

Recent Reads November 2023

Non-Fiction

Downeast: Five Maine Girls and the Unseen Story of Rural America by Gigi Georges

Georges followed the lives of 5 teens from Washington County over several years, extrapolating her findings into “truths” about life in rural America. I would argue that while there are similarities between rural life in Maine and in, say, Montana, there are probably many more differences, but you should read this and decide for yourself! It’s a thought-provoking and engaging book.

You Could Make this Place Beautiful by Maggie Smith

A memoir about a divorce doesn’t sound very appealing, but when it’s written by a poet who writes this beautifully, it is not only appealing but compelling, a clear-eyed look at the cracks in this marriage as well as in so many others, and the struggles that women continue to face even with supposedly enlightened partners.

Fiction

The Body Falls by Andrea Carter

Suggested for fans of Louise Penny, this Irish mystery series features a developing relationship for its main character and glimpses of life in a small village on the northernmost tip of Ireland. In this latest book, Benedicta “Ben” O’Keefe has returned to her legal practice after a stint in Florida; just as a charity bicycle race comes to town, the inhabitants are cut off from the outside world by flooding and left with a killer in their midst, with only a skeleton police force to handle the various disasters.

Audiobooks (available on cloudLibrary)

The Librarianist by Patrick deWitt

When a retired librarian helps a woman suffering from dementia to get home, he unexpectedly opens a door to a newfound sense of purpose and new relationships, as well as a connection to the past. A Book Club selection.

Queen Bee by Dorothea Benton Frank

Holly Jensen has been stuck in a rut for years, taking care of her demanding mother (the “Queen Bee”), mooning over the widowed neighbor and his two small boys, and basically putting her own life on hold in order to meet everyone else’s needs. But when her “perfect” sister’s marriage implodes and Leslie comes back to Sullivan’s Island to live with her mother and sister, Holly gets the opportunity to shake up her life.

Weyward by Emilia Hart

Three generations of women with special powers form the basis of this story, set in England during three different time periods. In the present day, Kate has fled London and an abusive

partner for a cottage left to her by her great-aunt Violet, who also sought refuge at the cottage during a dark time in her life during the 1940s. And in the 1600s, Altha returned to the same place to rebuild her life. Try if you enjoy the work of Alice Hoffman.