

Calista

*The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follet

Set in the medieval twelfth century, goes a tale about a monk named Philip who wants to build the grandest cathedral England has ever known and about Tom Builder and his family who will make this a reality. Challenges abound from the start and as soon as one is resolved, another appears. Evil and enemies seem to come from every direction, even from the church and the law. Though even with all these challenges, Philip and Tom keep making progress, however slowly. This book spans several generations and it's lovely seeing how the characters grow and change. I enjoyed being back during that medieval time despite all the hardships they faced and seeing the faith and strength of these individuals. Available: Library print, Libby (ebook, audio)

Eileen

*Our Woman in Moscow* by Beatriz Williams

In the autumn of 1948, Iris Digby vanishes from her London home with her American diplomat husband and two children. In 1952, her twin Ruth Macallister receives a postcard which involves her in a precarious plot to extract the Digbys from behind the Iron Curtain.

I deeply appreciated this thrilling tale of Cold War espionage, the duplicity, complicated secrets, tangled loyalties, and the edge-of-your-seat ending.

Available: Library print, Libby and hoopla (audio)

Kelly

*The Poacher's Son* by Paul Doiron

This is the first in the series of Mike Bowditch Mysteries novels set in the woods of Maine. The main character, Mike Bowditch, is a game warden in the vast woods of Maine. He is a local guy raised poor primarily by his mother. Things get interesting when his father, a hard-drinking womanizer who thinks it's perfectly fine to make a living from poaching, becomes the prime suspect in a local murder. This gives Mike a major chip on his shoulder because the locals associate him with his father.

This is a solid eight in my book for plot and ending. Doiron wraps things up in a nice bow but still leaves you wanting to know more about Bowditch. I do love a good series and the Bowditch character definitely has as many layers as a large onion. Doiron's background as the editor in chief of Downeast magazine and the fact that he is an official Maine Guide surely makes him qualified to write a good murder mystery series set in the woods of Maine.

Available: Library print, Libby (ebooks/audio)

Linda

*How To Catch A Mole: Wisdom From a Life Lived in Nature* by Marc Hamer

Where to begin? A delightful read with a most satisfying ending that left this reader wanting more and now I am reading the author's second novel, From Seed to Dust. This reader's recommendation is to read How To Catch A Mole first as readers will be oriented in time and space.

The title is a metaphor: the author meanders through his past, present, and future. He is a full-time gardener employed at a 12-acre estate in Wales, England. Readers get a glimpse of the estate and its somewhat mysterious owner, Miss Cashmere.

Like a fine wine or artwork, readers will savor the wisdom found in the pages of the novel.

Hamer's resilience, reflections, his happiness...and the fact he wrote this book...are magical and transformative.

Available: hoopla

Rebecca

*Dirty Dancing*

"Nobody puts Baby in a corner!" A line that is iconic when thinking about 1980s films. Jennifer Grey plays Baby, who is one summer away from joining the Peace Corps in 1963. She spends the summer with her parents at a sleepy resort in the Catskills. As a sweet daddy's girl, Baby is entranced with the handsome dance instructor played by Patrick Swazey. Full of dancing, music, and romance, this movie is great for curling up and remembering your young and wild days.

Available: DVD

Rebekah

*About Time*

When Tim Blake turned 21, his father told him the secret that the men in the family have the ability to travel through time. Later, Tim meets Mary and they end up falling in love. Tim uses his time traveling abilities to make sure that they both have the perfect life. But as their life goes on, and they start to build a family, Tim realizes that his abilities can't protect them from everything. This movie is a sweet, heartwarming, and funny film. With an amazing cast and amazing acting, I truly enjoyed every minute of it.

Available: DVD