

Kathleen's Recent Reads—May

Adult Non-Fiction

The Pioneers by David McCullough

An examination of the settling of the “Northwest Territory”—i.e., Ohio—in the years after the American Revolution. McCullough is thorough and conscientious in his research, but glosses over the conflicts with Native Americans, which makes for difficult reading in the current climate.

Adult Fiction

*Titles available on CloudLibrary

**Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

This has been called an African American feminist classic, and I would certainly agree, although the first thing I would say about it is that it's a brilliant, complex coming of age novel. I found the written dialect to be off-putting at first, but by forcing me to slow down and almost say the words aloud, the technique gave an immediacy to the telling of the story. Classic literature, feminism, racism, coming of age.

**Ghosted* by Rosie Walsh

A charming story about love at first sight, family secrets and reckoning with your past. Women's fiction, relationships, grief.

**The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson

Jackson is masterful at setting a tone of dread and suspense, and I appreciated not only her depiction of the fey Nell, but how she did not tidily wrap up the supernatural events at Hill House. Classic literature, haunted house, gothic horror, psychological fiction.

Paper Wasp by Lauren Acampora

After a breakdown derails her once-bright future, an artist uses her longtime friendship with a glamorous actress to try to get back on track. Psychological fiction, dark, friendship, thriller.

Nothing to See Here by Kevin Wilson

A goofy, funny, lighthearted and endearing look at how sometimes we save ourselves by saving others, with a dollop of spontaneous combustion thrown in for good measure. Magical realism, friendship, domesticity.

**Conversations with Friends* by Sally Rooney

The excellent debut novel by the Irish writer centers around Frances, her friends and lovers in contemporary Dublin. Literary fiction, coming of age, relationships, LGBT characters.

**Little Wonders* by Kaye Rorick

A page turner about finding your way in a new life, and making a new life after your old one implodes. Great for fans of *Big Little Lies*. Women's fiction, self-actualization, relationships, friendship

Youth Fiction

**Roll With It* by Jamie Sumner

Confined to a wheelchair with cerebral palsy and after struggling for years with loneliness, Ellie finds unexpected friendship after moving to a new town. Recommended if you liked *Wonder* or *Out of My Mind*. Realistic fiction, school story, family issues, friendship, baking.