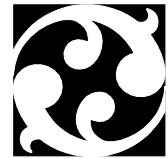




CAMELOT BOOK CLUB



Volume XIII Issue 9

Lake Cypress Springs, Texas

September 2010

The HERETIC'S DAUGHTER

by Kathleen Kent

The Heretic's Daughter is a gripping piece of historical fiction woven in with fact. The story centers around the Carrier family and is narrated by 10-year-old Sarah Carrier whose family is made up of father Thomas, mother Martha, brothers Richard, Andrew and Tom and little sister Hannah. Sarah's relationship with her mother is fraught with tension and hostility as Sarah yearns for a more empathetic and outwardly loving mother, whereas Martha Carrier is a strong woman who takes care of her family, but is not prone to outward shows of affection.

"...Strange and disturbing events begin to unfold in Salem Village, with a group of girls going into fits, and accusing others of witchcraft. Trials are convened and many innocent victims are wrongly accused of practicing the Devil's work, all at the whim of the young girls. ...Sarah finds her own family being suspected of unholy alliances, especially given Martha Carrier's sharp tongue and rebellious nature. When Martha is arrested on the accusation of practicing witchcraft, Sarah is forced to do the unthinkable in order to preserve her own life.

"Family ties are a central theme in this book, especially in exploring the relationship between daughter and mother. ...The witch trials themselves are compelling ...the miscarriage of justice during the trials, the pathetic living conditions of the accused (in prison), and of the politics and corruption underlying the trials and treatment of prisoners."

(Your Scribe's note: the above is adapted from a reader's online review.)

Notes from Camelot's Discussion

- It was a bit hard to identify with the characters. Sometimes, when you read a book, the characters stay with you – the characters in this book didn't haunt me after I finished reading.
- A tender moment when a mother says to her daughter, "This one time, until you are grown, you may say whatever you wish to me. Whatever anger you have stored against me or the world you can speak it to me and I will not chastise you or punish you nor reveal to another living soul what you have said."
- We tend to think of Martha, the mother, as cold; but it was basically her strength showing through.
- These teen-age girls give new meaning to the current phrase, "mean girls".
- When Mercy claimed to be pregnant, the examination that took

- place was graphic and shocking!
- The conditions in the prison were unspeakably cruel and unbelievable.
 - Several of us found the quote on Page 214 compelling: "If we could see the fullness of our tomorrows, how many of us would take desperate action to change the future? What if our far seeing showed us the loss of our homes, our families, our very lives, and to save it all we would need only to barter away our most precious souls. Who among us would give up what we cannot see for what we can hold in our hands?"

- - - - -

MEETING NOTES

Only six of us were present as we met at Karen O’Shea’s house. Her two dogs, white with black spots, were excited to greet us and calmed down pretty fast when they found out we liked them. Karen calls them the bad boys.

As is our wont, we spent the first part of our meeting to catch up with current activities of each. **Gwen** described the mild incident of marital disharmony at her house, but laughingly said it’s all O.K. now. **Sue** updated us on little Ellen’s fine health report following her horse accident. **Anne** said she and Mike are so enjoying their new apartment in town, with its swimming pool. And Mike is enjoying watching the maintenance being done and for once, it’s not he that has to do it. **Terry** is enjoying her gardening, and tearing up the road between here and Jackson, Miss. **Karen** described her latest success story with the rare form of malady that she has, and the good word is Remission!

Our hostess served coffee and two wonderful pies - pecan and lemon meringue. Some of us had a taste of each. A most enjoyable Camelot day.

- - - - -
NEXT MEETING

When? Friday, October 15, 2010, 1:30p.m.

Where? At Peaches house

Why? To have fun, and to discuss

Sacred by Dennis Lehane

(An action-packed mystery thriller with a wisecracking pair of somewhat reluctant Private Investigators.)

- - - - -

CAMELOT BOOK CLUB IS GREAT

