

Kathleen's Recent Reads—August

Non-Fiction

Mill Town: Reckoning with What Remains by Kerri Arsenault

While researching her family's genealogy, Arsenault, who grew up in Mexico, ME, meets the widow of the town's doctor, who tells Arsenault of her late husband's efforts to alert the public to the health dangers of pollution coming from the Oxford Paper Mill in Rumford. Identity, privilege, and the role of industry are just a few of the topics touched on in this powerful, meandering, not-quite-memoir. A Read ME/Book Club Selection.

Fiction

The Invisible Life of Addie Larue by V. E. Schwab

In 1714, a young Frenchwoman makes a deal with the devil in order to escape an arranged marriage. She wishes to just be allowed "to live", a wish that is granted, but at a terrible price—she becomes immortal, but as soon as she is out of someone's sight, they completely forget her. Addie learns to get by and roams continents through centuries of progress and war, until one day she meets a man who does not forget. A captivating, unusual story.

The Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis

A librarian at the New York Public Library discovers long buried secrets about her family's past when investigating a sudden rash of stolen books, an eerie parallel of events from the time her grandparents lived in the library. Suspenseful historical fiction, with a true background—people did actually live in the library!

Audiobooks*

*available on cloudLibrary

Cocktails for Three by Madeleine Wickham

Three young women, friends and coworkers, each endeavor to navigate life changes during a challenging time. Wickham, aka Sophie Kinsella, excels at putting her characters out on a limb, then neatly tying up the plot in a surprising way, and does not disappoint here.

Northern Spy by Flynn Berry

Tessa, a producer at the BBC in Belfast, is balancing life as a single working mother after a recent divorce. She is stunned one day to see her sister, her closest friend, on a news bulletin as she pulls on a mask and commits an act of terror in the name of the IRA. The novel delves into the question of how well we actually know those we are closest to, and what lengths we will go to in the name of peace. Historical fiction meets literary meets suspense in this terrific page-turner.

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Paris Match by Stuart Woods

Stone Barrington, a lawyer, former cop, and sometime consultant for the CIA, has traveled to Paris for the opening of his new hotel, but all is not running smoothly. Vengeful Russians want to kill him, there is an attempt at a hostile takeover of the hotel, and someone back home is spreading the dirtiest of rumors about him and the female Presidential candidate. Stone outwits his nemeses, all while wittily sparring with the women lining up to jump in his bed. Oh, and he also manages to buy a beautiful Parisian house at a bargain, and furnish it, all in an afternoon. If you like James Bond, this will appeal! Pure, escapist fun.

The School of Essential Ingredients by Erica Bauermeister

Eight people meet each Monday over a winter at an upscale restaurant for a cooking class taught by the chef, who has an uncanny knack not only for cooking, but for divining what will help heal wounded souls. In each chapter, Bauermeister winds a character's story through descriptions of the delicious meals they make. Comforting, appetizing, and sure to make you want to get in the kitchen yourself!