Maria is driving home late one night and has a flat tire. She doesn't have a cell phone with her. Luckily, she thinks, someone stops. As he approaches her, Maria almost panics. Colin is large and kind of bloody. Colin realizes that Maria is afraid. This chance encounter will change the rest of both of their lives. As the story develops, we find that both Colin and Maria have complicated pasts. The past is trying to resurface. This story is emotional and poignant. If you like a mystery with a strong emotional pull, you will like this book. —Judy Howell

See Me by Nicholas Sparks. (486 pages) Available in Hardback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

The summer before the war

Chloe's life changed overnight. One minute she was the manager of a popular restaurant, and the next minute she was a conduit. Chloe was on her way home from work when the first attempt was made on her life. Chloe knew there was something odd about her defender, Luca, but she wasn't sure what. Chloe had no idea that a battle for the survival of humanity was about to begin. Vampires were plotting to be able to live in the open and not skulk around in secret. To achieve this goal, a very powerful witch must break the protection spell and all of the conduits must die. If you like an energetic vampire story with a love twist, you will enjoy this book. —JH

What We Are Currently Reading

Judy:
The Huntress by Kate Quinn
What You Break by Reed Farrel Coleman

Michelle:
Foundryside by Robert Jackson Bennett
The Heat of the Day by Elizabeth Bowen
Ask Me No Questions by Shelley Noble
Leonardo’s Swans by Karen Essex
An Unkindness of Ghosts by Rivers Solomon

Would you like to make a book recommendation? We are looking for guest reviewers. If you are interested, please contact either Michelle Fields or Judy Howell by July 29. Recommendations only have to be around 100 words, so please join the fun!

THE WOMEN’S WAR

Jenna Glass’s debut fantasy novel tackles the assumptions that are made about the typical fantasy world based upon the European Middle Ages. So often in those books the misogyny underlying that system goes completely unexamined, but not here. In this world, women’s rights are a joke. Every kingdom has an ability to cast aside “unwanted” women who can’t find a husband, or can’t bear a child for instance. They are put out for prostitution to the highest bid, even if they had been someone of high rank, say a queen. At the beginning of this book, three generations of women decide this system needs to end, and they cast a spell with long-reaching implications. No woman can be forced to bear a child against her wishes. I found this book quite interesting, and I look forward to the sequel. —MF


ANNA OF KLEVE

Anna of Kleve, Henry VIII’s fourth wife, the only wife he separated from that lived to tell her story. Anna of Kleve was picked by Henry from a portrait. When she arrived in England, unfortunately, she did not recognize Henry and rejected him publicly. This, combined with his perception of her body, resulted eventually in their separation. In this book, Weir actually takes some license with Anna’s life. Weir takes the comment that Henry VIII made about her body and the looseness of her skin on the belly and her breasts and invented a very exciting and interesting life for Anna. This is historical fiction and a very enjoyable read.—JH

Anna of Kleve by Alison Weir. [288 pages] Hardcover, Kindle, Nook, iBook

THE WORD FOR WORLD IS FOREST

Ursula K. Le Guin’s prose is always a joy to read even when her subject matter is serious and sad. In this novella, humans have destroyed the natural resources of Earth, so they must look to colonize other planets to gain the raw materials they desire, such as wood. The humans in this story are going on their merry way, enslaving part of the native population and stripping areas of their trees, planning to farm once the area is deforested. What they did not count on, was the formerly peaceful Athsheans fighting back. This is a short work that truly packs a punch. —MF

The Word for World is Forest by Ursula K. Le Guin. [189 pages] Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook

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