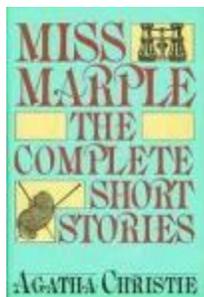


December 2018 Staff Picks

Eileen

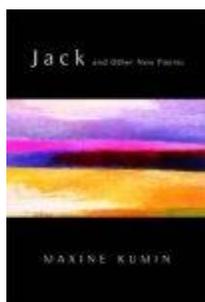


Miss Marple: The Complete Short Stories by Agatha Christie

“Well my dear,” said Miss Marple, “human nature is much the same everywhere, and, of course, one has opportunities of observing it at closer quarters in a village.”

Miss Marple, “the Victorian ideal of an old maid,” with her glasses and knitting and gentle manner, is of course one of Agatha Christie’s greatest creations and is never wrong when – tenaciously but ever so delicately – she puzzles out the culprit. And here are 20 delightful stories at her best.

Sarah



Jack and Other New Poems by Maxine Kumin

“O what’s the winter for? the quilted poet asked. Doors slam overhead as maple buffets ash. To remember love, he said.” – From Fox on His Back by Maxine Kumin

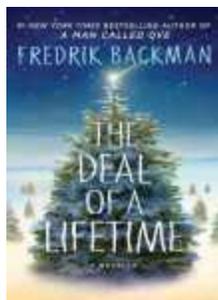
Winter, to me, is a time to go inward. It is a time for quiet reflection, solitude juxtaposed with family, and warmth. Maxine Kumin was an award winning New Hampshire poet and it is clear to see why after reading this slim but powerful book. Her subtle strength and fine skill as a poet is left quietly between these pages. Each poem profoundly resonates, from the current

issues of today to the seasonality of life and the emotional depths of rural New Hampshire living.

Cheryl

The Deal of a Lifetime by Fredrik Backman

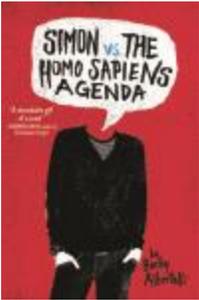
“A truly good book teaches me better than to read it. I must soon lay it down, and commence living on its hint. What I begin by reading, I must finish by acting.” – Henry David Thoreau



The Deal of a Lifetime is a novella written by Frederik Backman. One of my favorite authors, he does not disappoint as he writes this short story of two cancer patients; one a young child and one an ambitious man who lives by riches and status. A hospital levels the playing field for both as moments and minutes become gifts to be treasured.

Wrap yourself in a warm blanket and find a quiet space. This book will not disappoint. It is a celebration of humanity, and a gift worth giving yourself. It offers a good story and will leave you wanting for more!

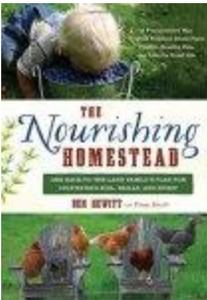
Kelly H.



***Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli**

For Simon Spier, life as a gay teen isn't all it's cracked up to be. His friends are loving but lacking in numbers. His parents are there for him but are blind to his interest in guys. And he really wants a boyfriend, but remains one of only a few LGBT+ kids in his school. So what is there for Simon to do but take to the internet? On his school's forum page creeksecrets, Simon finds the mysterious Blue, a fellow gay kid looking for someone to talk to. Simon takes the chance of a lifetime and emails Blue and the two begin to bond over their love of Oreos and indie music. The two grow closer until Simon's emails are found by class clown Martin Addison. Despite his friendly demeanor, Martin approaches Simon with a threat: Get your best friend to love me, or I tell the whole school about Blue.

Kelly R.



***The Nourishing Homestead* by Ben Hewitt**

Fans of Yankee Magazine will recognize Ben Hewitt as a regular contributor, sharing the tales and trials of homesteading in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Ben has a wonderful way of storytelling and teaching at the same time. In *The Nourishing Homestead* Ben recounts the story of how he and his wife Penny purchased their land and set out to homestead, first living in a tent while they built a barn for their animals and then their own home. Their goal was and still to this day is to live off the grid, preserving food (includes recipes), taking care of livestock, gardening, etc.. Their family eventually grows to include two little boys who participate in their daily routine. This all makes for an interesting winter read and a great resource book.

Katherine



***Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden**

This is children's literary horror. So there's that. It's definitely of a much more refined quality than, say, Goosebumps. I was going to say "Who even writes literary horror for children?" but then I remembered, obviously, Neil Gaiman, and this is definitely a good recommendation for anyone who enjoyed *Coraline* or *The Graveyard Book*. I am both pleased and unsurprised that Katherine Arden can also pull off the genre. It is a bit of a slow burn – for the first third to half of the book, I wanted to sit with each chapter after I read it instead of rushing through, although eventually I just kept going. And despite being kid-appropriate, it was still very creepy and definitely gave me the chills.