

Library News

Two new books at the library great to curl up with and relax

This time of year, with the already hectic pace speeding up to a point of frenzy, it's nice to lose oneself in a good book.

Two such books are *The Innkeeper's Song*, by Peter S. Beagle, and *Kilbrack*, by Jamie O'Neill.

The Innkeeper's Song is a beautiful fantasy.

Although inside the front flap the book is described as being "the story of young Tikat's search for the lover whose death and resurrection he witnessed," it's actually a story about many characters.

Each chapter is narrated by a different character, which is not as difficult as it sounds. Even listening to the fox speak (yeesyees), is easy to fall into.

As with other books in the fantasy genre, this is basically a story of good against evil, yet the evil is never really developed.

Rather, the evil situation is a means to draw together these interesting characters.

This makes for a less powerful fantasy than works by Guy Gavriel Kay, but reading *The Innkeeper's Song* is still an enjoyable pastime.

The reader will begin to care for these characters.

Kilbrack falls under the general fiction category ... more specifically, Irish humour.

It is not a rip-roaring laugh, along the lines of books such as Dan Needle's *Letters from Wingfield Farm*, but there are moments in *Kilbrack* which definitely break out the laughs.

Unfortunately, *Kilbrack* is a difficult book to describe because each description may give something away.

Yes, it is humorous, but it's also mysterious and yet not a mystery story.

As with the *Innkeeper's Song*, the reader does become attached to the characters, but in *Kilbrack*, there is definitely a main character - O'Leary Montague, who is described as being "tall, dark and normal."

What more can be said?


Well, it is of interest to note the subtitle - *Who is Nancy Valentine?* If curiosity gets the better of you, and you have time to escape into a book, drop into the Stouffville library and check out one of these books.

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