

Recent Reads—February

Non-Fiction

Fen, Bog and Swamp: A Short History of Peatland Destruction and Its Role in the Climate Crisis
by Annie Proulx

Written as a means of helping herself understand one of the contributing factors to climate change, these essays by the Pulitzer Prize winner highlights humanity's part in the climate crisis in a striking, sobering way. Proulx explores how these necessary wetlands have been drained in an effort to make the land "useful", and the history is devastating.

Fiction

The Cloisters by Katy Hays

A young art historian with a troubled background lands a plum assignment at The Cloisters, the Met-owned Gothic museum and garden that specializes in European medieval art and architecture, working with a small team exploring the history of fortune telling. Ann soon finds herself in a web of intrigue, obsession and lies that could derail her burgeoning career. Moody and suspenseful, with a couple of good plot twists.

Little Eve by Catriona Ward

After inheriting a castle on a Scottish island post-WWI, a charismatic man fashions an insular cult made up of women and children, preaching of end times and the coming of the Adder, a godlike sea serpent. While this gothic horror novel is very dark and unsettling, it is also a memorable, beautifully crafted award-winner. Recommended for fans of *Mexican Gothic* by Sylvia Moreno.