**The Sisters of the Winter Wood**

Liba and Laya are sisters who live with their parents in a hut in the woods. Their mother converted to Judaism when she married her husband, but she is looked upon a little askance by some of her Jewish neighbors in the village. This means that the girls live an unusual existence. They are not completely isolated, yet not completely of the village either. The plot begins when the parents are called away to the bedside of a dying relative leaving their teenage daughters at home by themselves. A magical retelling of Christina Rossetti’s poem “Goblin Market,” this is a wonderful blend of history, folklore and magic. —Michelle Fields


**The Passage**

*The Passage* is the story of a young girl, Amy, left to fend for herself by her mother. Wolgast is a FBI agent who is divorced and a grieving parent. When these two meet, you can see that it is going to be a special bond. Wolgast is still an agent of the government with a purpose. Secret experiments are being conducted on people who have no connections or families. Since Amy doesn't have family, she is considered a target. These experiments go terribly wrong, and Amy and Wolgast begin a journey that will over time develop into a true father daughter relationship. Amy must carry the knowledge that she is the key to saving humanity. —Judy Howell

*The Passage by Justin Cronin. (766 pages) Available in Hardback, Paperback and Kindle*

**The Silence of the Girls**

2018 has been a fantastic year for historical fiction. It has also been a fantastic year for historical fiction based upon Greek mythology and Homer’s famous epics. Earlier this year, Madeline Miller’s *Circe* came out, and now we have Pat Barker’s *The Silence of the Girls*. I loved both of them although they are very different books. Barker’s novel, like the prose of the *Iliad*, is lean and forceful. She recounts the famous events by giving us a new point of view, Briseis, the captured queen given to Achilles as a war prize. Using her as an entry point, we are given a ground level look at what life was like for women in ancient Greece, especially slave women. This book does not gloss over the ugly realities of these women’s lives, but it is the richer for it. It feels as if the silent were finally given a voice. —MF

# What We Are Currently Reading

**Judy:**
- Leverage in Death by J.D. Robb
- Bellewether by Susanna Kearsley
- To Die But Once by Jacqueline Winspear

**Michelle:**
- The Confessions of Young Nero by Margaret George
- The Clockmaker’s Daughter by Kate Morton
- A Tale of Two Murders by Heather Redmond
- The Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss
- See What I Have Done by Sarah Schmidt

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 November 26. Recommendations only have to be around 100 words, so please join the fun!

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## THE BOLEYN DECEIT

In this alternative Tudor history, William is the King and he is the son of Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII. This child of Anne's sits on the throne and is much like his own father. He surrounds himself with people who, for the most part, reiterate his opinion of himself. It never occurs to King William that he might not be the center of the universe. Minuette, William, Elizabeth and Dominic have been friends all their lives. William decides he loves Minuette and does not understand that she prefers Dominic. This is a Tudor court book down to its very core. If you enjoy history come to life, you will enjoy this book. —JH

*The Boleyn Deceit* by Laura Andersen (416 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

## THE MERMAID AND MRS. HANCOCK

This historical fiction novel is set just before the Regency era began in England, but steers closer to *Tom Jones* and *Moll Flanders* than Jane Austen. In this debut novel, the two main characters, a merchant and a prostitute, will be brought together in the most unlikely of ways: a mermaid. Mr. Hancock has been brought a curiosity, the corpse of a mermaid, that he displays in a coffee house for profit. The redoubtable Madame of a brothel decides to rent the mermaid for a week, in order to give her establishment an edge of novelty that her competitors lack. I’ll leave it to you to discover the events that unfold from that transaction. —MF

*The Mermaid and Mrs. Hancock* by Imogen Hermes Gowar (496 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

## THE WIFE BETWEEN US

When this story begins, you think, "Hmm. Just another book about a bad marriage and a vindictive ex-wife." Well, not so. As you read, you learn about a young woman, Nellie. She meets a man and falls in love. He's perfect for her. You also meet Vanessa, the ex-wife. She's stalking the new woman in her ex-husband's life. As the plot twists and turn, you will not be prepared for the ending. If you like a complicated story that's not predictable, you will love this book. —JH

*The Wife Between Us* by Greer Hendricks. (346 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Kindle, Nook, iBook

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