

Recent Reads—March 2025

Non-Fiction

Enchantment: Awakening Wonder in an Anxious Age by Katherine May

May follows up her best-selling *Wintering* with these charming meditations on the restorative powers of the natural world. Following health issues and pandemic lockdown in the UK, May began to feel unmoored, and looked for other methods of grounding herself when she was unable to do her beloved cold-water swimming. Using the four elements of fire, air, water and earth as a structure, the author brings us along on her search to reconnect with the world around her in a new way.

Divergent Mind: Thriving in a World That Wasn't Designed for You by Jenara Nerenberg

Nerenberg, neurodivergent herself, brings a journalist's perspective as she explores the various conditions included under the neurodivergent umbrella, discusses how the diagnostic criteria based on the male default has failed women, and advocates for a societal shift from our current default structure of neurotypical.

Fiction

Same As It Ever Was by Claire Lombardo

A sprawling examination of life and marriage from the perspective of a middle-aged woman living in the Chicago suburbs. Readers of a certain age will appreciate the elder Gen X references, but the book will appeal to any fans of introspective, character-driven fiction.

Audiobooks

Sword of Kings by Bernard Cornwell

Set in 10th-century England, this thrilling story follows the fictional Uhtred of Bebbenburg's odyssey as he attempts to return to his home in the north of the country through warring factions struggling for power after the death of the king. A satisfying blend of adventure and history; try if you enjoy the sagas of Ken Follett.

The Familiar by Leigh Bardugo

Magic is a dangerous power to possess in Madrid at the time of the Spanish Inquisition, but it is also the only thing that can rescue Luzia Cotado from a life of drudgery as a kitchen scullion. Bardugo's fans will be pleased to find her intricate world-building on show, as will anyone looking for an immersive plot set in a relatively unfashionable period, and fans of lush, lyrical writing.

Time of the Child by Niall Williams

On an Irish island in the 1960s, a baby is abandoned and found by a young man who brings it to the town doctor instead of the church, a doctor who decides to follow an unorthodox path regarding the child's fate. Lovely and heartwarming.