

Calista

Chickenology: The Ultimate Encyclopedia by Barbara Sandri, Francesco Giubbilini, Camilla Pintonato

I chose this as my staff pic because it is utterly adorable. *Chickenology* tells you all about the different chicken breeds, their behaviors, life cycle, history through time, and much more. The pictures are accompanied by facts and explanations. The drawings and artistry is just wonderful. If you didn't love chickens before, you might by the end of this book. Enjoy!

Platforms: library book, hoopla (ebook)

Eileen

Sea of Tranquility by Emily St. John Mandel

Mandel is best known for her 2014 novel *Station Eleven*, the pandemic novel that was turned into a TV series. I make it a point to read her books because they are quiet and thoughtful but also imaginatively plotted and compelling. In this book, she interests us in three lives separated by hundreds of years and united by a common experience.

Platforms: library book, Libby (ebook and e-audio)

Kelly

Postcard History Series: Belmont by Diane M. Marden w/Belmont Historical Society

For history buffs or just folks curious about what Belmont, NH, used to look like back in the day. This book is a wonderful compilation of photos of postcards collected by a local, Diane Marden, and is both interesting and informative. Photos are of both buildings/places and people. I particularly enjoyed seeing how much Main Street has changed and reading about the industry that used to be right here in town. Of course, Belmont Public Library is included and even lists past librarians. It's a great trip down memory lane and is very informative.

Platforms: library book, hoopla (ebook)

Linda

The Fabelmans

Viewers become part of the dynamic Spielberg household of the 1950s-60s.

The use of period-appropriate architecture, furnishings, classic cars, fashion, and music create an authentic experience for viewers. Steven Spielberg's interest in filmmaking

emerged at a young age and his parents encouraged and supported his interest. Spielberg's success is a result of the persistence, time, and energy he devoted to his passion that led to worldwide recognition of his craft. While editing footage from a family outing, a young Spielberg makes a discovery that discloses a family secret. The Spielberg family will never be the same. Spielberg now has first-hand experience of the power of film.

Spielberg experiences serious bullying in high school. As a Jew, he is singled-out and endures mental and physical torment. Juxtaposed with the brutality of this predicament is the weird relationship that takes on a life of its own with a high school love interest. She has her own brand of Catholicism and attempts to "save him." In both situations, Spielberg portrays himself as an outsider but never a victim.

The acting is superb and the cinematography is of course all Spielberg (PG-13).

Platforms: library

Rebecca

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

May is Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Month

Summary: In the valley of Fruitless mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

Rating: 4/5 stars. The fantasy elements of this book are mesmerizing! Quick read or a fun read-aloud for families to share.

Platforms: library book

Rebekah - Staff Pick

The Notebook

Noah Calhoun falls in love with a rich girl named Allie. They share many great times together but Allie's parents don't approve of their relationship. They still try to make their relationship work until Noah has to go fight in the war. Some years pass, and Allie meets another guy. When Noah comes back from war, he still tries to get Allie back.

It's a classic. A heart-warming film. Noah and Allie's love is true.

Platforms: library DVD

