

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 11, #2
February 2018
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 February

In the book, "Gone With the Wind", how many months actually pass during Melanie's pregnancy?

See below for the answer.

New Rewards for Customers

\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!

In January 2018 we began giving away two \$25.00 Gift Certificates to 2 lucky **Book Rack** account holders each month. The names are selected randomly from all our registered customers who have registered and or had a trade or purchase since 1 January 2016. All the winners have to do is to go to the

newsletter and find your name listed, then come in and claim your reward. No purchase is required and you don't have to register separately from your initial account registration.

The February 2018 winners are:

Amanda Skocz

Kayla Rodriguez

Congratulations Amanda & Kayla!

February Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

February:

Blind Date with a Book Month (A Book Rack creation)

Black History Month

Creative Romance Month – Check out our shelves for some VERY creative romances!

1 – National Freedom Day

2 – Groundhog Day

3 - Local Author Jim Pransky book signing 11-1:00

4 – Super Bowl Sunday

8 – Kite Flying Day – May the weather cooperate.

10 – Local Author Jim Jacobs book signing 11-1:00

13 – Mardi Gras/ Fat Tuesday

14 - Ash Wednesday

14 – Valentine's Day

17 – Random Act of Kindness Day

19 – President's Day

24 – Paula Carter, Local Author, book signing 11-1:00

26 – Tell a Fairy Tale Day – Don't know any? We can help!

Have you ever been on a Blind Date with a Book??

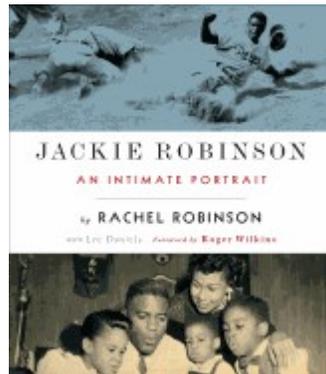
You don't know what you're missing, but you can easily remedy that problem at The Book Rack. Just stop in and look at the shelves of books wrapped in brown paper with a little information, but no title or author. Pick one up and enjoy your evening “date” with your newly met book. Hopefully, you'll be new best friends for life with the author. If you find you're incompatible... return the book for a full refund or exchange.

If only all failed relationships were so easy!

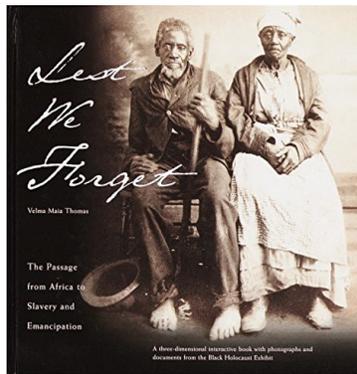
Black History Month at The Book Rack

We have a wonderful selection of books about the history of Black Americans and Black America, along with many books by Black American authors and/or about great Black Americans. A few we have available include:

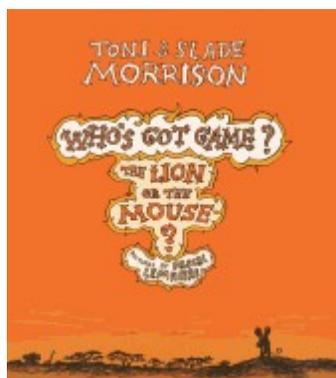
***Jackie Robinson, An Intimate Portrait* by Rachel Robinson**



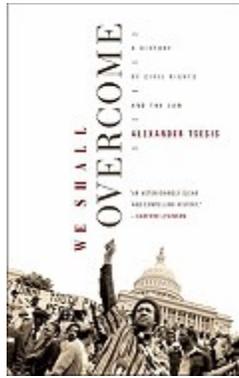
***Lest We Forget, The Passage from Africa to Slavery and Emancipation* by Velma Maia Thomas**



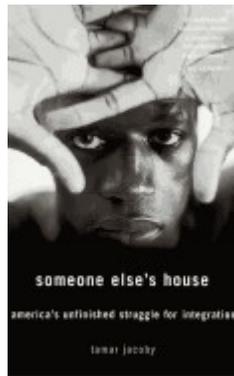
***Who's Got Game, The Lion or the Mouse?* By Toni & Slade Morrison**



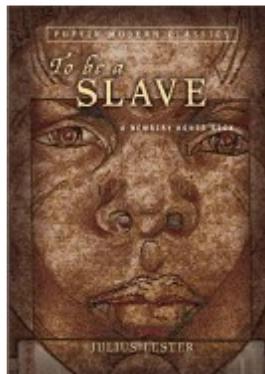
***We Shall Overcome, A History of Civil Rights and the Law* by Alexander Tsesis**



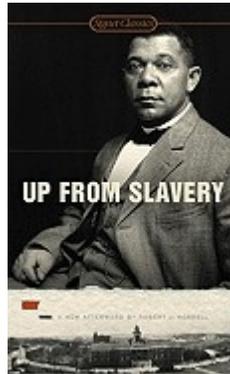
***Someone Else's House, America's Unfinished Struggle for Integration* by Tamar Jacoby**



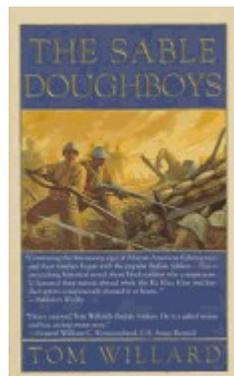
***To Be A Slave* by Julius Lester, A Newbery Honor Book**



***Up From Slavery* by Booker T. Washington**



***The Sable Doughboys* by Tom Willard, Continuing the saga he began with *Buffalo Soldiers*.**



In addition to these we have countless more on our shelves by such notable black authors as: Walter Mosley, W.E.B. DuBois, Maya Angelou, Octavia Butler, Alex Haley and many, many more. Don't miss the opportunity to read a new author this month and seriously consider selecting from among these. You will likely find a new favorite.

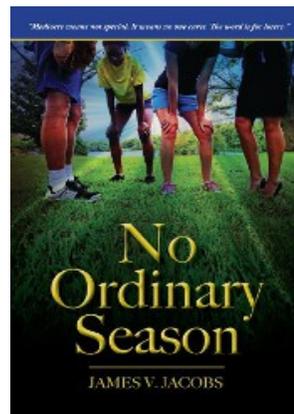
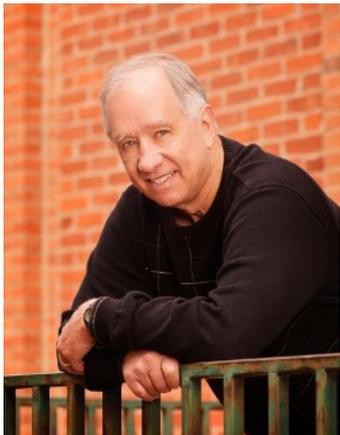
Featured Local Authors for February:



Jim Pransky will be at The Book Rack Feb 3, 11-1:00 signing copies of his books and visiting with fans. Jim's latest book is "Sarah and the Scout" published Dec 7, 2017

Kelly Taylor is a veteran baseball scout who is unjustly and unceremoniously fired at the end of the season. He is shocked by the unexplained dismissal and for the first time in his life he is faced with an uncertain future. He now has decisions to make that may include leaving the game and moving back to his hometown. Sarah is a single mother of two children, working to establish a new home in an unfamiliar city. A chance meeting brings Kelly and Sarah together. Developments are steady, but hesitant, as they both begin to see the future in a new light. This is a story of many layers including; career conflicts, family doubts and personal tragedies, all wrapped around the core of baseball.

Jim Jacobs will be at The Book Rack Feb 10, 11-1:00 signing copies of his book, "No Ordinary Season". Stop in and visit with Jim and pick up a copy.

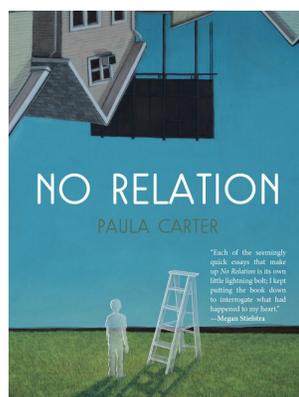


JAMES V. JACOBS was educated at Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University) and Western Illinois University. While in college, he worked in the Civil Rights Movement with National Urban League affiliates in Indiana. After college, Jacobs taught fifth grade in the Galesburg, IL public schools for thirty-five years. Upon retiring from the Galesburg Schools, he taught writing for ten years at Carl Sandburg Community College in Galesburg.

"Mediocre means not special. It means no one cares. The word is for losers."

"Cassie Garnet hates the word mediocre. Yet her existence in a rural Indiana town could certainly be labeled that if not for her place on the cross country team. With her senior year approaching, Garnet has been River Bend High's best runner ... but she longs to be better. Cassie has never been challenged and pushed to reach her potential, and the Lady Coyotes are a terrible team. Then, everything changes. When the beautiful and charismatic Charna Rothstein Simon moves to River Bend to become a teacher and cross country coach, Cassie's senior year will be anything but ordinary. C.R. Simon will raise eyebrows and push Cassie Garnet on both the running trails and as a person. The Jewish Simon will also challenge stereotypical perceptions in River Bend, a conservative town where "different" is viewed as threatening to its way of life. Cassie's journey through the cross country season and growth as a serious runner is a captivating story. Friend Kyesha Hendrix—the only African American student at River Bend and Cassie's unlikely training partner—will join Jake Nader—basketball star and Cassie's romantic interest—to make her senior year one to remember. Before that year is over, Cassie will be forced to take a stand when accusations are made about someone Cassie respects. The consequences for speaking out and challenging the establishment will change her life forever. Cassie's story is about her last cross country season at a small Indiana town, but its universal themes resonate far beyond the city limits of River Bend, Indiana. No Ordinary Season and its valuable human lessons will stay in your mind and heart long after you finish its final climatic pages.

Paula Carter, author of "No Relation", will be at The Book Rack Feb 24, 11-1:00, signing copies of her book.



Paula Carter's essays have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Kenyon Review*, *The Southern Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *Salon*, and *Southern Humanities Review*. She is a professional freelance writer who has contributed to publications including *Writer's Digest* and *Creative Nonfiction*. Based in

Chicago, she is part of the nonfiction storytelling scene and a company member with 2nd Story. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from Indiana University, Bloomington, where she was the Darrell Burton Fellow in Creative Writing and fiction editor for the Indiana Review.

When Paula first met James, she was 26, in graduate school, and not ready to be any kind of mother to his two young sons. But, years later, after caring for them and watching them grow, she finds herself unsure of what to do when her relationship with their father ends. In a collection of striking flash essays, Paula reveals the complexity of loving children who are not her own and attempts to put language to something we have no language to describe. ***No Relation*** is a deeply personal, beautifully rendered account of a seldom-remarked on kind of love and loss.

“These small gems speak of love and heartbreak with penetrating wisdom. Each piece is a clue to a larger puzzle about how love works, how to discover its power even in moments of loss. Paula Carter’s finely carved images are saturated with insight that’s rare and refreshing. “

--Samrat Upadhyay, author of Mad Country

Book Reviews

Takeover by Stephen Frey (1995)

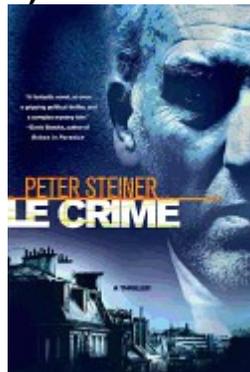


Andrew Falcon believes he has the stuff to make it to the top of this world, to become one of the masters of the game. He has staked his whole future on the biggest hostile takeover in Wall Street history, one that will net him a fee of \$5 million - if he can pull it off fast. But there is more to this monster deal than shows up on any computer printout. At a strip mall in Michigan, a small-time hit man takes out his final mark - and finds himself a target. In Montana, the chairman of the Federal Reserve drowns in the Bighorn River. Off St. Croix, an investment analyst is fed alive to the sharks. As these and other hints of savage carnage emerge, Falcon stumbles upon the secret scheme behind the

takeover ... a plot so vast and brilliantly designed as to stagger the imagination ... so intricate as to mock all efforts to stop it or trace its source. Falcon discovers the power and terror of the Sevens. The Sevens ... the members of this shadowy Ivy League organization have the wealth and will to do whatever they wish, be it provoking panic in the markets or sabotaging a Presidential administration. Falcon now realizes that he is not just a player in a hot deal but a pawn in a high-stakes game of greed, corruption, and perhaps something even more sinister. Because he has learned enough to bring everything to a halt, he is marked for destruction. Andrew Falcon's struggle for survival begins as he tries to outwit his betrayers - and a hidden enemy whose hatred is implacable.

I've had a stack of Frey's books for a while, but hadn't gotten around to reading one until we came to Minnesota to await the birth of our second granddaughter, which took longer than expected. I picked up *Takeover* on a chilly, drizzly day while sitting in our sun room with a clear view of the lake and weather. Suffice it to say, I was entertained by the book, learned something about the world of high finance in the 1990's and discovered yet another author to read and highly recommend. The story line was complex, cohesive and creative. The characters were eventually easy to like or loath and the pace was fast. You don't get the whole picture until the last page and it was done extremely well, not a quick tying up of loose ends. I give it a B++. Frey is the managing director of a private equity firm and previously worked in investment banking. His books are all set in the financial world in which he is an expert. He is still writing and recently published his 21 title. If you like Stephen J Cannell, Bret Lott or John Lutz, get one of Frey's books and you'll want more.

Le Crime by Peter Steiner (2008)

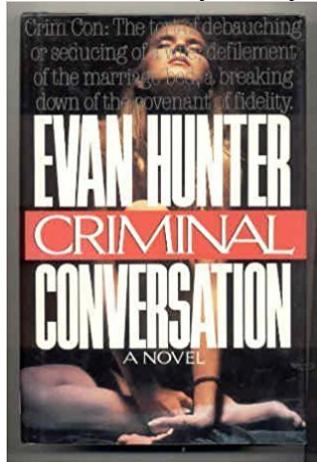


Also known for his cartoons in *The New Yorker*, this is **Peter Steiner's** first novel in the Louis Morgon thriller series, which now includes 5 titles. A cross between "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold" and "A Year in Provence," this highly acclaimed thriller is a thoroughly original and completely engaging crime novel of international espionage. Former State Department expert, Louis Morgon finds

a murdered body on the doorstep of his charming little house in France, and he and the local gendarme team up to solve the murder. Thriller and mystery lovers: bon appetit! (From the cover description)

If you like French topics and settings, you may well like this book. I wouldn't call it a "thriller", myself, but it is a mystery. It's pace is pretty slow and Louis Morgon is no Jason Bourne. I give it a C+. Just the pace and it lacked some depth/complexity, in my opinion.

Criminal Conversation by Evan Hunter (1994)



An assistant district attorney launches a one-man crusade against the Mafia in this legal thriller from the bestselling author of the 87th Precinct series.

The call comes from Narcotics, Manhattan South. A low-level drug dealer just got caught in a buy-bust, and he's ready to spill his guts. It wouldn't be a priority--especially not four days before Christmas--but the thug just mentioned the Mafia, and that means all hands on deck. It's just what Michael Welles has been waiting for. An assistant district attorney with a burning hatred of organized crime, he'll do anything for a crack at the mob. He's about to get a chance to bring down the whole clan--but his loved ones' lives are at stake.

The dealer they arrested is an unlucky gambler whose debts put him smack in the middle of two of New York's most powerful crime families. Following the man's lead, Michael sets up a massive eavesdropping operation intended to trap the ruthless new leader of the local mob--but what he hears on the other end of the wiretap will make him doubt everything he knows about his family, his wife, and himself.

I liked this book, even though it was pretty clear early on that it was a slow motion "train wreck" in progress. Lots of suspense, police procedures, pretty graphic sex and, in the end, surprise. It will be hard to find anyone to cheer for among the characters, but still a good read. I give it a B+.

If you love Ed McBain, you'll love Evan Hunter, since they are one in the same. Ed McBain is a pen name of Hunter's.

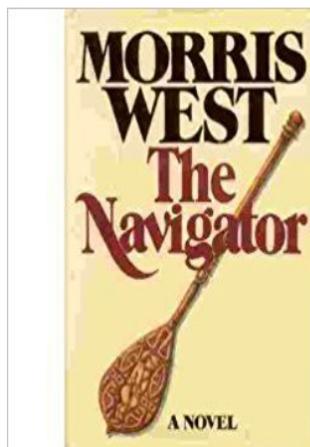
Vince Flynn's Order to Kill by Kyle Mills(2016)



In a pulse-pounding race to save America, covert operative Mitch Rapp confronts a mortal threat. But this time he might have met his match. Mitch Rapp is used to winning. But thanks to several scheming and unscrupulous members of the Pakistani secret service, he finds himself chasing false leads from continent to continent in an effort to prevent Pakistani nukes from falling into the hands of terrorists. Together with friend and colleague Scott Coleman, Rapp struggles to prevent the loss of these lethal weapons. Soon it becomes alarmingly clear that forces in Moscow are bent on fomenting even more chaos and turmoil in the Middle East, and Rapp must go deep into Iraqi territory, posing as an American ISIS recruit. There, he uncovers a plan much more dangerous and insidious than he ever expected--one that could have far-reaching and catastrophic consequences. Written with the same breathless tension and relentless action as Vince Flynn's greatest novels, Mitch Rapp's latest adventure is as timely and provocative as ever.

It really is very timely with Russian adventurism, ISIS terror and Pakistani instability. It could be right off the front pages of major international papers and magazines. Certainly up to standards previously established in the Mitch Rapp series. I give it an A-.

The Navigator by Morris

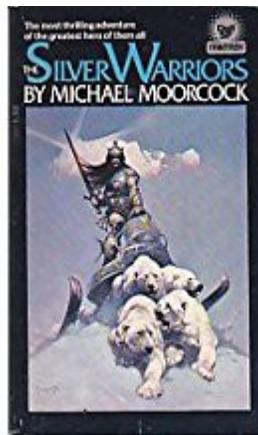


West (1976)

Son of a Norwegian master-mariner and grandson of Kaloni, the last of the great Polynesian navigators, Gunnar Thorkild is a man consumed by a dream. Convinced that the Polynesians' legendary Island of the Dead is real, he risks his career, his life-and those of his fellow adventurers-to find it. Shipwrecked on the very island they seek, the castaways are forced to leave behind everything they know and rely upon. To survive in this lush tropical paradise, they must make new laws of power and property, of sex and marriage. The Navigator is a gripping tale of sea lore, shipwreck and moral courage.

As I read the book I kept thinking of Kon-Tiki, Thor Heyerdahl's true life account of recreating the migration of the people of the Pacific tropical Islands and the classic, "The Lord of the Flies." West is a great author and this, while one of his more obscure titles, is a very creative and well written novel. It may be hard to find, but well worth the effort. I give it a B+.

The Silver Warriors aka Phoenix in Obsidian by Michael Moorcock (1973)



This is the second book in the Eternal Champion series. The Eternal Champion returns! In every age, in every world, when peril cast its fearsome shadow over mankind, he is called. Always his weapon waited--Stormbringer, Durandal--the Black Sword in its many forms. Now, in a world of ice beneath a fading sun he fights the decay of hopelessness--and the invincible Silver warriors. As Count Urlik Skarsol, he faces the direst challenge of his career--to save a dying world. But he cannot take up the Black Sword!

If you like/love Science Fiction you must already know of Michael Moorcock. He's a classical SciFi author admired by his peers. Even if you aren't a SciFi regular you should dip your toe into that pool and Moorcock would be a great

start. It's a quick read, but you may enjoy it so much you'll not like it ending so quickly! I give this title a B+ for it's creativity, spare writing style and just because I liked it. Moorcock has many more titles for you to enjoy.

Trivia for February

In the book, "Gone With the Wind", how many months actually pass during Melanie's pregnancy?

Answer: 21 months - based on the battles mentioned. When this was pointed out to author Margaret Mitchell, she reportedly replied that a Southerner's pace is slower than that of a Yankee.

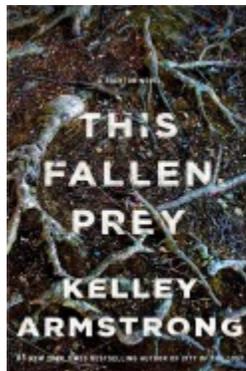
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

Check out the prices following the title of the book. Those prices are the publisher's prices. **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.

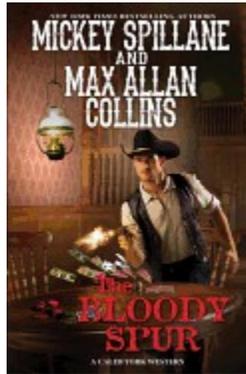
Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Kelley Armstrong – This Fallen Prey – 25.99



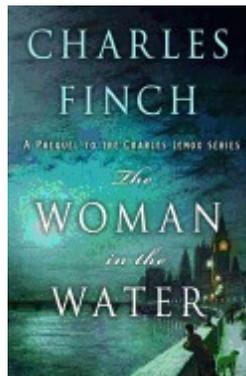
M.C. Beaton – Death of an Honest Man – 25.00

Max Collins & Mickey Spillane – The Bloody Spur – 24.00



Joy Fielding – The Bad Daughter – 27.00

Charles Finch – The Woman in the Water– 25.99



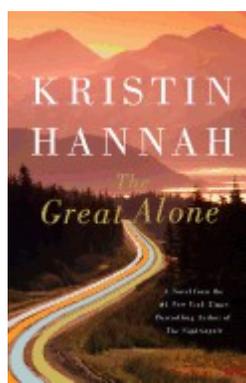
Lisa Gardner – Look for Me – 27.00



W. Michael Gear – Outpost – 26.00

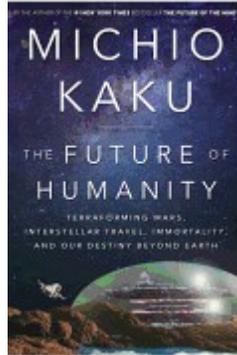
Kristin Hannah – The

Great Alone – 28.99



Karen Harper – Shallow Grave – 26.99

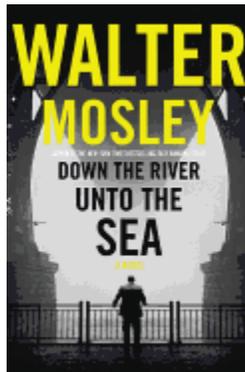
Michio Kaku – The Future of Humanity, Terraforming Mars, Interstellar Travel, Immortality and our Destiny Beyond Earth. – 29.95



Jonathan Kellerman – Night Moves – 28.99

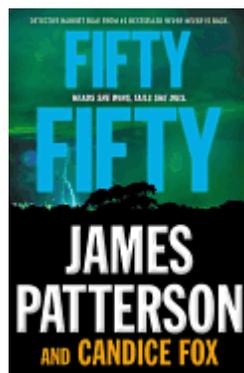
John Lescroart – Poison – 26.99

Walter Mosley – Down the River Unto the Sea – 27.00



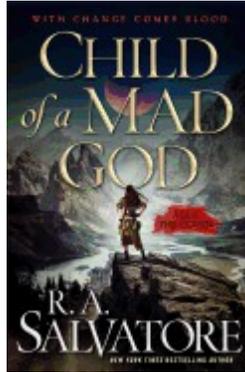
Joyce Carol Oates – Beautiful Days – 26.99

James Patterson – Fifty Fifty – 28.00



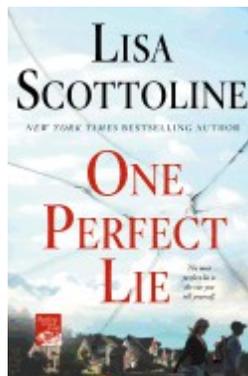
J.D. Robb – Dark in Death – 27.99

R.A. Salvatore – Child of a Mad God – 25.99



Steven Saylor – The Throne of Caesar – 27.99

Lisa Scottoline – One Perfect Lie – 16.99



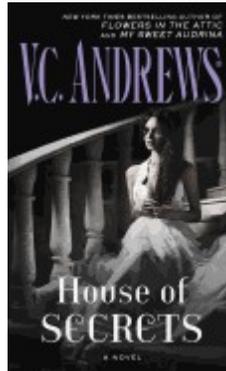
Mitch Silver – The Bookworm – 25.95



Scott Turow – Testimony – 15.99

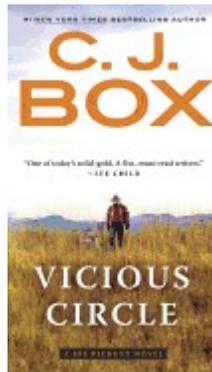
Paperback

V.C. Andrews – House of Secrets – 7.99



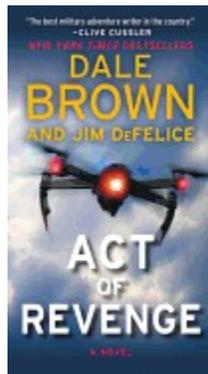
Nevada Barr – Boar Island – 9.99

C.J. Box – Vicious Circle – 9.99

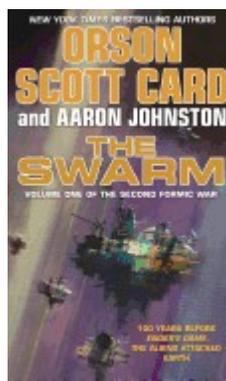


Allison Brennan – Breaking Point – 9.99

Dale Brown – Act of Revenge – 9.99



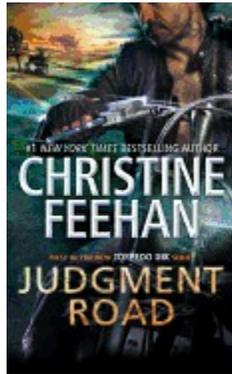
Orson Scott Card – The



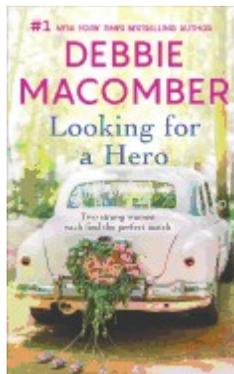
Swarm – 8.99

Lincoln Child – Full Wolf Moon – 9.99

Christine Feehan – Judgment Road – 7.99

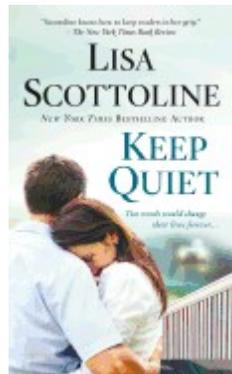


Debbie Macomber – Looking for a Hero – 7.99



Karen Rose – Edge of Darkness – 7.99

Lisa Scottoline – Keep Quiet – 8.99



Kate Watterson – Crushed – 9.99

