

## **Kathleen Recent Reads—March**

### Non-Fiction

*Know My Name* by Chanel Miller

This memoir by the woman who was sexually assaulted by Stanford student Brock Turner is gripping, powerful and challenging. Miller questions the values of a society that can bemoan the loss of potential of the accused, without sparing much thought for the actual losses suffered by the victim, and allows the reader a glimpse of the trauma not only she, but all victims of assault, must endure long after the actual attack has ended. Miller's writing is elegant, provocative and insistent; she demands recognition for the person she is aside from the label of victim, and we are treated to a portrait of a woman with rare strength and self-awareness, who refuses to be pulled under by the misfortune forced upon her.

### Fiction

*The Bookshop on the Shore* by Jenny Colgan

With a 4-year old of her own that doesn't yet speak and an uncertain future, single mom Zoe has her hands full when she takes two temporary jobs on the shore of Loch Ness in Scotland: running a mobile bookshop while its owner takes maternity leave, and serving as nanny to three children after their mother leaves the family under mysterious circumstances. Colgan writes as if speaking to a friend, and you'll find yourself wishing you could move right in and get to know everyone. Appealing characters and atmosphere, try if you enjoy the books of Rosamond Pilcher.

*Death in Venice* by Thomas Mann

This slim novella hits far above its weight in terms of literary accolades, and deservedly so. After a lifetime spent repressing the sensual side of his personality, Gustav van Aschenbach, a renowned writer, restlessly settles upon Venice as a vacation destination. An obsession with a young boy causes him to remain in the city despite an epidemic, leading to transformation and a reckoning. Allegorical, haunting, dream-like. (A Book Club selection.)

### Audiobook

*Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo\*

A series of linked stories follows the lives of several women, mostly Black, in England over several decades in this Booker Prize winner. Feminism, the patriarchy, sexuality, relationships are all explored as the characters, most of them considered "other" in some way from mainstream society, live their lives and find their way. Memorable, wide-ranging, and sensitive; suggested for fans of *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, or Elizabeth Strout's *Anything is Possible* or *Olive Kitteridge*.