July 2014 - FICTION

Mirror Sight: Book Five of Green Rider.

Britain, Kristen - 2014 - 784 p. Setting: Sacoridia & Blackveil

FIC BRITAIN

Finding a book that you really enjoy is wonderful, but finding a series is even better as it allows you to see characters grow and follow their adventures through many plot twists and turns. The Green Rider fantasy series is one such series, and Mirror Sight is the fifth installment of this series. Karigan G'ladheon is an elite King's messenger in Sacoridia. The D'Yer Wall has protected the country from the black evil of Mornhavon for a thousand years, but it is now failing. In order to find the knowledge necessary to repair the wall, the King asks Karigan and several other Riders to enter the tainted kingdom of Blackveil to find the information they need. The other-worldly Eletians help, but Karigan is foiled by the unnatural evil in Blackveil as well as by a rebel sect bent on destroying Sarcoridia. She is thrown from Blackveil and wakes sealed in a stone sarcophagus. Can she escape? If she does escape, what awaits her? Keep the pages turning to see how this volume ends! — Sandi

Murder in the Afternoon

Brody, Frances - 2014 - 387p. Setting: Yorkshire, England, 1920s

M FIC BRODY

Private investigator Kate Shackleton is surprised by a woman named Mary Jane who claims that she is a relation of hers. Mary Jane's in trouble. She argued with her husband, and now he is missing. Mary Jane's young daughter Harriet says she saw her father's body in the quarry, where he works. But when adults return to the quarry with Harriet, his body has disappeared. Can Kate discover his fate before Mary Jane is accused? And is Mary Jane really family? Kate is a determined person, but also a vulnerable one. She is devoted to her family and holding out hope that her husband, missing during the Great War, will be found. If you like mysteries with a strong female character in a period setting, you will like this series. Kate reminds me of Maisie Dobbs, Jacqueline Winspear's detective. — Robbin

Birdsong

Faulks, Sebastian - 1993 - 483 p. Setting: France before & after WWI, 1970's England <u>FIC FAU</u>

As the one-hundredth anniversary of the First World War approaches, it seems appropriate to revisit novels like the masterfully-crafted *Birdsong*, originally published in 1993. In a remarkable story that spans three generations, celebrated author Sebastian Faulks brings the trenches to life for today's readers in a way that few other authors could. *Birdsong* is the story of Stephen Wraysford, a young Englishman who begins an affair with a married French woman before being hurled into the battlefields of war-torn France. He experiences nearly every possible horror and deprivation before returning from the front, only to find that his love cannot possibly survive the strains war-life has put upon it. In rich and exacting prose, Sebastian Faulks delivers an outstanding story of romance, compassion, loyalty, despair and insurmountable grief, and brilliantly resurrects the ghosts of this long-past war. — Juliana

Blood Red

Lackey, Mercedes - 2014 - 312 p. Setting: Turn of the century Europe

FIC LACKEY

Blood Red is the latest book in Lackey's 'Elemental Masters' – an engaging series set mostly in a slightly alternate turn-of-the-century England, where masters of elemental magic hide amongst society. Each book is a self-contained story, based loosely on a fairy tale. I found Blood Red to be as fun to read as previous installments, and a bit more action-packed to boot! Lackey takes us a few countries away from her usual English setting, following the expeditions of Rosa, Hunt Master of Germany's Black Forest. As she travels deep into Transylvania with strange new allies, we meet vampires, sinister werewolves, and the sprites and spirits of local folklore. A winning and adventurous read, Blood Red is not one to miss. The library has several other 'Elemental Masters' titles – feel free to check them out too! — Janel

Mimi Malloy, At Last

MacDonnell, Julia – 2014 – 276 p. Setting: modern day Quincy, Massachusetts

FIC MACDONNE

Meet Mimi Malloy: she was born into an Irish – Catholic brood of seven (all girls) and has done her best to raise six daughters of her own. Now they are grown and Mimi, divorced, and having "taken early retirement" wants nothing more than to enjoy her life. A promising friendship with the super of her building is all the excitement she wants or needs. Then her sister Patty's grandson sent everyone a questionnaire to fill out for his family tree project. After an appointment with her doctor Mimi learns that the MRI showed black spots in her brain, areas of atrophy that may send her to one of those storage facilities for unwanted antiques. She isn't going down without a fight, however, and after she finds a blue pendant in her closet and the sisters and daughters hold a meeting at her apartment to discuss the family tree, memories both known and repressed begin to surface. Everyone wants to know what happened to Fagan the sister who was sent away. The mystery of her disappearance is solved as out of the ashes of Mimi's history we discover the redemptive power of family bonds. -- Kathy

Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English

Solomons, Natasha - 2010 - 355p. Setting: London & Dorset, England, 1950's

FIC SOLOMONS

Jack Rosenblum is a refugee, having escaped Berlin with his wife and baby on the brink of WWII. He carefully studies a resettlement pamphlet, adding his own notes over the years, so that he can become a true Englishman. Eventually Jack builds a successful carpet factory, wears a Savile Row suit, and drives a Jaguar. But one thing eludes him: golf membership. No club will admit a Jewish member. So he decides to build his own, buying a rundown cottage in Dorset with land enough for his links course and studying plans for the Old Course at St. Andrews and Augusta National. He even writes to Bobby Jones. As he and his wife Sadie settle into village life his dream seems precarious – "wooly pigs" and snobbish lords, bank loans and broken looms at the factory all stand in Jack's way. Sadie misses the convenience of London and still struggles with the loss of her family left behind in Germany. In their thatched cottage with its ramshackle garden, among their new Dorset neighbors Sadie & Jack find solace. This is a cozy tale with a serious side, based on the author's grandparents' own stories of resettlement in England. — Deb