

## **Kathleen's Recent Reads—January**

### Non-Fiction

*Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story* by Bono

Love him or hate him, there is no denying that the rock star has lived an extraordinary life, and as it turns out, the man can write a beguiling story. He addresses his childhood, the band (U2), his activism, and his faith in a loosely chronological, conversational, pleasantly meandering style—have you ever known an Irish person capable of telling a concise story?—accompanied by personal photographs and drawings. And while he may leave some questions unanswered, what he does share is so much more revealing that it really doesn't matter. An unexpectedly moving and emotional memoir.

*Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals* by Oliver Burkeman

An intriguing blend of psychology, philosophy, and self-help, the thesis for this work comes down to one premise: the average lifespan gives us about four thousand weeks of life, and we are currently trying to squeeze far too much into that short time, causing ourselves stress and unhappiness. While the idea of not overcommitting ourselves is not a new one, Burkeman's path to getting there (featuring references to both Richard Scarry's children's classic, *Busytown*, and German philosopher Martin Heidegger, all within ten pages) is delightful.

*Winterland: Create a Beautiful Garden for Every Season* by Cathy Rees

A guide to gardening with a view to winter enjoyment by a Maine gardener, featuring solid advice and lovely photographs.

### Fiction

*Passing On* by Penelope Lively

An English brother and sister, traumatized after living with their abusive mother for most of their lives, come to terms with life on their own after her death. Sharply observed, with well-drawn characters. A Book Club selection.

*Last Call at the Nightingale* by Katherine Schellman

The Nightingale, a speakeasy, is the magnet that draws Vivian, a young seamstress, into a world of bootleggers, gangsters, socialites, and murder. Somewhat to her own surprise, she finds she can hold her own in this environment. First in a new series.

*The Midcoast* by Adam White

Atmosphere is everything in this debut crime novel from a Maine native, in which a young man becomes obsessed with his former classmates after witnessing something disturbing during a party at their home, and sets out to document everything he knows. White has created a taut, suspenseful, finely drawn portrait of life in a small Maine town.