THE CITY OF BRASS

Nahri is a young con-woman living on the streets of Cairo during the Napoleonic Wars. During a routine con, she is startled to realize that she has conjured up an actual djinn named Dara. When Nahri and Dara are attacked by ghouls, Dara takes Nahri to Daevabad, where she begins to unravel the mysteries of her past. Daevabad is a volatile city with three different peoples living there — none easy with the others and Nahri is going to be caught up in the politics of a world she didn’t even know existed. This is an exciting novel that is the first of a projected trilogy based upon Middle Eastern legend and folklore. I am currently reading the second volume, Kingdom of Copper, and it’s even better than the first, making this a new favorite. —Michelle Fields

The City of Brass by S. A. Chakraborty. (533 pages) Available in Hardback, Kindle, Nook, iBook.

ANNE BOLEYN: A KING’S OBSESSION

Alison Weir examines Anne Boleyn’s life fairly. As we join Anne she’s preparing to go off to court at the tender age of 12. Anne is considered passably pretty but not as pretty as her sister. This is an issue between the sisters for their entire life. In this retelling of Anne’s story, she is portrayed as a woman who knows her own mind. She doesn’t love Henry but she does love the power and authority that come with being queen. As her life with Henry unfolds, she realizes, but a bit late, the divorce that she instigated to become queen will be her downfall as well. If you like historical fiction, you will enjoy this retelling of Anne’s story. —Judy Howell

Anne Boleyn: A King’s Obsession by Alison Weir. (544 pages) Available in Hardback, Paperback and Kindle

SIX WAKES

If you like mysteries, even if you’ve never read science fiction, this may be a book for you. It’s a sci-fi take on a classic “locked room” murder case. In this instance, it is set in a future where the ability to clone has radically changed society. In the beginning of the novel, six clones wake up on a space ship to discover that their previous bodies have all been murdered. From the look of the corpses, it is obvious that a couple of decades have passed since the last time their memories have been updated, and they are the only people onboard the ship. One of the things I liked the most about this book is that it is not just a mystery with a futuristic setting. The technology of this future plays an intrinsic role in the heart of the mystery as well as the lives of all of the characters. This was a fast, enjoyable read and would make a great entrée to the genre for someone wishing to branch out a bit. (Don’t worry, if you already love sci-fi, there’s still a lot to love here!) —MF

What We Are Currently Reading

**Judy:**
The Last Tudor by Phillipa Gregory

The Calculating Stars by Mary Robinette Kowal

**Michelle:**
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Priory of the Orange Tree by Samantha Shannon

Planetfall by Emma Newman

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent by Julia Alvarez

The Queens of Innis Lear by Tessa Gratton

A Dangerous Collaboration by Deanna Raybourn

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 March 25. Recommendations only have to be around 100 words, so please join the fun!

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**A GOOD MARRIAGE**

Bob Anderson is an accountant and has been married to Darcy for 27 years. They have two grown sons. Bob’s away on a trip when Darcy enters the garage looking for batteries. When she trips over a box, what she finds is a different person. Her batteries forgotten, Darcy realizes that she might be married to a monster. This short novella investigates what a person does when everything they know is a lie. It’s a true Stephen King story and has many twists and turns. —JH

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**PASSION**

I’ve been wanting to read a book like this for years: an historical fiction novel based upon the lives of the Romantic poets where the perspective is the women in their lives. Here we meet Lady Caroline Lamb, who infamously dubs Byron, “mad, bad and dangerous to know.” Certainly the impact he has on her life was immense as was the devastating effect he and his half-sister Augusta have on each other. We also meet Mary Shelley and her step-sister Claire Clairemont as well as Fanny Brawne. I found this novel to be very immersive, and I recommend it to anyone who would like to know more about these young, talented, but often destructive people. —MF

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**CROSS KILL**

Anyone who reads the Alex Cross series will remember Along Came a Spider and the character Gary Soneji. In this short book, Gary Soneji, or his ghost, is reintroduced. While Alex and his partner, John, are serving meals at a soup kitchen there’s an attack and John is shot in the head by Gary Soneji. But it can’t really be him, right? Gary Soneji died more than 10 years before. If it’s not Gary Soneji, then who is it? If you are looking for a short read that has a lot of story lines, you’ll enjoy this book. —JH