Remarkably Bright Creatures

Shelby Van Pelt

In the Sowell Bay Aquarium along the Washington coast lives Marcellus, a giant Pacific Octopus. Tova Sullivan cleans the aquarium in the evening and one night she finds Marcellus outside his tank entangled among some power cords. She helps untangle him and from that moment on a unique friendship develops between them.

The story is cleverly written with intermittent short chapters narrated by Marcellus then it goes back to Tova and then to a young man named Cameron who lives in California.

Tova copes with the mysterious disappearance of her son 30 years ago and the more current loss of her husband from cancer. She is a member of a knitting club called the Knit-Wits, but they tend to do more eating and socializing than knitting now. Ethan Mack, a local grocer would like to get to know Tova better, but they both tend to be a little shy around each other.

Cameron Cassmore, left at his aunt’s by his mother when he was nine is having a hard time coping with life. He is 30 and very smart, but can’t seem to keep a job and is kicked out of his girlfriend’s apartment. His aunt gives him a box of his mother’s things and after looking through it deduces that his father, whom he knows nothing about, must be this hot-shot real estate developer in Washington. Cameron takes off for Washington to find his maybe father and perhaps fleece him for a little back child support. For being smart, Cameron does some stupid things sometimes, but going to Washington eventually turns into something good for him.

Marcellus is the key (literally) to this story. He is the one that pulls the story together and helps solve a 30-year-old mystery. This book is good in so many ways; heartwarming, heartbreaking, and most of all reconciliation with one's life and choices. Give this delightful book a try.