

Kathleen's Recent Reads—June 2024

Fiction

The Road to Dalton by Shannon Bowring

In 1990, the residents of a small town in northern Maine all know each other's business, but some things—domestic abuse, mental illness, a same-sex relationship—are not acknowledged. This confers a sort of freedom, but also contributes to tragedy. This strikingly powerful first novel is a Read ME/Book Club selection.

The Spy Coast by Tess Gerritsen

Gerritsen's latest features an assortment of former CIA operatives who have retired to mid-coast Maine in order to live quietly, until someone from the past wants to settle a score. This page-turner will have you hoping for more adventures from this group!

The Paris Novel by Ruth Reichl

Best known as a food writer and the former editor of *Gourmet* magazine, Reichl here turns to fiction, with a charming, frothy tale incorporating art, haute couture and food. When Stella's mother leaves her an inheritance with strings attached (the money must be spent on a trip to Paris), her boss encourages her to take a vacation from her book publishing job and travel to France. Stella reluctantly agrees, but fails to see the point of the trip, until a fateful encounter in a vintage dress shop.

Audiobooks

Hell Bent by Leigh Bardugo

This sequel to *Ninth House* sees Alex Stern and her cohorts in Lethe, one of Yale's secret societies, attempting a rescue from Hell (literally). Exciting and fast-paced, and firmly building on the first story—definitely read that first!

Meet Me at the Lake by Carley Fortune

After unexpectedly losing her mother, Fern must choose between taking on the management of the family business, a resort on Ontario's Muskoka region, or remaining in Toronto. Complicating matters is the reappearance of the man who broke her heart years earlier, brought on by her mother to help revitalize the resort. Satisfying women's fiction, perfect for summer.

Pete and Alice in Maine by Caitlin Shetterly

New Yorkers with two small children and a rocky marriage escape New York in the early days of the pandemic and head to their summer home in Maine, where they are not exactly welcomed with open arms, and quarantining together brings their marital problems to a head. Shetterly treats their complicated relationship with respect, highlighting the difficulties of being forced by circumstances to address the issues head-on, and not opting for an easy resolution.