

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 10, #9  
September 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](mailto:BookRackQC@Gmail.com)

## Trivia for September

In the Ernest Hemingway classic *The Old Man and the Sea*,  
what famous athlete does the old man say he would like to  
take fishing?

See below for the answer.

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## ***Locals Love Us annual vote for Best Bookstore***

From now through September 30 you can vote for your  
favorite bookstore in the QCA. (Hint: [The Book Rack](#))

Vote Now By going to [LocalsLoveUs.com](http://LocalsLoveUs.com)

The Book Store option is under the Shopping heading, page 4

Vote Early ~~& Often!~~ (Uh-uh! You can only vote once.)

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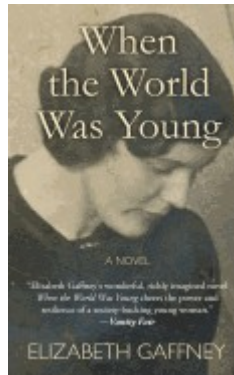
# September Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

September – 2 VJ Day, WWII

- 4 - Labor Day – **The Book Rack will be OPEN**
- 10 - Grandparents Day the first Sunday after Labor Day
- 11 – 9/11 Remembrance
- 17 – Constitution Day
- 20 – Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
- 21 – International Peace Day (UN)
- 22 – Autumnal Equinox
- 23 – Native American Day - the fourth Friday of the month
- 23 – Oktoberfest begins in Germany
- 29 – Yom Kippur
- 30 – Last day to vote **The Book Rack** your favorite book store at [LocalsLoveUs.com](http://LocalsLoveUs.com)

## Book Reviews

**When the World Was Young by Elizabeth Gaffney (2014)**



Wally Baker is no ordinary girl. Living in her grandparents' Brooklyn Heights brownstone, she doesn't like dresses, needlepoint, or manners. Her love of *Wonder Woman* comics and ants makes her feel like a misfit—especially in the shadow of her dazzling but unstable mother, Stella.

Acclaimed author Elizabeth Gaffney's irresistible novel captures postwar Brooklyn through Wally's eyes, opening on V-J day, as she grows up with the rest of America. Reeling from her own unexpected wartime tragedy and navigating an increasingly fraught landscape, Wally is forced to confront painful truths about the world—its sorrows, its prejudices, its conflicts, its limitations. But Wally also finds hope and strength in the unlikeliest places.

With an unforgettable cast of characters, including the increasingly distant and distracted Stella; Loretta, the family's black maid and Wally's second mother;

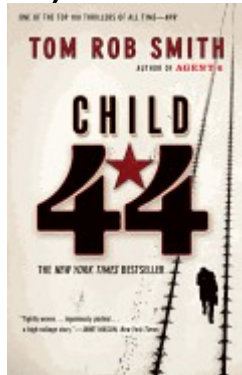
Ham, Loretta's son, who shares Wally's enthusiasm for ants and exploration; Rudy, Wally's father, a naval officer, away serving in the Pacific; and Mr. Niederman, the family's boarder, who never seems to answer Wally's questions—and who she suspects may have something to hide—Elizabeth Gaffney crafts an immersive, beautifully realized novel about the truths that divide and the love that keeps us together.

### **Praise for *When the World Was Young***

“Elizabeth Gaffney’s wonderful, richly imagined novel *When the World Was Young* cheers the power and resilience of a society-bucking young woman.”—***Vanity Fair***

“Gaffney’s heroines are brave and flawed (in a good way).”—***Marie Claire***  
Claudia & I listened to the *When the World Was Young* audio book on a recent road trip and were quickly engrossed in the story. We both were captivated by Wally (Wallace) and her growth from a young child to a young woman. I give it a B+.

### **Child 44 by Tom Rob Smith (2008) Book #1 of the Child Trilogy**

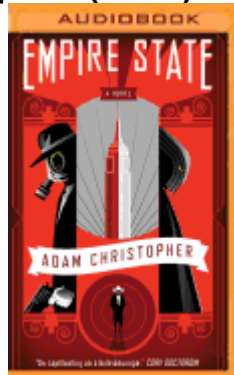


MGB officer Leo Demidov is a man who never questions the Party Line. He arrests whomever he is told to arrest. He dismisses the horrific death of a young boy because he is told to, because he believes the Party stance that there can be no murder in Communist Russia. Leo is the perfect soldier of the regime. But suddenly his confidence that everything he does serves a great good is shaken. He is forced to watch a man he knows to be innocent be brutally tortured. And then he is told to arrest his own wife. Leo understands how the State works: Trust and check, but check particularly on those we trust. He faces a stark choice: his wife or his life. And still the killings of children continue...

A very somber novel set in Soviet Russia - a very somber place. But a really good thriller. Insights into the omnipresent and oppressive state and how one

good man made a difference at a significant cost to himself and his wife. I give it a B+ and look forward to reading the other 2 books in the trilogy.

### **Empire State by Adam Christopher (2012)**



The Empire State is the other New York.

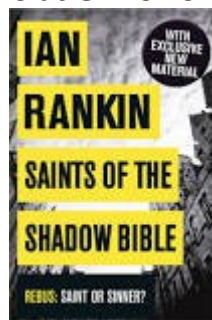
It's a parallel-universe, Prohibition-era world of mooks and shamuses that is the twisted magic mirror to our bustling Big Apple. It's a city where sinister characters lurk around every corner while the great superheroes who once kept the streets safe have fallen into deadly rivalries and feuds. Not that its colorful residents know anything about the real New York until detective Rad Bradley makes a discovery that will change the lives of all its inhabitants.

Playing on the classic Gotham conventions of the Batman comics and HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*, debut author Adam Christopher has spun a smart and fast-paced superhero-noir adventure that will excite genre fans and general readers alike.

“A fascinating debut novel that meshes noir sensibilities and science fiction together, and keeps the reader guessing throughout.” Mike Stackpole, bestselling author of *I, Jedi*

A strange mix of Private Investigator Mystery and Science Fiction actually works well. If you like either of these genre, you may well enjoy this slightly off kilter combination. I did and give it a B. I listened to it on an audio book, paper copies may be hard to find and our distributor doesn't stock it. Other than that I'd recommend giving it a shot. We may have the audio book, but you should grab it quick if you want to “read” it.

### **Saints of the Shadow Bible, A Rebus Novel by Ian Rankin (2013)**



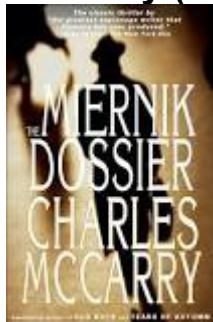
Rebus and Malcolm Fox go head-to-head when a 30-year-old murder investigation resurfaces, forcing Rebus to confront crimes of the past. Rebus is back on the force, albeit with a demotion and a chip on his shoulder. He is investigating a car accident when news arrives that a case from 30 years ago is being reopened. Rebus's team from those days is suspected of helping a murderer escape justice to further their own ends.

Malcolm Fox, in what will be his last case as an internal affairs cop, is tasked with finding out the truth. Past and present are about to collide in shocking and murderous fashion. What does Rebus have to hide? And whose side is he really on? His colleagues back then called themselves "The Saints," and swore a bond on something called the Shadow Bible. But times have changed and the crimes of the past may not stay hidden much longer -- and may also play a role in the present, as Scotland gears up for a referendum on independence.

Allegiances are being formed, enemies made, and huge questions asked. Who are the saints and who the sinners? And can the one ever become the other?

I love Rankin's books and this one lives up to his standards. If you like Denise Mina, Colin Dexter or Reginald Hill you'll love Rankin. I give it a B+ and strong recommendation.

### **The Miernik Dossier by Charles McCarry (1973)**



The following review is by Olen Steinhauer, author of the Tourist novels.

Chances are that you haven't read this novel, and probably haven't even heard of it. But Charles McCarry's chronicle of a disastrous road trip from Geneva to the Sudan is one of the best books the spy genre has to offer. It's both cerebral and ridiculously entertaining, a textured character study and a thrilling ride into the unknown.

Published in 1973, *The Miernik Dossier* takes place in 1959 and is, as the title suggests, an epistolary novel, a dossier on one Tadeusz Miernik. The preface tells us that the entire text has been "submitted to the Committee in response to

the request by its Chairman for 'a complete picture of a typical operation.' " It's made up of agents' reports, written communications, transcripts of phone conversations, "surveillance reports, diary entries, biographical sketches" and footnotes.

While all this suggests a dry rendition of events, it's quite the opposite. McCarry spent nearly a decade working deep cover for the CIA, and as a result, his story rings true in many ways. But what really makes the novel so entertaining is the wonderfully disparate cast of characters he's assembled. There's Paul Christopher, the CIA agent who moonlights as a poet — a character who goes on to feature in many of McCarry's novels. There's the bitter British agent, Nigel Collins; the sultry Hungarian concentration-camp survivor, Ilona Bentley; the flamboyant, 7-foot Sudanese prince, Kalash el Khatar; and the bumbling, possibly naive, Tadeusz Miernik.

The story revolves around a single question: Is Miernik, a Polish citizen, an agent of his communist government, or a victim of it? The question is important because Miernik's U.N. employment contract has lapsed, and he's begging his friends — most of whom are foreign spies — to help keep him from being kicked out of Switzerland and sent back home.

As the agents circle, trying to figure him out, a *deus ex machina* descends: Prince Kalash el Khatar must drive an air-conditioned Cadillac home to his father and wants to make a party of it with his friends. Miernik insists on joining them. If he's a victim of communism, then this is his escape to freedom. If he's a communist agent, then this trip may be part of a grand scheme.

What begins as an expat novel becomes a road novel, and once they reach the Sudan, where the countryside is troubled by the Anointed Liberation Front, a Soviet-backed terrorist group, the urgency and danger are ratcheted up to a fever pitch.

For a novel written 40 years ago, *The Miernik Dossier* is shockingly modern, from its experimental structure to its exploration of terrorism. Yet what's most modern about this breathtaking novel is the way the central mystery of Miernik himself is answered, or not answered, by the final page. Much like real intelligence work, the answer depends as much on the analyst — that is, you, the reader — as it does on the facts at hand.

*Olen Steinhauer's most recent novel is The Cairo Affair.*

Hear! Hear! Truly a unique and enjoyable read. I give it a B and suggest you find a McCarry novel, even if not this one. If you like Robert Littell, Alan Furst or Eric Ambler, find a McCarry novel and you'll be hooked.

# Trivia for September

In the Ernest Hemingway classic *The Old Man and the Sea*, what famous athlete does the old man say he would like to take fishing?

**Answer: The Great (Joe) DiMaggio**

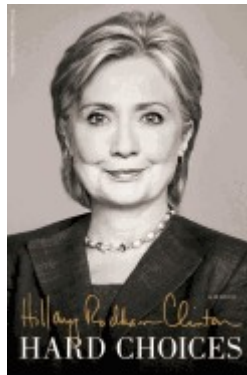
## Upcoming New Releases:

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

Untitled Memoir by Hillary Rodham Clinton 30.00



For the first time, Clinton reveals what she was thinking during one of the most controversial and unpredictable presidential elections in history. In an intimate voice, she reveals what it was like to be the first woman nominated for president in an election marked by rage, sexism, and an opponent who broke all the rules.

**The Midnight Line, A Jack Reacher Novel by Lee Child 28.99**



Reacher takes a stroll through a small Wisconsin town and sees a class ring in a pawn shop window: West Point 2005. A tough year to graduate: Iraq, then Afghanistan. The ring is tiny, for a woman, and it has her initials engraved on the inside. Reacher wonders what unlucky circumstance made her give up something she earned over four hard years. He decides to find out. And find the woman. And return her ring. Why not?

So begins a harrowing journey that takes Reacher through the upper Midwest, from a lowlife bar on the sad side of small town to a dirt-blown crossroads in the middle of nowhere, encountering bikers, cops, crooks, muscle, and a missing persons PI who wears a suit and a tie in the Wyoming wilderness.

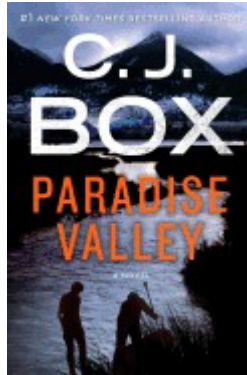
The deeper Reacher digs, and the more he learns, the more dangerous the terrain becomes. Turns out the ring was just a small link in a far darker chain. Powerful forces are guarding a vast criminal enterprise. Some lines should never be crossed. But then, neither should Reacher.

**Exposed by Lisa Scottoline 27.99**





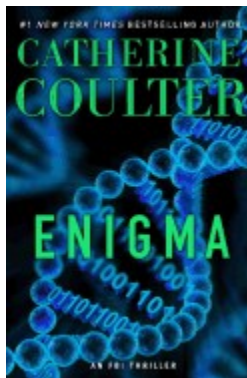
**Paradise Valley by C.J. Box 27.99**



**Sleeping Beauties by Stephen King and Owen King 32.50**

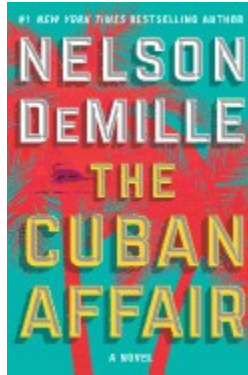


**Enigma An FBI Thriller by Catherine Coulter 27.99**



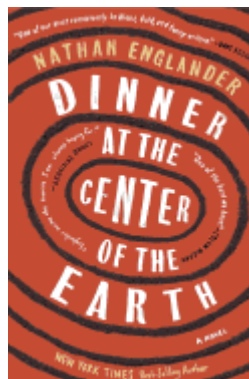
**The highly anticipated 21st FBI thriller by the #1 New York Times-bestselling author presents Agents Savich and Sherlock with two baffling mysteries, involving an international criminal and an enigma called John Doe.**

**The Cuban Affair by Nelson DeMille 28.99**



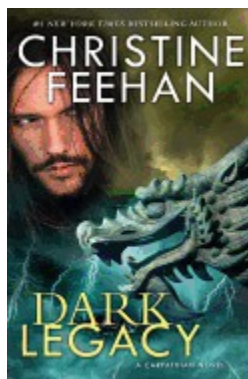
From the legendary #1 New York Times bestselling author of Plum Island and Night Fall comes a blistering thriller featuring an exciting new character—U.S. Army combat veteran Daniel “Mac” McCormick, now a charter boat captain about to set sail on his most dangerous cruise.

**Dinner at the Center of the Earth by Nathan Englander 26.95**



The best work yet from the Pulitzer finalist and bestselling author of For the Relief of Unbearable Urges. A political thriller that unfolds in the highly charged territory of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and pivots on the complex relationship between a secret prisoner and his guard.

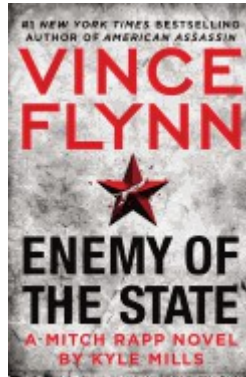
**Dark Legacy by Christine Feehan 27.00**



A woman fights to free herself from the grip of the vampire trying to possess her in a

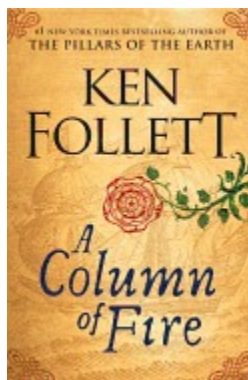
thrilling new Carpathian novel by a New York Times-bestselling author.

**Enemy of the State A Mitch Rapp Novel by Vince Flynn and Kyle Mills 28.99**



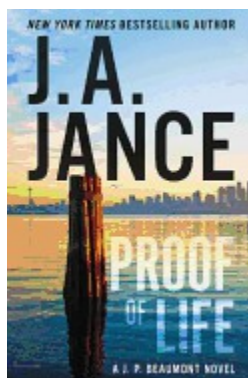
In the latest installment of the #1 New York Times-bestselling series, Mitch Rapp finds himself alone and targeted by a country that is supposed to be one of America's closest allies.

**A Column of Fire by Ken Follett 36.00**



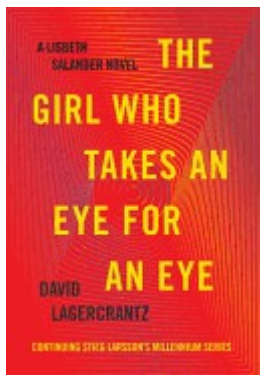
From the international bestselling author *The Pillars of the Earth*. In 1558, the ancient stones of Kingsbridge Cathedral look down on a city torn apart by religious conflict. As power in England shifts precariously between Catholics and Protestants, royalty and commoners clash, testing friendship, loyalty, and love.

**Proof of Life, A J.P. Beaumont Novel by J.A. Jance 27.99**



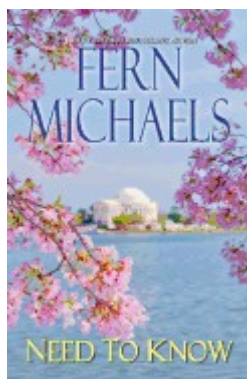
After his longtime nemesis, retired Seattle crime reporter Maxwell Cole, dies in a fire, J.P. Beaumont is dragged into the investigation by the deceased victim himself. While seeking justice for his frenemy and healing for a long-fractured family, Beau comes face to face with an enemy who's been hiding in plain sight for decades.

**The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye by David Lagercrantz 27.95**



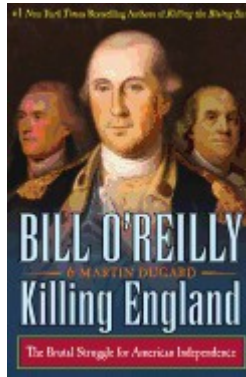
From the author of the #1 international bestseller *The Girl in the Spider's Web* comes the new addition in the Millennium series featuring Lisbeth Salander, which began with Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.

**Need to Know by Fern Michaels 27.95**



**The Sisterhood:** a group of women from all walks of life bound by friendship and a quest for justice. Armed with vast resources, topnotch expertise, and a loyal network of allies around the globe, the Sisterhood will not rest until every wrong is made right.

**Killing England The Brutal Struggle for American Independence by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard 30.00**



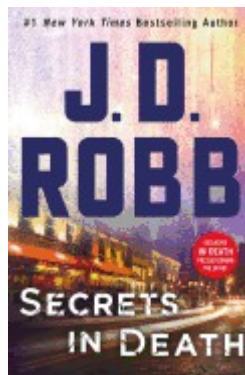
The breathtaking latest installment in O'Reilly and Dugard's mega-bestselling Killing series transports readers to the most important era in America's history, the Revolutionary War.

**Haunted A Detective Michael Bennett Thriller by James Patterson and James O. Born 28.00**



Reeling from a crisis that would destroy lesser families, Detective Michael Bennett and his family escape New York. They arrive in an idyllic country town in Maine where an epidemic preys on its youth. When local cops uncover a grisly crime scene, they consult the vacationing Bennett, who jumps at the chance to atone for his own sins.

**Secrets in Death by J.D. Robb 27.99**



Lt. Eve Dallas must separate rumors from reality when a woman who traffics in other people's secrets is silenced. To find justice for this victim, she'll have to plunge into the dirty little secrets of all the people Larinda Mars victimized herself. But along the way, she may be exposed to some information she really didn't want to know.

**The Golden House by Salman Rushdie 28.99**



Set in New York City, this is a thrilling tale about a real-estate tycoon and his mysterious, corrupt family—that could be ripped from today's headlines. 9

**Runny Babbit Returns by Shel Silverstein 19.99**

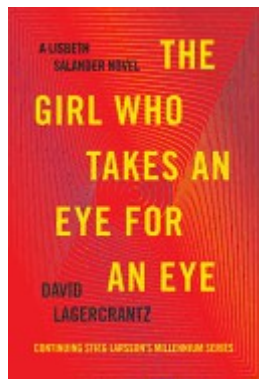


This collection of 41 never-before-published poems and drawings features the playful Runny Babbit and many other favorite characters who speak a topsy-turvy language all their own. This carefully compiled work from the Silverstein archives is filled with spoonerism poems that are both playful and poignant.

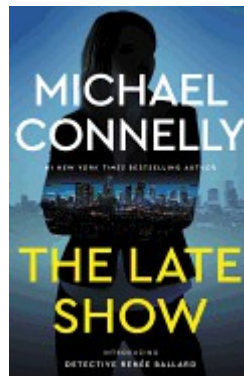
**The Silent Corner by Dean Koontz 28.00**



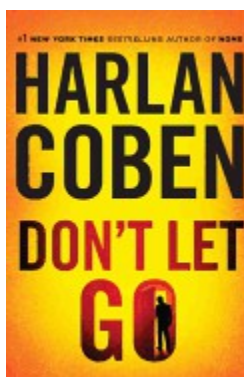
**The Girl Who Takes An Eye for An Eye – A Lisbeth Salander Novel by David Lagercrantz 27.95**



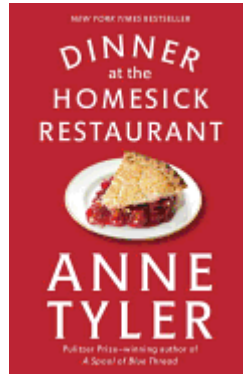
**The Late Show by Michael Connelly 28.00**



**Don't Let Go by Harlan Coben 28.00**

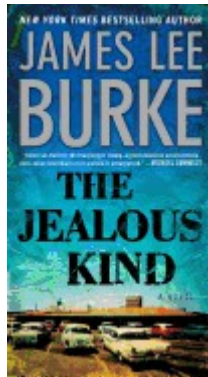


**Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler 16.00**

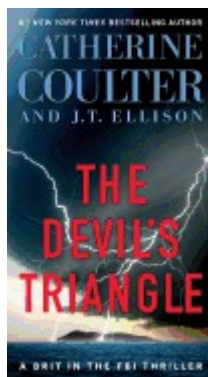


## **Paperback**

**James Lee Burke – The Jealous Kind – 9.99**

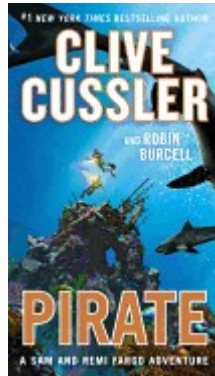


**Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison – The Devil's Triangle, A Brit in the FBI Thriller – 9.99**

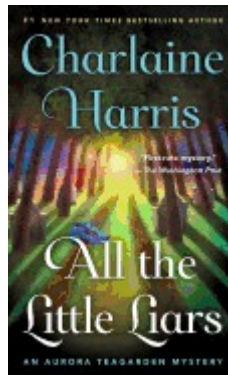




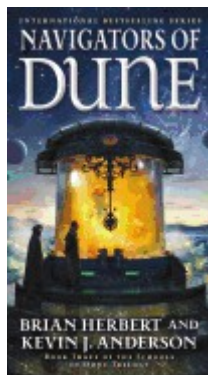
**Clive Cussler - Pirate, A Sam and Remi Fargo Adventure – 9.99**



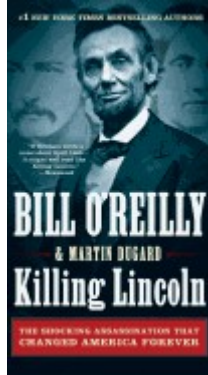
**Charlaine Harris – All the Little Liars, An Aurora Teagarden Mystery – 7.99**



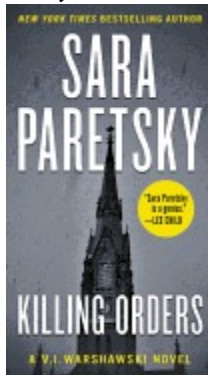
**Brian Herbert & Kevin Anderson – Navigators of Dune – 9.99**



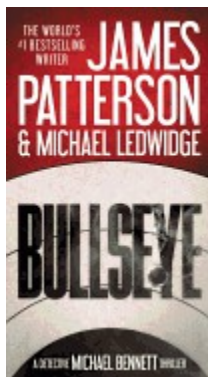
**Bill O'Reilly – Killing Lincoln, The End of Camelot – 9.99**



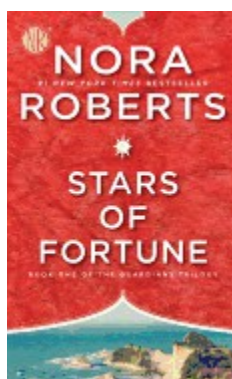
**Sara Paretsky – Killing Orders, A V.I. Warshawski Novel – 9.99**



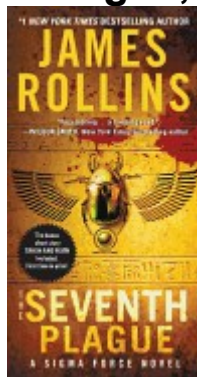
**James Patterson – Bullseye, A Detective Michael Bennett Novel – 9.99**



**Nora Roberts – Stars of Fortune, Book One of the Guardians Trilogy – 8.99**



**James Rollins – The Seventh Plague, A Sigma Force Novel – 9.99**



**Karen Rose – Monster in the Closet – 9.99**



**Tom Wood – The Final Hour – 9.99**

