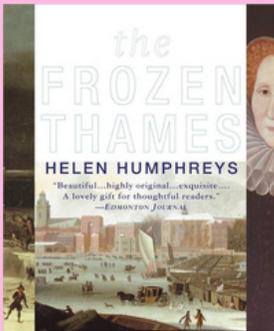


# February

## Elm Grove Library Staff Recommends | February 2026

### **The Women of Chateau Lafayette** by Stephanie Dray

Chateau Lafayette was the home of the famous Marquis de Lafayette. Author Stephanie Dray writes a historical fiction novel full of very detailed accounts of the lives of the women that lived there throughout critical historical points; the French Revolution, American Revolution and World Wars I and II. The author skillfully weaves the three main characters together bringing the pages to life as the women fight for themselves, their countries and their families. I admire Stephanie Dray's commitment to research and accurately portraying events. The added narrative that comes with historical fiction spurred me to google information and seek more details of the characters lives. Admittedly, I cared about all the women despite the fact that I didn't always like them. ~Kathie Mitich~

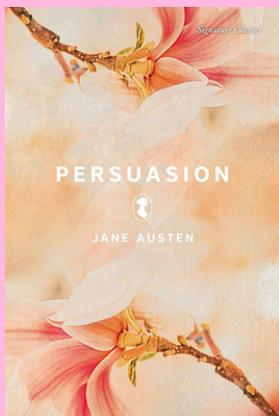
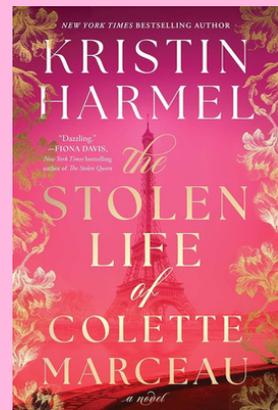


### **The Frozen Thames** by Helen Humphreys

The vast and exciting history of London never ceases to amaze. Did you know the mighty Thames River froze over in central London a number of times between 1142 and 1895? In this small but decidedly rich novel, each short chapter is devoted to a story from the year the river froze. It could be labeled as historical fiction as some stories did contain elements of historical fact (such as Queen Elizabeth I in 1565 shooting her bow and arrow out on the frozen water), but most stories were simply about real people living out their lives during that time period and how the frozen river impacted them. A highly original gem of a book. ~Mary Hartwig~

### **The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau** by Kristin Harmel

Delve into the story of a bracelet stolen in the time of World War II which reappears during the present day. Colette is raised to believe she is descended from Robin Hood and ingrained in her is the code of thieves, take from the rich and give to the poor, or in her case, take from the Nazis and give to a Holocaust fund. A special bracelet missing from her youth entangled with the loss of Colette's sister is seen on display at a museum and eventually leads to answers Colette has been seeking for over 7 decades. This historical novel promises a gripping tale of family, loss, survival, and love. ~Lori Kreis~



### **Persuasion** by Jane Austen

For anyone who has yet to read Jane Austen but curious to get into her works, I highly recommend her last completed novel *Persuasion*. While there is an initial adjustment to the older language style, readers will quickly find Austen's writing to be some of the most entertaining, clever, and profound pieces of fiction that still pertain to today. Filled with biting social commentary and vivid characters, *Persuasion*, in my opinion, is Austen's most refined work, indicative of her own wisdom, charm, and keen perception of the world cultivated in her later stage of life. It also depicts one of her most understated but beautiful romances crafted across her novels, perfect for a Valentine's Day read!

~Katarina Vandlik~