

Kathleen's Recent Reads—September

Non-Fiction

Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner

This memoir by the lead singer of the alternative pop band Japanese Breakfast deftly weaves together identity, Zauner's complicated relationship with her Korean mother, and their shared love of food. When her mother was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer, Michelle Zauner found cooking to be a means of processing her grief and connecting with and caring for her mother; after her mother's death, it became a way to explore her heritage. Moving and tender.

Fiction

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

In 1960s California, Elizabeth Zott, a scientist, finds herself hosting a cooking show on television after clashing with the chauvinist boss of her chemistry lab once too often. Her unconventional approach to the show (referring to ingredients by their chemical formula, and the cooking process as a chemical reaction, and not treating her audience of housewives as nitwits) wins her a legion of fans, but also sets up another confrontation—this time with the studio head. A charming, funny, heartwarming story.

The House at Sea's End by Elly Griffiths

Fans of character-driven mysteries such as those by Louise Penny, Deborah Crombie and Julia Spencer-Fleming will find much to like in the Ruth Galloway series. Galloway, a forensic anthropologist and university lecturer, is called to assist in a police case, possibly involving a war crime, after bones are discovered in a seaside cave on a remote English beach.

It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover

A young woman with a traumatic past finds new love with an accomplished neurosurgeon, but becomes troubled by warning signs in his behavior just as a long-lost love reappears in her life. Fast-paced and engaging women's fiction.

Audiobooks

Nothing Ventured by Jeffrey Archer

William Warwick does not want to follow in the footsteps of his renowned father, a barrister and Queen's Counsel, but to become a detective. Hoping this desire will subside with time, his father agrees to let him pursue the dream—*after* completing a college degree. After studying art history, William joins London's Metropolitan Police, quickly completes the requirements to become a detective, and lands in the Art and Antiquities division of Scotland Yard. The first in the series, this compelling mystery sets up Warwick's backstory and immediately immerses the reader in his world. Recommended for fans of Daniel Silva's Gabriel Allon series.

The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Jacob Finch Bonner enjoyed success with his first novel, but has had difficulty living up to his early promise, and turned to teaching in an MFA program in a Vermont college. One of his students presents a challenge—he refuses to participate in the collaborative classwork, or share his own work, revealing only that he has a fantastic idea for a plot that he does not want stolen. This, of course, makes Jacob's job as professor nearly impossible, so he manages to persuade the student to tell him about the proposed book, and he's right: the plot *is* fantastic. If I share any more, I will ruin it for you, but give this a try if you love a literary thriller!

Apples Never Fall by Liane Moriarty

Joy Delaney is missing. Her husband, Stan, has been behaving strangely, but could he really have harmed Joy? And how much should their 4 adult children share with the police? In her suspenseful novels (*Big Little Lies*, *The Husband's Secret*, *Nine Perfect Strangers*), Moriarty delights in stringing the reader along as she slowly reveals her characters and their motivations, and this is no exception, and also features a hefty dose of humor.