

Kathleen's Recent Reads—April

Fiction

The Paper Palace by Miranda Cowley Heller

Elle's family has summered at "The Paper Palace"—a rickety, homasote-walled camp on Cape Cod, all her life. It's where she feels most herself, and where most of the important events of her life have occurred, including meeting her soulmate, Jonas, as a young child. Elle finds herself at a watershed moment as she contrasts the reality of her life with the one she had imagined for herself. Stick with this one, because it doesn't go where you think it will; the surprising depth of Elle's dilemma resonates in this soulful book.

Intimacies by Katie Kitamura

A young woman, never named, moves to The Hague to be an interpreter for the International Criminal Court after the long illness and death of her father, and soon finds herself drawn in to local life and balancing her demanding court duties with a developing romance and friendships. A curious sense of detachment underscores her narration, as if she is watching events happen to her rather than experiencing them, which serves to heighten the experience of watching a stranger in a strange land try to navigate a new life. Elegantly written and introspective.

The Morning Star by Karl Ove Knausgaard

As the inhabitants of a Norwegian town go about their everyday lives, a bright new object appears in the sky. Acclaimed writer Knausgaard excels at depicting the mundane and ordinary doings of the characters in a compelling way, but also tends to raise questions that he does not answer. (Just like real life?) Sprawling literary fiction with an underlying mood of dread.

The Rule of Law by John Lescroart

Dismas Hardy and his colleagues are up against a DA who will literally stop at nothing in this legal thriller. I would recommend starting from the beginning (and we're happy to get books for you through inter-library loan) with this series, as the backstory plays an important role. The suspense and intricate plot are nicely balanced by the relationships between the characters. Suggested for fans of John Grisham and Robert B. Parker.

Audiobooks (available on cloudLibrary)

Sunrise by the Sea by Jenny Colgan

Marisa's grief at the death of her beloved grandfather has morphed into a full blown case of depression and anxiety, causing her to literally retreat away from her normal life to an island off the coast of Cornwall. There, she meets a cast of characters featured in other titles of Colgan's Little Beach Street Bakery series, and with the help of the community, slowly heals and relearns how to connect with the community. Heartwarming and cozy.

The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave

Hannah's husband has been keeping some very big secrets, and it's up to Hannah to discover what they are when he suddenly disappears after the tech company he works for is raided by the FBI. The novel moves between present day and the past as in retrospect, small moments in Hannah and Owen's life take on greater significance and provide clues to the truth. Suspenseful and fast-paced, with a surprising twist.

The Girl He Used to Know by Tracey Garvis Graves

Annika and Jonathan were college sweethearts at the University of Illinois, and meet again in a Chicago grocery store 10 years later. The story alternates between Jonathan and Annika's point of view, as we learn how they fell in love and what tore them apart. Although high-functioning, Annika struggles with an autism spectrum disorder, and her character is particularly winsome. There is a terrific plot twist toward the end that will have you on the edge of your seat!

Youth Fiction

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

A young girl with a father in the military has slipped through the cracks of the education system due to her family's numerous moves, and does not realize her learning difficulties arise from undiagnosed dyslexia until a caring teacher makes an effort to connect with her. An uplifting school story.