

# The Book Rack Newsletter

*It just makes sense to buy your books at The Book Rack!*

Vol 7, #8  
August 2014  
3937 41st Ave Dr., Moline  
309-797-1985  
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*Store Hours: 10:00 - 6:00 Monday - Sunday*

<http://www.thebookrackqc.com/>  
[BookRackQC@Gmail.com](mailto:BookRackQC@Gmail.com)

*It is what you read when you don't have to that determines  
what you will be when you can't help it.*

*~Oscar Wilde*

**A Poetic Line that has passed into common  
usage:**

**"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."**

**John Keats, 'Ode to a Grecian Urn'.**

## **August Holidays and such:**

**National Golf Month**

**Romance Awareness Month**

**August 2 – Local Author Jim Pransky will be signing copies of his new book, The Comeback Kid, at The Book Rack, Davenport, 10 – 12:00 and in Moline 1-3:00**

**3 – International Forgiveness Day and Friendship Day**

**9 – Local Illustrator, Terri Dombeck-Smith will be at The Book Rack in Davenport 11-1:00 signing copies of she illustrated and her Dad (John Dombeck) wrote.**

**9 – Book Lover's Day**

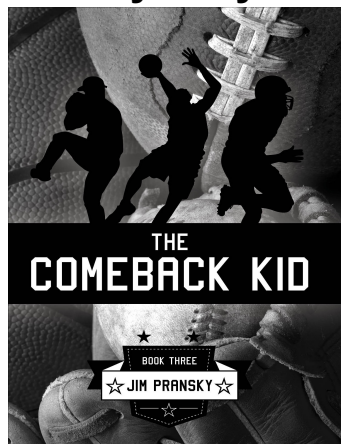
**23 – Local Author Kendra Lee will be signing copies of her book at The Book Rack, Davenport 10-12:00 and in Moline 1-3:00.**

**30 - Frankenstein Day**

## **Featured Authors:**

Local Author **Jim Pransky** will be signing copies of his latest book, The Comeback Kid, at The Book Rack in Davenport, 10:00 – Noon and at The Book Rack, Moline, 1:00 – 3:00 on August 2.

As Mickey ran his quick route and turned in expecting the missile from Chase, he saw the ball had been slightly tipped at the line of scrimmage and was heading not toward his number 34, but several feet to his right. As he planted his right foot to push in that direction, he was cracked in the back of his knees by a Lyonsville linebacker.



The Comeback Kid is an eight-month athletic adventure for Mickey Baker and his Eagles' teammates. It begins in the late summer with the American Legion state baseball playoffs and continues as their senior year at West River High School finds them competing for conference championships in football and basketball. Mickey and his lifelong friends battle all types of adversity, creating a year of excitement that players and fans will never forget.

Author Jim Pransky is a professional baseball scout with the Tampa Bay Rays. "The Comeback Kid" is his third book about Mickey Baker and his West River teammates, following

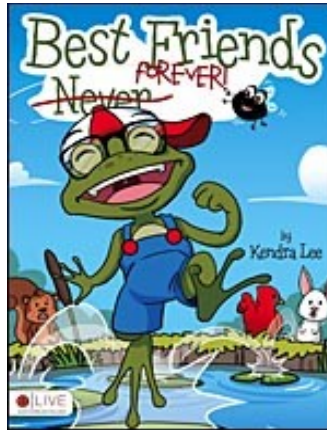
**"Championship Expectations" and "Playoff Run". Prior to entering professional sports, Jim worked as an elementary school teacher and coached both high school and college baseball. A native of Eldred, Pennsylvania, Jim lives in Davenport, Iowa, with his wife, Grace, and their two playful cats, Ted (Williams) and Sandy (Koufax).**

**Terri Dombek-Smith, Illustrator of Billy Goat in an Overcoat, will be at The Book Rack, Davenport, 11-1:00, Saturday, August 9. Billy Goat in an Overcoat, authored by Terri's dad, John Dombek, is the most fun a book can be. It's an absolutely delightful, absolutely impossible, completely fanciful, surprise-filled, dream-like, adventure that rambles through a curious landscape populated by outlandish characters that make perfect sense to children with vivid imaginations.**



**Kendra Lee, author of Best Friends Forever!, will be at at The Book Rack in Davenport, 10:00 – Noon and at The Book Rack, Moline, 1:00 – 3:00 on August 23.**

**Kendra Lee has always seen value in individuality. Her belief in Jesus Christ and His love for all is the message she wishes to convey to young people. Kendra lives with her husband Chad and their children in Fruitland, Iowa.**



**Best Friends Forever:** Here are two unlikely friends: Herbie the frog and Sedrick the fly. That is quite a match. How did this happen? A frog and a fly are best friends? Take a peek and see how Herbie and Sedrick become best friends despite how different they are. They just might learn the secret to treating others with kindness.

**Free Verse** is a regular, monthly, feature by one of our wonderful Quad Cities area local authors. Each month we enjoy writing by a different talent. These articles and poems are on a variety of topics bound to be of interest to many of our readers. Please help spread the word by forwarding the newsletter to others. Give these folks as wide an audience as possible, please.

**We're pleased to offer the following:**

**Ryan Collins is the Executive Director of the Midwest Writing Center and an English Instructor at St. Ambrose University.**



Ryan is the author of four chapbooks, including [\*Remote Viewing\*](#) (DUSIE/Rock Town Press, 2014), and [\*Dear Twin Falls\*](#) (H\_NGM\_N, 2013). Recent poems have appeared in [\*The Ampersand Review\*](#); [\*Asymptote\*](#); [\*Big Bell\*](#); [\*Forklift, Ohio\*](#); [\*PEN Poetry Series\*](#); and [\*Verse \(online\)\*](#). He lives in Rock Island, IL where he curates the SPECTRA Poetry Reading Series. His first poetry collection, *A New American Field Guide & Song Book*, is forthcoming from [\*H\\_NGM\\_N Books\*](#).

### *Hard Luck Story*

After a day of bread-making, the shuffle chops  
Away in the next room—

Someone sounds like they're losing their shirt.

Too much on the phone, asleep too early—  
The day gets after me. At night,

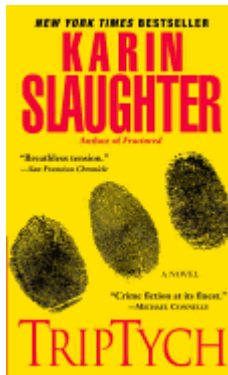
I go outside for a breath & return soaked.

In the next room, a short stack's getting hosed  
& not keeping quiet about it—

The wet slap of embarrassment & defeat,  
Walking home empty-handed, empty-pocketed.

## **Book Reviews:**

### **TripTych by Karen Slaughter (2006)**

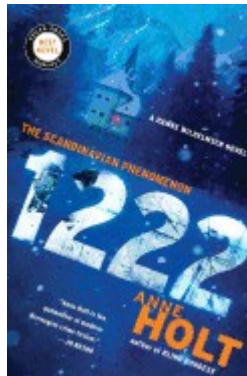


**In the city of Atlanta, young women are dying--at the hands of a killer who signs his work with a single, chilling act of mutilation. Leaving behind enough evidence to fuel a frenzied police hunt, this cunning madman is bringing together dozens of lives, crossing the boundaries of wealth and race. And the people who are chasing him must cross those boundaries too. Among them is Michael Ormewood, a veteran detective whose marriage is hanging by a thread--and whose arrogance and explosive temper are threatening his career. And Angie Polaski, a beautiful vice cop who was once Michael's lover before she became his enemy.**

**But another player has entered the game: a loser ex-con who has stumbled upon the killer's trail in the most coincidental of ways--someone who may be the key to breaking the case wide open....**

**My first Karen Slaughter book was a "killer"! In a very good way. The suspense begins to build in the first chapter and never slows. This is an exceptionally conceived and rendered book. I put it on par with the best and give it a resounding A. Really a great thriller/police procedural that I highly recommend. Similar authors include Alex Kava, Jeffrey Deaver, Tess Gerritsen and Karen Rose, to mention a few.**

## 1222 (A Hanne Wilhelmsen Novel) by Anne Holt (2011)



**From Norway's bestselling female crime writer comes a suspenseful locked-room mystery set in an isolated hotel in Norway, where guests stranded during a monumental snowstorm start turning up dead.**

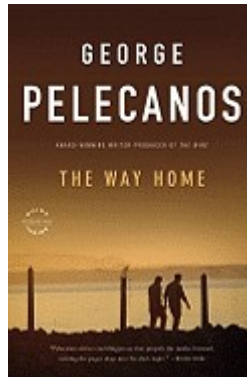
**A train on its way to the northern reaches of Norway derails during a massive blizzard, 1,222 meters above sea level. The passengers abandon the train for a nearby hotel, centuries-old and practically empty, except for the staff. With plenty of food and shelter from the storm, the passengers think they are safe, until one of them is found dead the next morning.**

**With no sign of rescue, and the storm continuing to rage, retired police inspector Hanne Wilhelmsen is asked to investigate. Paralyzed by a bullet lodged in her spine, Hanne has no desire to get involved. But she is slowly coaxed back into her old habits as her curiosity and natural talent for observation force her to take an interest in the passengers and their secrets. When another body turns up, Hanne realizes that time is running out, and she must act fast before panic takes over. Complicating things is the presence of a mysterious guest, who had traveled in a private rail car at the end of the train and was evacuated first to the top floor of the hotel. No one knows who the guest is, or why armed guards are needed, but it is making everyone uneasy. Hanne has her suspicions, but she keeps them to herself.**

**Trapped in her wheelchair, trapped by the storm, and now trapped with a killer, Hanne must fit the pieces of the puzzle together before the killer strikes again.**

**A good mystery, but not a great one. It may have suffered a bit in comparison to the several excellent titles I read around it. I just didn't find it very gripping and give it a C+.**

**The Way Home by George Pelecanos (2011)**



**Christopher Flynn is trying to get it right. After years of trouble and rebellion that enraged his father and nearly cost him his life, he has a steady job in his father's company, he's seriously dating a woman he respects, and, aside from the distrust that lingers in his father's eyes, his mistakes are firmly in the past.**

**One day on the job, Chris and his partner and friend, Ben, come across a temptation almost too big to resist. Chris does the right thing, but old habits and instincts rise to the surface, threatening this new-found stability with sudden treachery and violence. With his father and his most trusted friends, he takes one last chance to blast past the demons trying to pull him back.**

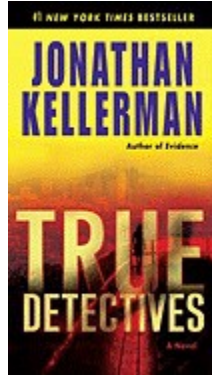
**Like Richard Price or William Kennedy, Pelecanos pushes his characters to the extremes, their redemption that much sweeter because it is so hard fought. Pelecanos has long been celebrated for his unerring ability to portray the conflicts men feel as they search and struggle for power and love in a world that is often harsh and unforgiving but can ultimately be filled with beauty.**

**The first 60% of the book is basically establishing the characters and their environment. I began to wonder if it was more a text book on the juvenile justice system than a true suspense novel, but then Chris & Ben found the money. Everything shifted in their lives and the book. It's a good suspense novel. The background**



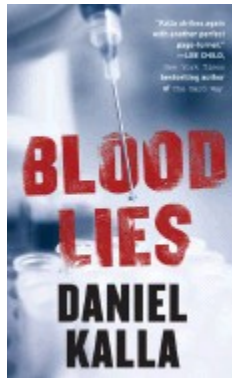
is not dull or unnecessary. It is a good book. I give it a solid B and would definitely read Pelecanos again. Give him a shot.

True Detectives by Jonathan Kellerman (2009)



Moses Reed and Aaron Fox have the same mother; their respective fathers were cops, friends, and partners. And despite their shared calling, their turbulent family history has set them at odds. Moses is a no-frills LAPD detective; Aaron is a smooth-talking private eye. Usually they go their separate ways, but the disappearance of straight-A student Caitlin Frostig isn't usual. Reluctantly tag-teaming to crack a cold case that won't die, Moses and Aaron descend into the sinister underside of the City of Angels. Surrounded by twisted millionaire moguls, tarnished trophy wives, and famous faces with hellish secrets, they pull no punches as they penetrate the strange, seductive world of glamour, wealth, and power to keep L.A.'s dark dreamland from claiming another lost soul.

This was a little slow for me, but still a good read. I've read Kellerman before and would again. I give this book a B-, but recommend you try Kellerman, if you've not already done so. He has a long list of titles to his credit and I don't think you'll be disappointed.

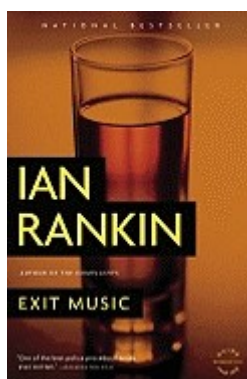


**Blood Lies by Daniel Kalla (2008)**

**Ben Dafoe, a young emergency-room doctor and part-time crime-scene consultant for the Seattle Police Department, is haunted by addiction. Two years earlier, a cocaine and crystal-meth habit claimed the life of his identical twin, Aaron. Now Ben walks onto the scene of a savage stabbing to find that the victim is his former fiancée, Emily Kenmore--another loved one who fell prey to drugs. Part of the carnage in Emily's bedroom is a single streak of blood caked on the wall. When the DNA from that sample matches Ben's, he becomes the prime suspect. Convinced his identical twin is still alive and somehow involved in Emily's death, Ben goes on the run, aiming to find Aaron. Working under an assumed identity at an inner-city clinic, Ben desperately searches for Aaron while playing cat-and-mouse with the authorities. But someone is determined to thwart his hunt at any cost.**

**A very clever story line well written. Medical and police techniques are employed by Ben and those searching for him as they try to unravel the murders. Interesting twists in this one and it's a book I think most suspense readers will like. Kalla isn't a household name but has a list of 9 titles from which to choose. I give Blood Lies a B+ and hope you will consider reading Kalla. We have most of his titles.**

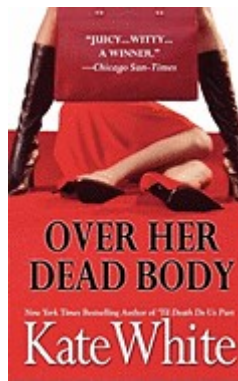
**Exit Music by Ian Rankin (2007)**



**It's late in the fall in Edinburgh and late in the career of Detective Inspector John Rebus. As he is simply trying to tie up some loose ends before his retirement, a new case lands on his desk: a dissident Russian poet has been murdered in what looks like a mugging gone wrong. Rebus discovers that an elite delegation of Russian businessmen is in town, looking to expand its interests. And as Rebus's investigation gains ground, someone brutally assaults a local gangster with whom he has a long history. Has Rebus overstepped his bounds for the last time? Only a few days shy of the end to his long, controversial career, will Rebus even make it that far?**

**John Rebus is one of the best detective characters you'll find and this is the last book in the series, if you believe Rankin. I've reported to you before on a couple other titles in the set and highly recommended them. This one is every bit as worthy of your attention. I really like Rankin and, I believe, with good cause. This title gets a B+ and a strong endorsement.**

**Over Her Dead Body, by Kate White (2005)**



***New York Times* bestselling author and *Cosmopolitan* editor-in-chief Kate White knows firsthand that the magazine business is murder. Now she's brought back her smart and gutsy crime writer Bailey Weggins, for a case set against the glossy pages of a celebrity rag, where somebody is about to give Bailey's new boss a lethal deadline.**

**Talk about rapid turnover—in a matter of days Bailey Weggins gets axed from one New York magazine and hired by another. Her new job at *Buzz*, a weekly filled with sizzling gossip, has Bailey covering celebrity crime, including the starlet who got caught stuffing Fendi purses down her pants and the aging hunk who shot his lover with a Magnum.**

**Bailey doesn't have to look far for her next story: She finds her boss, Mona Hodges, gasping her last breath after being bludgeoned with a blunt object. A raging tyrant, Mona made *Buzz* a top 'zine but racked up an impressive enemies list along the way. Everyone from a chubby singer she dubbed "Fat Chance" to a mail guy she once reamed out would be glad to see Mona six feet under. And Bailey intends to get the scoop on whodunit even though one of her closest friends is at the top of the suspects list.**

**With her strappy sandals in one hand and her cell phone in the other, Bailey's out hunting for clues everywhere from the mean streets of Brooklyn's Little Odessa to a posh company picnic in the Hamptons. In just about a New York minute, she's got a crush**

on a sexy filmmaker—and some scary insight into her boss's murder. The first can give her the hot summer fling she's itching to have. The second can get her killed... (From the author)

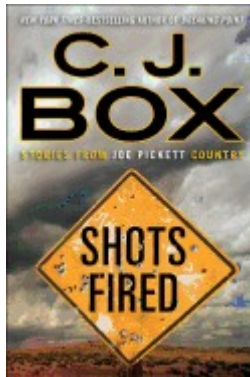
My first Kate White book was OK. Not great, but certainly not bad. The victims weren't ones you'd probably miss and the case wasn't terribly complex. I also thought Bailey Weggins was kind of naive in a couple instances. But, it was still a decent read well worth the time. I'd give it a C+. (Does this come across as weak praise?? OK, so it is!)

## Upcoming New Releases:

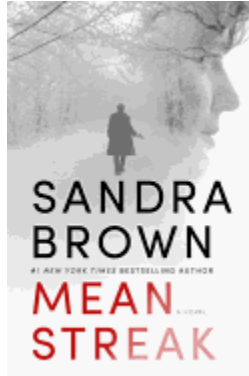
Check out the prices following the title of the book. The first price is the publisher's price. The second price is the [Book Rack](#) price, when picked up at one of the stores. There is no shipping charge when you pick up your order. Order now by calling one of the stores or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment on all special orders.

## Hard cover and Trade Paperback:

**CJ Box – Shots Fired – 26.95/21.60**

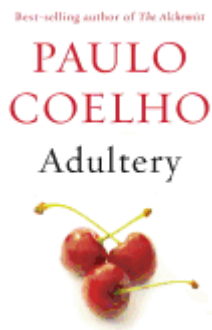


**Sandra Brown – Mean Streak – 26.00/20.80**



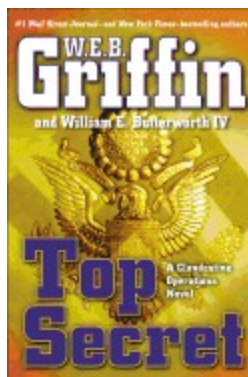
**Chelsea Cain – One Kick – 25.99/20.80**

**Paulo Coelho – Adultery – 24.95/20.00**



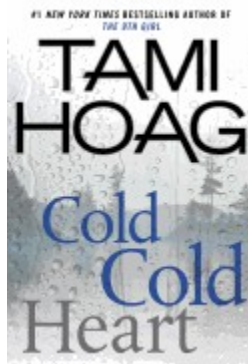
**Terry Goodkind – Severed Souls – 29.99/24.00**

**WEB Griffin – Top Secret – 28.95/23.20**



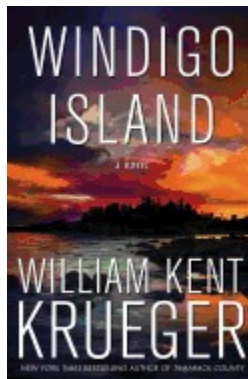
**Lev Grossman – The Magician's Land – 27.95/22.40**

**Tami Hoag – Cold Cold Heart – 27.95/22.40**

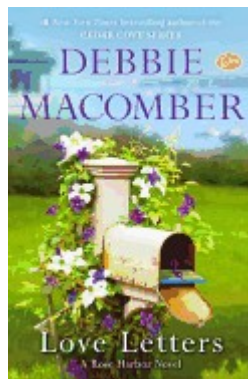


**Gregg Hurwitz – Don't Look Back – 26.99/21.60**

**William Kent Kreuger – Windigo Island – 24.99/20.00**

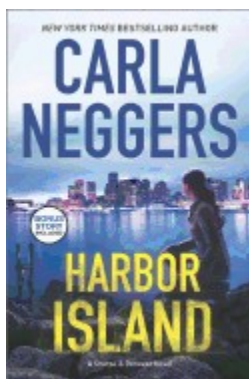


**Debbie Macomber – Love Letters; A Rose Harbor Novel – 26.00/20.80**



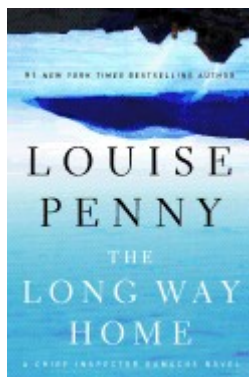
**Colleen McCullough – Bittersweet – 26.00/20.80**

**Carla Neggers – Harbor Island – 24.95/20.00**



**James Patterson – Private: Down Under – 33.00/26.40**

**Louise Penny – The Long Way Home – 27.99/22.40**



**James Rollins – The Sixth Extinction – 27.99/22.40**

**Randy Wayne White – Haunted – 26.95/21.60**



## **Paperback New Releases**

**David Baldacci – King and Maxwell – 10.00/8.00**



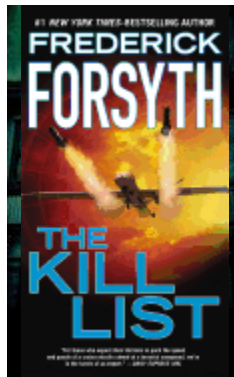


**Cleo Coyle – Billionaire Blend – 7.99/6.40**



**Sylvia Day – Pride and Pleasure – 7.99/6.40**

**Joanne Fluke – The Other Child – 7.99/6.40**

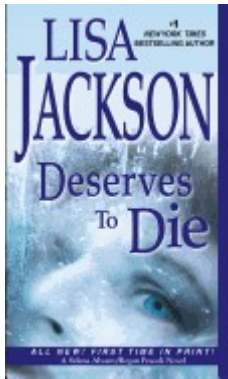


**Frederick Forsyth – The Kill List – 9.99/8.00**

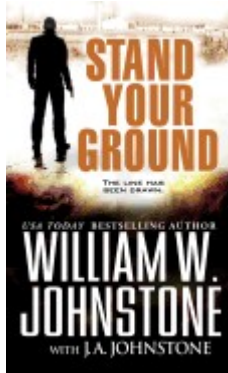
**Heather Graham – The Hexed – 7.99/6.40**



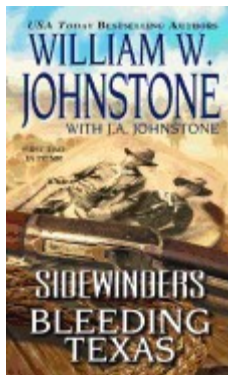
**Lisa Jackson – Deserves to Die – 7.99/6.40**



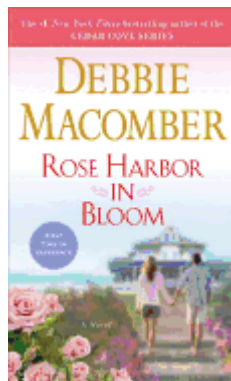
**William W. Johnstone – Stand Your Ground – 6.99/5.60**



**William W. Johnstone – Sidewinders: Bleeding Texas – 7.50/6.00**



**Debbie Macomber – Rose Harbor in Bloom – 7.99/6.40**

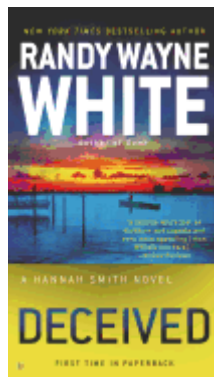


**JD Robb – Concealed in Death – 7.99/6.40**

**Lisa Unger – In the Blood – 7.99/6.40**



**Randy Wayne White – Deceived – 9.99/8.00**



**Stephen White – Compound Fractures – 9.99/8.00**

**Dick Wolf – The Execution - 9.99/8.00**

