ONCE UPON A RIVER

Once Upon a River is a languid, yet gripping, tale about the fate of a strange little girl. One night, in a small town beside the Thames, patrons of The Swan are stunned to observe a man stumble in with a dead child’s body in his arms. They are even more perplexed when the child is suddenly, unexpectedly alive again. Who is this mysterious little girl? What happened to her and what is going to happen in the future? Three different theories emerge about her identity, but finding out which one, if any, is correct, proves to be a difficult task. I loved Setterfield’s slow, dreamy pace that conjures up a fairy tale atmosphere. —Michelle Fields

The Secret

In book one of the Seasons of Grace, the reader is introduced to the Byler family. Grace is an ordinary Amish girl preparing for the next phase of her life. She is sixteen years old and has accepted the proposal of her beau. Suddenly, her world changes. Her mother left suddenly and no one knows why. As Grace begins to put her family life back together, can she leave the mystery of why her mother left alone? Join Grace as she discovers that God has a plan for all of us. —Judy Howell

THE CASUAL READER

January 2019

ONCE UPON A RIVER

Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield. (656 pages) Available in Hardback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

THE SECRET

The Secret by Beverly Lewis. (365 pages) Available in Hardback, Paperback and Kindle

7 DEATHS OF EVELYN HARDCASTLE

How do I describe this humdinger of a novel? It’s a bit Agatha Christie, a bit Groundhog Day with a pinch of Quantum Leap thrown in for good measure. In it the protagonist wakes up at the beginning of a week to find himself in a unique situation; he is forced to relive the same day for a week or until he can solve the murder of Evelyn Hardcastle who dies every night at 11:00. Even more strangely, every day he finds himself within the body of a different guest attending the house party when Evelyn dies. To say anything more would be to spoil a really great read. I found this novel to be utterly engrossing. —MF

The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle by Stuart Turton. (432 Pages) Available in Hardback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

BIG SANDY COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
What We Are Currently Reading

Judy:
Atonement by Ian McEwan
The Chemist by Stephanie Meyer
Re-reading The Bible

Michelle:
The Idiot by Fyodor Dostoevsky
In the Night Wood by Dale Bailey
Unholy Land by Lavie Tidhar
The Winter of the Witch by Katherine Arden

In the Night Wood by Dale Bailey

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 January 28. Recommendations only have to be around 100 words, so please join the fun!

THE LADY ELIZABETH

If you like historical fiction, this will be a good fit for you. First, one must remember that it is fiction. The author Alison Weir is a historian and does a good job of explaining in her endnotes certain events that were fictionalized. This book concentrates on Elizabeth’s younger life. Her tragic demotion to Lady Elizabeth from Lady Princess at the death of her mother. At the tender age of three years old Elizabeth seemed to understand that something was very amiss in her world. As the story weaves a tale of Elizabeth, the reader begins to see why Elizabeth I would never marry. —JH

The Lady Elizabeth by Alison Weir (483 Pages) Available in Hardcover, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

A GENTLEMAN’S MURDER

This novel was one of my two favorite mystery classic-style murder mysteries of last year. It shares in common with the other, The Widows of Malabar Hill, the fact that it is an old fashioned murder mystery with a fresh perspective. In this case, the protagonist, Eric Peterkin, is a bi-racial Englishman living in London just after WWI. His father was English gentry, and his mother was Chinese. This gives Eric entrance into higher levels of society, while at the same time ensuring that he will never be one of the elite himself. In what is hopefully the beginning of a new series, Eric investigates a murder at his club, which is specifically for men with a military family background. Eric’s father qualifies him for membership, but Eric also served during the Great War. Racial relations, drug use, and shell shock are just a few of the interesting topics examined along the way of Eric’s investigation. —MF

A Gentleman’s Murder by Christopher Huang (344 Pages) Available in Paperback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

THE PRETENDER

Recently, I’ve been reading book shots. When I have some time (at the gym) and I want to have something reasonable to focus on, I’ve been reading these short books. In The Pretender, we meet Logan Bishop. Logan has a good life. However, he doesn’t have any visible means of support. Logan is hiding in plain sight and living off of a cache of stolen diamonds. What happens though when Logan does something heroic? His face is plastered all over the internet and print newspapers. See what happens when the pretender has to face the truth. —JH

The Pretender by James Patterson. Available on audiobook only

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