

Recent Reads March 2026

Non-Fiction

The Science of Watching, the Art of Seeing, and the Power of Nature Absorption by Chris Lewey, S.M. Fisher and J.K. Lounsbury

Local naturalist Chris Lewey is joined by his sisters Jane and Sharon as he reminisces about the power nature held for them as children, and how most of us lose that connection as adults. Featuring selections of classic poetry and "field exercises" to encourage the reader to observe nature around them, and photos of scenes and wildlife to be found in the area. The final section offers suggestions for poetry and stories to read with children, and accompanying activities.

Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World by Cal Newport

Written in 2019, but no less timely, this book looks at how our increasingly digital lives have affected our mental and emotional health, and proposes a considered approach to using technology, one balanced by off-screen time and activities. Newport examines how different practices enhance our well-being, and offers well-researched examples and concrete steps to effect change.

The Look by Michelle Obama

A pictorial diary of many of the looks worn by Obama as First Lady, including commentary from her stylist, Meredith Koop, as well as her makeup artist and hair stylist. This is a fascinating take on the effort that went in to not only dressing Obama in a becoming way that she was comfortable in, but that met many unspoken protocols, engaged in soft diplomacy, and sent a message.

Native Trees for Northeast Landscapes: A Wild Seed Project Guide

The Portland-based organization explains the benefits of planting native species, and provides a guide for trees suitable for our area.

Fiction

I See You've Called in Dead by John Kenney

A lovely, lovely story, full of humor, about a man building a new life for himself following a divorce, about male friendships, and about how to live a life. Recommended for fans of *A Man Called Ove*.

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

After arriving in a small Southern town to take care of some business, Theo—who asks to be called simply by his first name—becomes transfixed by portraits of local residents he sees in a coffee shop, and decides to purchase them one by one and give them to

their subjects at a face to face meeting. This gives Theo an opportunity to meet people in this town where he is a stranger. Most of the people he meets are drawn in by his warmth and tenderness, but no one seems able to learn anything about his background until tragedy strikes. Strong characterizations and a heartwarming story with a valuable lesson.

Audiobooks

Trigger Mortis by Anthony Horowitz

A James Bond novel, using some of Ian Fleming's material, set just after *Goldfinger*. James and Pussy Galore are cohabiting in London; as he becomes involved in another case, she becomes the target of the remnants of Goldfinger's operation and things get very complicated for 007. The classic, 60's era Bond vibes are brought skillfully to life by Horowitz.

Yellowface by R. F. Kuang

June Hayward, an author of middling success, must endure the accolades heaped upon her Yale classmate and wildly successful fellow author Athena Liu. Despite June's lukewarm reception of her overtures, Athena considers her a friend, and June is present when Athena dies in a tragic accident. Then things begin to get tricky, as June makes one ill-advised decision after another. Racism, cultural appropriation, misappropriation...and all the while, June is defending herself and her motives, *and you understand*. The suspense is unbearable as you wait for the crash, which comes and is spectacular, but not as spectacular as the comeback. Try if you liked *Gone Girl*.