TRUTH OR DIE

Treavor and Claire have been dating for a few years. She’s a New York Times journalist, and he is a disbarred lawyer who is now teaching. One night shatters their lives and starts Treavor down a very dangerous road—a road that involves the CIA and covert activities on United States soil. If you like a fast paced Patterson novel, this one is for you. He doesn’t disappoint with the character Treavor Mann. —Judy Howell

Truth or Die by James Patterson. (383 Pages) Available in Hardback, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

AGE OF MYTH

Where most fantasy novels take place during a time period equivalent to the Middle Ages, Sullivan’s latest work is set at the dawn of history. All of the traditional elements of high fantasy are there, but Age of Myth places its own spin on them. Fhrey (think elves) are the sole practitioners of The Art (magic) and worshipped by humans as gods. At least, that is, until someone manages to kill one… Perhaps the most fascinating part of this setting is the interweaving of superstition and the supernatural. In your typical fantasy novel, the Gandalf-surrogate wizard knows the difference between “real magic” and “foolish superstition”, but in Age of Myth’s primitive setting these lines haven’t been clearly defined, and readers are forced to guess which is which. Is it a savage demon possessing the transformed body of a child or is it just a really mean bear? A great book that really keeps you guessing. —William Bowman


NAUGHTS AND CROSSES

I discovered this novel on the BBC’s Big Reads list from several years ago. The list was the result of a poll of the British reading public naming their 100 favorite novels of all time. There were many on the list that I had already read, but some were new to me. This was one of them, and I’m very glad that I’ve finally discovered it. Naughts and Crosses is a YA dystopian novel written pre-Hunger Games and clones. Its premise is fascinating and intense. Set in a modern Britain that feels a lot like the 1950s-1960s civil rights era, the novel has two strata to society: the “naughts” (so called because they are fair skinned and therefore lack “color”) and the “crosses.” The dark-skinned crosses dominate society while naughts are relegated to lower class status. There is a Romeo and Juliet-type story at the heart of the novel, but due to the seething cauldron of revolution brewing up it is darker than Shakespeare’s play. This was a very interesting read, and I suspect if I had read it at the targeted age it would have been profound. —Michelle Fields

**What We Are Currently Reading**

**Judy:**

- *The Boleyn King* by Lauren Anderson
- *Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks
- *I Shall Be Near to You* by Erin Lindsay McGabe
- *Seven Stones to Stand or Fall* by Diana Gabaldon
- *Pope Joan* by Donna Cross

**Michelle:**

- *Nicholas Nickleby* by Charles Dickens
- *The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden
- *The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck
- *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi
- *An Incomplete Revenge* by Jaqueline Winspear

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 August 28. 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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**THOSE WHO SAVE US**

This book is filled with strong characters. The mother Anna and her daughter Trudie are both very strong ladies who in some ways have a very difficult time relating to each other. The bulk of the story takes place in World War II Germany and tells the story of Anna’s survival. In the end you really understand how one can come to love "those who save us". I highly recommend this book for those who appreciate a story that is both sad and at the same time bitter sweet. — JH

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**GOODNIGHT FROM LONDON**

This was my first Jennifer Robson novel, and it was a very pleasant experience. The main character, Ruby Sutton, is a young American journalist who gets sent to London to work on a weekly. This is the time of the Blitz, and Robson does a good job of immersing the reader in the experience. You can feel the fear, the tension and the weariness roll off of the characters. I also enjoyed the aspect of seeing female World War II journalists, and apparently this part of the novel was inspired by one of the author’s relatives. Ruby is an enjoyable protagonist, and she has a few secrets of her own that, while not earth-shattering, trip her up at the most inconvenient moment. — MF

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**THE KILLER NEXT DOOR**

Beulah Grove is a cash only rent off the books kind of place in South London. The only folks for the most part who live there are people who have something to hide. Collette is a prime example. She’s on the run from her ex-boss (think crime boss). Collette witnessed something that she should not have and actually stole a lot of money accidentally. The other cast of characters are similar in nature with the exception of Vesta. Vesta is a genteel lady of a certain age who has lived at #23 for her whole life and has rent control. One night there is a terrible accident, and the uneasy housemates must band together. *The Killer Next Door* is a thriller with a complex plot. — JH