variety of folk art and homemade seasoning blends.

Garden District Book Shop

Rink Shopping Center, 2727 Prytania St., New Orleans, LA 70130

Located in the former Crescent City Skating Rink building, guests on the hunt for a novel they don"t want to put down may spend an afternoon sifting through the emporium"s extensive assortment of new and used titles. After discovering a hidden gem or a building a stack of new favorites, patrons can head downstairs to coffeehouse Still Perkin" to sip the daily brew while devouring their new reads.

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