

EUCLID READERS GROUP
APRIL 18, 2009
FAVORITES

F Baldacci, David
BALDACCI STONE COLD

“The third book in the Camel Club series starts out with a bang and ends with a cliffhanger as the series goes in a darker direction. Someone is murdering former CIA agents including an attempt on Carter Gray, the former director and Oliver Stone's old nemesis. Harry Finn, not his real name, a former SEAL and son of slain CIA agent Rayfield Solomon, is out to avenge his father's death and false exposure as a Soviet agent. When Gray throws attention to Oliver by exhuming the grave of his alter ego, John Carr, Oliver knows he's next on the list so he goes to ground. Baldacci is good at weaving together disparate plot points and serves up another fast-paced read. I enjoyed it a lot and this has become a favorite series for me” - Linda

F Baldacci, David
BALDACCI DIVINE JUSTICE

“After that cliffhanger of an ending to *Stone Cold*, I immediately grabbed a copy of the next book. This one starts out with Oliver on the run, wanted for the murders of two prominent men, including intelligence chief Carter Gray. His planned escape quickly goes awry when he's kicked off an AMTRAK train in rural Virginia with Danny, a young man who seems to be a magnet for trouble. They go to Danny's hometown of Divine, Virginia, a surprisingly prosperous but violent mining town near a supermax prison. In the meantime, CIA agent Joe Knox is approached by a corrupt CIA official with a personal vendetta and despite his misgivings, finds himself on the hunt for Oliver, but so is the Camel Club. It all comes together in a battle with drug runners. All ends well for Oliver and his friends, so I doubt there will be any more this series. Really fun, fast read” - Linda

F Bynum, Sarah Shun-lien
BYNUM,S MS. HEMPEL CHRONICLES

“My favorite is reading things which I know nothing about in advance, so I dashed into Central and grabbed up some 14 day books. I really liked this book. It's about a young teacher who expresses her innermost thoughts to us as she observes things going on in her classroom and elsewhere. We get to know her quite well during the short time span of the book. Facts come out slowly, not chronologically, and it's like filling in a personality puzzle. I think any teacher would truly enjoy her unique perspective on teaching, the staff lounge, and student types” - Karen M.

* Carey, Jacqueline
KUSHIEL'S CHOSEN

The second in the Kushiel series sees Carey's courtesan-spy Phèdre, now Comtesse de Montreve, return to the court and the intrigue of Terre D'Ange over the objections of Joscelin, her Casseline guard and lover. Her decision, prompted by a message from the traitor Melisande Shahrizai, sends Phèdre and her entourage on a journey to the city-state of La Serenissima (modeled on Venice) and points beyond as she navigates turbulent waters and the perils of Serenissiman politics. Carey's world is rich in character and detail, though the books are long and involved. It took me all month to read it. It's worth the time, though, to delve into her fascinating fantasy world" - Linda

F Donaghue, Emma
DONOGHUE **THE SEALED LETTER**

"This story is based on a true divorce case which took place in Victorian England. These early cases were so counter to the social mores, and hence BIG NEWS! We meet a young woman who works as a journalist for a Feminist publication. She becomes reacquainted with a lost friend... Unfortunately, the marriage of the lost friend has not improved, and very soon our Feminist is unwittingly involved in arranging romantic trysts for her friend. Things go downhill fast for both women, and the author makes sure that we are kept highly interested as the husband's friends and family become urgently involved in pushing for divorce. Lots of this would be business as usual on our reality TV, but in Victorian England it takes on a life of its own" - Karen M.

781.64092 Foster, David
FOST **HITMAN: FORTY YEARS MAKING MUSIC, TOPPING CHARTS, & WINNING GRAMMYS**

"When the subject of favorites came up, to me towards the top of the list is anything to do with music. I had never heard of him until I saw a show on PBS in which he introduced some of his music and some people whose careers he has helped. If you have heard the duet of *The Prayer*, sung by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli, I would hope you enjoyed it as much as I do... He co-wrote that song and wrote, co-wrote and/or produced many others including *The Glory of Love* and *I Swear*. As he was growing up, a musical mentor allowed him to play several instruments besides the piano. He learned very quickly and this knowledge was extremely helpful to him later in life as he could when needed write his music with full orchestrations. Throughout the book he appeared to be very honest about his marriages and other relationships. He admits his failures and in later life worked hard in maintaining good relationships with his three daughters. He has worked with a host of singers... and you realize how much he enjoys and revels in the success of those he is able to help" - Gary

M Langton, Jane

LANG **THE SHORTEST DAY : MURDER AT THE REVELS**

“At the end of last year, one of the women in my evening mystery group had tried to read this book, and found herself unable to finish it. 'It just went everywhere,' she complained, 'and nothing seemed to hang together.' Being a long-time Langton admirer, but also having a good bit of respect for this particular reader, I thought perhaps I should take another look at *The Shortest Day*, and do some reassessing. So, on December 21, the shortest day, I read it, and found that I admired it just as much as ever. I could see, and sympathize with, Jennie's complaint, but I also found that if she had been able to give it just a few more pages, things would indeed have started to come together” - Ruth

M Langton, Jane

L2864TR **THE TRANSCENDENTAL MURDER**

“In January, I started from the beginning, reading in order, and having a wonderful time. To begin with, Langton is a very learned lady, and an accomplished artist. The line drawings with which she illustrates her mysteries are wonderful, and the research she does is impressive. Some of her mysteries are set in Massachusetts, especially in Concord, which is the next village over from where she lives. Some are in Cambridge, Mass, and in Amherst, and in Boston, and others are set in Europe—Oxford, Florence, and Venice. Then there's one at Monticello, and two in Gettysburg, PA, right down the road from us. The sense of place is always just right, in the prose and in the illustrations, and sometimes I recognize places I've visited and other times the places make me want to visit them... Langton's central characters are fun, too. Homer and Mary Kelly, Harvard literature professors, are engaging and quirky and scholarly. And Langton will tell you that while the other characters in her books may be 'politely educated, they are still subject to the same temptations and sins as more lowlife felons... So, my reading friends, that's my favorite author” - Ruth

M McCall Smith

MCCALL **SUNDAY PHILOSOPHER'S CLUB**

“I didn't want to re-read favorite books so I went with a favorite author. I found the *Number One Ladies Detective Agency* series to be a calming, centering experience, and then remembered reading the second in this series. The main character, Isabel Dalhousie, is a single, fortyish, Scottish woman in Edinburgh who writes reviews for a scholarly ethics journal. There's a lot of rumination about Scottish life, history and philosophy. Though not as engaging as his other series, I liked the story, his writing style and the way things gradually unfold” - Karen G.

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Ransome, Arthur

WE DIDN'T MEAN TO GO TO SEA

“This is the 7th in the Swallows and Amazons series of books set in early 20th Century England. This book focuses on the four elder Walker children: John, Susan, Titty, and Roger, who are usually the crew of the Swallow, when they are on vacation in the Lake Country. In this book, they have come with their mother and baby sister, Bridget, to a port near the North Sea, where they are waiting for their father to come home from a tour of duty in the British Navy... Father is delayed, and the children explore the river. They meet Jim Brady, a young college man on holiday with a small sloop named the Goblin. The children are restless and excited, so Jim suggests an overnight trip with him upriver and back to while the time away before their father comes. When they leave the weather is fair, and things seem peaceful. The wind changes, and Jim quickly sails downstream to buy some petrol for the engine, just in case they can go by sail. He is hit by a bus; the fog creeps in; the tide rises, and the Goblin is swept to sea in a fog. Then a storm comes up. I have loved this series since I was a kid. I used to love to go sailing. This was my favorite book of the series because it is exciting in a very believable way. The kids, of course, start by blaming each other as they are swept out past the Beach End buoy and are officially out at sea without an adult, but then the storm kicks up, and to save themselves from being driven aground and wrecking their friend’s ship, the only choice they have is to run before the storm and sail all night. They cross the North Sea and have to trick a pilot to help them into the harbor. It is exciting and funny and a really great read. I highly recommend the book” - Teresa

WILD CARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

F Delinsky, Barbara

DELINSKY WHILE MY SISTER SLEEPS

“This book is set up for reading groups that are all reading the same book. There is a readers guide with questions and topics at the back of the book for discussion and further features from the author’s website. This story is about a family forced to confront their lives and the decisions of what to do when one of the sisters in the family, Robin, a marathon runner, has a massive heart attack with a grim prognosis. There is a hidden journal and family secrets that are disclosed. This is a very good story – it’s worth the read!” - Vadine

F Young, Sara

YOUNG,S MY ENEMY'S CRADLE

“It’s about a half-Jewish girl in a Nazi maternity hospital. This book was one I read straight through!” - Vadine

* Not in APL system