

Glass Houses

By Louise Penny

This one starts with Gamache on the witness stand being questioned - should be his witness but he's hostile to him. Everyone is mocking Gamache- in the press, other police officers. Being seen as a good but weak man. He's testifying about a murder that had taken place. The whole book you're wondering what happened. Great book. Even the afterword where she writes about her husband's death. So moving. She talked about how Gamache is her way of keeping her husband alive.

Chasing the Last Laugh: How Mark Twain Escaped Debt and Disgrace with a Round-the-World Comedy Tour

By Richard Zacks

Learned a huge amount about Mark Twain that I never knew. He had worked as a typesetter for a company and discovered the invention of a mechanical typesetter. He invested a huge amount of money in it, and unfortunately the company that made the machine didn't get it all right, and a different company came up with a better one and he ended up broke and owing huge amounts of money. He thought the only way to make money was to write more books or to do a huge world tour and speak about his books. He was hugely well known across the English speaking world. He starts with a little tour around America, and then around the world - Australia, China, etc. and spent a year touring. You get a lot of descriptions about what the world looked like in those times. Struck me how enormous the influence of the English was in those days.

Dewey

By Vicki Myron

A treasure. All about libraries and this cat. A woman was literally saved by this cat. She was in an awful situation with her husband. She married him when she was very young and he was a drunk. She had a child and it went badly and had to have a hysterectomy. Her parents helped her financially to go to college and she created a wonderful life for herself. One morning it was really cold and she goes into work in the library and they find a little almost frozen animal. She took him and warmed him up and dried him off. He turned into this beautiful kitten. She somehow persuaded the library committee to let him stay there till she retired and he went home with her. Word started to circulate about the cat who would greet every single person who came in. The kids loved him so she started children's programs there and slowly people started coming to the library. And the community just rallied around her and the cat. Wonderful story. Very inspiring about how this town absolutely came together.

Wanderer on my native shore

By George Reiger

Biologist who talks about the flora and fauna from Maine all the way to Florida. He talks about the development of Florida- he grew up partly in Florida. The mangrove roots held the beaches for thousands of years so they wouldn't get eroded away. People spend fortunes building sea walls to try to keep the beaches from moving. When they built the railroads they cleared the mangroves to clear the way primarily for tourism. They destroyed the mangrove forest all the way down the coast and nothing people have put in place has been able to hold the beaches.

Sulfur Spring

By William Kent Krueger

Very complicated, interesting, and human characters. Set in Arizona in the desert for the first time in the series. Cork O'Connor's wife had died and he married a native woman. Her child from a previous marriage has gone missing and they go to Arizona and see if they can find him. In the process they run

into a huge cash and drug problem. Very very dangerous but all of the things you might have enjoyed in previous cork novels you'll enjoy in this one. Highly recommend- good read.