

## **Kathleen's Recent Reads—July 2024**

### *Fiction*

#### *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

Sweeping historical fiction, intertwining the story of famed racehorse Lexington; his enslaved groom, Jarrett; Jess, a Smithsonian curator; and a PhD candidate at Georgetown, Theo. While the unique bond between Lexington and Jarrett forms the heart of the novel, the threads following the modern characters of Jess and Theo are just as compelling.

#### *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

After being accused of rape, a man is found dead, encased in a block of ice in the Kennebec River. Motivated suspects abound in this well-researched historical mystery, based on the life of Martha Ballard, an eighteenth-century midwife in Maine.

#### *Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips (available from our Chickadee Library Consortium partners)

Underlying ethnic tensions add suspense to this atmospheric mystery. The linked stories center around the kidnapping of two young girls from a town on a remote peninsula in northeastern Russia. The unusual setting and well-drawn characters provide the appeal.

### *Audiobooks (available on cloudLibrary)*

#### *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett

Follett's background as a suspense writer served him well when he transitioned to historical fiction with this novel. Painstaking research, a tightly crafted plot spanning a lifetime, and memorable characters are all enhanced by the perfect pacing of this nearly 1000-page book.

#### *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry

After being evacuated to Oxford during WWII, sisters Hazel and Flora soothe themselves with a game about a fairytale, imagined by Hazel. After Flora vanishes one afternoon from the banks of the Thames, never to be seen again, Hazel, wracked with guilt, spends the next two decades looking for answers, little dreaming that their magical world will hold the key to the mystery.

#### *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

Three daughters quarantining on their family's cherry farm in Michigan during the early part of the pandemic cajole their mother into telling the story of her brief career as an actor. Patchett's writing is always beguiling, but Meryl Streep narrates the audio, so I highly recommend listening!