The Casual Reader

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Michelle Fields and Judy Howell, Editors

MORE THAN THIS

This book is a science fiction epic that explores some weighty subjects; among them are included suicide, homicide, domestic violence, homo and bi-sexuality, purgatory, time travel, as well as multiple dimensions of reality. Although written for adolescents in mind, I would suggest that parents read the story before handing it over to their child so that they will be better prepared for the inevitable questions your child may ask about the book. I do not typically care for science fiction books and this one did not change my mind about the genre. I found parts of the book unnecessarily crude and graphic, but, as they say, to each his own. —Sabra Jacobs

More Than This by Patrick Ness. (480 Pages) Available in Hardback, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

A CONSPIRACY OF PAPER

David Liss’s novel is a riveting look at life in the 18th century through the eyes of a Jewish man who has been living a secular life in London. Benjamin Weaver had left home at an early age and become a well-respected boxer. After an injury forces his early retirement from the sport, he turns his energies to becoming a thief catcher. A new client comes to him and tells him that their fathers have both been murdered. Weaver is forced to confront his past, his family, his race and his religion while also trying to understand his father’s world, the fast paced life of a stockjobber. The novel gives an insider’s view of 18th century London’s burgeoning stock market just before the South Sea Bubble crash. —Michelle Fields


CINDER

Earth is divided into six nations in an alliance known as the Earthen Union and is desperately trying to fight off a deadly plague that is ravaging the population as the lunar queen watches, waiting to make her move. Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She’s a second class citizen who can’t remember a time before becoming a cyborg. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai’s, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Cinder, the debut novel of Marissa Meyer, is a fantastic science fiction retelling of the story of Cinderella. Meyer stays true to the beloved fairy tale while giving it new life. She keeps you on the edge of your seat. I absolutely loved this modern, dystopian book. Be ready to have book #2 Scarlet ready when you finish Cinder. —Bethany Turner

Cinder by Marissa Myer (387 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

Big Sandy
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Kentucky Community & Technical College System
**What We Are Currently Reading**

**Judy:**
- *Child 44* by Tom Rob Smith
- *The Mapping of Love and Death* by Jacqueline Winspear
- *The Book of the Unnamed Midwife* by Meg Elison

**Michelle:**
- *Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand* by Helen Simonson
- *The Woman on the Orient Express* by Lindsay Jayne Ashford
- *Divorce Can Be Deadly* by Emma Jameson

*Norse Mythology* by Neil Gaiman

*In Farleigh Field* by Rhys Bowen

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 Feb. 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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**CHosen to Die**

Regan Pescoli and Selena Alvarez have been tracking a serial killer for months. He’s known as the star crossed killer. Pescoli never imagined that she was in the cross hairs of this killer, but she wakes up naked and very afraid in a cave? Where is she? How can she escape? Pescoli has two teenaged children who need their mother and is in a new relationship. Can these factors motivate her enough to survive? If you like an action packed thriller, you’ll love this book. — Judy Howell

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**Marvel: 1602**

*Marvel 1602* is a very fun graphic novel that creates an alternative universe where Marvel’s famous superheroes like Nick Fury, Dr. Strange, Black Widow, Spiderman, Daredevil and Professor X are born centuries too early. In fact, the story begins in England in 1602, the last year of Queen Elizabeth I’s reign. Nick Fury is this universe’s equivalent of Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth’s spymaster. Dr. Strange has taken the place of John Dee. These are obvious substitutions but the plot twists and turns from there. To say much more would be criminal, but I thoroughly enjoyed this as I usually do Gaiman’s work. — MF

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**A Bitter Truth**

Bess Crawford is a young nursing sister who is focused on helping nurse World War I soldiers back to health and vigor. During a short leave that has allowed Bess to return to London, she arrives at home to find a bruised young woman (Lydia) in her doorway. Bess invites her in, offers a cup of tea and the story takes a life of its own from there. Bess returns with Lydia to her home where the plot is thickened by murder and general difficult war circumstances. Bess Crawford is a dedicated young nurse who pledges her assistance to Lydia and sees it through to the end. Even at a risk to her own health. If you like historical novels that are set during World War I, you will enjoy the Bess Crawford novels. She is an endearing character who seems to find trouble everywhere she goes. — JH

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*Chosen to Die* by Lisa Jackson. (460 Pages) Available in Hardback, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.
