

Library Lines by Olivia Martello, Patron Services, Kirkland Town Library

Summer has always been one of my favorite times for reading. My mom has a host of embarrassing stories about me rushing home from school and amassing a huge pile of books to start summer vacation with. Even now, I have a Jenga tower of library books by my bed--the perils of working in a library and grabbing books off the shelves left and right. Here are some new books I enjoyed this summer, all available at the Kirkland Town Library.

*One Last Stop* by Casey McQuiston is about a twenty-three-year-old named August who has just moved to New York City, expecting another place that will match her cynicism. She quickly becomes friends with a hilarious group of roommates and crushes on a girl named Jane, who she meets on her commute. As they grow closer, they find out something that complicates things: Jane is displaced from the 1970's, and unable to leave the train. With the train's closure looming, August must figure out a way to save Jane before she is lost forever. The sci-fi element is seamlessly woven into the story, and even if you're not a sci-fi fan, I would recommend this book. It's a love letter to New York and the unexpected family to be found within it, all wrapped up in a beautiful romance that will fill you with hope.

*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig is about Nora, a struggling woman in her thirties who regrets where her life has ended up. After a series of setbacks that leave her feeling like she has nothing to live for, she comes across the Midnight Library, a place where each book allows her to see the different paths her life might have taken. As Nora explores different lives, she learns more about herself and the world around her, each new life changing her perspective in some way. This book is a great and comforting read for anyone questioning their place in the world and wondering how to truly live as themselves.

I'm a huge mythology fan, and Genevieve Gornichec's novel *The Witch's Heart* is a beautiful journey through Norse mythology. Angrboda is a witch who was burned at the stake and had her heart removed by Odin. Hiding in a cave, she becomes friends with the huntress Skadi and begins a relationship with trickster god Loki, giving birth to three children fated to be involved with the end of the world. The book is filled with magic, witches, and gods, but the story and characters feel wholly human. Gornichec lingers on small, detailed moments of domesticity and family, and beneath the myth is a beautiful tale of love, life, and motherhood.

If you enjoyed Alex Michaelides's book *The Silent Patient*, you'll love *The Maidens*. Therapist Mariana receives a call from her niece about a murder at Cambridge. After heading to Cambridge to comfort her niece, Mariana gets tangled in the web of a charismatic Greek tragedy professor. The professor has a cult-like group of prized students he calls the Maidens, and as Mariana becomes convinced he is the murderer, she is plunged into danger as she tries to find the killer before he strikes again. The mystery drew me in immediately, and the strong characters and tense plot kept the pages turning. I finished the book in less than a day.

Finally, for non-fiction fans, *The Call Me Ishmael Phone Book: An Interactive Guide to Life-Changing Books* is a fun tribute to book lovers. It's also a great way to find your next read! It's

based on the phone line started by authors Logan Smalley and Stephanie Kent, where anonymous callers leave messages about books that changed their lives. Styled like a phonebook, the book features literary advertisements, lists of independent bookstores, and testimonies from readers about their favorite books. A great read for bibliophiles.