

Recent Reads-- September 2023

Fiction

An American in Scotland by Lucy Connelly

An ER doctor opts for a big change when she trades in the busy trauma department of a major city hospital to be the town doctor on a Scottish island. Somehow she missed the “coroner” line in her job description, but luckily she’s a natural at investigating unnatural deaths. A cozy mystery with a touch of romance.

The Funeral Makers by Cathie Pelletier

This first novel by the acclaimed Maine writer offers an unsparing look at the actions of the residents of Mattagash, Maine, when the eldest daughter of the town’s founding family takes ill. Funny, sharp, and a much more compassionate view of small town Maine than the novel to which it may be compared: *The Beans of Egypt, Maine* by Carolyn Chute.

Night of the Living Rez by Morgan Talty

One man’s life on the Penobscot reservation, with all its joys, sorrows, and complexities, is beautifully portrayed in this debut collection of linked stories. The stories alternate between the viewpoint of David, the child, and Dee, the adult; grief and trauma are palpable, but so is a steel core of humor. Permeating all the stories is a visceral, immediate sense of the natural world. A ReadME/Book Club selection.

Audiobooks (available on cloudLibrary)

Her Body and Other Parties by Carmen Maria Machado

Eerie and chilling, with a decidedly feminist slant, these provocative short stories will carry you through the spooky season and beyond. Sources ranging from urban legend to *Law and Order: SVU* provide inspiration for modern fairy tales tinged with gothic horror, featuring heroines whose bodies serve others before themselves. An unforgettable debut.

Romantic Comedy by Curtis Sittenfeld

The inner workings of a Saturday Night Live-style late show provide the framework for this witty, modern romance. After floating an idea for a sketch skewering society’s ability to accept a relationship between her ordinary-looking male colleagues and beautiful women, but not the reverse—ordinary female and handsome man—a writer finds herself being drawn into a flirtation with the sexy host of the week’s show.

The Summer Wives by Beatriz Williams

The tensions between summer blue bloods and the year-round residents of Portugese descent on an island in Long Island Sound simmer over decades before finally boiling over during one eventful summer. Williams takes the reader across multiple eras and continents, sharing the back stories and viewpoints of several characters. Try if you like sprawling, romantic historical fiction.