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The Rules

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action continues. **VERDICT** Romance, danger, and world-building combine to make a (mostly) satisfying read.—*Denise Schmidt, San Francisco Public Library*

HEDLUND, Jody. *An Uncertain Choice*. 256p. Zondervan. 2015. pap. \$12.99. ISBN 9780310749196.

Gr 8 Up—Lady Rosemarie Montfort was orphaned at age 14. Since that day, she has ruled her family's lands with the help of the abbot and has mentally prepared herself to enter the convent on her upcoming 18th birthday, in accordance with her parents' wishes and the Ancient Vow. The arrival of the Duke of Rivenshire, a family friend, throws all of Rosemarie's plans into disarray when he announces that there may be an exception to the Vow. If Rosemarie can fall in love and marry before her birthday—just four weeks away—she could continue to live among her people and be an active ruler rather than cloistered behind walls. In order to help Rosemarie make her choice, the duke has brought along three young knights to woo her and help her find true love. Although Rosemarie hesitates to deviate from her plan, she goes against the abbot's wishes and decides to give love a chance. But when potentially deadly accidents befall the knights competing for her affections, Rosemarie has to decide if love is worth the risk. There are few surprises in this historical fiction for teens. Savvy readers will know from the get-go who the villain is and which knight will win Rosemarie's hand. This book doesn't shy away from the less pretty parts of medieval times, such as illness, disease, poverty, and criminal torture. **VERDICT** A predictable historical romance for teens who believe in true love. An additional purchase.—*Heather Webb, Worthington Libraries, OH*

HOLDER, Nancy & Debbie Vigiú. *The Rules*. 352p. ebook available. Delacorte. Jun. 2015. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780385741002.

Gr 9 Up—August DeYoung hosts the most exclusive parties for the most exclusive clique at Callabrese High. This year, August is pulling out all the stops to make his trademark scavenger hunt the best one yet. When Robin Brisset accidentally crashes August's hunt, she isn't surprised to see underage drinking and over-the-line flirting, but she is surprised when her fellow hunters begin dying around her. Robin is determined to survive the party, but she may have to break the rules to do it. Suspenseful from the start, this novel will hook even slow and reluctant readers immediately. Each chapter begins with a rule a character lives by, which illuminates a core aspect of the character's personality, and proceeds to tell the story from that person's perspective. Readers then see how that aspect most influences the actions in the chapter. This

shifting point of view introduces readers to the work's cast of protagonists in a manageable way, while also allowing the authors to pepper the novel with small details that will keep teens guessing. **VERDICT** With a fast-paced plot worthy of a slasher film, *The Rules* is a must-read for fans of thrillers with truly frightening twists.—*Maggie Mason Smith, Clemson University R.M. Cooper Library, South Carolina*

JASKULKA, Marie. *The Lost Marble Notebook of Forgotten Girl & Random Boy*. 144p. ebook available. Sky Pony. Apr. 2015. Tr \$16.99. ISBN 9781632204264.

Gr 9 Up—Two unnamed teenagers find each other on a street corner and realize that they share a love of the written word. Forgotten Girl's parents have just split up and her mother has started drinking. Forgotten Girl copes by journaling about her life, feelings, hopes,

MEET THE REVIEWER: Amanda Buschmann



How long have you been reviewing for *SLJ*?

About 1 year.

What kinds of books (format, subjects, genres, etc.) do you review?

I review books related to my current job (middle school librarian)—young adult, all genres. My favorites are the dystopian/science fiction books.

Why do you review for *SLJ*? What's the best part?

I review for *SLJ* because it is exciting to be a part of upcoming published books. I also feel it is my duty to give a fair and conscientious review, keeping in mind the young adult audience. The best part is when publishers send the final published copy and I can donate it to my school!

What do you do (what grades do you serve, what kind of programs do you run, what responsibilities do you have) at your school?

I am the sole librarian at a middle school of 1200+ students. Naturally, it is quite busy. I collaborate with teachers to bring them information about new tech tools and books. I also recently started a "book talk" club that has been a great success.

Tell us something about yourself that's surprising.

I used to race cars in my college days. I was part of an all-girl racing team called GirlSpeed Racing, and we would meet at Houston Raceway Park to race our cars.

What are you reading (and liking) right now? Or what was the last book you read that you absolutely loved?

Currently, I am reading (and loving) *The Jewel* by Amy Ewing—I love a good dystopian novel!

Are you involved in any ALA committees or state library organizations?

I am a member of the Spirit of Texas. It's a Middle School committee through TLA (Texas Library Association).

How and why did you first get into librarianship?

I began teaching high school English in 2003. By 2009, I joined Sam Houston State University's graduate program in library science. By January 2010, I had my first library job at an elementary school!

Is there a book that made you fall in love with reading?

Certainly not one book—I began reading at four years of age and haven't stopped since. Books were my refuge during my childhood and they have made me a better, more thoughtful person.