

Kathleen's Recent Reads—February 2022

Non-Fiction

Spirit of Place: The Making of a New England Garden by Bill Noble

Noble, the former Director of Preservation for the Garden Conservancy, shares how he built upon old gardens and created new ones over decades on his Vermont property. With planting details and plenty of photographs, perfect for either planning or dreaming.

Fiction

State of Terror by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny

The former presidential candidate, US Senator, and Secretary of State has teamed up with the author of the popular Inspector Gamache mystery series to create an edge of your seat thriller about a new-to-politics Secretary of State racing to foil a plot against America. Fast-paced and action-packed, but with plenty of the humor and compassion Louise Penny's fans have come to expect from her books.

Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead

Furniture store owner Ray Carney has worked hard for his success, earning an economics degree and trying to put as much distance as possible between himself and his family's criminal tendencies. But, as Ray discovers after being drawn by his cousin to a heist, you can never fully escape your past. Set in the 1950s and 1960s against the backdrop of racial unrest and corruption in New York City, and featuring a memorable cast of small-time crooks, gangsters, and officials on the take, this novel captivates. Recommended for fans of Elmore Leonard.

Audiobooks (available on cloudLibrary)

All Summer Long by Dorothea Benton Frank

When New York decorator Olivia Ritchie's oldest, most faithful client invites Olivia and her husband on a Mediterranean cruise, she is eager to accept. Olivia's life has suddenly been upended, and she hopes the luxurious getaway will help solve some of her problems. Descriptions of clothes, food and interiors help provide a luxurious getaway for the reader, as well.

Dead Cat Bounce by Sarah Graves

Jacobia Tiptree has left behind the grind of her job as a financial advisor in the big city in favor of living in a fixer-upper on a Maine island. When she discovers the body of a Wall Street tycoon in her pantry, however, she finds herself right back in the thick of things. This engaging mystery gets a lot of things right about Maine, but locals may want to consider reading the book rather than have to listen to the reader pronounce Bangor as "Banger"!

Good Company by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney

Friendship, marriage and theater are the ties that bind Flora, Margot and Julian. Flora and Margot have been friends since their days as roommates in New York, and Margot introduced Flora to Julian, who became her husband. Despite the disparity in their lifestyles caused by Margot's fame, their relationships have thrived for decades; but when long buried secrets surface, the ties are threatened. Sweeney's follow up to her debut hit, *The Nest*, does not disappoint.

40 Love by Madeleine Wickham

New friends and old convene at the home of investment salesman Patrick Chance and his wife, Caroline, for a weekend tennis party. Patrick, with an eye toward his year-end bonus, has invited his former neighbor, Charles, in the hope of scoring a big sale. Caroline can't stand Charles' rich and snooty new wife, Cressida, or, for that matter, Charles, since he abandoned his former partner for Cressida. Cressida thinks Patrick and Caroline are tacky and nouveau riche, and tries finding excuses to leave before they even arrive. No one can stand Don and Valerie, who have been invited solely for their tennis prowess. With all the liquor, secrets, and plotting, one suspects bad behavior is in the offing, and one would be correct.