The casual reader

This book is a quick and interesting read! The plot centers around a killing at a parents’ trivia night held at the local elementary school and the subsequent investigation of the events leading up to the death. Harkening back to one’s own school days, the reader becomes entangled with the cliques and complicated relationships among the parents of the children attending the school. The characters are very well-developed and easy to identify with. I particularly liked the character commentaries at the end of each chapter. Follow the count-down to the murder scene with the detective and see for yourself how the plot ends up! —Sabra Jacobs


A TEST OF WILLS

This novel is the first in the long running Ian Rutledge series by mother-son writing team Charles Todd. I had previously read the first in their Bess Crawford series, which I liked quite a bit. I might like this one even more. Rutledge is a World War I veteran suffering from shellshock. He has just returned to work, Scotland Yard where he is a Detective Inspector. His first case threatens to send him back to the hospital as it forces him to confront his demons head-on. The victim was a well-respected Colonel, and the chief suspect is a well-decorated Captain who is friends with the Royal family. The main witness is another shell-shocked soldier who, between the bottle and his hallucinations, barely knows where he is. I found this to be an incredibly interesting mystery with a very interesting protagonist. —Michelle Fields


THE GODLESS

What is The Godless? No, it’s not Richard Dawkins’s newest book. It’s a fantasy novel by Ben Peek, and it is an example of very solid worldbuilding. In the The Godless, long after the ancient gods waged war upon one another, humanity rebuilds amidst the shattered remains of their world. The gods who once kept the world running all lay dead or dying. The elements rage and even the deceased can find no rest without the gods to see to it that all works as it should. Sometimes a human absorbs a shard of the shattered gods’ power. Generally this causes horrible mutations and death, but on rare occasion, that human becomes something…more. Ben Peek does an excellent job of making this shattered world come alive, so much so that it almost feels real. One word of warning: Peek has an unconventional writing style that some may find too disjointed for their taste. Chapters are short, and Point of View shifts often, but don’t let this dissuade you from enjoying a truly interesting adventure. —Bill Bowman

MY LADY VIPER

Lady Anne Seymour was married to Edward Seymour. Historically Lady Anne Seymour has been portrayed as being very political and vicious. In this story, *My Lady Viper*, Anne's story is told from her perspective. She doesn't seem as vicious. Lady Anne's story begins and ends with intrigue, subterfuge and politics. If you are interested in historical novels that have realism and some romance, you’ll love *My Lady Viper*. — Judy Howell

RAT QUEENS VOL. I

At student request, our library recently purchased some graphic novels. I thought that I would highlight one of them this month. *Rat Queens* is extremely fun. Think of it as a cross between *Conan the Barbarian* and *Bridesmaids*. You have a community with several mercenary bands, one of which is our titular queens. They are every bit as hard living, drinking, fighting, swearing, and loving as the male mercenaries. Friendship lies at the heart of the story and as the reader learns more about each of the women in the band, it is their bonds with each other that make us care about what happens to them. I enjoyed my time with the Rat Queens and look forward to picking up additional volumes. — MF

ORPHAN TRAIN

Molly Ayer is almost 18 and in her last chance foster home. She’s ready to age out of the social services system of which she has been a member most of her life. Molly steals a library book and must find a way to complete some community service. As a part of this project, Molly meets Vivian Daly, a 91 year old woman, who has a past that rivals her own. Through the cleaning and sorting of an attic, Vivian reveals her story to Molly. This hard scrabble kid begins to develop a close friendship with this lovely lady. If you like a human interest read, this is it. It’s a short book and very sweet. I enjoyed observing as Molly began to love Vivian. — JH

What We Are Currently Reading

**Judy:**

*The Trailer Park Princes & the Middle Finger of Fate* by Kim Hunt Harris

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

**Michelle:**

*Crosstalk* by Connie Willis

*Vicious* by V. E. Schwab

*Revenger* by Alastair Reynolds

*Captain Blood* by Rafael Sabatini

*Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent

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 Sept. 26. 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!