

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 11, #1  
January 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](mailto:BookRackQC@Gmail.com)



*from your friends at*

*The Book Rack*

*May your 2018 be safe, healthy, loving, fun,  
fortunate and filled with great books!*

## Trivia for January

Who owned the land on Walden Pond, where Henry David Thoreau built a cabin and wrote the essays that became his book "Walden, or Life in the Woods?" See below for the answer.

## *New Reward for Customers*

### *\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!*

Starting January 2018, we'll be giving away two \$25.00 Gift Certificates to 2 lucky account holders each month. The names will be selected randomly from all our registered customers who have 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 first 2 winners are:

**Michele Bishop**

**Linda Woodling**

# January Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

## January:

National Blood Donor Month

National Hobby Month

1 - New Years Day – The Book Rack is Closed today

5 – National Bird Day

13 – National Skeptics Day

15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

16 – Appreciate a Dragon Day

18 – Thesaurus Day

23 – National Handwriting Day – Remember when only Doctors wrote illegibly?

26 – Spouses Day – Bring your spouse in for a good book.

## *Christmas Books on Sale at The Book Rack.*

*Our remaining Christmas anthologies are  
now on sale!*

## Top ~~20~~ 23 - 2017 Best Sellers at The Book Rack

We thought you'd find this interesting:

1 – The Girl on the Train – Paula Hawkins

2 – Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone – JK Rowling

3 – Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets – JK Rowling

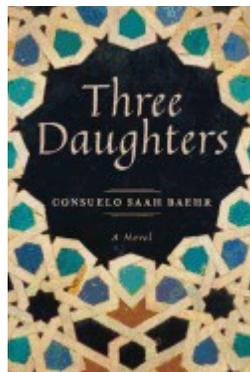
3 – Memory Man - David Baldacci

5 – Diary of a Minecraft Zombie Book 1: A Scare of a Dare – Zombie Jack

- 6 – Sweet Tomorrows: A Rose Harbor Novel – Debbie Macomber**
- 7 – A Man Called Ove: A Novel – Fredrik Backman**
- 8 – Make Me: A Jack Reacher Novel – Lee Child**
- 9 – 1984 – George Orwell**
- 10 – Outlander – Diana Gabaldon**
- 10 – To Kill A Mockingbird – Harper Lee**
- 12 – The Stranger – Harlan Coben**
- 12 – The Last Mile – David Baldacci**
- 12 – Tricky Twenty-Two: A Stephanie Plum Novel – Janet Evanovich**
- 15 – Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince – JK Rowling**
- 16 – Night School: A Jack Reacher Novel– Lee Child**
- 16 – The Guilty – David Baldacci**
- 16 – Persuader: A Jack Reacher Novel– Lee Child**
- 16 – The Hunger Games: Book 1 – Susan Collins**
- 20 – Wonder – R.J. Palacio**
- 20 – The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood**
- 20 – Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix – JK Rowling**
- 20 – Top Secret Twenty-One: A Stephanie Plum Novel – Janet Evanovich**
- A mix of the old and new releases and reliably great authors.**

## **Book Reviews**

**Three Daughters by Consuelo Saah Baehr (2014)**



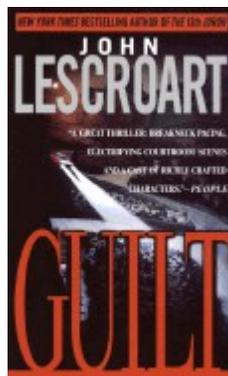
From the fertile hills of a tiny village near Jerusalem to the elegant townhouses of Georgetown, *Three Daughters* is a historical saga that chronicles the lives, loves, and secrets of three generations of Palestinian Christian women.

Born in rural Palestine, just before the dawn of the twentieth century, Miriam adores her father and is certain his love will protect her, but she soon finds that tradition overrides love. Uprooted by war, Miriam enters a world where the old constraints slip away with thrilling and disastrous results. Miriam's rebellious daughter, Nadia, is thrilled with the opportunity for a modern life that her elite education provides. But when she falls in love with an outsider, the clan reins her back with a shocking finality. Nijmeh, Nadia's daughter, is an only child and the path her father, the sheikh, sets for her is fraught with difficulties, yet it prepares her for her ultimate journey to America, where she finds her future.

Each woman, in her own time and in her own way, experiences a world in transition through war and social change...and each must stretch the bounds of her loyalty, her courage, and her heart.

I just completed listening to the audio book and was thoroughly engrossed in it from beginning to end. Three remarkable women, each in her own way. A fascinating, uplifting book I highly recommend with a rating of an A. Not my normal fare but I was highly rewarded for branching out and I hope you do so occasionally. You just might find a new favorite author, or at least a new book to recommend to others. I did.

## **Guilt by John Lescroart (2009)**



Mark Dooher is the last person anyone would suspect of a savage, bloody murder - the most hate-filled crime one veteran detective had ever come across. But Dooher, a prosperous attorney and prominent Catholic, is the first man San Francisco detective Abe Glitsky suspects. Soon Dooher is standing in the sights of the great, flawed machine called the criminal justice system. And Mark Dooher, a paragon of success and a master of all he touches, is about to be

indicted for murder. As the Dooher trial begins, dozens of lives are drawn into the drama, from the men and women who knew Mark Dooher best to those whose fates are now entwined with his. For Wes Farrell, an attorney struggling with his own sense of failure, the defense of Mark Dooher will mean a chance at self-respect. For beautiful, aspiring attorney Christina Carrera, the case leads to a dangerous liaison with Dooher, who has wanted more than anything to have this woman by his side and in his bed. And for Abe Glitsky, whose wife is dying of cancer, the trial is a nightmare of DNA evidence, shaky witnesses, and long odds: Dooher, the unofficial consigliere of the Archbishop of San Francisco, has the Catholic Church on his side. As the trial builds to a crescendo, as evidence is sifted and witnesses discredited, as Farrell rises to heights he never knew he could reach and Abe Glitsky grieves, a woman emerges from Mark Dooher's past. Her story will change the role of nearly every player in this trial, and ignite a chain reaction of truth and violence that will alter lives forever.

No one is above the law.

"A great thriller: breakneck pacing, electrifying courtroom scenes, and a cast of richly crafted characters."

--*People*

"A well-paced legal thriller...one of the best in this flourishing genre to come along in a while."

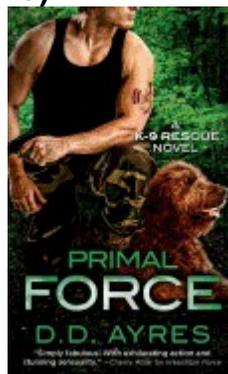
--*The Washington Post Book World*

"Begin [Guilt] over a weekend...if you start during the work week, you will be up very very late, and your pleasure will be tainted with, well, guilt."

--*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

It fit my definition of a very good thriller and I concur fully with these reviews. I give it a B+ and recommend Lescroart to those who have yet to read him.

## **Primal Force by D.D. Ayres (2016)**



Passion is always worth fighting for.

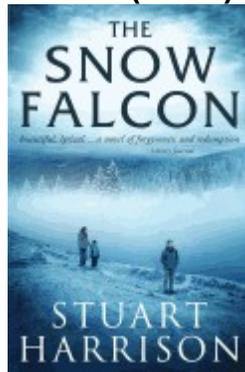
Jori Garrison trains dogs for Warrior Wolf Pack, which provides service animals for disabled veterans. Four years ago, she was wrongly convicted of a crime thanks to her no-good ex-fiance. Now she just wants to live her life in peace with her beloved dogs. No men, no complications. But it's hard to play it cool when a

lethally hot male is on her tail and the attraction is fierce, mutual, and dangerous.

Lauray "Law" Batisse is a Military Police veteran who was wounded in Afghanistan. Haunted by the loss of his K-9 partner in combat, he's reluctant to accept a service dog named Samantha into his life. But once he meets her trainer the gorgeous Jori Garrison he can't fight his primal instincts. And neither can Jori. This sexy alpha male might be the only man strong enough to unleash her desires. And when unseen enemies start hunting them down, he and his new K-9 partner might be her only hope to survive.

A romantic thriller, the romance is hot, if a little over chronicled. Some of the scenes seem to go on far longer than needed, though they are hot! The storyline is very good and well written. I give it a B. If you like Sandra Brown's thrillers, or Iris Johanssen's, you may well like Ayer's.

### **The Snow Falcon by Stuart Harrison (1999)**

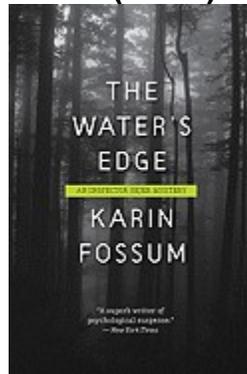


An extraordinary story of redemption and love. In a small town in the Pacific Northwest, Susan Baker is struggling with the consequences of the death of her husband in a shooting accident, witnessed by her son Jamie, who has withdrawn into introverted silence. When Michael Somers returns to the town where he grew up, provoking resentment and suspicion among the members of the tight knit community, Susan and Jamie are drawn into the middle of a complex drama. Michael is a solitary figure who has spent time incarcerated for something that happened years ago, but which had its genesis long before that, during his troubled childhood. Shunned by the community, Michael struggles to make sense of his life. When he finds a wounded falcon in the mountains, the injured bird becomes a possible route towards redemption and understanding for both Michael and his neighbor's son, Jamie. The relationship that develops between man and boy, and also Jamie's mother, Susan is at the heart of the story. However, it is also the spark that ignites tensions among the townspeople and leads to explosive consequences. This is a novel about people struggling with their lives and the things that made them who they are. The characters are forced to confront both their strengths and flaws, and to make decisions that

determine their futures. Some choose to face their personal demons, but others refuse to recognize their failings, instead compounding their past mistakes, until they threaten to destroy everything around them.

Harrison did a stellar job with this, his first book. I particularly liked the detail about the Snow (Gyr) Falcon as a breed and the means of rehabilitating a wild raptor. And this was beautifully woven into the story. You'll Love Cully, the falcon, and all the principal players and find yourself fully absorbed in the book as you read toward the climax. I give it an A. Fortunately, Harrison has several books in his bibliography and I'm sure you'll enjoy him if all are as well done as The Snow Falcon.

### **The Water's Edge by Karin Fossum (2007)**



A married couple, Reinhardt and Kristine Ris, are out for a Sunday walk when they discover the body of a boy and see the figure of a man limping away. They alert the police, but not before Reinhardt, to Kristine's horror, kneels down and takes photographs of the dead child with his cell phone. Inspectors Konrad Sejer and Jakob Skarre begin to make inquiries in the little town of Solberglia. But then another boy disappears, and an explanation seems more remote than ever. Meanwhile, the Ris's marriage starts to unravel as Reinhardt becomes obsessed with the tragic events and his own part in them.

A riveting portrayal of a community--its insiders, its outsiders, its fissures, and its secrets.

Review Quotes:

#### **PRAISE FOR KARIN FOSSUM**

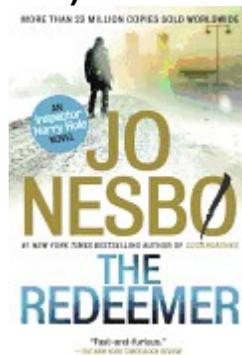
"With sharp psychological insight and a fine grasp on police procedure, Fossum is easily one of the best new imports the genre has to offer." "The Baltimore Sun"

"In spare, incisive prose, Fossum turns a conventional police procedural into a sensitive examination of troubled minds and a disturbing look at the way society views them . . . A superb writer of psychological suspense." "The New York Times"

The Story The latest novel from Norwegian author Fossum to feature Inspector Sejer begins when a couple out on a Sunday hike discover the body of a child. TV Pitch Imagine the shambling, gray-haired, unflappable Sejer as the Norwegian Columbo. Lowdown Fossum's concise, elegant writing perfectly captures the panic of a small town gripped by a heinous crime." Entertainment Weekly "

Books by foreign authors can sometimes be less enjoyable because you spend so much energy dealing with the names and different ways things are done in the country of the book's setting. I personally find them still well worth the effort, but understand why some don't. Fossum are set in Norway and I don't think this a meaningful distraction with her books. She is a wonderful mystery writer and one you will, I believe, enjoy. I give the book an A- and recommend her to you. If you like police procedural books, give her a try.

### **The Redeemer by Jo Nesbo (2005)**



A fantastically gripping thriller from the best-selling author of *The Snowman*. Christmas shoppers stop to hear a Salvation Army concert on a crowded Oslo street. A gunshot cuts through the music and the bitter cold: one of the singers falls dead, shot in the head at point-blank range. Harry Hole--the Oslo Police Department's best investigator and worst civil servant--has little to work with: no suspect, no weapon, and no motive. But Harry's troubles will multiply. As the search closes in, the killer becomes increasingly desperate, and Harry's chase takes him to the most forbidden corners of the former Yugoslavia. Yet it's when he returns to Oslo that he encounters true darkness: among the homeless junkies and Salvationists, eagerly awaiting a savior to deliver them from misery--whether he brings new life or immediate death. With its shrewdly vertiginous narrative, acid-etched characters, and white-hot pace, *The Redeemer* is resounding proof of Jo Nesbo's standing as one of the best crime writers of our time.

"The Redeemer""rocks! Jo Nesbo is my new favorite thriller writer and Harry

Hole my new hero. This book had my pulse in the red zone from start to finish."  
-- Michael Connelly

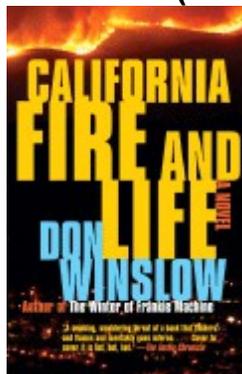
"The Redeemer is Nesbo's fourth novel and it proves to be as brilliant as his other three. It provides a grimly realistic portrait of the Norwegian capital -- druggies shooting up in public; refugees being exploited in private -- as well as an engrossing mystery, full of twists. . . . The Croatian assassin is a fascinating character -- a former war hero with a truly fatal gay charm -- who has the advantage of 'hyperelasticity,' a face so mobile no one can remember it. Nesbo's work is full of such idiosyncratic detail and it is to be hoped that he won't let the world-weary Hole retire or get fired any time soon."  
--"Evening Standard" (UK)"

"The killer's boyhood in the war-torn Balkans gives added depth to a complex story, impossible to second-guess, which proves that greed, lust and a desire for revenge lurk within the saintliest of folk."  
--"Daily Telegraph"

"Hole in one. . . . Jo Nesbo has done it again. This autumn's Harry Hole crime novel is conceived on a large scale and masterfully carried out. . . . One of Norwegian literature's most outstanding storytellers just happens to be named Jo Nesbo."  
--"Verdens Gang" (Norway)

Yet another terrific book by Jo Nesbo. I can only say "ditto" to the above reviews. I would add a caution, however, Claudia & I listened to the audio book while traveling and I had some difficulty understanding the narrator at times over the road noise. Read the paper copy, if you can, though the audio is far, far better than nothing. I give The Redeemer a solid A.

### **California Fire and Life by Don Winslow (1999)**



Jack Wade, a claims adjuster for California Fire and Life Mutual Insurance Company, is one of the best arson investigators around. He's a man who knows fire, who can read the traces it leaves behind like a road map. When he's called

in to examine an unusual claim, the tracks of the fire tell him that something's wrong. So wrong that he violates his own cardinal rule--"You don't get personal, you don't get emotional. Whatever you do, you don't get involved"--and plunges into the case.

Real estate mogul Nicky Vale's house is one of the most valuable properties on this stretch of the Southern California gold coast--large, luxurious, crammed with antiques, set on a nice piece of land with a perfect ocean view. After a disastrous blaze tears through a wing of the house, it's only normal that Vale would file an insurance claim. But a \$3 million claim is rarely normal, especially not when it's filed within hours of the horrific death of the owner's young and beautiful wife. The County Sheriff's Department investigator, Brian "Accidentally" Bentley, has declared the fire, well, accidental--caused by Mrs. Vale's passing out in bed with a bottle of vodka and a lit cigarette--although a careful look at the evidence points to something more sinister.

When Jack begins his investigation, he draws on his skill, experience and sheer stubbornness to uncover the truth of what's going on, but each step leads him further into a situation that's becoming increasingly dangerous. Soon arson is the least of Jack's worries, as the case grows to involve the Russian mob, Vietnamese gangs, real estate scams, counterfeiting and corporate corruption. In addition, Jack's forced to confront his own ghosts, including a fatal professional error, and to cope with the sudden reentry into his life of the best thing that ever happened to him: Letitia del Rio, a Sheriff's deputy whose bombshell looks are exceeded only by her smarts and guts.

As the investigation spins out of control, Jack finds himself pulled so far in that he might not make it out. His outrageous behavior and defiant integrity, usually about as helpful to him as third-degree burns, may now be the only things that will keep the investigation--and Jack himself--from being snuffed out.

"[A] jazzy California thriller . . . Think Philip Marlowe if he were still sleuthing--and had taken up surfing."

--Entertainment Weekly (Editor's Choice)

" A smoking, smoldering threat of a book that flickers and flames and inevitably goes inferno. . . . Cover to cover, it is hot, hot, hot." -- "Austin Chronicle"

" The best crime thriller of the year. . . . Mixes two parts of Elmore Leonard with an equal portion of Carl Hiaasen to form an irreverent, ribald hybrid of a thriller that's pure fun."

-- "The Providence Journal"

" [Winslow finds] a dark, sinister lyricism in the forensics of fire."

-- "The New York Times Book Review"

For those of you who have been reading my reviews for a while, you already know how much I like Don Winslow, and California Fire... does nothing but

reinforce my love affair with his books. He knows how to put together a great story and how to turn a phrase. I thoroughly enjoy every one of his books, but fear the day arrives when I've read them all and have to wait an extended time for the next one. I give this book an A, of course. Get him, if you've not already done so. If you have read him, please return the books so others can enjoy him, too. (If you can bring yourself to let them go!)

## Trivia for December

Who owned the land on Walden Pond, where Henry David Thoreau built a cabin and wrote the essays that became his book "Walden, or Life in the Woods?"

Answer: **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

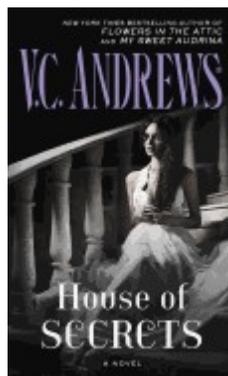
## Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

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.

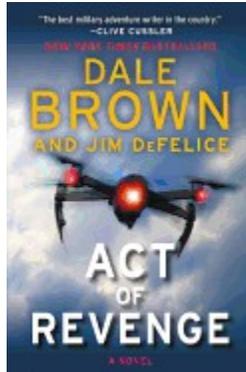
**You can also add any of these titles to your request list.** Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but most will get to you eventually.

## Hardcover and Trade Paperback

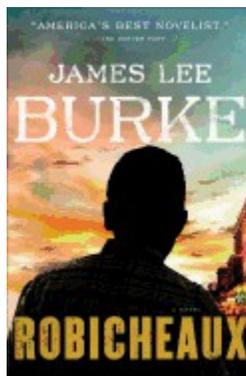
**VC Andrews – House of Secrets – 26.99**



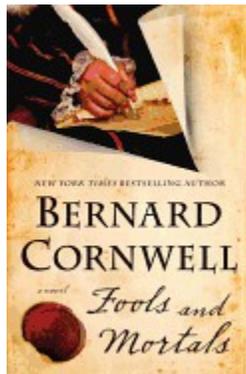
**Dale Brown – Act of Revenge – 26.99**



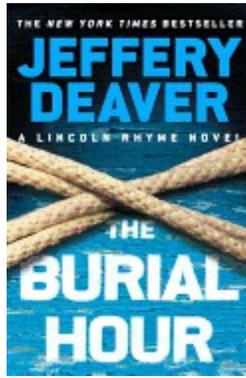
**James Lee Burke – Robicheaux – 27.99**



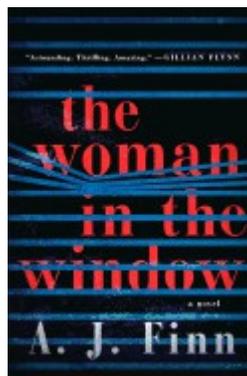
**Bernard Cornwell – Fools and Mortals – 27.99**



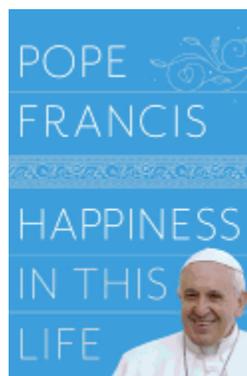
**Jeffery Deaver – The Burial Hour – 15.99**



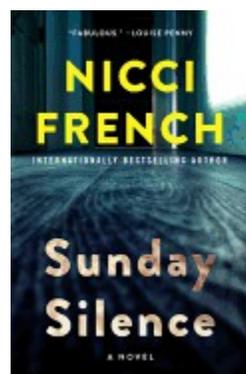
**AJ Finn – The Woman in the Window – 26.99**



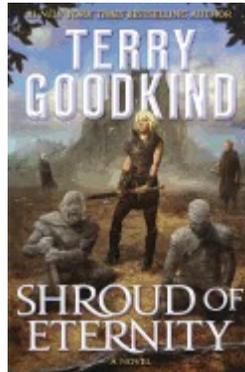
**Pope Francis – Happiness in this Life – 27.00**



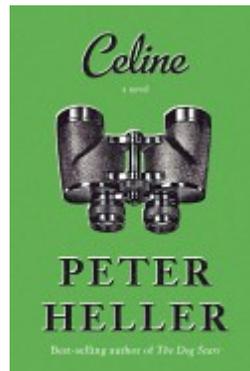
**Nicci French – Sunday Silence – 26.99**



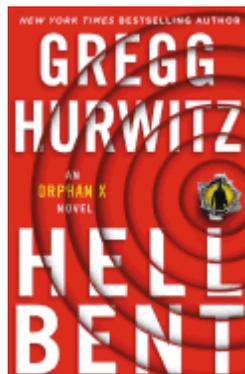
**Terry Goodkind – Shroud of Eternity – 29.99**



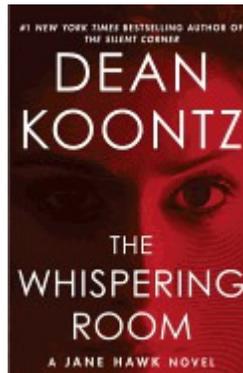
**Peter Heller – Celine – 16.00**



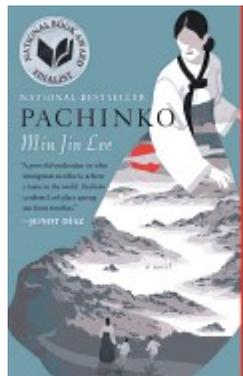
**Greg Hurwitz – Hell Bent – 26.99**



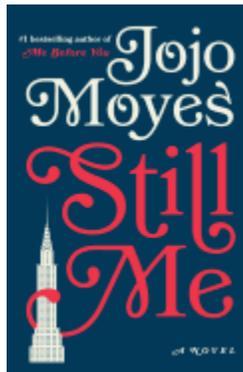
**Dean Koontz – The Whispering Room – 28.00**



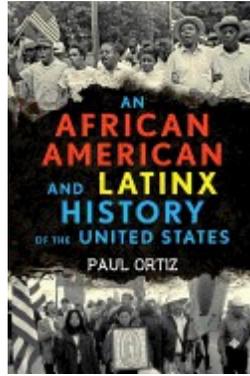
**Min Jin Lee – Pachinko – 15.99**



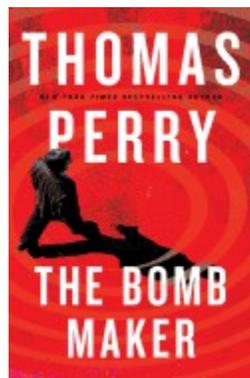
**Jojo Moyes – Still Me – 27.00**



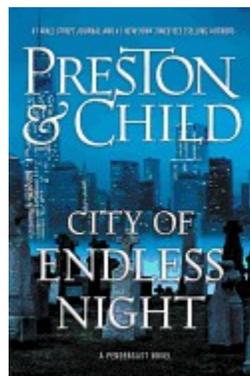
**Paul Ortiz – An African American and Latinx History of the United States – 27.95**



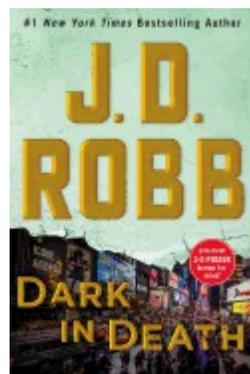
**Thomas Perry – The Bomb Maker – 26.00**



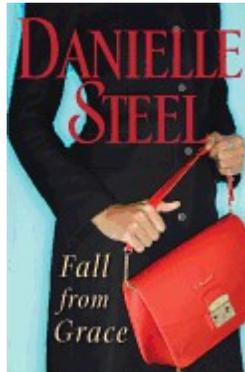
**Preston & Child – City of Endless Night – 28.00**



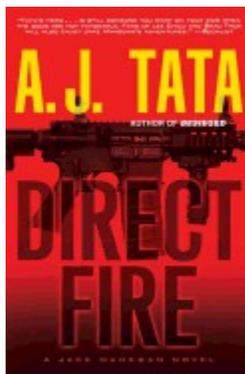
**JD Robb – Dark in Death – 27.99**



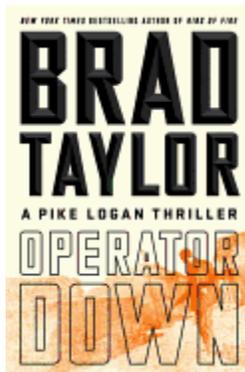
**Danielle Steel – Fall from Grace – 28.99**



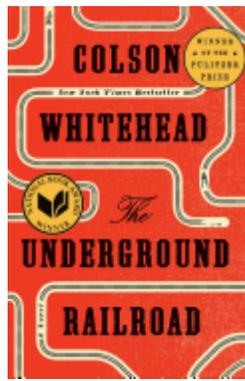
**AJ Tata – Direct Fire, A Jake Mahegan Novel – 26.00**



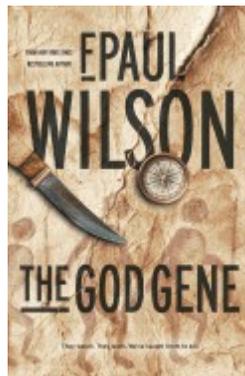
**Brad Taylor – Operation Down, A Pike Logan Thriller – 27.00**



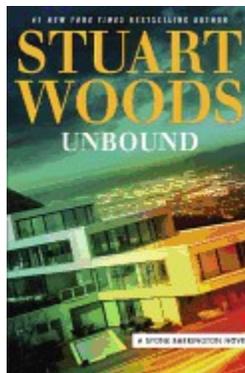
**Colson Whitehead – The Underground Railroad – 16.95**



**F. Paul Wilson – The God Gene – 25.99**

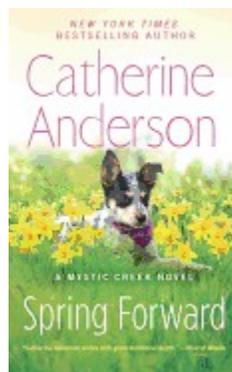


**Stuart Woods – Unbound, A Stone Barrington Novel – 28.00**

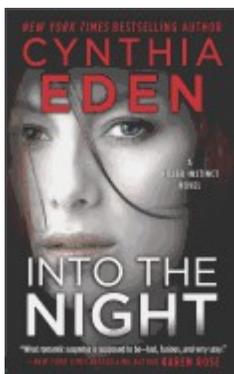


**Paperback**

**Catherine Anderson – Spring Forward, A Lucky Harbor Novel – 7.99**



**Cynthia Eden – Into the Night, A Killer Instinct Novel – 7.99**



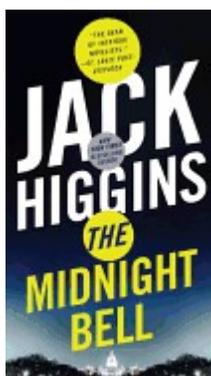
**Meg Gardiner – Unsub – 9.99**



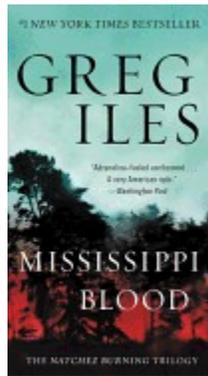
**Rachel Gibson – The Art of Running in Heels – 7.99**



**Jack Higgins – The Midnight Bell – 9.99**



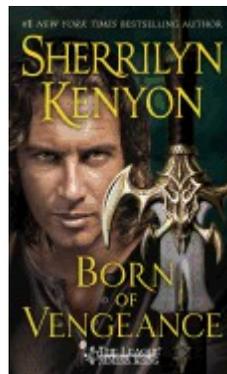
**Greg Iles – Mississippi Blood, The Natchez Burning Trilogy – 9.99**



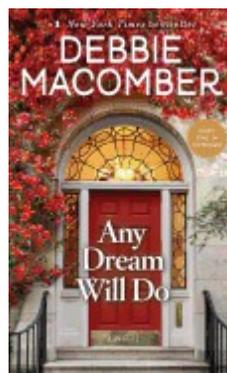
**JA Jance – Man Overboard – 9.99**



**Sherrilyn Kenyon – Born of Vengeance, The League Nemesis Rising – 8.99**



**Debbie Macomber – Any Dream Will Do – 7.99**



**Elizabeth Moon – Cold Welcome – 8.99**



**JD Robb – Secrets in Death – 8.99**

