

Kathleen's Recent Reads—May 2024

Non-Fiction

This Life Is In Your Hands: One Dream, Sixty Acres, and a Family Undone by Melissa Coleman

Sue and Eliot Coleman bought land in Maine from famed back-to-the landers Helen and Scott Nearing and began homesteading in the 1970s. After a great deal of backbreaking work, they were finally beginning to see a measure of success when tragedy struck; their daughter, Melissa, offers a heart-wrenching memoir of growing up in this environment. A Book Club selection.

Fiction

Wellness by Nathan Hill

Jack and Elizabeth meet as college students in 1990's Chicago in this sprawling novel, which follows them through decades. Both have renounced their families and long to make their mark in the burgeoning art scene; as the novel progresses, dreams are sidetracked and compromises are made, until Jack and Elizabeth reach a turning point. A poignant examination of a marriage, laced with wicked humor.

The Narrowboat Summer by Anne Youngson

Three women who meet by chance become fast friends after two agree to bring the third's canal boat for repairs while she's in the hospital. Having never piloted a canal boat, there is a fairly steep learning curve, but since the two have both found themselves at an emotional crossroads, the opportunity proves life-changing. Slow-paced and meditative, with lots to learn about the English canal system. A Book Club selection.

Audiobooks (available on cloudLibrary)

Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear by Elizabeth Gilbert

The bestselling author offers practical advice on tapping into your own innate creativity, finding inspiration, and living a creative life even if you must support yourself by other means. The audiobook is narrated by Gilbert herself, lending an intimate tone.

Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine by Alan Lightman

How does a scientist wrestle with big questions such as the meaning of life, and whether God exists? A physicist who summers in Maine provides some clues in this elegantly written and thought-provoking compilation of essays, brilliantly narrated by Bronson Pinchot. (The library also owns a hardcover copy.)