The Casual Reader
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Michelle Fields and Judy Howell, Editors

WHAT SHE KNEW

This book bothered me from the beginning. Our main character Rachel is a single mother who seems to be focused a bit much on her failed marriage. Rachel and her son Ben are walking in a park that they are very familiar with. They walk there each week. Ben wants to run ahead to a swing and she gives him permission. This is where things go wrong. Ben disappears. Rachel is devastated. For me this is where it gets scary. Everyone on social media is judging her because she let Ben go ahead to the swing. A mother who lets her child out of her sight for a moment is a bad mother. As the days drag on the public becomes convinced that Rachel did something to Ben.

The writing of this book is very good. The way the author goes through the days the reader gets a feel for Rachel and what she is going through. The ending of the book is kind of surprising. I won’t ruin it but I was kind of taken aback. I would also add that everything in this book is terrifyingly possible. — Judy Howell


NINEFOX GAMBIT

There are some science fiction books that gently ease you into their fictional worlds and the technology and societies therein. This is not one of those books. It throws you in the deep end and calmly watches as you struggle through such arcane concepts as calendrical warfare. It does, however, reward you for making it through. When it comes down to it, Ninefox Gambit feels like it’s set in the future. It’s not the future we imagine in most science fiction, but that’s the point. Ninefox Gambit reminds us that we can no more imagine or understand the future 3000 years down the road any more than someone 3000 years ago would understand the world we live in today, and this alienness may be what makes its philosophical and political questions all the more poignant. — William Bowman


ENCHANTRESS OF NUMBERS

Did you know that Lord Byron’s only legitimate child was a daughter, Ada Lovelace, who was possibly (and arguably) the world’s first computer programmer? Chiaverini has given us Ada’s own story, but not without a lot of delving into the juicy scandal of Byron’s marriage to Ada’s mother and their highly charged divorce. Ada herself, as portrayed by Chiaverini, struggles with her Byronic heritage, longs for her absent parent, and endures a very complex relationship with her mother. If you enjoy books about female scientists or mathematicians, you may like this novel. It goes without saying that the target audience is anyone who has an interest in Byron or the Romantic poets. — Michelle Fields

Enchantress of Numbers by Jennifer Chiaverini. [446 Pages] Available in Hardback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

Big Sandy
Community & Technical College
Kentucky Community & Technical College System
THE HERETIC’S DAUGHTER

This book was a strong fictional account of the Salem Witch Trials. In this book we are introduced to the trials by seeing the development of fear in the community. We see the townspeople use the hysteria to mask their own petty revenge. The community is changed forever by this event and Sarah becomes the Heretic's Daughter.—JH

THE HERETIC’S DAUGHTER by Kathleen Kent (356 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

ARCADIA

This novel is a fantasy. It is a science-fiction/dystopian story. It is a bit of a spy thriller with a bit of a who-done-it thrown in. Oh, and it has elements of an historical novel as well. If you think that sounds complicated, you’re right, and your enjoyment of this novel is in many ways going to be predicated on whether you like complexity in the structure of a book. The disparate pieces do come together to form a complete picture in the end. It’s a story that I don’t want to spoil. Let’s just say that there is a boy in an Arcadian setting who sees a strange girl appear out of nowhere, speak to him and then vanish. He assumes she is a fairy. We then learn that this scene was a chapter in a book being written by a writer who was a peer of Tolkien. After learning this we follow a girl in his neighborhood, who goes into his cellar, walks through an opening and speaks to a boy on the other side...—MF

ARCADIA by Iain Pears. (510 Pages) Available in Hardback, Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

ETERNAL KISS OF DARKNESS

Kira is a private investigator who thrives on discovering secrets, but some secrets are best left alone. On her way home, Kira hears cries of distress. She thinks it’s in her best interest to ignore it, but she remember her mentor telling her to save one person. What Kira discovers is unimaginable. She calls 911 immediately but rushes in to help a man being assaulted. It seems there are people ripping him to shreds slowly. As she rushes in to save the man, the ghouls turn on her and attack. The man she is defending is Mencheres, a master vampire. He saves Kira from certain death and their entanglement begins. This book is basically a mystery set in the vampire world. If you like a mystery that does have a lot of violence and adult content, this series might be for you. There are several books in this series and I have read a few of them. When I am looking for a book set in the world of vampires, Jeaniene Frost is consistently a good read. —Judy Howell