

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 10, #11
November 2017
563-355-2310

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

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

Trivia for November

What American novelist was challenged to a duel and beaten
by a woman he later married?

See below for the answer.

November Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

National Novel Writing Month

- 1 – All Saints Day
- 2 – Men Make Dinner Day – Guys, if you need help with this we have many great cookbooks!
- 4 – Book Lovers Day
- 9 - IWLC – The Women's Connection Presents: LAILA LALAMI
- 11 – Veteran's Day
- 11 – Local Author Donna Beserra will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00
- 13 – Caregivers Appreciation Day
- 14 – Young Reader's Day
- 16 – Great American Smoke-out
- 17 – World Peace Day – We do keep hoping!
- 23 – Thanksgiving Day – The Book Rack will be CLOSED
- 24 – Black Friday - The Book Rack will be OPEN
- 25 – Small Business Saturday

Holiday Special Offer from The Book Rack



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

\$25 Gift Certificate costs \$20

\$50 costs \$40

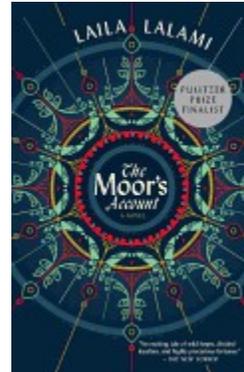
\$100 costs \$80

Our Gift Certificates NEVER expire!

But this Offer ends December 31!

IWLC – The Women's Connection Presents

LAILA LALAMI



Thursday, November 9, 2017

Holiday Inn, Rock Island

5:30 – 7:30 PM

To Order Tickets: iwcleads.org/events/international-authors-event/

The Book Rack will have copies of Laila's books before, during and after the event.

Laila Lalami was born in Rabat and educated in Morocco, Great Britain, and the United States. She is the author of the novels *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*, which was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award; *Secret Son*, which was on the Orange Prize longlist; and *The Moor's Account*, which won the American Book Award, the Arab American Book Award, and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. It was on the Man Booker Prize longlist and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Her essays and opinion pieces have appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, The Nation, the

Guardian, the New York Times, and in many anthologies. She writes the “Between the Lines” column for The Nation magazine and is a critic-at-large for the Los Angeles Times. The recipient of a British Council Fellowship, a Fulbright Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship, she is currently a professor of creative writing at the University of California at Riverside.

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.

Our Free Verse Author for November is Ellen Tsagaris.

Dr. Ellen Tsagaris is program chair for the Criminal Justice, Legal Studies, and Paralegal Studies Departments at Kaplan University, Davenport campus. She is also a dedicated college professor, blogger, doll curator, and a lifelong poet.



Zombie Household

It was, or should have been, a typical zombie day, but everything went wrong.

ZaZa Zambini, mother of the clan, was looking forward to a typical Tuesday. Fava beans and brains zombie stew was in the Crockpot.

The kids' lunches, jellied brains and peanut butter, were all set out. As a treat, each had an additional bag of gummi body parts and blood oranges. ZaZa had drawn rotting corpses with happy faces on each lunch bag, old fashioned brown bags, like the ones her mama did,

before she'd fallen apart and rotted away.

ZaZa had ash-blonde, waist length hair, twisted now into a chignon. She wore a light brown business suit, cream silk blouse, and a Hermes scarf tied at her neck. It helped hide the stitches of her recent head re-attachment. She was sipping her coffee, morning grog flavored with sweet breads; she didn't trust the pink stuff. She wondered if she had time to make another cup with her Keurig.

Dan Zambini, her hubby, had a terrible cold. Their cat, a grey Persian named Fleur, was still in their room with Dan, purring and cajoling for early morning cat snacks. Papa Zambo Zambini, her father-in-law, hobbled in on crutches. He was a retired gravedigger who still worked special assignments. He'd knocked off a foot trying to unearth Clara Barton Zombie for the local Preternatural Hospital for the Legally Infirm and Pronounced Deadline Insane Fundraiser. He'd been filling out workzombie's compensation forms all week. He'd done the job partly as a favor; "no good deed goes unpunished", he'd say. He and Clara had gone steady in school. She was a great ghoul, and like Papa, she didn't show her age. She wore rot well.

ZaZa looked up at the Time Clock on the wall; it jarred her from her musings. She was late for a meeting. Her supervisor was a real witch, no, seriously. Betty Beersheba was a hard character to deal with. She was the HR Head at the School of Horror where ZaZa taught self preservation and history of monsters. Poor Beersheba was one stupid Zombie; she just couldn't think outside the casket. ZaZa had an apocalypse of her own long before, when she decided that her dense colleague couldn't claw her way out of her own grave.

Much later, as she soaked in a hot tub sipping a chardonnay before dinner, ZaZa remembered back to when she was a fresh corpse. She and Dan had enjoyed many

moonlight strolls by the local rendering plant and also shopping at Whole Foods for the delicacies they both loved to cook up.

Life had been simpler then; she and Dan had worked the graveyard shift at Tokar's Funeral home for minimum wage and all the brains they could eat. Even now, just a whiff of embalming fluid made her nostalgic.

Where did the time go? Two obnoxious brats and a cat that hated her; there was nothing left for her. . Her hubby at least had his brain refreezing business, "We Defrost on Demand" at Brain Freeze! Her sister-in-law, a vampire princess named Delilah, ran the family business, embalming fluids and cosmetics for the dearly departed. The company was called Forever Pretty. Delilah seemed happy, and was proof that intermarriage worked.

So, why was ZaZa so miserable?

Two weeks later ZaZa sat in a therapist's office. The therapist was a grizzled werewolf named Esmeralda Lobokins de Londres. She came with great recommendations from Delilah, "Darling," you will simply DIE with relief, [again], when you talk to Esme.

She had signed up for the double sessions, two times a week, so ZaZa was about to start her 4th. So far, they had discussed separation anxiety, which in the zombie world meant losing your old limbs and replacing them with fresher one's. Also, they had covered the trauma of transitioning from traditional living to dead to zombie. ZaZa hadn't really experienced any significant trauma there.

It wasn't that she didn't like Esme, or that her fees were unreasonable. In any case, she had insurance for it, Mutual of Transylvania. No, she figured she was just suffering from ennui, of everything. Tired of the kids who want the latest this or that, and tired of her husband ignoring her. She needed to find something, to find herself, or at least one of her selves.

In another life, literally, she had been a Little Sister of Charity. She remembered how rewarding it had been, just her and divine providence. It got her thinking. Don't zombies need charity, too, don't they despair—Of course they do!!!

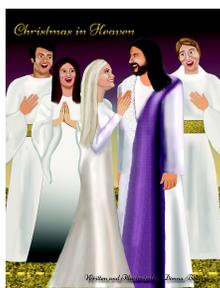
The next day, she was packed up and ready to go. She'd found a convent on the Dark Web for the supernatural, and she was ready to devote her life to eternal good deeds, basket of freeze dried brain jerky in hand.

Featured Author: Donna Beserra

Donna will be back at [The Book Rack](#) November 11, 11-1:00 signing copies of her books and visiting with customers. Stop in! She will have copies of her 2 Holiday books available for purchase and autographing, if you would like her to.



Christmas in Heaven



It was two weeks before Christmas and six-year-old Julie was full of anticipation. Her parents, Dave and Carol had taught little Julie about the true meaning of Christmas. Carol would always read the bible story of Christ's birth. Then the family would pray and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus before opening their gifts.

Twirly Shirley and The Brother Like No Other



The wind is howling and snow is swirling. Knees are knocking and teeth are chattering. Everyone in the room has frosted hair. Is this the North Pole? Not exactly. It's just the school Christmas Program starring the girl with the famous spinning braids. Twirly Shirley has created a snow storm right in the middle of the school auditorium. Twirly Shirley And The Brother Like No Other combines the adventures of Twirly Shirley with a lesson about love and forgiveness. This story will entertain young and old alike. Does anyone out there have a brother like no other? If you do, be sure to read this book. So join in with the audience for a spectacular performance. Just be sure to dress warm and sit a few rows back. You never know when Shirley might get wound up again, and you could find yourself in the middle of a blizzard!

Donna was inspired to write books because of a hobby she shared with her children. When they were very young, the children loved to act out their favorite fairy tales. In order to encourage their creativity, Donna began making costumes and allowing her kids to perform the stories on home video. Donna decided to invent her own fairy tale and Twirly Shirley was born. The main character is a little girl whose braids spin when she is nervous or excited. Donna's first story was titled, *Twirly Shirley in My Sister the Twister*.

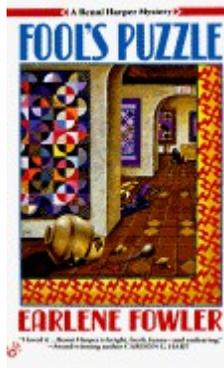
Donna later decided to publish her story as a book so she could share it with others. This evolved into a series. Donna went on to publish "*Twirly Shirley in Hurricane Shirley*", "*Twirly Shirley and the Brother like No Other*" and "*Twirly Shirley and the Tsunami Mommy*". The series helps kids learn to deal with their emotions. Donna began visiting schools and children's organizations to discuss the importance of reading and writing.

Donna went on to add Creative Creatures to her collection of published work. These books were interactive and designed to inspire children to discover their talents. Each book features a different child and creature, therefore emphasizing that each person is unique, with his or her own special set of talents. Titles include: *Buffy the Butterfly's Apple Orchard*, *Barton the Bat's Pumpkin Patch*, *Maurice the Mouse's Cornfield*, *Pirate the Parrot's Tropical Treasure* and *Sabrina Ballerina and Kitty Catarina*.

Donna has taught a variety of classes at Black Hawk College and Midwest Writing Center based on her books. Children's classes include; "Jump Write In" (How to write and illustrate a book), "Movie Making Fun", and "Discover Your Talent". Donna has taught Self-Publishing for adults as well.

Book Reviews

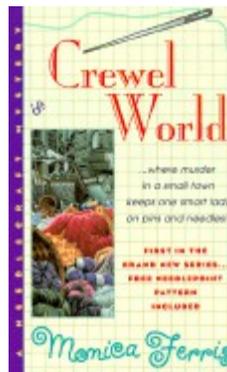
Fool's Puzzle by Earlene Fowler (1994)



Leaving behind memories of her late husband, Benni Harper is making a fresh start...Moving to the trendy California town of San Celina, she takes an exciting new job as director of a folk-art museum. While setting up an exhibit of handmade quilts, she stumbles upon the body of a brutally stabbed artist. Hoping to conduct an investigation on her own, she crosses paths with the local police chief, who thinks this short and sassy cowgirl should leave detecting to the cops and join him for dinner. But it's hard to keep a country girl down, and soon Benni uncovers an alarming pattern of family secrets, small-town lies--and the shocking truth about the night her husband died...

A thoroughly enjoyable mystery with a protagonist you'll love in Benni Harper and plenty of titles to keep you in suspense for a long spell! I give it a B+ and a strong recommendation. If you like Monica Ferris, Carolyn Hart or Dorothy Cannell, you will like Earlene Fowler!

Crewel World by Monica Ferris (1999)

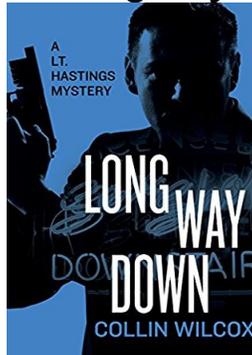


The art of needlecraft requires patience, discipline, and creativity. So, too, does the art of detection. Just ask Betsy Devonshire – who's learning that life in a small-town needlecraft shop can reveal an unexpected knack for knitting...and a hidden talent for unraveling crime. When Betsy arrived in Excelsior, Minnesota, all she wanted was to visit her sister Margot and to get her life in order. She

never dreamed her sister would give her a place to stay and a job at her needlecraft shop. In fact, things had never looked so good – until Margot was murdered. In a town this friendly, it's hard to imagine who could have committed such a horrible crime. But Betsy has a few ideas. There's an ex-employee who wants to start her own needlework store. And there's the landlord who wants Margot out. Now Betsy's putting together a list of motives and suspects to figure out this killer's pattern of crime.

This is another delightful mystery, like “Fool's Puzzle” above. It was particularly enjoyable since our daughter and her husband just bought a home in Chanhassan, Mn, just a hop, skip and a jump from Excelsior! I kept putting the book down and checking on the places mentioned in the book and there are/were actual stores, sights and events located exactly where described in the book! How fun is that! We'll be visiting them as we familiarize ourselves with the area while visiting. The story was a very good first effort by Ferris, who has since added 22 more for you to enjoy. I give it a B. You will like Betsy and her staff of needlework experts and she stitches together the crimes and finds the killers.

Long Way Down, A Lieutenant Hastings Mystery by Collin Wilcox (1974)

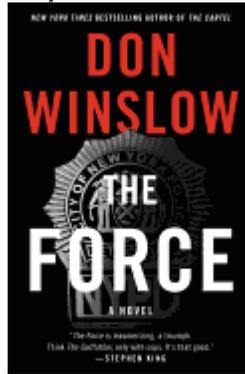


A John Doe murder spurs Hastings to confront the leader of a Satanic cult. For homicide lieutenant Frank Hastings, the day starts with an assassination attempt. During a rally in San Francisco's Civic Center, someone takes a potshot at the governor, sending the whole of downtown into chaos. Once he has taken control of the scene, Hastings chases down the gunman -- a Mexican immigrant with a political bent -- and captures him after a tense standoff. Miraculously, no one is killed. But Hastings's long day is just getting started. He's barely had time to catch his breath when the call comes in from Noe Valley, where an unidentified man has been found dead on a nude model's floor. All signs point to a simple case of death by jealousy until a second killing upends the investigation, setting Hastings on a collision course with the charismatic leader of a Satanic cult. For this homicide lieutenant, saving the governor will have been the easy part.

A short (184 pages) but taut crime mystery. Wilcox's hero was not a superhero:

he was, instead, a committed policeman who followed the rules and had a nose for clues. He is a master of plotting and of characterization. I give it a B and recommend any Wilcox book. There are 20 titles in the Lieutenant Hastings series, plus a few titles outside this primary series. They are sure to be good cop stories. (Parts borrowed from Goodreads review, but reflective of my opinion.)

The Force by Don Winslow (2017)



Our ends know our beginnings, but the reverse isn't true . . .

All Denny Malone wants is to be a good cop.

He is "the King of Manhattan North," a, highly decorated NYPD detective sergeant and the real leader of "Da Force." Malone and his crew are the smartest, the toughest, the quickest, the bravest, and the baddest, an elite special unit given unrestricted authority to wage war on gangs, drugs and guns. Every day and every night for the eighteen years he's spent on the Job, Malone has served on the front lines, witnessing the hurt, the dead, the victims, the perps. He's done whatever it takes to serve and protect in a city built by ambition and corruption, where no one is clean--including Malone himself.

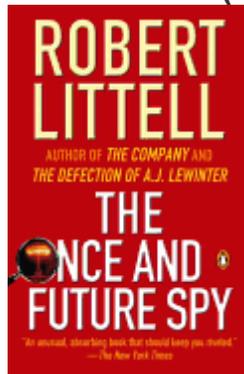
What only a few know is that Denny Malone is dirty: he and his partners have stolen millions of dollars in drugs and cash in the wake of the biggest heroin bust in the city's history. Now Malone is caught in a trap and being squeezed by the Feds, and he must walk the thin line between betraying his brothers and partners, the Job, his family, and the woman he loves, trying to survive, body and soul, while the city teeters on the brink of a racial conflagration that could destroy them all.

Based on years of research inside the NYPD, this is the great cop novel of our time and a book only Don Winslow could write: a haunting and heartbreaking story of greed and violence, inequality and race, crime and injustice, retribution and redemption that reveals the seemingly insurmountable tensions between the police and the diverse citizens they serve. A searing portrait of a city and a courageous, heroic, and deeply flawed man who stands at the edge of its abyss, "The Force" is a masterpiece of urban living full of shocking and surprising twists, leavened by flashes of dark humor, a morally complex and utterly riveting dissection of modern American society and the controversial issues confronting

and dividing us today.

If you've read my reviews over the past few years you are fully aware of my love of Don Winslow's books. They have been unfailingly exceptional. The Force maintains that standard as it shifts the locale from the West Coast to the East Coast while staying firmly in the criminal justice arena. Winslow weaves in many of the conflicts and events that have made headlines in recent years and severely impacted police departments across the country and their relationships to the citizens they are sworn to protect. I give it an A+ and strongly recommend it to you. Having just been released in hardcover, add it to your Request List and patiently wait until it comes in, if you can. Otherwise, simply order it new and keep it on your shelf after you finish as a future classic.

The Once and Future Spy by Robert Littell (1990)



Littell constructs a tale of espionage and counterespionage revealing the dirty tricks and dangerous secrets about the subjects he knows intimately - the CIA and American history, past and present. At the center of Littell's plot is an elite plan, so secret and so dangerous that its existence is known only to a tiny group of specialists within CIA headquarters. There is virtually no paper trail but, somehow, the plan has sprung a leak. The plotters must urgently trace it or face deadly consequences. Meanwhile, at work elsewhere on another highly sensitive project for "the Company" is an operative known as "the Weeder" a man obsessed with American history and one of its heroes. When the Weeder's and Washington's clandestine worlds collide, the present faces the past and disturbing moral choices are weighed against a shining patriotic dream. What is the truth? Whose truth should be believed?

I've enjoyed all Littell's books I've read, up to now. This one just didn't cut it. The spy aspect in the present was not compelling, complex or credible. The spy stuff in the past was pretty superficial. I give it a C. Far from his best work.

Trivia for November

What American novelist was challenged to a duel and beaten by a woman he later married?

Answer: Jack London. His duel with Charmian Kittredge was with foils, face masks and breast plates. Charmian Kittredge London was an American writer and second wife of Jack London.

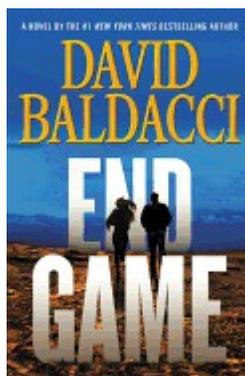
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

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.

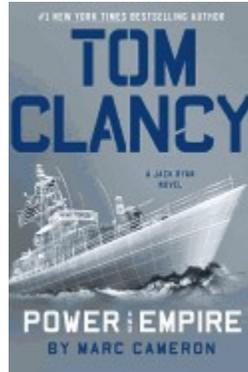
You can also add any of these titles to your request list. Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but most will get to you eventually.

Hardcover and Trade Paperback

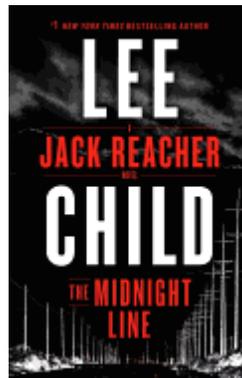
David Baldacci – The End Game – 29.00



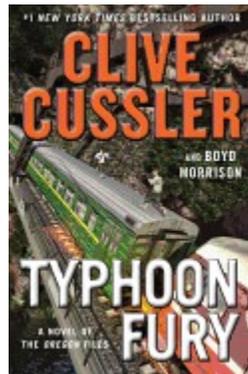
Marc Cameron - Tom Clancy: Power and Empire – 29.95



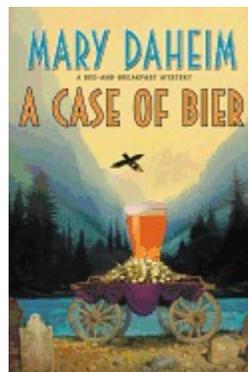
Lee Child – The Midnight Line – 28.99



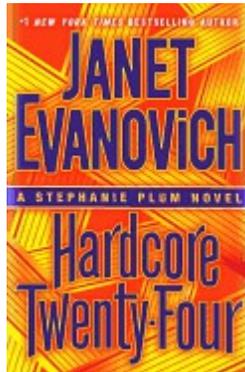
Clive Cussler – Typhoon Fury – 29.00



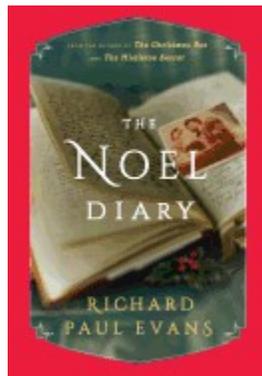
Mary Daheim - A Case of Bier A Bed-and-Breakfast Mystery – 23.99



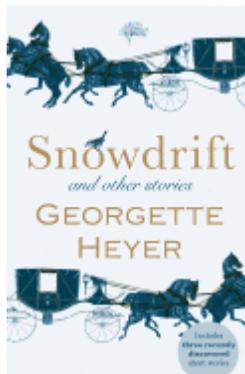
Janet Evanovich – Hardcore Twenty – Four – 28.00



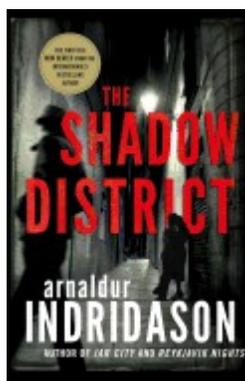
Richard Paul Evans – The Noel Diary – 19.99



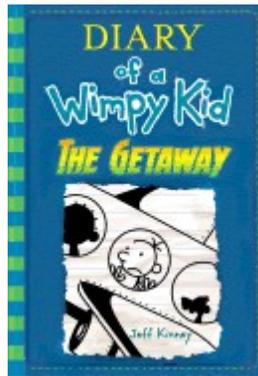
Georgette Heyer - Snowdrift and Other Stories – 13.99



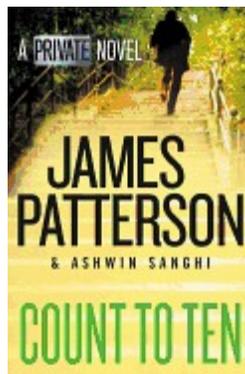
Arnaldur Indridason - The Shadow District A Thriller – 25.99



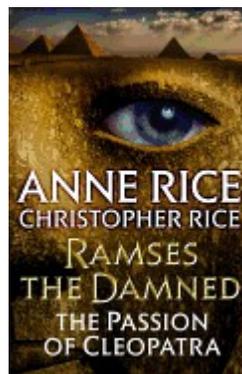
Jeff Kinney – The Getaway (The Diary of a Wimpy Kid #12) – 13.95



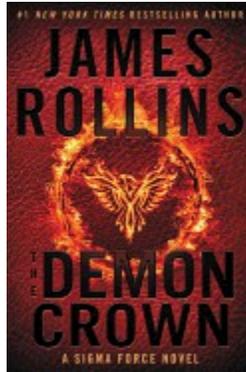
James Patterson - Count to Ten A Private Novel – 35.00



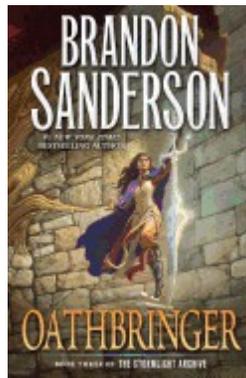
Anne Rice – Ramses the Damned, The Passion of Cleopatra – 16.00



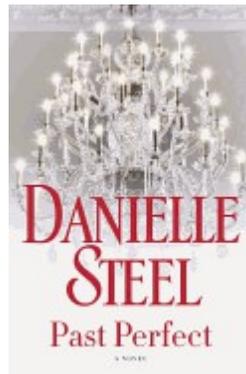
James Rollins – The Demon Crown – 28.99



Brandon Sanderson – Oathbringer – 34.99

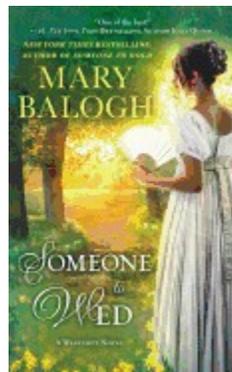


Danielle Steel – Past Perfect – 28.99

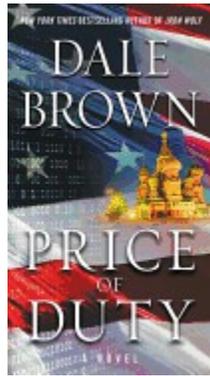


Paperback

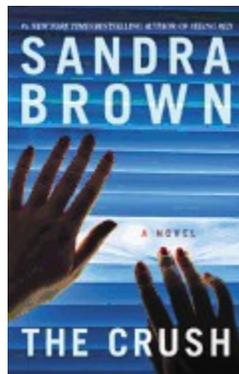
Mary Balogh - Someone to Wed A Westcott Novel – 7.99



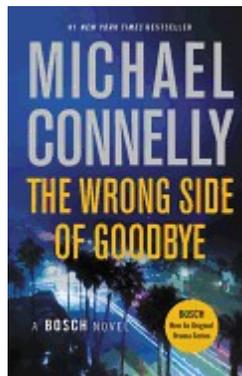
Dale Brown - Price of Duty – 9.99



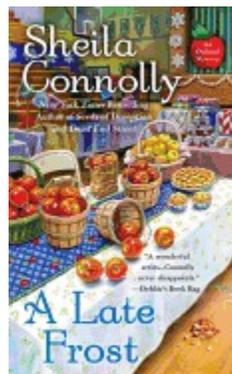
Sandra Brown - The Crush – 7.99



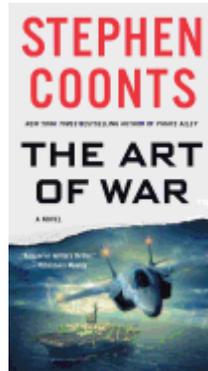
Michael Connelly - The Wrong Side of Goodbye A Bosch Novel – 9.99



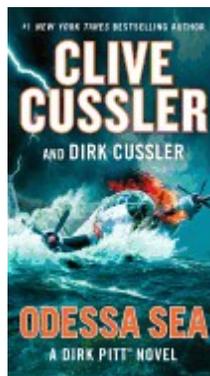
Sheila Connolly - A Late Frost An Orchard Mystery -7.99



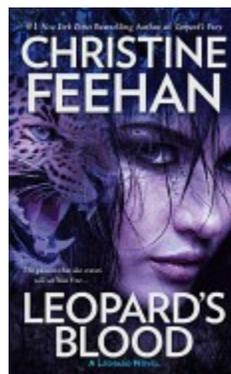
Stephen Coonts - The Art of War – 9.99



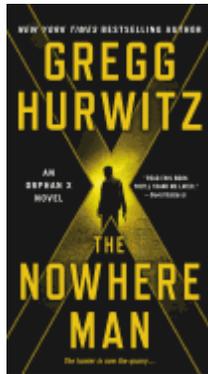
Clive Cussler - Odessa Sea A Dirk Pitt Novel – 9.99



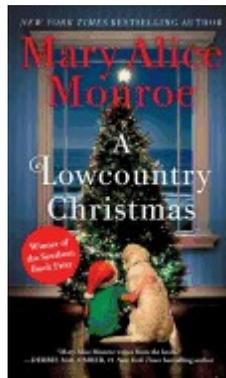
Christine Feehan - Leopard's Blood A Leopard Novel – 7.99



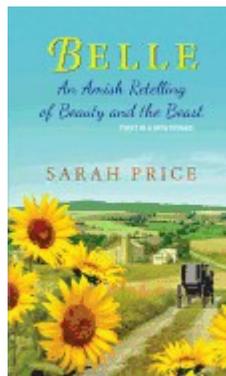
Gregg Hurwitz - The Nowhere Man An Orphan X Novel – 9.99



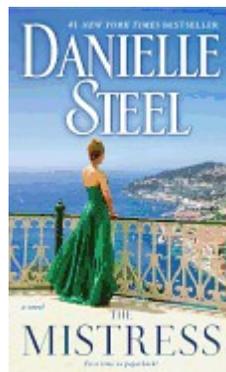
Mary Alice Monroe - A Lowcountry Christmas – 7.99



Sarah Price - Belle An Amish Retelling of Beauty and the Beast – 7.99



Danielle Steel - The Mistress – 8.99



David Weber - At the Sign of Triumph – 9.99

