

Summer Hours at the Robbers Library by Sue Halpern
(available on hoopla – ebook & audio)
A Book Review by Mary Ellen Casey

A small public library in a formerly thriving mill town, now home to a dollar store and many empty storefronts, provides a safe haven for three people looking for a fresh start in life.

Kit. Fleeing a traumatic end to an unhappy marriage, she comes from the Midwest to take a job as a reference librarian. It's a new beginning but one where she keeps everyone at a safe distance.

Sunny. A teenager caught shoplifting, she is court-ordered to work at the library for the summer. Home schooled (or no schooled as she describes it) she shadows Kit during the day and becoming increasingly caught up in Kit's life as she tries to make sense of her own. Her parents live an alternative life style that Sunny grows to question and wonder what it means for her future.

Rusty. A down on his luck visitor to town who is researching his roots in hopes of finding a financial windfall. He enters into the daily rhythms of the library, is befriended by Sunny and library regulars, and somewhat cautiously by Kit.

As the lives of these three approach turning points they become increasingly connected, even as they try to retreat into their own familiar corners. Life as it unfolds at the Robbers Library has a different plan for these three and Sue Halpern's engaging story shows how we grow stronger when we let others in.