

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 10, #12
December 2017
563-355-2310

*Store Hours: 10:00 - 6:00 Daily (except New Years Day, Easter, July 4,
Thanksgiving and Christmas)*

<http://www.thebookrackqc.com/>
BookRackQC@Gmail.com

Trivia for December

What famous writer is credited with originating the expression
"rain cats and dogs"?

See below for the answer.

December Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

December

- 2 – Sean Leary Book Signing 11-1:00
- 3 – Advent begins
- 5 – Bathtub Party Day (Yup, there really is one!)
- 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
- 9 – John Spencer Book Signing 11-1:00
- 9 – International Childrens Day
- 10 – Human Rights Day
- 12 – Hanukkah
- 15 – Bill of Rights Day
- 16 – Sean Leary Book Signing 11-1:00
- 21 – Look on the Bright Side Day
- 21 – Winter Solstice

24 – Christmas Eve – The Book Rack will close at 4:00 PM

25 – Christmas Day – The Book Rack will be closed

31 – New Years Eve - The Book Rack will close at 4:00 PM

January 1 – New Years Day - The Book Rack will be closed

Holiday Special Offer from The Book Rack



Buy any Book Rack Gift Certificate and get 20% off!

\$25 Gift Certificate costs \$20

\$50 costs \$40

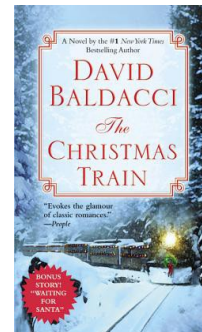
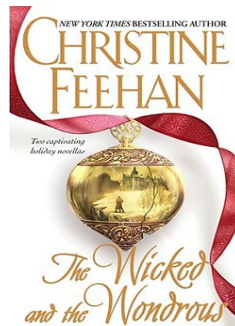
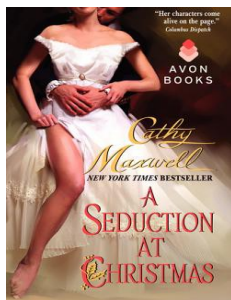
\$100 costs \$80

Our Gift Certificates NEVER expire!

But this Offer ends December 31, 2017!

Christmas Books at The Book Rack.

Books by your favorite holiday authors including Debbie Macomber, David Baldacci, Cathy Maxwell, Diane Palmer, Nicholas Sparks, William W. Johnstone and numerous others are available for a limited time. Stop in and stock up while you can or select several for a reader on your gift list.



Featured Authors:

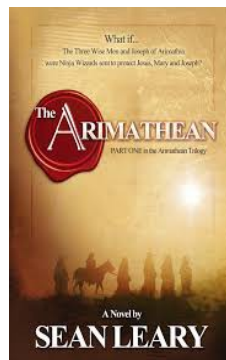
Sean Leary and John Spencer

Sean Leary, one of the QCA's most popular local authors, will be at The Book Rack Saturday, December 2 and Saturday December 16, 11-1:00

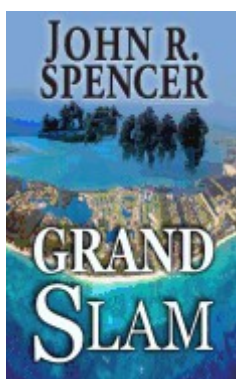


Sean will be signing copies of his Christmas book *The Arimathean*, among others of his numerous titles. *The Arimathean* is an action-packed take on the Christmas story, in which the three Magi are ninja wizards, sent to protect Joseph and Mary against Satan and King Herod trying to destroy them before they get to Bethlehem. It's been described by critics as "Lord of the Rings meets The Bible."

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks said of *THE ARIMATHEAN*, "It's fantastic! What a wonderfully imaginative idea!" Best-selling crime fiction author Matthew Clemens raved "This book rocks!" And Yahoo! News Chicago wrote "It's got ninja wizards, zombies, vampires, demons, monsters and Jesus – this is the most fun book I've read in a long time!"



John Spencer will be at The Book Rack December 9, 11-1:00.



Local Quad Cities author John R. Spencer's newest novel has just been released. *Grand Slam* from DeerVale Publishing is available through many online retailers or can be ordered through most bookstores. Locally, copies will be available at [The Book Rack](#), 4764 Elmore Ave. in Davenport.

Grand Slam is the story of a wealthy young American, Kenny Hamilton, a shirt-tail descendant of founding father Alexander Hamilton. Well-to-do but bored with life, Kenny and his best friend Brad Schott are flying home from a quick vacation in the Cayman Islands when Kenny hatches an audacious plan: capture the Cayman Islands to become his own private empire. Before long, he has also dragged his not-quite-yet fiancé, Traci Dennison, into the mix.

Set in both the U.S. and the Cayman Island, Kenny recruits his own little army of mercenaries to execute his outrageous plan. After weeks of planning and nearly a million dollars—some taken in a robbery—Kenny and friends descend on Grand Cayman and launch their assault.

But not everything turns out to be quite as simple as Hamilton expected. Confronted by curve balls at every turn, they fight to capture the island but find themselves thwarted by a Cayman police force much more prepared than Kenny ever imagined.

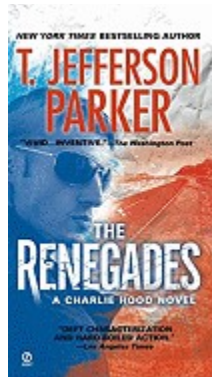
“The novel has been a unique experiment for me,” Spencer said. “Several years ago, my young niece, an avid reader, challenged me to create a story using multiple narrators, each telling a part of the story from their own point of view. Sometimes they tell us what has already happened, but often they narrate events as things are still unfolding.”

The result? *Grand Slam*. Different characters involved in the story narrate different parts of the book, but none of them ever gets to see the whole picture.

“It's only the reader who will get to connects all the dots,” Spencer said. “That's the real fun of this book. I think readers will find it challenging—but exciting and entertaining.”

Book Reviews

The Renegades by T. Jefferson Parker (2009)

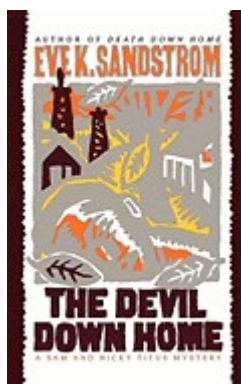


Some say that outlaws no longer exist, that the true spirit of the American West died with the legendary bandits of pulp novels and bedtime stories. Charlie Hood knows that nothing could be further from the truth. These days he patrols vast stretches of the new American West, not on horseback but in his cruiser. The outlaws may not carry six-shooters, but they're strapped all the same. Along the desolate and dusty roads of this new frontier, Hood prefers to ride alone, and he prefers to ride at night. At night, his headlights illuminate only the patch of pavement ahead of him; all the better to hide from the demons—and the dead outlaws—receding in his rear view mirror.

But Hood doesn't always get what he wants; certainly not when he's assigned a partner in Terry Laws, a County veteran who everyone calls Mr. Wonderful. And not when Laws is shot dead in the passenger seat and Hood is left to bear witness by someone who knew Mr. Wonderful didn't always live up to his nickname. As he sets out to find the gunman, Hood knows one thing for sure: The West is a state of mind, one where the bad guys sometimes wear white hats—and the good guys seek justice in whatever shade of gray they find it.

As is always the case in Parker's books, the characters are unique, interesting and sharply drawn. The investigation is intriguing and the climax suitably violent and hair-raising. I liked the book and give it a B+.

The Devil Down Home, A Sam Eve K. Sandstrom (1991)



and Nicky Titus Mystery by

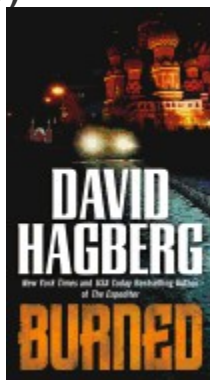
It's a stormy night in the town of Holton, just the sort of weather to put people in the mood for the local Halloween Haunted House fund-raiser, with its coffins and cobwebs. Life comes too close to imitating spooky make-believe, however, when photographer Nicky and Catlin County sheriff Sam spot Dracula standing by the road in the heavy rain.

Dracula turns out to be hitchhiker Damon Revels, whose link to Holyon goes back fifteen years. With a bedroll and not much more, he needs a place to sleep. There's no motel in town, so Sam puts him up in the county jail. A dry cell looks pretty appealing on a night such as this.

Damon Revels may not be Dracula, but he brings with him an aura of pure evil. What is it about this man that will inspire someone to use the innocently conceived Haunted House as a scene for murder? Or is it the town of Holton that is evil, and does Damon Revels only bring out the true nature of some of its residents?

At only 246 pages, this is a pretty quick read and a pretty good mystery. I give it a B and recommend it if you like mysteries and authors like Cleo Coyle, Leslie Meier and Kate Collins.

Burned by David Hagberg (2009)



Patty and David Monroe have flown to Moscow to repair a business deal which has gone bad—when it suddenly turns nightmarish. Shooting David and kidnapping Patty, their Russian business partners drive her to a ramshackle dacha twenty miles east of Moscow. There, her captors—along with brutal Islamic terrorists—will attempt to ransom her. Patty will face the most frightening ordeal imaginable.

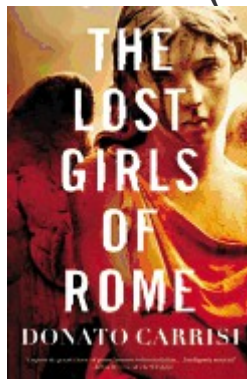
For the first time in history, FBI agents must work with Russian security forces.

In an atmosphere of violent mistrust and political hatred, only their burning desire to rescue Patty Monroe will hold the operation together.

Burned is inspired by the horrifying ordeal of Yvonne Bornstein. Kidnapped in Russia in the 1990s by Islamic terrorists, Yvonne and her husband were held for ransom. During her captivity she was tortured, starved, and abused. Her captors were affiliated with early al Qaeda partisans. While this book is fiction, Burned captures the spirit of Yvonne's resistance and ultimate triumph.

I found this book to be well written and suspenseful. It gets a B+ and a recommendation from me.

The Lost Girls of Rome by Donato Carrisi (2013)



A grieving young widow, seeking answers to her husband's death, becomes entangled in an investigation steeped in the darkest mysteries of Rome. Sandra Vega, a forensic analyst with the Roman police department, mourns deeply for a marriage that ended too soon. A few months ago, in the dead of night, her husband, an up-and-coming journalist, plunged to his death at the top of a high-rise construction site. The police ruled it an accident. Sandra is convinced it was anything but.

Launching her own inquiries, Sandra finds herself on a dangerous trail, working the same case that she is convinced led to her husband's murder. An investigation which is deeply entwined with a series of disappearances that has swept the city, and brings Sandra ever closer to a centuries-old secret society that will do anything to stay in the shadows.

Carrisi is a relative newcomer with only 2 titles, so far. He studied law and criminology before becoming a writer for television, and now an award winning author. Remember the name as we can hope he keeps books coming. While this book features a “centuries-old secret society”, it's not another Templar novel. It's very well written with an interesting plot, plenty of twists and turns, several surprising discoveries as it nears the end and some Rome historical events and places that added to the enjoyment. I give it an A-. Get it if you can, though it may be a challenge. His first book, The Whisperer, may be an easier

target.

Murder at the Margin, A Henry Spearman Mystery by Marshall Jevons (1978)

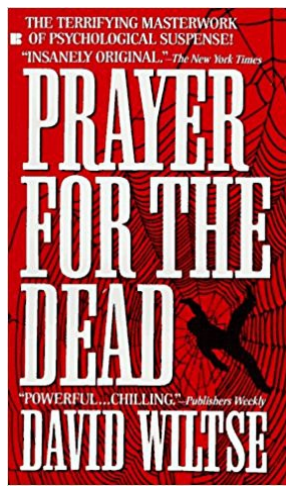


Cinnamon Bay Plantation was the ideal Caribbean island getaway--or so it seemed. But for distinguished Harvard economist Henry Spearman it offered diversion of a decidedly different sort and one he'd hardly anticipated: murder.

While the island police force is mired in an investigation that leads everywhere and nowhere, the diminutive, balding Spearman, who likes nothing better than to train his curiosity on human behavior, conducts an investigation of his own, one governed by rather different laws--those of economics. Theorizing and hypothesizing, Spearman sets himself on the killer's trail as it twists from the postcard-perfect beaches and manicured lawns of a resort to the bustling old port of Charlotte Amalie to densely forested hiking trails with perilous drops to a barren offshore cay.

A unique concept for a mystery, it was written by 2 distinguished economists, employing the Jevons pseudonym and has been used as supplementary reading in many introductory courses in economics. That's not to imply it's too complex for the economic layman. It's well written and you can't help but pick up some knowledge. You may even find yourself analyzing your own (non-criminal) actions in economic terms. I give it a B and recommend you give Jevons a try. There are now 4 titles in the Spearman series, the most recent *The Mystery of the Invisible Hand* (2014).

Prayer for the Dead by David



Wiltse (1991)

A gripping cat-and-mouse tale of wide-eyed terror, concerning a diabolical psychopath who's found the will to kill and a detective who's lost the will to win. Center stage is a murderer who drains his victims' blood; a troubled innocent who befriends the killer, only to become his lover and possibly his next victim; a burned-out FBI agent with budding penchants both for rock-climbing and for a certain rock climber named Cindi; a local cop with a hunch about the killer's MO and a desire to get his old pal Agent Becker back in the sleuthing game. Obsessed with thoughts of his long-dead grandfather, Roger Dyce ritualistically murders, then dresses the corpses in the old man's attire. After an attempted abduction goes wrong, Dyce is laid up in the hospital. Then Becker makes a deadly error, mistaking him for a would-be victim. All the while, the horrified reader can only watch and wait for Dyce to kill again.

I think this is my first Wiltse novel, but hopefully not my last. It is tense and well written. Dyce is one of the more twisted killers you will find. He made my dreams stressful! I give it a B+. I'd compare him to Graham Masterson, Daniel Kalla; and Rock Mofina.

Trivia for December

What famous writer is credited with originating the expression "rain cats and dogs"?

Answer: Jonathan Swift, in *A Complete Collection of Polite and Ingenious Conversation*, which he originally published under the pseudonym Simon Wagstaff, Esquire.

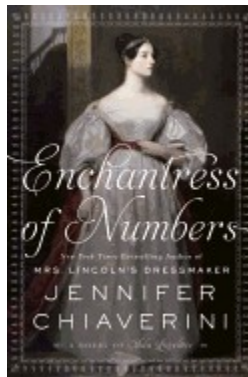
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

Check out the prices following the title of the book. Those prices are the publisher's prices. The **The Book Rack** price is normally 20% lower. When you pick it up at the store there is no shipping cost, though we can also ship it to you. Order now by calling the store or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment on all special orders.

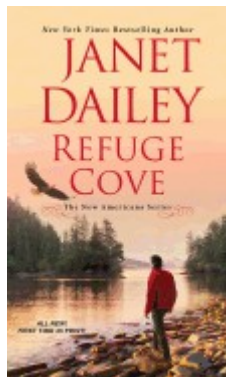
You can also add any of these titles to your request list. Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but most will get to you eventually.

Hardcover and Trade Paperback

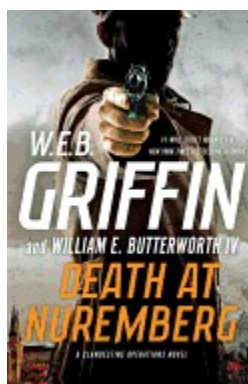
Jennifer Chiaverini – Enchantress of Numbers – 27.00



Janet Daily – Refuge Cove – 27.95

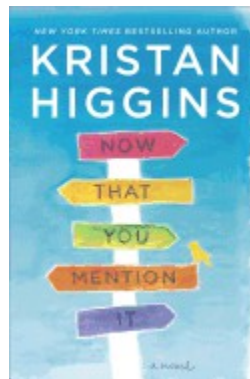


W.E.B. Griffin – Death at

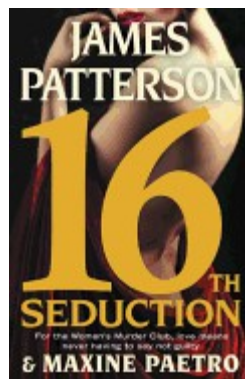


Nuremberg – 29.00

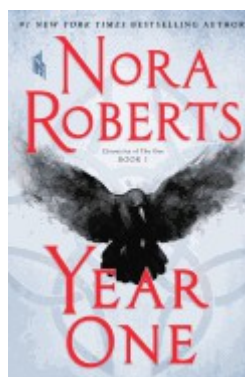
Kristan Higgins – Now That You Mention It – 15.99



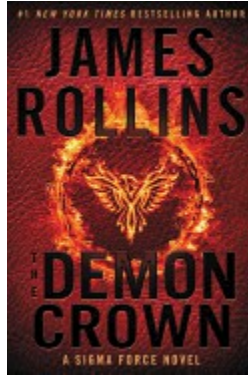
James Patterson - 16th Seduction – 15.99



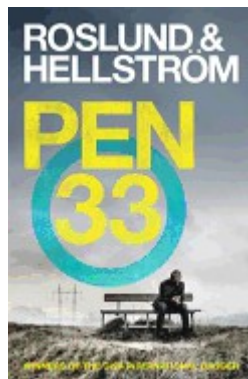
Nora Roberts – Year One – 27.99



James Rollins – The Demon Crown – 28.99



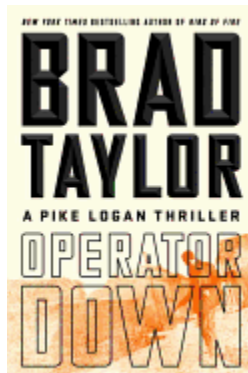
Roslund and Hellstrom – Pen 33 – 26.99



George Simenon – Maigret's Mistake – 13.00

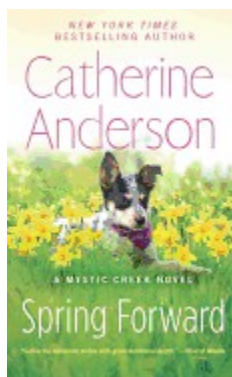


Brad Taylor – Operator Down – 27.00

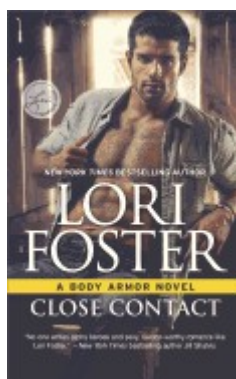


Paperback

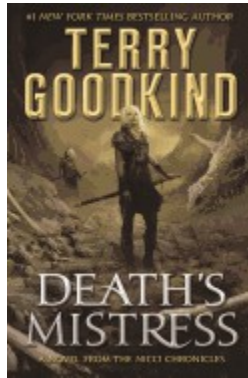
Catherine Anderson – Spring Forward – 7.99



Lori Foster – Close Contact – 7.99



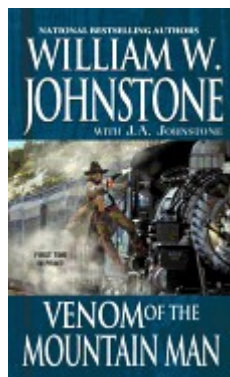
Terry Goodkind – Death's Mistress – 9.99



Heather Graham – The Rising – 8.99

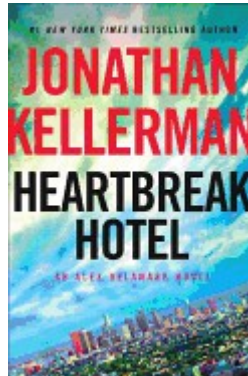


William Johnstone – Venom of the Mountain Man – 7.99



Jonathan Kellerman –

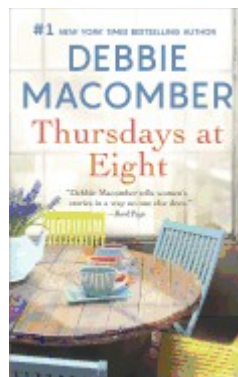
Heartbreak Hotel – 9.99



Stephen King – Revival – 9.99



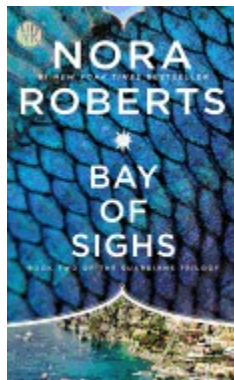
Debbie Macomber – Thursday's at Eight – 7.99



Sara Paretsky – Fallout – 9.99



Nora Roberts – Bay of Sighs – 8.99



Sherryl Woods – My Dearest Cal – 6.99

