

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 10, #6

June 2017

4764 Elmore Ave, Davenport

563-355-2310

*Store Hours: 10:00 - 6:00 Monday - Sunday*

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

## Trivia for June

What were Cinderella's slippers made of in Frenchman Charles Perrault's **original** version of the fairy tale classic?

See below for the answer.

## June Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

June 3 - **Jim Jacobs and Susan Van Kirk Book Signings 11-1:00**

9 – National Book Lovers Day

10 – **Michael McCarty Book Signing 1-5:00**

11 – Son & Daughters Day

15 – Relaxation Day

27 – Global Forgiveness Day

30 - Frankenstein Day

## Featured Authors:

### Coming to **The Book Rack**

**June 3 11 am to 1 pm**

**Jim Jacobs and Susan Van Kirk**

### Local Authors



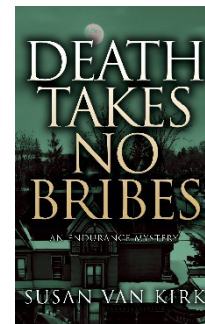
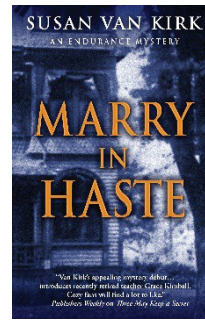
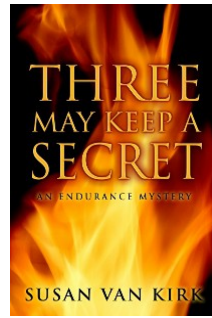
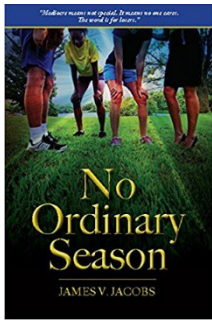
Jim Jacobs, from Galesburg, Illinois, is the author of *No Ordinary Season*, a young adult coming-of-age novel, about Cassie Garnet's senior year as a cross country runner in a small town. It is an inspiring story about learning who you are and what you value.

**Olympic Medal Winner Deena Kastor** says, "*No Ordinary Season* is an extraordinary story...Jacobs tells a beautiful tale ... on the emotional ride that is youth."



Susan Van Kirk, from Monmouth, Illinois writes the *Endurance Mysteries*, three novels and a novella about the Midwest town of Endurance. It's a small town with dark secrets, a little romance, and a murder or two or ...

Of her most recent novel, *Marry in Haste*, the *Midwest Book Review* said, "*Marry in Haste* clearly showcases author Susan Van Kirk as a master of the genre with a genuine flair for originality."



**Local author Michael McCarty will be at The Book Rack on June 10, 1-5:00.**



Mike's latest book is *Bloodline*, co-authored with Judy R. LaGreca.

In the swinging 1960s, over one-hundred-year-old vampire, Daniel Peck, meets the fetching young artist named Georgia “Gigi” Carrington. She is just his type: Blood type that is. Their hot romance smolders into flames when they vow never to see each other again after a blowup. The old vampire is now settled down with motel proprietor, Annie Julliard, at the Stardust Inn with his tween daughter Clarice, and infant son Louis. The vampire family faces a crisis when Annie’s infamous house next to the motel is going to be repossessed. Annie vows to turn “Wall Street into Blood Street” to get her home aka “Vampire Ville” back. After a dispute regarding their finances Annie forces Daniel out. He reconnects with his old flame, Gigi. After a half-a-century apart, their reunion enfolds into an explosive connection and bloodcurdling conclusion to the acclaimed

BLOODLESS Series...

Stop in and visit with these local authors. They will be here for you.

## **Book Reviews**

**Terminal City by Linda Fairstein (2015)**

Assistant DA Alexandra Cooper returns in the new breakneck thriller by the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Death Angel* who once again captures the essence of New York City--its glamour, its history, its possibilities, and its endless capacity for darkness.

Grand Central Station is hiding more than just an underground train system. When the body of a young woman is found in the tower suite of the Waldorf Astoria, Assistant DA Alex Cooper and Detective Mike Chapman find themselves hunting for a killer whose only signature is a carefully drawn symbol carved into his victims' bodies, a symbol that bears a striking resemblance to train tracks.

After a second body is discovered in a terminal alleyway, attention shifts to the iconic transportation hub and the potential for a bigger attack. With the President of the United States set to arrive for a United Nations meeting, Alex and Mike must contend with Grand Central's expansive underground tunnels and century-old dark secrets--as well as their own changing relationship--to find a killer who's cutting a deadly path straight to the heart of the city.

One of the features of Fairstein's books is the insight you get into major New York City landmarks. Terminal City makes me want to visit Grand Central Station, but not the tunnels, which you'll understand after reading the book. So much of the background is accurate, based on the bibliography and author notes. The story is also quite good. I give the book a B+.

### **The Horses of the Night by Michael Cadnum (2015)**

San Francisco architect Stratton Fields has just discovered that a design contest was rigged against him and that the man who engineered the cheat, Ty DeVere, is determined to keep Stratton from success. But when Stratton's enemies, including Ty, start dying mysteriously and Stratton encounters several apparitions, he wonders if he unknowingly made a deal with a supernatural force. Or maybe he murdered these people himself and has no memory of his deeds. Stratton must confront both the humans and the spirits who are causing mayhem to discover the destructive truth.

This is a modern day take on Faust. Faust is the protagonist of a classic German legend. He is a scholar who is highly successful yet dissatisfied with his life, so he makes a pact with the Devil, exchanging his soul for unlimited knowledge and worldly pleasures. Stratton thinks he has made a Faustian bargain, but isn't sure. If he did, can he get away with murder? Did he kill two of his competitors? You'll have to read it to find out, but it's worth it. This is a well done tale. I give it a B and look forward to reading another of Cadnum's several titles.

## **A Killing Night by Jonathon King (2005)**

Max Freeman is at a crossroads. No longer content to live solely in his remote shack in the Everglades, he is looking to move beyond his self-imposed isolation. So when his onetime girlfriend, Detective Sherry Richards, asks for his help as a private investigator in nailing an ex-cop she suspects of killing several young women in South Florida, Max is ready to help her see justice done. But there's a problem. Sherry's suspect is a former police officer from Philadelphia who served with Max's brother-in-law who once saved Max's life. Matters are made worse when Max's own aggressive investigation leads him to believe that Sherry's crusade to protect these women is about to roll over a possibly innocent man.

Caught between his loyalty to Sherry and his debt to his fellow ex-cop, Max's search for the truth will take him back to the streets of Philadelphia, where he will dig into his fellow officer's troubled past . . . only to come face-to-face with his own. And while Max continues his quest, a controlling, cunning killer inexorably closes in on what could be his next victim. . . .

A new author for me, King is a keeper! His writing style is crisp, clear and authentic. His books are not long but thoroughly enjoyable. I give him a B+ and recommend him to mystery readers.

## **The Piano Maker by Kurt Palka (2015)**

The suspenseful, emotionally resonant, and utterly compelling story of what brings an enigmatic French woman to a small Canadian town in the 1930s, a woman who has found depths of strength in dark times and comes to discover sanctuary at last. Helene Giroux arrives alone in St. Homais on a winter day. She wears good city clothes and drives an elegant car, and everything she owns is in a small trunk in the back seat. In the local church she finds a fine old piano, a Molnar, and she knows just how fine it is, for her family had manufactured these pianos before the Great War, when her mother's death and war forced her to abandon her former life.

The story moves back and forth in time as Helene, settling into a simple life, playing the piano for church choir, recalls the extraordinary events that brought her to this place. They include the early loss of her soldier husband and the reappearance of an old suitor who rescues her and her daughter, when she is most desperate; the journeys that very few women of her time could even imagine, into the forests of Indochina in search of ancient treasures and finally, and fatefully, to the Canadian north. When the town policeman confronts her, past and present suddenly converge and she must face an episode that she had thought had been left behind forever.

If you liked *The Impostor Bride*, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay, and/or *The Red Violin*, make a point of reading *The Piano Maker*. I give it an A.

### **Mistress of My Fate by Hallie Rubenhold (2013)**

First of a trilogy about virtue compromised and beauty commodified, set in late-18th-century England.

As a child, Henrietta is brought into the London home of Lord and Lady Stavourley, to be raised along with their two sons and daughter, Catherine. Early on, Henrietta resigns herself to her position in the household—that of a poor cousin, who if she is lucky, will be Catherine's companion after she is married. After Catherine's coming-out, it is to lovely Henrietta that handsome Lord Allenham directs his attention. However, since Henrietta is penniless, and Lord Allenham's cash-strapped family estate needs shoring up, he courts Catherine. Catherine's engagement is announced, but all along Allenham has been secretly corresponding with Henrietta, professing his love. When a scheming housemaid turns the letters over to Catherine, she scratches Henrietta's face and vows revenge. However, days before the wedding, Catherine dies of a fever. As the Stavourley household mourns, Lord Stavourley reveals the truth: Henrietta is no cousin, but his illegitimate daughter. Since Henrietta is dowryless (a spiteful Lady Stavourley controls the purse strings), her only option is marriage to a clergyman of her father's choosing. Desperate, Henrietta flees to Allenham's country estate, where the two consummate their forbidden love. He sets her up in a comfortable cottage, but then, unknown circumstances (which may pertain to his political ambitions) compel him to leave. Fruitlessly searching for Allenham in London, Henrietta learns that her mother was Mrs. Kennedy, a famous courtesan who retired to live with a rich lover, St John. Arriving at St John's residence, she finds she is too late—Mrs. Kennedy died years before. At first St John seems avuncular, but his lustful intentions are soon apparent. Henrietta succumbs since she can't face making her living on the streets, particularly since she is newly pregnant with Allenham's child. Historian Rubenhold has fashioned a page turner rife with choice tidbits about London's demimonde, however readers, kept on tenterhooks by ever more precarious cliffhangers, may feel cheated by the ending. (From a review)

I actually listened to the audio book and found myself intrigued by Henrietta and her constant scheming to survive, provide for her baby and find her true love, Allenham. The notes suggest the author did a very good job researching the times to get the setting right and many of the lesser characters are/were actual people from that time – England at the time of the French Revolution. This attention to detail raised my assessment and I give it a B. It's truly of the

Historical Romance genre, not one I venture into often, but I enjoyed it. As addressed above, I'd suggest planning to read all three of the books in the trilogy or you may well be left wondering.

## Trivia for May

What were Cinderella's slippers made of in Frenchman Charles Perrault's **original** version of the fairy tale classic?

**Answer: Fur.** The slippers became glass when the story was translated into English and *pantoufle en vair* (fur slipper) was mistaken for *pantoufle en verre* (glass slipper).

## 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

Fiona Barton – The Child – 26.00

Terry Brooks – The Fall of Shannara – 28.00

Ben Coes – Trap the Devil – 26.99

Clive Cussler – Nighthawk – 29.00

Meg Gardiner – Unsub – 26.00

Jane Green – The Sunshine Sisters – 26.00

**Simon Green – Moonbreaker – 27.00**  
**John Grisham – Camino Island – 28.95**  
**Paula Hawkins – Into the Water – 28.00**  
**Elin Hilderbrand – The Identicals – 28.00**  
**Lisa Jackson – You Will Pay – 26.00**  
**Dean Koontz – The Silent Corner – 28.00**  
**Eric Van Lustbader – Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Initiative – 28.00**  
**Mike Maden – Tom Clancy, Point of Contact – 29.00**  
**Jodi Picoult – Small Great Things – 17.00**  
**Nora Roberts – Come Sundown – 27.99**  
**Danielle Steel – The Duchess – 28.99**  
**Brad Thor – Use of Force – 27.99**  
**Don Winslow – The Force – 27.99**  
**Stuart Woods – Indecent Exposure – 28.00**

## **Paperback**

**Elizabeth Adler – The Charmers – 7.99**  
**Ralph Compyon – The Shawnee Trail – 7.99**  
**Christine Feehan – Shadow Reaper – 7.99**  
**Joseph Finder – Guilty Minds – 9.99**  
**Heather Graham – Dying Breath – 8.99**  
**W.E.B. Griffin – Broken Trust – 9.99**  
**Iris & Roy Johansen – Night Watch – 9.99**  
**William Johnstone – Powder Burn – 7.99**  
**Stephen King – Under the Dome – 9.99**  
**Mary Kubica – The Good Girl – 9.99**



**David Lagercrantz – The Girl in the Spider's Web – 9.99**

**Susan Mallery – Daughters of the Bride – 8.99**

**Kat Martin – Beyond Reason – 7.99**

**James Patterson - 15<sup>th</sup> Affair – 9.99**

**Brad Thor – Foreign Agent – 9.99**

**F. Paul Wilson – Panacea – 9.99**