The Casual Reader

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Michelle Fields and Judy Howell, Editors

THE LITTLE WAY OF RUTHIE LEMING

This book is a true story about an exceptionally kind, loving, and spiritual young woman, wife, mother, daughter who tragically dies of lung cancer in the prime of her life. It is painstakingly written by her older brother who has had a very hard time comprehending the mysteries of his difficult relationship with his sister. He has found himself full of regret that he can no longer make things right with her since she is no longer there to talk. There are some interesting universal truths to learn as he unravels the story of his family’s journeys in an outside of each others’ lives. At times a tear-jerker, other times light and funny, but definitely a book worth reading. —Sabra Jacobs

The Little Way of Ruthie Leming by Rod Dreher. (304 Pages) Available in Hardback, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

WHAT ALICE FORGOT

Some people believe that exercise can change their life and for Alice it does. During a spin class, Alice fell off her bike and simply hit her head. She was a bit confused about why she was on a bike in the first place but agreed to go to the hospital. While at the hospital, simple confusion changed to being completely perplexed. Why was her own loving husband being so mean to her? Why did everyone think she had three kids? What is texting and what does trending mean? Alice discovered that she hit her head and then the most recent 10 years of her life disappeared. Join Alice as she tries to negotiate her way through the minefield of her own life and changes in herself and her family that she just can’t imagine. If a book about self-discovery interests you, you will love this book. Join Alice as she discovers not only what she forgot but remembers what is important. —Judy Howell

What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty. (487 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, iBook.

JANE STEELE

Hopefully you are aware of the fact that the literary world has been celebrating Charlotte Bronte’s 200th birthday this year. There have been several new publications fortuitously timed to coincide with the anniversary, and Jane Steele is one of them. The premise is both ridiculous and hilarious: a cross between Jane Eyre and Dexter. The title character, Jane Steele, recognizes the similarities between herself and Bronte’s heroine, but she chooses to take a bloodier course when dealing with her adversaries. This may not be for all tastes, but while the novel is certainly not an exercise in profundity, it is really fun. If you need a distraction, and you find the thought of a vengeful nineteenth century woman who refuses to allow attempted rape, sexual harassment, spousal abuse or pedophilia go unpunished to be intriguing, this is your book. —Michelle Fields

Jane Steele by Lyndsay Faye. (432 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Kindle, Nook, iBook.
THE BACHELOR

Roman Chandler comes home to tend to his ailing mother. Her fondest wish is to have a grandchild. Roman loses the coin toss. He has to marry and produce a grandchild. But who? He wants a girl that he won’t feel guilty leaving at home while he travels the world, but where to find her? Roman decides the girl of his dreams is Charlotte Bronson, the one who got away. Join Roman as he tries to ensnare Charlotte in his wife trap. This is a funny and light hearted read. If you are looking for a book to finish in a weekend, this would be perfect. — JH

THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN

This was one of the first books that I read in April, and it was definitely one of my favorites. The novel begins on a wharf in Australia in 1913 when a dockmaster discovers a little girl sitting on a suitcase. She has no one with her, and he is unable to trace anyone that had been with her. He and his wife adopt her. Many years later that child and her granddaughter go to England attempting to find answers to questions such as how she ended up on the long sea voyage that took her to Australia and who was the mysterious woman she vaguely remembers onboard ship? This is a family saga that stretches across four generations that completely engrossed me for an entire Sunday afternoon. — MF

DON'T LOOK TWICE

Detective Ty Hauck decided to take his daughter on one last boat ride for the season. They stop to get refreshments and become witnesses to a drive by shooting. Detective Hauck thought this was a wrong place at the wrong time situation, but does it go deeper? As the witnesses for his case begin to die, Ty starts to follow his line of investigation. Where will it lead? How many people have to die? If you like a very well written complicated mystery — JH

The Bachelor by Carly Phillips. (301 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.
The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton. (560 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.
Don't Look Twice by Andrew Gross. (376 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

What We Are Currently Reading

**Judy:**
The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender
The Last Highlander by Sarah Fraser
Virgins by Diana Gabaldon
Faking It by Leah Marie Brown

**Michelle:**
Daniel Deronda by George Eliot
Arthur and George by Julian Barnes
Ramona by Helen Hunt Jackson
Till We Have Faces by C S Lewis
The Onion Girl by Charles de Lint
Black Dahlia by James Ellroy
The Confabulist by Steven Galloway

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 May 30. Recommendations only have to be around 100 words, so please join the fun. We enjoy hearing about new books just as much as we like telling other people about ones we've enjoyed!