NORSE MYTHOLOGY by Neil Gaiman (W.W. Norton & Company)

“A story about godly battles and the effects of these battles on the human world. It also highlights how all of this is connected to the real world.

—Catherine Stanton, Madison Library District, Rexburg, IL

MY NOT SO PERFECT LIFE A Novel by Sophie Kinsella (The Dial Press)

“Katie Brenner has moved from her family’s farm to the big city. She gives up her farm lengths to present the face that she thinks the world wants to see. When she’s fired from her job and forced to return home she helps her family get their new venture up and running. Learning the truth about herself and those around her leads to the realization that nobody’s life is as perfect as it seems from the outside. Kinsella never loses her sense of humor, even when her characters are facing serious situations. She makes you believe in them and leaves you wanting to know what happens next.”

—Kristen Gramer, Lewes Public Library, Lewes, DE

GILDED CAGE by Vic James (Del Rey)

“Welcome to a world where magic grants you access to all the benefits of wealth and power. This is the story of two families, one from magic and one not. When Abi comes up with a plan to help her family by having them serve one of the most powerful magical families, she thinks it will save them. But when her brother is sent to one of the harshest work camps, the plan seems less likely to keep them alive. Her brother must face the dangers of slavery while Abi and the others will see grandeur and wealth but also see the rotten core that is gilded in gold.”

—Suzanne Christensen, Spanish Fork Public Library, Spanish Fork, UT

SETS FREE THE KITES by Alex George (Putnam)

“Robert stands watching the demolition of the old paper mill that stood in the center of town and served as a constant reminder of his friend, Nathan. The reader is transported from present day to 1970s Maine, where Robbie finds his friendship with Nathan a literal escape from the bullying at school, and a figurative way of coping with his brother’s struggle with muscular dystrophy. The portrayal of family dynamics in the wake of tragedy is reminiscent of Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng but with an anchoring of boyhood friendship in this coming of age tale.”

—Emma DeLoose-Klein, Kirkwood Public Library, Kirkwood, MO

WE WERE THE LUCKY ONES by Georgia Hunter (Viking)

“When Georgia Hunter learns that she is a descendant of a large family of Holocaust survivors, she knows that she is destined to be the recorder of their story. This is the result of years of research to gather as much detail about her relatives as she possibly can. How this group of people manages to survive the persecution and imprisonment is astounding. It is an inspiring read, and one that honors the memory and struggle of not just the author’s family, but all of the people who suffered during the war.”

—Mary Cox, Fairfield Woods Branch Library, CT

GARDEN OF LAMENTATIONS by Deborah Crombie (William Morrow)

“Picking up where To Dwell In Darkness left off, Crombie’s new mystery resolves unresolved issues from that book while selling a compelling new story. Gemma is investigating the puzzling death of a nanny while Duncan is dealing with what looks disturbingly like corruption in the police force. As always in Crombie’s novels, the look we get at the domestic lives of Duncan, Gemma and their children is as interesting as the mystery. Another fine entry in this excellent series.”

—Beth Mills, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY

The top ten books published this month that librarians across the country love.