

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 9, #11

November 2016

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)

## Reading Trivia for November

Which is the only Shakespearean play to include a mention of America?

*Did you know?*

*Stephen King was offered a 26 million British pound advance for a 3-book deal in 1989, Tom Clancy was given \$75 million for a two-book deal with Penguin in 1997 and in 1999 Monica Lewinsky was offered \$600,000 for her kiss-and-tell tome Monica's Story chronicling her fling with Bill Clinton.*

*On the other hand, Edgar Allan Poe was offered a mere \$14 for Eureka toward the end of his life - and this with the proviso that if the book didn't earn that amount, he had to make up the difference to the publisher. And, John Cleland received just 20 guineas*

*(@ \$105.00) for Fanny Hill from a London Publisher in 1749. The book netted the publisher over 10,000 British Pounds (over \$12,000 at today's exchange rate).*

## **November Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:**

**November 1 – All Saints Day**

**5 – Trish Georgiou Book Singing 11-1:00**

**5 – Book Lovers Day - find a place to relax with a good book**

**8 – Dunce Day & Election Day – Why do you suppose these fall on the same day??**

**8 – Young Readers Day**

**11 – Veteran's Day**

**12 – Cindy McDermott Book Signing 11-1:00**

**13 – World Kindness Day**

**19 – John Spencer Book Signing 11-1:00**

**20 – Universal Children's Day**

**24 – Thanksgiving Day – The Book Rack will be Closed**

**25 – Chuck Oestreich Book Signing 11-1:00**

**25 – Black Friday**

**26 – Sean Leary Book Singing 11-1:00**

**26 – Robert Bancks Book Signing 2-4:00**

**27 – Advent Begins**

**During the month of November, stop by any Saturday and meet our great local authors and register for a chance to win one of 2 \$15 Book Rack gift certificates! No purchase necessary, but always**

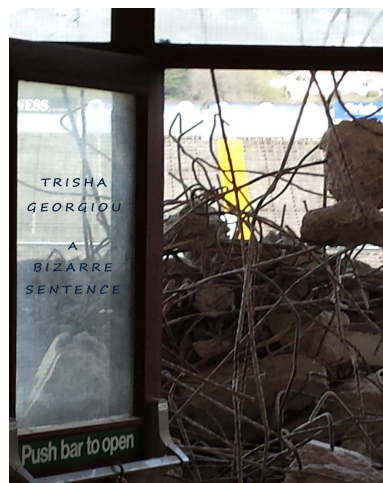
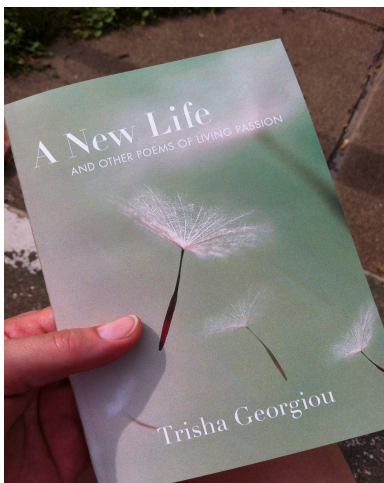
**appreciated. The drawing will be held November 27 and the winners will be announced in the December Newsletter and at the store.**

## **Featured Local Authors for October:**

**Trish Georgiou**



**Trish will be at The Book Rack November 5, 11:00 – 1:00.**



A writer of prose and poetry, Georgiou's works have been featured in publications close to her native Midwestern roots and publications far stemming

to the European markets.

*A New Life* is her third poetry chapbook. Previous works include *Quartered Enlightenment* (Pool boy Publishing 2013), *My Name is A*, (1999). She was a contributing author to Midwest Writing Center's, *A Creative Writing Primer*.

## Cindy McDermott

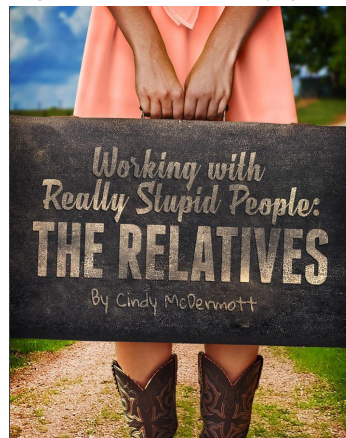


Who is Cindy McDermott?

I'm an internationally award-winning writer and video producer working in the non-profit, manufacturing and military sectors. I've spent most of my time in the public relations business, including 21 years with the United States Navy as a Public Affairs Officer.

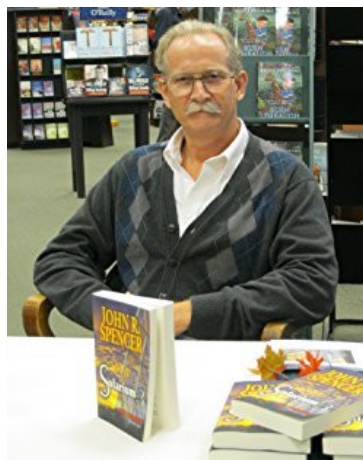
I grew up in the hills of Southeast Missouri on a farm miles away from the nearest kids. My fun times consisted of reading lots of books and playing Cowboys and Indians, with me assuming both roles. (That's hard to do when you're choreographing "fight to the death" scenes. Whoever gets it first makes it hard for the winner to enjoy her victory.)

I'm not out to write Pulitzer prize winners; I just want my readers to have fun. Hey, it's a crazy world. So if I can bring a smile to someone's face or make them laugh out loud with my writing, I've done my job.



“I didn’t need a deal to know they were screwy. The only question was how far south they’d ridden on the crazy train. Either way it was a one-way ticket.” That sums up Jill Fountaine’s feelings about some of the questionable people living in her hometown. Even though she’s suffered through a dysfunctional childhood with alcoholic parents at the root of her gnarly family tree, she’s willing to put the past behind her. Jill’s heading home to Dimlit, or Dimwit as she calls it, to stop them from making a terrible decision. Pushed by money-hungry adult children and their spouses, greedy business owners, shady governmental officials and a devilish preacher who prefers skimming dollars off the collection plate rather than saving souls, her parents are considering a change that could wreck a way of life that Jill thought she’d never revisit. She calls upon her spinster aunt, a former high school infatuation and one of her three ex-husbands for help. Each step of her backwoods investigation uncovers a growing number of people in cahoots, exposing another layer of odd-ball treachery. But she never gives up getting to the bottom of things even as really stupid people pull out all the stops to prevent Jill from saving the day. Follow her hilarious encounters with her down-to-earth family as she reconnects with them after a long absence and the unsavory villains that attempt to foil her at every step. This is the second in the Jill Fountaine series, beginning with *Working with Really Stupid People: The Neighbors*

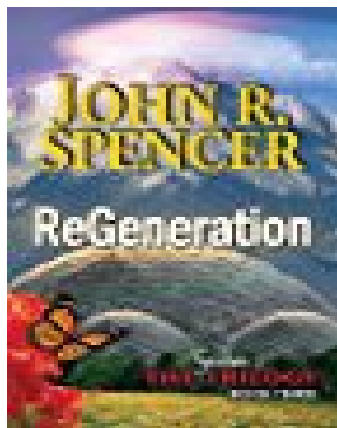
## John Spencer



## John will be at The Book Rack November 19, 11-1:00.

John R. Spencer grew up in Kansas and Colorado, and holds a degree in English Literature from the University of Northern Colorado, where he was, for two years, editor-in-chief of the campus literary magazine NOVA.

In addition to writing, he has enjoyed a diverse career as a police detective, emergency medical technician, coroner's investigator, social worker, and community corrections supervisor. He has also worked as a dramatic director for several community and children's theaters in Colorado, Wisconsin and Illinois. The father of three grown children, he lives with his wife, Candice, in eastern Iowa.



Life In The Midst Of Death. In Haeven (Book Two), the Solarians and their children have struggled to survive INSIDE Solarium-3 against insurmountable odds. Mankind's desire for a better world is now nothing but a bad dream. Life has become the perfect exercise in futility. Daily they wonder, Why go on? Forced OUTSIDE to repair an air leak in the main pod, they faced new risks and old horrors. Searching for answers, they have begun to explore what seems an utterly godforsaken planet. Now, a day's journey has brought four of the Solarians to the ruins of Colorado Springs where unforeseen events drive them to the summit of Pikes Peak. Then comes a mystifying, staggering confrontation. Life is about to take an unexpected turn, new realities are about to erupt around them-and the last thing they ever imagined will be the greatest surprise of all.

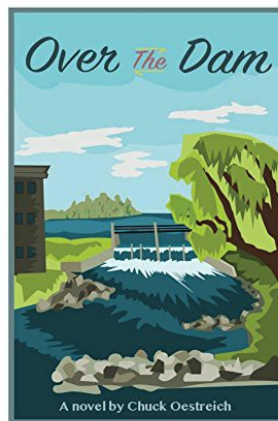
## Chuck Oestreich





**Chuck Oestreich will sign copies of his new novel, *Over the Dam*, at between 11:00 a.m and 1:00 pm. On Friday, November 25, at The Book Rack**

New Novel From Rock Island Author, Chuck Oestreich:



This is Oestreich's third novel and – surprise – it doesn't involve bicycling. His previous books – *Bicycle Moon* and *Sylvan Slough* – both featured people using bicycles for recreation and But this novel is a change of pace for the long time Rock Island citizen. In it he travels back to his hometown, a small community in south central Wisconsin.

During World War II, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, housed a prison camp for German prisoners of the war in Europe. In the book's fictional account, one of them was placed on a work detail that did various jobs around the town. One job found the prisoner in the parking lot behind the high school. A line of high school girls, that brisk fall day, appeared and began to practice football cheers. One of them, a dark haired animated girl, attracted the eye of the prisoner. He was smitten – in fact he fell in love almost immediately.

What becomes of him – and the girl of his cheerleading dreams – is the story of this novel about guilt and innocence, falsehood and truth, and ultimately lives that go over the dam into the clear redemptive waters below.

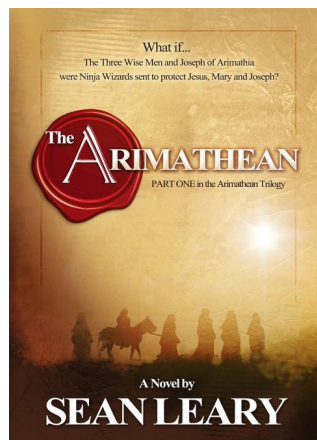
Writer Chuck Oestreich is a graduate of Beaver Dam High School, and was even on its football team. After teaching high school English in Rock Island, Illinois, for many years, he retired to writing novels and a column for the Argus/Dispatch, and doing as much bicycling (in Europe and North America) as he can. He's a veteran RAGBRAI rider, having done it three out of the last four years.

## Sean Leary



## Sean Leary will be at The Book Rack November 26, 11-1:00

Sean Leary began his professional arts career at age 10, writing articles and drawing cartoons for the national newspaper The Comics Buyers Guide. Sean has been published and been involved in the publishing of 18 books, including eight solo works:



What if the three Magi were ninja wizards sent to protect Jesus, Mary and



Joseph from the evil clutches of Satan and King Herod? Find out in *The Arimathean*, a pulse-pounding adventure novel in which the three wise men and Joseph of Arimathea are ninja wizards battling an army of demons and centurions hell-bent on destroying the holy family before they reach Bethlehem.

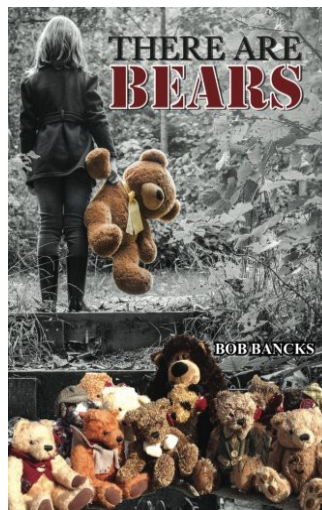
## **Robert Bancks**



**Robert Bancks will be at The Book Rack  
November 26, 2-4:00**

After 48 years of farming in Eastern Iowa, Bob Bancks started his writing career. It started as a hobby, but he soon found he had the knack for weaving stories based on the rural state in which he lives and loves. He and his wife, Jane, worked side by side for all their married years on a farm which has been in the Bancks family for 150 years. They raised three sons and taught them the value of hard work and its rewards.

**There Are Bears  
by Bob Bancks**



When Bobbi returned to her quiet home town of Maquoketa, Iowa with her husband, Dan, she wanted to carry out her childhood dreams of becoming farmer. She didn't realize her former high school boyfriend, Todd, was still in love with her. Todd was the most eligible bachelor in town and a handsome one at that. Because of their financial situation Dan had to find a job away from the farm. Bobbi was home alone most of the time. The farm needed supplies to operate and the local co-op provided those supplies. Todd worked the co-op, so this gave Todd many opportunities to visit Bobbi on the farm. He seemed to Johnny-on-spot each time she needed help when husband Dan wasn't available. Todd came to the rescue in snowstorms, after a severe windstorm and when Bobbi's father had an accident. Her husband, Dan, unfortunately was deployed to Afghanistan. It left the door wide open for Todd. He appeared more often and Bobbi felt him undressing her with his eyes each time he came. She tried to prove Todd was stalking her, but her past relationship with him had people turning a deaf ear. Finally, with time running short, Todd decided he needed to do something drastic, so with the help of his father, he kidnapped Bobbi and her daughter. His plan was to escape to Canada and force Bobbi to live with him. His plan almost works until his father decides to exhort his will on the escape. Bobbi has to survive the fight between father and son to stay alive.

**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.

**This Month's Free Verse Feature is by  
Ellen Tsagaris  
The Trilogy of Tragedy and Trepidation**

**George:** Leather vest, motorcycle boots, corduroy slacks, and those great printed shirts, 1972 was a very good year, one of our best. I see those boots even now, you wearing them. You walked out of our lives, and into eternity wearing them, right out of the concourse doors of San Francisco International Airport, cigarette in hand.

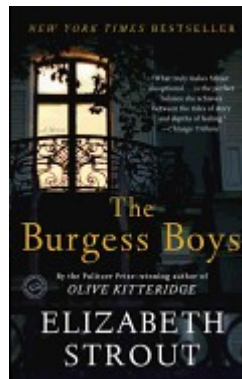
**Desperate Housewife:** Steal a little here, a bit there., pennies, quarters, all from her mother-in law's big black purse with the clasp that cracked smartly, that clanging sound, the faint ring of an iron prison door closing far away. She looks for meaning in her useless life in the bottom of her wine glass. The blonde highlights faded from her hair, the silicone from her breasts slipped further and further, pulling her into a middle aged stoop that makes her belly bulge. Her body, her boobs, her hair, her teeth have all become as useless and phony as her smile. It couldn't provide her sons as heirs to give to her in-laws on Grandparents' Day. All she got was one nephew that she hated, schemed against, but couldn't control. SHE MUST HAVE CONTROL, over everyone, but, "like sands in the hourglass," so sift the days of her life. She's running out of time and control subjects. She tries to tell her husband how she feels – he grunts, Neanderthal for "lay off me!" She has no friends; no one will listen to her, even if they know she's right. Which, of course, she knows she is. Maybe she could buy another "friend," buy him with drinks. Maybe a new fireman, any one, who could quench the fire her latest infusion of cheap wine only seems to stoke.

**Skinny Girl:** That skinny little girl ran away long ago. She was driven out of her own soul by other's baggage. She carried their bags till they became part of her, more and more, porter of other peoples debris tossed from their derailed trains of thought. Soon, she couldn't move that easily, couldn't breathe, couldn't eat for fear of choking on the bitter, undercooked crow crammed down her throat. It added insult to injury that the crow cuisine was not of her recipe. And, what is left? A bitter husk, bloated with venom that courses through her veins in place of blood. The skinny girl's gone, alright, but you wait, "Thar she blows!" It ain't over till this fat lady sings.

## Book Reviews

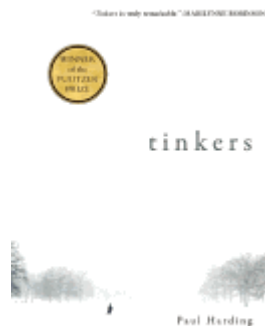
*By Claudia*

***The Burgess Boys*, by Elizabeth Strout (author of *Olive Kitteridge*), (2013)**



The story of Jim and Bob Burgess, brothers who have escaped their Maine home-town, the location of a freak accident that caused their father's death. While they both live in New York, Bob (a bighearted Legal Aid attorney) is continuously belittled by his brother Jim (a successful corporate lawyer) whom he idolizes. When their sister Susan calls them to come home, the tensions and (mis)understandings from their youth come to the surface. Strout's characters are well-developed and interesting, and while I didn't find it as good a read as *Olive Kitteridge*, it's still a good book.

***Tinkers* is the debut novel of Paul Harding which won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize.**

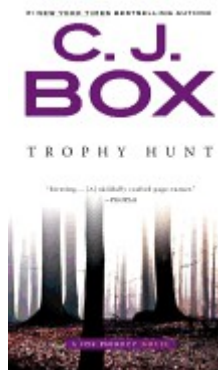


Only 191 pages long, this is a packed story. The following review borrows heavily from I cannot write a review any better than KIRKUS, from which the following is excerpted: 'His organs failing and his mind wandering, retired antique-clock repairman George Washington Crosby prepares to leave this world surrounded by loving family in the house he built himself. In a parallel narrative, his father Howard, a traveling peddler, sells cleaning supplies and sundries to dirt-poor farm wives in 1920s Massachusetts. Barely eking out enough to support his increasingly bitter wife Kathleen and four children, Howard has the heart of a poet and prefers nature walks to selling soap. His

quiet desperation is complicated by regular epileptic seizures that leave him bloody and dazed, sometimes miles from home. When during one of these seizures he badly bites young George, Kathleen takes steps to send her husband to a state-run mental hospital. Howard flees, leaving George to grow up into a meticulous, practical man who stashes cash in safety-deposit boxes, most likely as a reaction to his own penniless youth. Harding employs diary entries, stream-of-consciousness musings and excerpts from clock-repair manuals to tell both mens' stories. Short on dialogue and filled with lovely Whitmanesque descriptions of the natural world, this slim novel gives shape to the extraordinary variety in the thoughts of otherwise ordinary men.' The reader needs to stay attentive, but will be rewarded with a thought- provoking passages concerning love, loss and misunderstandings, and picturesque scenes of nature.

## **The Rest are by me**

### **Trophy Hunt, a Joe Pickett Novel by C.J. Box (2004)**



It's an idyllic late-summer day in Saddlestring, Wyoming, and game warden Joe Pickett is fly-fishing with his two daughters when he stumbles upon the mutilated body of a moose. Whatever—or whoever—attacked the animal was ruthless: half the animal's face has been sliced away, the skin peeled back from the flesh. Shaken by the sight, Joe starts to investigate what he hopes in an isolated incident.

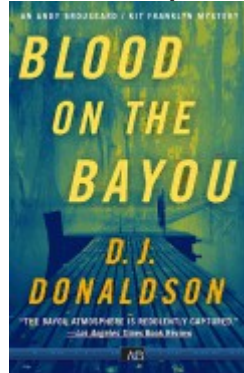
Days later, after the discovery of a small herd of mutilated cattle, Joe realizes this something much more terrifying than he could have imagined. Local authorities are quick to label the attacks the work of a grizzly bear, but Joe knows otherwise. The cuts on the moose and the cattle were too clean, too precise, to have been made by jagged teeth. Are the animals only practice for a killer about to move on to another, more challenging prey?

Soon afterward, Joe's worst fears are confirmed. The bodies of two men are found within hours of each other, in separate locations, their wounds eerily similar to those found on the moose and cattle. There's a vicious killer, a modern-day Jack the Ripper, on the loose in Saddlestring—and it appears his

rampage is just beginning.

I've read a few books by Box and do enjoy his writing. This one I listened to on an MP3 disc. David Chandler did a great job distinguishing the characters by their voices and his inflections, which brings a realism I can't capture strictly from the written page. I give the book a B+ and recommend it to you in any format, but especially in audio book!

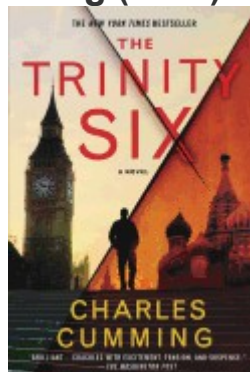
### **Blood on the Bayou by D.J. Donaldson (2014)**



New Orleans's plump and proud chief medical examiner, Andy Broussard, and his gorgeous assistant, criminal psychologist Kit Franklyn, set off to investigate a series of violent murders. Examination of the victims leads to the discovery that each has the throat ripped out: with a garden fork and something unrecognizable--something no man could have made. 'Blood on the Bayou' is written in Donaldson's unique style: A hard-hitting, punchy, action-packed prose that's dripping with a folksy, decidedly southern, sense of irony. Add in Donaldson's brilliant first-hand knowledge of forensics and the sultry flavor of New Orleans, and the result is first class forensic procedural within an irresistibly delectable mystery.

Another very good mystery. I give it an A- and strong recommendation. I also listened to this on audio book read by Brian Troxell, who did a great job with the Louisiana and Cajun accents. He really lend realism to the text.

### **The Trinity Six by Charles Cumming (2011)**





London, 1992. Late one night, Edward Crane, 76, is declared dead at a London hospital. An obituary describes him only as a 'resourceful career diplomat'. But Crane was much more than that – and the circumstances surrounding his death are far from what they seem.

Fifteen years later, academic Sam Gaddis needs money. When a journalist friend asks for his help researching a sixth member of the notorious Trinity spy ring, Gaddis knows that she's onto a story that could turn his fortunes around. But within hours the journalist is dead, apparently from a heart attack.

Taking over her investigation, Gaddis trails a man who claims to know the truth about Edward Crane. Europe still echoes with decades of deadly disinformation on both sides of the Iron Curtain. And as Gaddis follows a series of leads across the continent, he approaches a shocking revelation – one which will rock the foundations of politics from London to Moscow...

Do you like Le Carre'? Then give this book a shot. You may just find yourself adding Cumming to your request list! I give it an A-. It doesn't have the intense action throughout like some spy thrillers, but it's well written and plausible! Cumming has several additional titles to look forward to reading when you've finished this one.

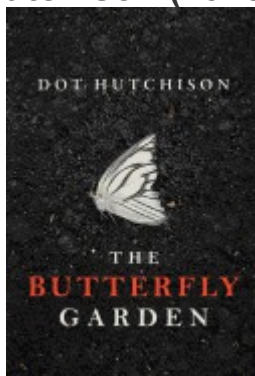
### **The Chicago Way by Michael Harvey (2007)**



Chicago private investigator Michael Kelly is hired by his former partner, John Gibbons, to help solve an eight-year-old rape and battery case, a case it turns out his old friend was once ordered to forget. When Gibbons turns up dead on Navy Pier, Kelly enlists a team of his savviest colleagues to connect the dots between the recent murder and the cold case it revived: Diane Lindsay, a television reporter whose relationship with Kelly is not strictly professional; his best friend from childhood, Nicole Andrews, a forensic DNA expert; Nicole's boyfriend, Vince Rodriguez, a detective with a special interest in rape cases; and Bennett Davis from the DA's office, a friend since Kelly's days on the force. To close the case, Kelly will have to face the mob, a serial killer, his own double-crossing friends, and the mean streets of the city he loves.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The plot was very well developed, but it's Harvey's style that really hooked me. The excellent mixture of serious PI techniques and cool, dry wit made this a great read. If you like crime novels this one is a sure thing. I give it an A!

### **The Butterfly Garden by Dot Hutchison (2016)**

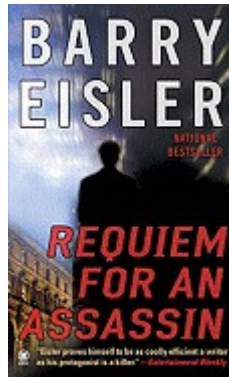


Near an isolated mansion lies a beautiful garden. In this garden grow luscious flowers, shady trees and a collection of precious butterflies - young women who have been kidnapped and intricately tattooed to resemble their namesakes. Overseeing it all is the Gardener, a brutal, twisted man obsessed with capturing and preserving his lovely specimens. When the garden is discovered, a survivor is brought in for questioning. FBI agents Victor Hanoverian and Brandon Eddison are tasked with piecing together one of the most stomach-churning cases of their careers. But the girl, known only as Maya, proves to be a puzzle herself. As her story twists and turns, slowly shedding light on life in the Butterfly Garden, Maya reveals old grudges, new saviors, and horrific tales of a man who'd go to any length to hold beauty captive. But the more she shares, the more the agents have to wonder what she's still hiding.

"Due to a VERY slow day at work, I started and finished this book in one day! It was captivating, brilliant, and nauseating. I loved the writing, and the story felt so original. Kudos to the author." Goodreads review.

I found The Butterfly Garden to be engrossing, very well written and surprising. Yes, it was unsettling, but the violence was more implied than graphic. You envision it, but do not have it presented in detail. I give it a B+ and a high recommendation.

## Requiem for an Assassin by Barry Eisler (2007)



If you had to kill three people to save your best friend's life, would you do it? When John Rain decides to get out of the business, his hand is forced by rogue CIA operative Jim Hilger. Hilger kidnaps Dox, Rain's trusted partner and closest friend, and offers Rain a choice: carry out a final assignment, or bear the responsibility for Dox's murder. For a professional like John Rain, the choice ought to be easy: Do the job—a series of three hits—then walk away. But how does Rain know Jim Hilger won't kill Dox anyway, once the assignment is complete? How does he know that each of the hits isn't simultaneously a setup for Rain himself? And what will he do when he finds out that among the targets of this lethal game of extortion is someone else Rain cares about deeply? From the urban canyons of Silicon Valley and New York to the lush forests of Bali, the boulevards of Paris, and the old killing fields of Vietnam, Rain must grapple with his age, his enemies, and most of all, his conscience in a battle that not even Rain can hope to survive intact.

Requiem is a good thriller and the 5<sup>th</sup> of Eisler's Rain series. Rain is a worthy member of the literary Assassin cadre. If you like this genre, look for Eisler on The Book Rack shelves in General Fiction. I give it a B.

## Reading Trivia for November

Which is the only Shakespearian play to include a mention of America?

*A Comedy of Errors (Act III, Scene ii).*

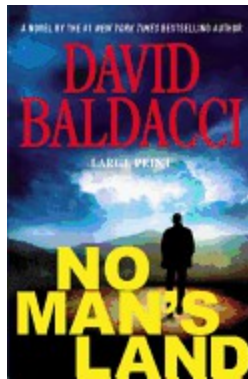
{A prophetic reference to the 2016 presidential election???

## Upcoming New Releases:

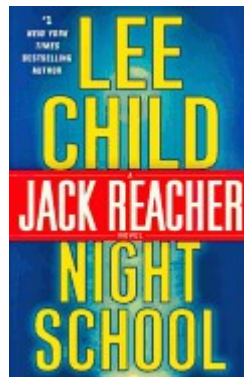
Check out the prices following the title of the book. The first price is the publisher's price. The second price is **The Book Rack** price, which is normally 20% lower. When you pick it at the store there is no shipping cost, though we can also ship it to you. Order now by calling one of the stores 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. The genre follows the price.

## Hardcover and Trade Paperback

David Baldacci – No Man's Land – 29.00/23.20



Lee Child – Night School, A Jack Reacher Novel – 28.99/23.20

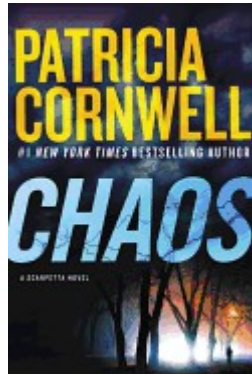


Paul Coelho – The Spy – 22.00/17.60

Michael Connelly – The Wrong Side of Goodbye – 29.00/23.20

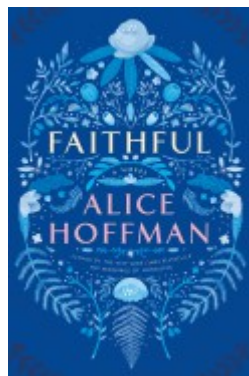


**Patricia Cornwell – Chaos – 28.99/23.20**



**Janet Evanovich – Turbo Twenty-Three – 28.00/22.40**

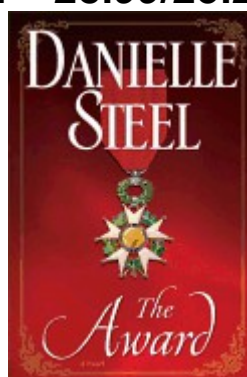
**Alice Hoffman – Faithful – 26.00/20.80**



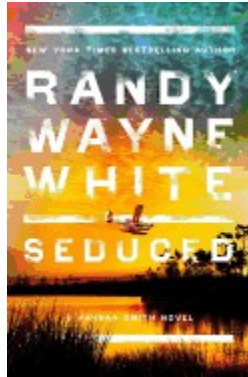
**Jeff Kinney – Diary of a Wimpy Kid #11: Double Down – 13.95/11.20**

**James Patterson – Cross the Line – 29.00/23/20**

**Danielle Steel – The Award – 28.99/23.20**

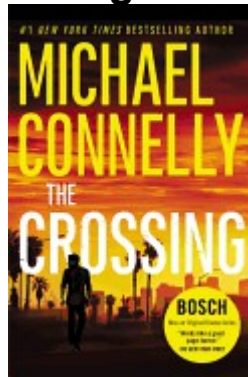


**Randy Wayne White – Seduced – 27.00/21.60**

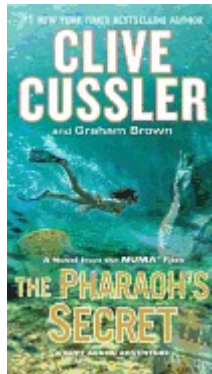


## **Paperback**

**Michael Connelly – The Crossing – 9.99/8.00**

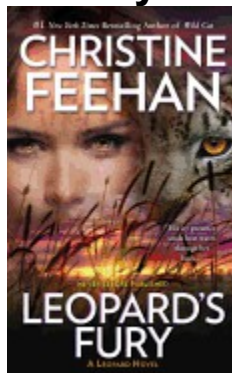


**Clive Cussler – The Pharaoh's Secret – 9.99/8.00**



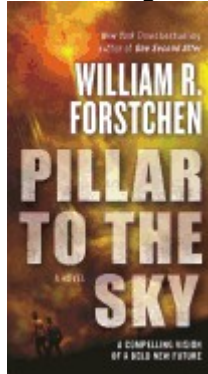
**Janet Evanovich – Tricky Twenty-Two – 8.99/7.20**

**Christine Feehan – Leopard's Fury – 7.99/6.40**

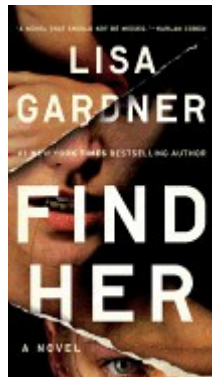




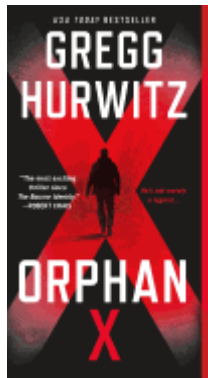
**William Forschen – Pillar to the Sky – 9.99/8.00**



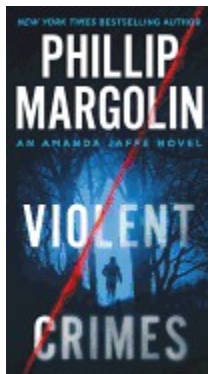
**Lisa Gardner – Find Her – 9.99/8.00**



**Greg Hurwitz – Orphan X – 9.99/8.00**



**Phillip Margolin – Violent Crimes – 9.99/8.00**



**Kathy Reichs – The Bone Collection – 9.99/8.00**

**JR Ward – The Beast – 7.99/6.40**