

Recent Reads

April Ide, Library Director

I just read an awful book. I kept going because I thought there was promise in the premise, but the ending didn't deliver. I won't tell you the title because it might not be an awful book for everyone; every book has its reader. Sometimes a book can deliver on its promises, though. Here are a few I've read recently that delivered for me.

At the beginning of May Cobb's "My Summer Darlings," Jen has returned to her hometown in East Texas with her tail between her legs; she's divorced and broke and living rent-free in her childhood home, thanks to the kindness of her parents. The only thing she has going for her is the support of Kittie and Cynthia, her best friends from high school. The three women are settling in for a summer of the same old backyard barbeques and wine nights when Will Harding moves into the neighborhood. Will is handsome, charming, and extremely appealing to each of the women. Their fascination with him grows and begins to affect their lives in devastating ways. This sultry thriller will keep you turning pages until the heart-racing conclusion.

Another thriller I recently enjoyed was "The House Across the Lake" by Riley Sager. Casey Fletcher is recently widowed and trying to escape the media fall-out from her last grief-and-alcohol-fueled breakdown. She hunkers down at her family's lake cabin in Vermont with a supply of bourbon and begins lazily spying on her neighbors through her late husband's binoculars. When Casey spots suspicious activity at the house of Tom and Katherine Royce, her glamorous and rich neighbors across the lake, she starts to watch the house obsessively until Katherine disappears. Casey immediately suspects that Tom is to blame and begins investigating Katherine's disappearance. Her search uncovers much more than she ever suspected lying under the surface of Lake Greene. I am always surprised by the endings of Riley Sager's books, and this page-turner might contain his wildest ending yet!

If you're looking for more stories of scammers, "Cover Story" by Susan Rigetti might be the novel for you. Lora Ricci dropped out after a difficult first year at NYU and is not sure how she'll achieve her dream of becoming a famous author. She is thrilled when she is accepted to an internship at Elle magazine. She starts out sorting inventory in the magazine's beauty closet but dazzling and wealthy editor Cat Wolff soon takes Lora under her wing. When Lora's internship ends, Cat offers Lora a stunning opportunity: become Cat's ghostwriter and live with her at the Plaza Hotel. Lora and Cat spend their days writing stories and living the high life. But as Lora gets to know Cat, she begins to see cracks in Cat's glamorous life of ease. This book kept me guessing.

I always await humorist David Sedaris' next essay collection eagerly, and I raced through "Happy-Go-Lucky." In this latest collection of essays, Sedaris explores the very difficult relationship he and his father shared. Sedaris doesn't shy away from his frustration and anger while he tries to reconcile the gentle person his father became in his last few years with the rude, angry, and critical man that Sedaris knew for most of his life. Sedaris' father passed away in 2021 at the age of 98. Even though the subjects

of this collection are more serious than typical, it is still fueled by Sedaris' wit and humor.

If you'd like to request any of these books, visit www.newulmlibrary.org and click on Library Catalog or give us a call at 507-359-8331. We'd be happy to place these or any other items on hold for you.

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