

Best Reads of 2024

Just a caveat, that while I'm writing, I don't read my genre. I have a completely irrational fear I'm going to George Harrison someone's mystery book: I'll read it, internalize it, and recast it as my own. This is absurd for a few reasons, (1) as a copyright lawyer in my boring real life, I know that's very, very unlikely, and (2) I don't have the memory or the innate talent of George Harrison, so I couldn't do it even if I wanted to, but we all have our idiosyncrasies.

[*Under Your Spell*](#), Laura Wood. (On Kindle Unlimited) This is a rom-com where a jaded English professor and daughter of a Bret Michaels-esque old rockstar meets a Harry Styles/Justin Timberlake reformed boy band-turned-"real" musician. The romance is sweet, and the banter laugh out loud funny, but read it for the three sisters' relationship. That is where this book shines.

[*The Unraveling*](#), Vi Keeland. (On Kindle Unlimited) A thriller where a psychiatrist with questionable ethics stalks her patient. Or does she? This one is twisty and a little silly, but I liked Meredith, the main character, and rooted for her even when she clearly made mistakes.

[*Lovely Bad Things*](#), Trisha Wolfe. (On Kindle Unlimited) Another thriller. This felt like a True Detective-slash-Silence of the Lambs mash-up. An investigative expert is called to the scene of a ritualistic killing, and the only person she can turn to for help is the serial killer she put in prison for the criminally insane. Check your trigger warnings on this one. It's dark and really violent, but so good in a psychological-mess-with-your-head kind of way. It's a series, but I had no interest in continuing. I liked where it ended.

The Edie Thompson Duology: [*Who's That Girl*](#) & [*You Belong With Me*](#), Mhairi McFarlane. Women's Fiction/Romance. I love Mhairi's books. She's considered a romance writer, but the romance in her books takes a backseat to the female characters' personal growth. This duology (I read book one in 2023 and book two in 2024) is about a woman who is struggling with a toxic work environment despite loving her job. She needs to make changes for her mental health and her career. In book two, she has to reconcile the life she would live with her partner with the one she'd leave behind. Both novels are about the fear of moving forward and allowing yourself to grow, and it's so well done.

[*The Diary of a Bookseller*](#), Sean Bythell. (Recommend the Audio) This is a tongue-in-cheek memoir of the day-to-day life of a used bookseller in Scotland. It's funny. He recounts transactions with locals and tourists, his frustration with Amazon, how many books he bought and sold, how many cats he's interacted with. For insights into (i) the Scottish Highlands and (ii) running a bookstore while laughing, pick it up.

Secrets of the Nile Duology: [*What the River Knows*](#) (On Kindle Unlimited) & [*Where the Library Hides*](#), Isabel Ibañez. This duology is marketed as YA but it reads like a PG13 adventure. It's accessible to teens and adults and it is so much fun. Think Brendan Fraser's

The Mummy. It's going to make you want to book a flight and go to the London Museum. Why, you ask? I won't spoil it for you.

What were your favorite reads of 2024? Message or email me.