Jenny Cooper, a relatively new coroner, is approached in her office by a very emotional woman. Her son Nazim Jamal disappeared along with his friend over eight years before. Mrs. Jamal has just requested her son be declared legally dead and is requesting an inquest into the nature of his death. She is hoping to find out what happened to him. Jenny Cooper, a woman struggling with her own demons, is trying to get to the bottom of the mysterious disappearance of the two boys. Can she do this? The roadblocks created by the intelligence branch of the government are difficult to surpass. Join Jenny Cooper as she gets to know herself a bit better through the investigation of the disappeared.

—Judy Howell


**THE FAIRYLAND SERIES**

Some things are too special to keep to oneself, and this series qualifies. Of everything that I have read in the first part of 2016, I do believe that this series has been, hands down, my favorite. It feels like it was written for me. The series features beautiful prose that you want to savor every word of, characters that you grow quickly fond of and then fall in love with, enormously entertaining escapades, witty lines and valuable life lessons. It is ostensibly written as a middle grade children’s series, but there is so much for adults to enjoy as well. If you have a child in your life, enjoy some quality time together this summer by sharing this series with them. The first book is called The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making and is about a little girl named September and her quest through Fairyland after being flown there on the back of the Green Wind’s Leopard. It’s about discovery and friendship and shouldn’t be missed! —Michelle Fields


**STILL LIFE WITH MURDER**

The Hewitt’s eldest son, William, a former Union Army battle surgeon and the black sheep of the family was reported to have died three years before in a notorious Confederate prison camp. But one snowy February afternoon, his parents learn he is, in fact, still alive and in jail for having murdered a man while intoxicated on opium. Upon the appeal of her employer, Nell finds that she must delve into the dark and treacherous underworld she thought she’d left far behind to unearth the truth before the hangman’s noose tightens around Will’s throat. Still Life with Murder will keep you on the edge of your seat building through out the book to a spectacular ending. —Bethany Turner

**What We Are Currently Reading**

**Judy:**
- *The Witch Hunter* by Virginia Boecker
- *Our Mutual Friend* by Charles Dickens
- *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield
- *15th Affair* by James Patterson

**Michelle:**
- *Ahab’s Wife* by Sena J. Naslund
- *Barry Lyndon* by W. M. Thackeray
- *South Riding* by Winifred Holtby
- *Nostromo* by Joseph Conrad
- *The Lost World* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- *The Golden Bowl* by Henry James
- *Flappers and Philosophers* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

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 June 27. 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!

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**Carter Beats the Devil**

I ended up reading three books in May that had to do with entertainers of the 1920s. When I say entertainers, I mean sideshow performers and magicians. Of the three, *Carter Beats the Devil*, was the most colorful. Charles Carter, the titular character, is a world-class illusionist who gets caught up in an unexpected adventure involving the death of Warren G. Harding, a beautiful blind girl, an embittered rival magician, and the invention of television. It’s quite a (ahem) magical journey, and will be a great summer read. — MF

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**Match Me If You Can** by Susan Elizabeth Phillips (388 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook

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**Ramona**

Helen Hunt Jackson was inspired to write this book by *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. She wanted to inspire the same spirit of compassion and reformation for Native Americans. It is a novel about the period of time in California just before the Dawes Severalty Act. It takes a harsh look at the way the citizens and government of the United States took land away from the original landowners. We see the effect on rich Mexican ranchers as well as the devastation on the much more impoverished Native Americans. The main character is bi-racial. She had been brought up among the rich Mexicans but falls in love with an Indian. In telling Ramona’s story, Jackson follows the constant loss of land to whites that was experienced. This is an engrossing but heartbreaking story. If you are a fan of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s earlier novel, give this one a try. — MF

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**Ramona** by Helen Hunt Jackson. (353 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook