

Kathleen's Recent Reads—May

Fiction

The Restoration of Celia Fairchild by Marie Bostwick

Feel-good women's fiction about an advice columnist who loses it all, takes an unexpected detour, and rebuilds better than before. Perfectly undemanding and engaging beach reading.

Mainely Power by Matt Cost*

*Book Club Selection

One of the Read ME selections for 2021, this thriller about a Maine private detective owes a strong debt to Robert B. Parker and does not stray far from the template set by its predecessor. However, if you are looking for a fast-paced read with a plot that will keep you guessing who the bad guys actually are, *Mainely Power* delivers.

Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi

A child of Ghanaian immigrants brought up in Alabama, Gifty has never felt at home anywhere, especially after her father abandoned the family, her basketball-star brother got hooked on OxyContin after an injury and died of a drug overdose, and her evangelical Christian mother was hospitalized for depression. As a PhD candidate at Stanford, Gifty studies the effects of addiction on mice, hoping to translate her findings into helping humans, but has trouble connecting with other people until her mother, suffering from another depressive episode, comes to stay with her, and Gifty learns to let people in. Although its quiet, introspective tone is quite different in style from Gyasi's first book, *Homegoing*, this book is just as powerful.

Audiobooks*

*read on cloudLibrary

Devolution by Max Brooks

An explosion of Mount Rainier causes communications chaos and cuts off a planned community from outside help just as the residents begin to see signs of strange creatures in the woods surrounding them. There are some graphic descriptions of violence, but if you can stomach those, it's a great story. Told in the form of journal entries, depositions and interviews, with multiple cast members.

House of Trelawney by Hannah Rothschild

Complete with a dotty dowager, scheming relatives, and long-hidden secrets, this book follows several generations of an English family as they recover from the financial crisis of the early 2000s. A good choice for fans of *Downton Abbey*.