

Kathleen's Recent Reads—April

Non-Fiction

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer

A botanist, poet and member of the Citizen Potawatami Nation, Kimmerer draws on all aspects of her life as she muses on the relationship between plants and human, and our place in the natural world. A Book Club Selection

Fiction

Old Lovegood Girls by Gail Godwin

Feron and Merry meet as freshmen at Lovegood Junior College when they are assigned as roommates. Initially, Feron, from a troubled background, and Merry, from a privileged one, seem mismatched, but in their way each complements the other, and a friendship grows which lasts decades. The book follows the two through their lives, successes and heartbreaks. This is a great choice for anyone who likes introspective, character-driven novels.

The Well of Ice by Andrea Carter

The latest offering in the mystery series about a solicitor in a small Irish town with a troubled past sees Benedicta “Ben” O’Keefe finding closure about an old trauma, but facing uncertainty in her relationship with Sgt. Molloy. This series is worth a try if you like the books of Louise Penny or Julia Spencer-Fleming.

Audiobooks (Available on cloudLibrary)

The Flatshare by Beth O’Leary

From the cover and description, I expected a breezy romance, but this book has so much unexpected depth. Tiffy and Leon’s arrangement to share a one-bedroom flat works well for their opposing work schedules, and at first, never meeting, they communicate solely through notes. As the two learn more about each other, however, and friendship blossoms, we learn that both are dealing with quite complicated problems. A feel-good, heartwarming story.

The Grammarians by Cathleen Schine

Laurel and Daphne, identical twins with their own secret language, become obsessed with language after their father brings home an enormous Webster’s Dictionary with its own stand. The twins seem to be two halves of a single unit, but their competitiveness with each other drives each to try to achieve success on their own terms, and a rift is eventually created. Another great choice for lovers of introspective, character-driven books.

The Mother-in-Law by Sally Hepworth

An engaging mix of suspense, mystery, and women’s fiction, this book will keep you guessing whodunit until the very end. Recommended for fans of Liane Moriarty.