**SPACE OPERA**

Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy fuses with a David Bowie album as the author of the Fairyland series gives us an SF edition of Eurovision. Catherynne M. Valante writes gorgeous, hilarious prose, and I loved this book so much. Your mileage may vary, as I suspect it is not for all tastes. If you liked the humor of Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy and you’re a really big music fan, you should try this book out. Long ago the galaxy suffered from the Sentience Wars. In the peace that followed, a contest evolved to ensure that such peace lasted, the Metagalactic Grand Prix, a showdown of cultures contained in a glitter filled music competition that is a serious business. Earth has been invited for the first time, but is shocked to learn that placing dead last is taken literally. Earth’s only hope is Decibel Jones and the Absolute Zeroes. If only one of the drummer wasn’t dead, the guitarist retired from the stage, and the frontman an absolute mess. — Michelle Fields


**PRINCE LESTAT & THE REALMS OF ATLANTIS**

*Prince Lestat and the Realms of Atlantis* reconnected me with a series that I had really enjoyed years ago. In this particular installment of the *Vampire Chronicles*, the fans begin to understand a bit more about vampire lore and how all the vampires are connected through the core that Lestat now holds. This particular book has a very science fiction aspect which I really liked. I enjoyed the connection of the lost city of Atlantis and the vampire lore. If you enjoyed any of the *Vampire Chronicle* books, you will enjoy this book. — Judy Howell


**THE WORD IS MURDER**

Anthony Horowitz is apparently not content with just being a best selling mystery writer and creator of popular mystery shows like Midsomer Murders and Foyle’s War. It seems he would also love to be Sherlock Holmes….or maybe, just Dr. Watson. In his most recent novel, Horowitz inserts himself into the text as a sidekickys sidekick to the irascible, mysterious, ex—D.I. Hawthorne, who was obviously modelled after Doyle’s infamous sleuth. There is a hilarious scene where Horowitz is taking a meeting with Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson, which Hawthorne crashes. The mystery itself is intriguing, beginning with a woman murdered at her home, hours after arranging her own funeral. If you are interested in a meta-murder, this may be the book for you. — MF

What We Are Currently Reading

Judy:
Oliver Loving by Stefan Merrill Block
Reconstructing Amelia by Kimberly McCreight
A Brush with Shadows by Anna Lee Huber

Michelle:
The Poppy War by R. F. Kuang
The Dante Chamber by Matthew Pearl
Starless by Jacqueline Carey
The Merchant’s House by Kate Ellis

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 July 30. Recommendations only have to be around 100 words, so please join the fun!

SEEDS OF DECEPTION

I have been following this series and have always liked the character of Kate Burkholder. I like this story because we get the opportunity to meet Kate Burkholder as a young girl. If you have not read any of this series, this would be a good one to start with. You meet Kate as a 14 year old Amish girl. She and Mattie, her best friend, are struggling with being a part of the community and still being themselves. Mattie goes into a barn with an English boy and then the barn is suddenly on fire. Will Kate and Mattie continue to be friends? Will Kate have the strength to stand up for what's right? If you want a short read, this novella would be a good fit. —JH


THE WINTER SEA

Carrie McClelland is a best-selling historical fiction writer who is struggling with the beginning of her latest book. While on a trip to Scotland, she is drawn to the ruins of a castle as she drives by it. Inspiration striking at last, she feverishly begins to write the book in a rented cottage near the castle; however, she is startled when her research reveals that her imagination has been, perhaps, a little too accurate. Part of the appeal of this book is also the focus on an earlier Jacobite uprising (not the ‘45) that often tends to be overlooked by the general populace. This is an absorbing read. —MF


AGATHA RAISIN & THE DAY THE FLOODS CAME

Agatha Raisin was getting her hair styled and overheard part of a conversation with another patron. A young lady was getting ready for her wedding, and Agatha was curious about what she looked like and, of course, was being totally judgmental. Only a few days later, Agatha sees the young lady from the salon floating down the flooded river in her wedding dress holding a bouquet of flowers. This begins Agatha's search to solve the murder, or is it a suicide? I return to this series because of the characters. If you enjoy cozy mysteries, then you will enjoy Agatha Raisin. —JH

Agatha Raisin and the Day the Floods Came by M.C. Beaton (213 Pages) Available in Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook

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