

## **Kathleen's Recent Reads—February**

### Fiction

#### *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

After running away from their small Louisiana town at age 16, outgoing, confident Desiree is left bereft and shaken when her twin sister, quiet, reserved Stella, abruptly leaves her with no explanation. The novel follows both Desiree, who returns to the town as an adult after escaping an abusive marriage, and Stella, who moves north and passes as white, and their two daughters. If you enjoy a well-rounded novel, with an engrossing plot and captivating characters, this one's for you!

#### *Bitter Orange* by Claire Fuller

A landscape architect and architectural expert are called in to assess the features of an abandoned English estate, with disastrous results. Set in England in the late '60s and present day, this psychological thriller sparingly parcels out clues as it moves back and forth in time. Winding, suspenseful, gothic, richly detailed.

#### *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton

On the eve of his engagement to May Welland, Newland Archer is reintroduced to Ellen Olenska, and finds himself questioning long-held customs even as society itself undergoes a monumental shift. Much remains unsaid, and most of the action occurs in the interior lives of the characters, in this introspective Pulitzer Prize-winning study of manners and mores in 1870s New York. (A Book Club selection.)

### Audiobooks\*

\*Available on cloudLibrary

#### *The Boy I Loved Before* by Jenny Colgan

Flora sees her first love for the first time in 16 years at her best friend's wedding, and wishes she could return to that earlier time for a do-over. What might you do differently if you woke up with an adult's mind and experiences in a 16-year old's body?

*Winter Street* by Elin Hilderbrand

Follows the members of the Quinn family as they come together at Christmas at their Nantucket inn. Charming and just right if you're in the mood for an escape.

*Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles

A strong sense of place and era are major appeal factors for this story of upward mobility in Depression-era New York. Katey Kontent, the self-contained and witty daughter of Russian emigres, and her friend Eve are launched into Manhattan society after meeting a banker in a club on New Year's Eve. (A Book Club selection.)