

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 8, #4

April 2015

3937 41st Ave Dr., Moline

309-797-1985

4764 Elmore Ave, Davenport

563-355-2310

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

We will be CLOSED on Easter Sunday, April 5

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

"They borrow books they will not buy.

They have no ethics or religions;

I wish some kind Burbankian guy

Could cross my books with homing pigeons."

Carolyn Wells

Reading Trivia:

What was the name of the life-saving mongoose in *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling? The spelling has to be correct to score any "points"!

See below for the answers

April Holidays and such:

National Poetry Month – Take time to look through our great Local Poets
Lawn & Garden Month – We have books to help you

National Library Week - First Week

1 – April Fools Day

2 – Children's Book Day

4 – School Librarian Day

5 – Easter – **The Book Racks will be CLOSED**

10 – Golfer's Day

11 – Local Author Mike McCarty will be at The Book Rack, Moline, signing his books

16 – National Librarian's Day (Elizabeth's Day at The Book Rack)

17 – National Cheeseball Day

18 – Local Author Mark McLaughlin will be at The Book Rack, Davenport, signing his latest books

22 – Administrative Professional's Day

23 – Lover's Day

24 – Pig in a Blanket Day

30 – National Honesty Day

Free Verse is a regular, monthly, feature by one of our wonderful Quad Cities area local authors. We're skipping a month for this feature, but look for it again in May, when **Mark McLaughlin** will grace our pages!

Featured Authors:

Mark McLaughlin will be at The Book Rack, Davenport, April 18, 1:00 – 3:00 PM with his latest book, CASINO CARCOSA: A TALE OF THE KING IN YELLOW, co-authored with Michael Sheehan Jr. (DUNHAMS MANOR). Make sure and stop in to visit with Mark and pick up a signed copy for your reading pleasure!



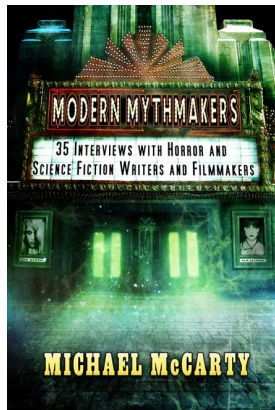
Michael McCarty, another of our very popular local authors, will be at The Book Rack in Moline on April 11, 12:00 – 3:00. Mike will have copies of his latest books, including Modern Mythmakers, a collection of 35 interviews from horror and science fiction's most influential writers and filmmakers, including Ray Bradbury, Dean Koontz, Richard Matheson, John Carpenter, John Saul, Joe McKinney, the *Night of the Living Dead* crew (including John Russo, Kyra Schon and Russ Streiner), Elvira, Whitley Strieber, Christopher Moore, and more.

Foreword by: Alan Dean Foster

Afterword by: The Amazing Kreskin

Cover by: Ben Baldwin

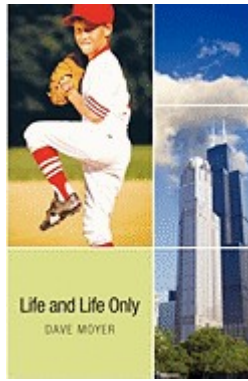
Edited by: Joe Mynhardt



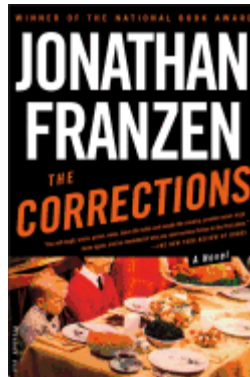
Book Reviews:

Our first review is from local author Dave Moyer, who is the author of the novel “Life and Life Only” and several published short stories and essays. He is a regular reviewer for Joseph's Reviews

<http://josephsreviews.wordpress.com/> and previously contributed reviews to The New York Journal of Books. Dave's book is, of course, available from the Local Author shelves at both [Book Racks](#). Please give it a serious consideration when you are next in the stores.



Jonathan Franzen's *The Corrections* Approaches Brilliance



A Christmas gift from my son, I tried an author whose work I had not yet read. It is a beautiful gift when an avid reader stumbles upon a new writer that, for lack of a better term, “lights them up”. Some novels are decent, enjoyable for certain audiences, of a certain time, quaint, funny, guilty pleasures, or potentially many other things to a wide range of readers—and, in their own right, passable or worthy of one’s time. Then, one occasionally stumbles upon an author who can just plain write the hell out of a story. Jonathan Franzen is one of those. His 2001 National Book Award Winning *The Corrections* is as fine a contemporary novel as this reader has encountered.

(I don’t know why I did this, because I never do, and it isn’t fair. But, as I was reading the book, I couldn’t resist the urge to try to compare Franzen to other accomplished author’s whom I have read, and the one who kept popping into my head is Philip Roth—his brilliance when he’s good, the occasionally nonsense the reader has to put up with, and a certain personal love-hate relationship with his work.)

Enid Lambert has been the caretaker of her ailing husband Alfred, a sympathetic victim of Parkinson's disease. Her only desire is one last Christmas with all of her children at her home in fictitious St. Jude.

Her perception of the perfect family and the extremely flawed character of each of her children is comical at times, if it wasn't presented so presciently. Talk about humanity and life on a page!

Chip is an intellectual with tremendous promise as a college professor who blows it all because he can't keep his zipper shut (ever hear that one before?). He is so obsessed with getting his screenplay accepted, that he actually abandons his parents, who have traveled cross country to visit him, without warning, leaving them for his sister, Denise, to tend to. She is a brilliant cook who apparently has been confused sexually for most of her life, and a lesbian affair ruins her meteoric rise to stardom. Just when you want to like her, she comes across as some bizarre combination of helpless, frigid, and psychopathic. Gary, who lives the suburban dream due to his financial prowess, corrals a middle school boy's vision of perfection (think some type of combination Barbie doll, cheerleader, and model) Caroline. Who could ask for more? Initially, he is a sympathetic figure, with his wife appearing to be a manipulative b----, until it becomes obvious that he could be the most self-centered pathetic jerk of them all. Human sexuality leading to the downfall of all—book of *Genesis* anyone? Talk about reality disguised as fiction! In the end, Enid sort of gets her wish, which only confirms the phrase, "Be careful what you wish for."

It is more than a bit implausible that Chip somehow disappears with a Lithuanian revolutionary. Each child's story is told in succession rather than interwoven, and that leads to characters being abandoned for lengthy portions of the story. It is not completely clear why Denise's relationship must be explored in such great detail to advance the story and satisfy the reader. It seems as if some things are done to fill the prerequisite expected length of the modern novel. So, this reviewer would not consider this the "perfect" book. But, wow, is it ever good.

Highly Recommended

This review originally appeared on the Joseph's Reviews site:
<http://josephsreviews.wordpress.com/>

The next 2 reviews are from Claudia!

Paper Towns by John Green

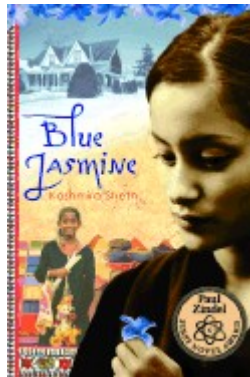
FICTION – YOUNG ADULT



Winner of the Edgar Award, *Paper Towns* is both a coming-of-age tale and a missing person mystery. Florida high school senior Quentin “Q” Jacobsen is smitten by beautiful classmate, Margo Roth Spiegelman, who leads him in completing eleven covert tasks of revenge during a single overnight session. When Margo mysteriously disappears shortly after Q’s life-changing evening with her, he and his two best friends follow clues that Margo seems to have left specifically for Q. Green’s characters range from the exceptionally intelligent - Margo, an enigma, and Q, a compassionate friend set on unraveling the puzzle of Margo’s disappearance and perhaps Margo herself – to Q’s two best friends - technologically-gifted Radar and hormonal blusterer Ben. I think this is a great book and recommend it to older adolescents / teens and their parents; could lead to interesting discussions. John Green is also the author of *The Fault in Our Stars*.

Blue Jasmine by Kashmira Sheth

FICTION – CHILDREN

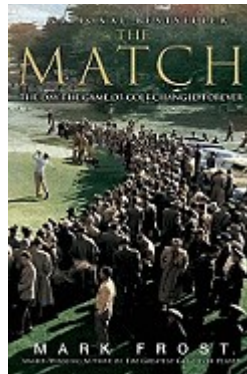


Winner of an Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Award, IRA Children’s Book Award Notable Book, and Paul Zindel First Novel Award, *Blue Jasmine* is the

story of twelve year old Seema Trivedi whose father, a microbiologist, is asked to join a doctor's research in Iowa City. The resulting relocation of the family takes Seema from her village in India, her grandparents, aunts and uncles, and her cousin and best friend Raju. She also leaves Mukta, a girl at her school whose family is poor and who is often shunned because of her smell, but who has shown only kindness to Seema. In Iowa City, it is Seema who is different, and while she finds friends she is also subjected to some nasty comments and actions. Sheth uses Indian words in the narrative and speech of her characters and offers a glimpse into everyday life in India. Setting the story in both India and Iowa City provides insight into diversity – the richness of other cultures and friendships, and the fear that sometimes accompanies exposure to the unknown. This is a wonderful book for children to learn a little about India, and a lot about being a friend.

The rest of the reviews are mine! ;-)

Mark Frost – The Match (2007)

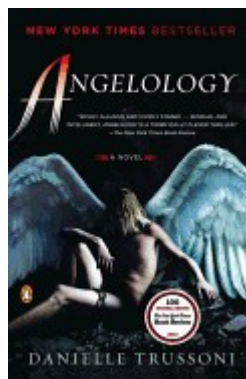


The year: 1956. Eddie Lowrey, a wealthy car dealer and avid supporter of amateur golf, has just made a bet with fellow millionaire George Coleman. Lowrey claims that two of his employees, amateur golfers Harvie Ward and Ken Venturi, cannot be beaten in a best-ball match. Coleman accepts the challenge and shows up with his own power team: Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson, the game's greatest living professionals, with fourteen major championships between them. In Mark Frost's peerless hands, complete with the recollections of all the participants, the story of this immortal foursome and the game they played that day comes to life with powerful, emotional impact and edge-of-your-seat suspense.

I confess that I'm a golfer and thoroughly enjoy watching live golf on TV. Mark

Frost had written the book “The Greatest Game Ever Played” and I've several times watched the movie made from the book and loved it. But, I've not read any golf books (other on how to make my game great) until I picked up “The Match”. I could not recommend it more highly. It gets an A+ in my assessment. If you like human interest non-fiction about people and events, even if you don't like golf, you will thoroughly enjoy this book. The four principles are very human men who achieved greatness in a sport before the money was very significant. The book introduces you to each of them and tells their stories. But, the real story is the match itself, which you “watch” through Frost's narrative shot-by-shot, hole-by-hole. It's intense, exciting, fun and beautiful.

Danielle Trussoni – **Angelology** (2010)



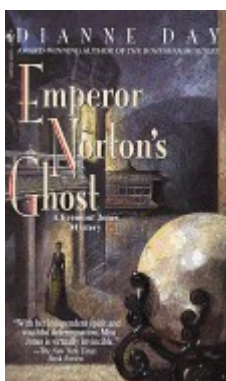
A thrilling epic about an ancient clash reignited in our time--between a hidden society and heaven's darkest creatures. "There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. --"Genesis 6:5

Sister Evangeline was just a girl when her father entrusted her to the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in upstate New York. Now, at twenty-three, her discovery of a 1943 letter from the famous philanthropist Abigail Rockefeller to the late mother superior of Saint Rose Convent plunges Evangeline into a secret history that stretches back a thousand years: an ancient conflict between the Society of Angelologists and the monstrously beautiful descendants of angels and humans, the Nephilim. For the secrets these letters guard are desperately coveted by the once-powerful Nephilim, who aim to perpetuate war, subvert the good in humanity, and dominate mankind. Generations of angelologists have

devoted their lives to stopping them, and their shared mission, which Evangeline has long been destined to join, reaches from her bucolic abbey on the Hudson to the apex of insular wealth in New York, to the Montparnasse cemetery in Paris and the mountains of Bulgaria. Rich in history, full of mesmerizing characters, and wondrously conceived, "Angelology" blends biblical lore, the myth of Orpheus and the Miltonic visions of Paradise Lost into a riveting tale of ordinary people engaged in a battle that will determine the fate of the world. (Publisher's marketing)

A well conceived, thoroughly researched and very well written book that will keep your interest to the end. I particularly appreciated the wonderful use of the English language – rich yet clearly understandable. I give it an A- and recommend it, especially to those who love The DaVinci Code and similar titles.

Dianne Day - **Emperor Norton's Ghost; A Fremont Jones Mystery** (1998)

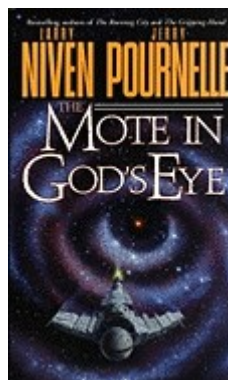


Caroline Fremont Jones revels in her return to San Francisco, where a new city rises from the ruins of the 1906 earthquake. Even more rewarding is her business partnership and rekindled love with ex-spy master Michael Archer Kossoff. But their private investigation agency is barely off the ground when Fremont's new friend, lovely but quirky Frances McFadden, becomes their first client -- and it's a most troubling case. The adventurous but skeptical Fremont, lured by Frances to a seance, sees her companion fall into a disturbing trance. Despite the opposition of her powerful, controlling husband, Frances is determined to develop her budding psychic ability. Soon she confides to Fremont that a restless spirit from San Francisco's legendary past has entrusted her with a mission. But when one of the city's female mediums is murdered, and then another, Fremont's reservations turn to dread. Who has killed these women

who wield their own power in the metaphysical world, and why? As Fremont's investigation takes her into the murky depths of spiritualism, she places not only herself, but also her dearest friends in mortal danger. (Description from Back of Jacket Cover)

Mystery author, Carolyn Hart, describes the book as “a delightful heroine and a lively, twisty, intriguing mystery...Readers will also delight in the exuberant portrait of turn-of-the-century San Francisco.” I also found it interesting to read about the places the telephone, electricity and the automobile, among other innovations played in middle class life. I give it a B and recommend it to those who enjoy period mysteries, such as those by Anne Perry.

The Mote in God's Eye by Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle (1974)



In 3016, the 2nd Empire of Man spans hundreds of star systems, thanks to faster-than-light Alderson Drive. Intelligent beings are finally found from the Mote, an isolated star in a thick dust cloud. The bottled-up ancient civilization, at least one million years old, are welcoming, kind, yet evasive, with a dark problem they have not solved in over a million years. A Black hole in space. And piercing through, a beam of ruby light brighter than a hundred moons. Was it the eye on the face of God, or the blood-red sun of our first galactic visitors? The delicate mission of the warship MacArthur – to seek out and confront an extra-terrestrial world where eerie, silent beings defy known biology...where miniature creatures, idiots savants, are used as deadly weapons...and where reassuring smiles hide a planetary secret of devastating universal impact.

A true classic of science fiction. The authors have created a future human

empire stretched across countless planets; wondrous technology allowing for communication and transport across light-years of distance; and a completely new species and their complex civilization. All works extremely well in a terrific story. I give it an A- and highly recommend it to you, even if you don't normally read SciFi!

Opening Moves by Steven James (2012)



In The Bowers Files novels, FBI Special Agent Patrick Bowers has stopped some of the most vicious serial killers ever imagined. Now, in the fifth exciting installment, author Steven James takes readers back to Bowers's terrifying beginning.

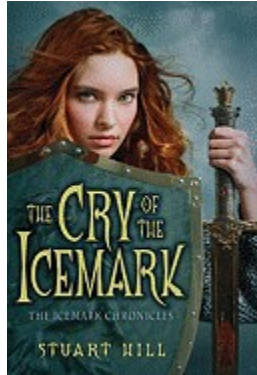
Milwaukee, 1997. In a city reeling from the crimes of Jeffrey Dahmer, a series of gruesome kidnappings and mutilations draw authorities into a case like nothing they've ever seen. Cops think a Dahmer copycat is on the loose.

But Patrick Bowers, working as a homicide detective, suspects this is more than an ode to the infamous cannibal. When he discovers that the shocking acts reference some of the most notorious and macabre killers in our nation's history, the investigation spirals into a nightmare of manipulation, brutality, and terror. Wielding groundbreaking investigative techniques, Bowers must now face off with a killer who will stop at nothing to get his message out to the world. Chilling, gritty, and packed with twists and turns, *Opening Moves* is Steven James's most heart-pounding novel yet.

OK. I confess I didn't finish this book! I read the first 100 pages, then decided I didn't want to read any more. Maybe the first sentence in Chapter 16 says it all, "Honestly, I was ready for a respite from thinking about cannibals, amputations, and dead bodies..." This book is very well written and appears to be

meticulously researched by a knowledgeable expert and talented author. If you like this type of book, definitely give Steven James a serious look. Me – I just don't choose to read a 500 page book with such graphic descriptions of despicable murders.

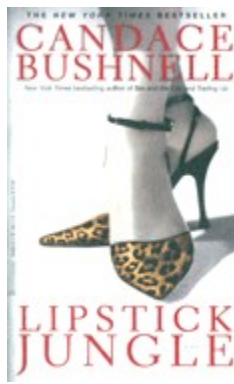
Cry of the Icemark by Stuart Hill (2006)



After the death of her father, headstrong, fourteen-year-old, princess Thirrin Freer Strong-in-The-Arm becomes a warrior queen of her homeland, Icemark, defending it from a formidable invader. Despite Thirrin's bravery and the support of Oskan, the Witch's son, the task proves more difficult than Thirrin ever dreamed. She must assemble a force to rival her opponent. And, in the chill winter of Icemark, she only has until spring to unite the strange beasts and frightening creatures who live just outside her country. Ultimately, it is Thirrin's vision and determination that will see her through to victory.

A delightful fantasy for adults young and old. I listened to the audiobook and found myself not wanting to leave the car. I give it an A- and highly recommend it.

Lipstick Jungle by Candace Bushnell (2005)



Victory Ford is the darling of the fashion world. Single, attractive, and iconoclastic, she has worked for years to create her own signature line. As Victory struggles to keep her company afloat, she learns crucial lessons about what she really wants in a relationship.

Nico O'Neilly is the glamorous, brilliant editor of Bonfire Magazine--the pop-culture bible for fashion, show business, and politics. Considered one of the most powerful women in publishing, she seems to have it all. But in a mid-life crisis, she suddenly realizes this isn't enough. She has a stellar career, a well respected husband, and a teenage daughter who she adores – but the romance has gone out of her marriage, and she is tempted to find refuge in the arms of a younger man. If she does, will this derail her secret ambition to become the first CEO of Splatch-Verner?

Wendy Healy's chutzpah has propelled her to the very top of the cut-throat movie industry as president of Parador Pictures. When it becomes clear that a competitor is trying to oust her, something has to give--and Wendy must decide between her career and her marriage.

In her fourth novel, Candace Bushnell writes about three powerful New York friends at the top of their fields, each navigating her way through business, relationships, scandal, success and betrayal.

I enjoyed this book very much. Bushnell is an exceptional writer. The individual story lines for the 3 women are each compelling with strong, engaging characters in challenging situations. Together they make a really good read. I give it a B+ and recommend.

Reading Trivia Answer:

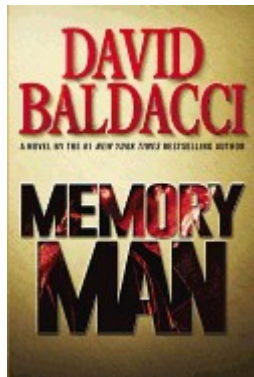
The name of the life-saving mongoose in The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling was Rikki-Tikki-Tavi!!

Upcoming New Releases:

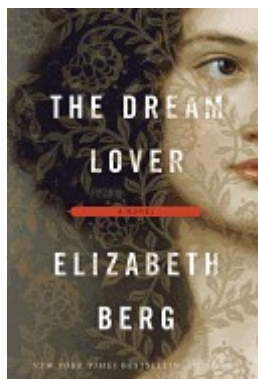
Check out the prices following the title of the book. The first price is the publisher's price. The second price is the **Book Rack** price, when picked up at one of the stores. There is no shipping charge when you pick up your order. Order now by calling one of the stores or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment on all special orders.

Hardcover:

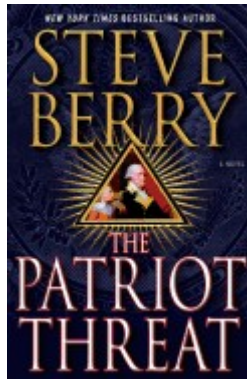
David Baldacci – Memory Man – 28.00/22.40



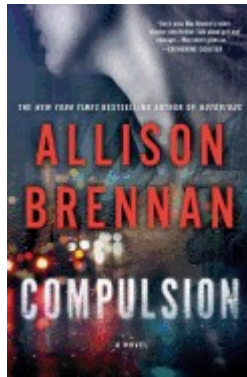
Elizabeth Berg – The Dream Lover – 28.00/.22.40



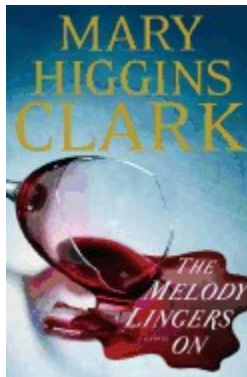
Steve Berry – The Patriot Threat – 27.99/22.40



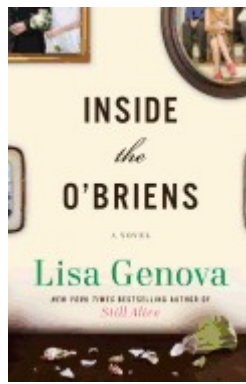
Allison Brennan – Compulsion: A Max Revere Novel – 25.99/26.80



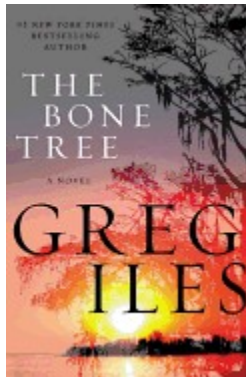
Mary Higgins Clark – The Melody Lingers On – 26.99/21.60



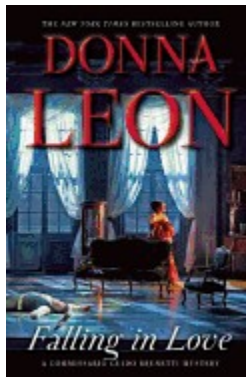
Lisa Genova – Inside the O'Briens – 26.00/20.80



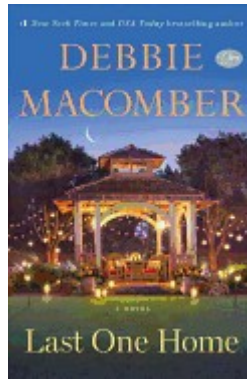
Greg Iles – The Bone Tree – 27.99/22.40



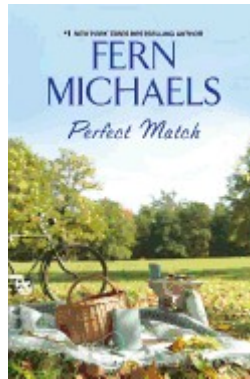
Donna Leon – Falling in Love – 26.00/20.80



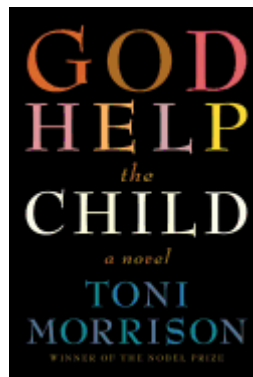
Debbie Macomber – Last One Home – 26.00/20.80



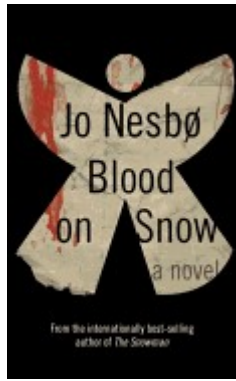
Fern Michaels – Perfect Match – 21.95/17.60



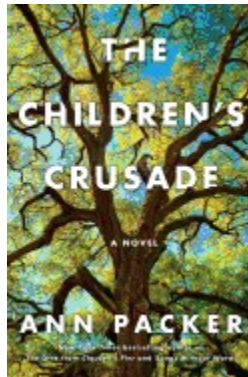
Toni Morrison – God Help the Child – 24.95/20.00



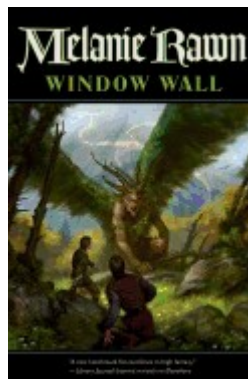
Jo Nesbo – Blood on Snow – 23.95/19.20



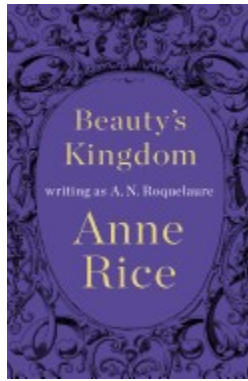
Ann Packer – The Children's Crusade – 26.99/21.60



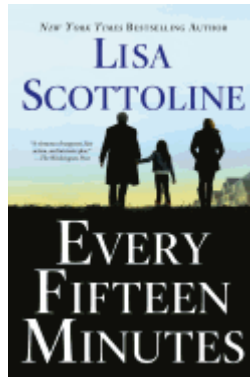
Melanie Rawn – Window Wall – 28.99/23.20



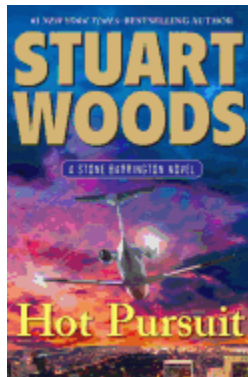
Anne Rice – Beauty's Kingdom – 27.95/22.40



Lisa Scottoline – Every Fifteen Minutes – 27.99/22.40



Stuart Woods – Hot Pursuit – 27.95/22.40

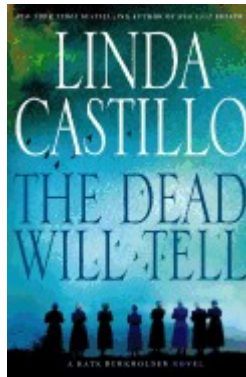


Paperback:

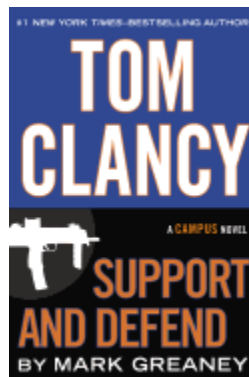
Cherry Adair – Blush – 15.00/12.00



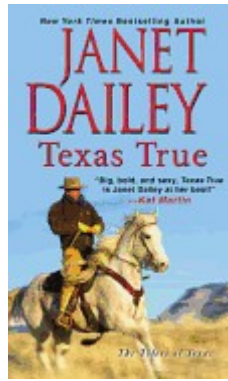
Linda Castillo – The Dead Will Tell – 7.99/6.40



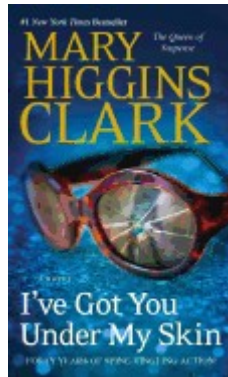
Tom Clancy – Support and Defend – 8.99/7.20



Janet Dailey – Texas True – 7.99/6.40



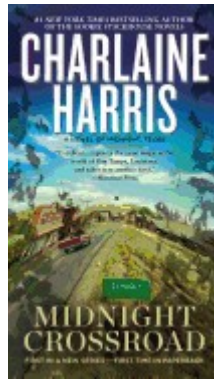
Mary Higgins Clark – I've Got You Under My Skin – 7.99/6.40



Philippa Gregory – The King's Curse – 16.99/13.60



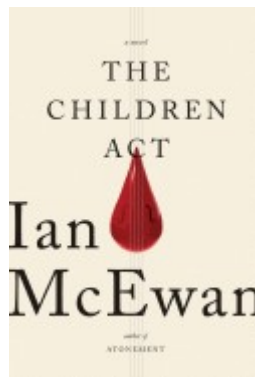
Charlaine Harris – Midnight Crossroad – 9.99/8.00



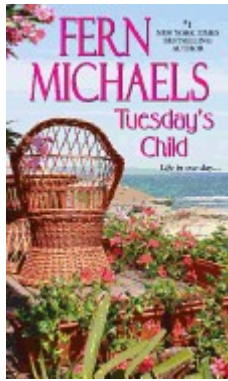
Sherrilyn Kenyon – Son of No One – 7.99/6.40



Ian McEwan – The Children Act – 15.00/12.00



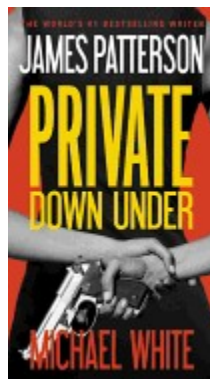
Fern Michaels – Tuesday's Child – 7.99/6.40



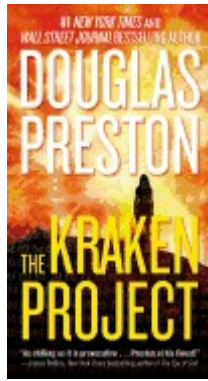
Sue Miller – The Arsonist – 15.95/12.80



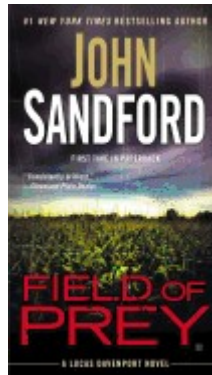
James Patterson – Private Down Under – 10.00/8.00



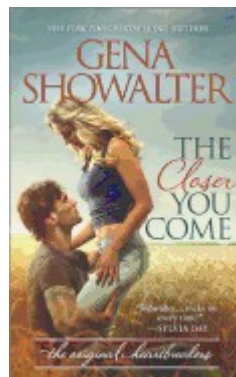
Douglas Preston – The Kraken Project – 9.99/8.00



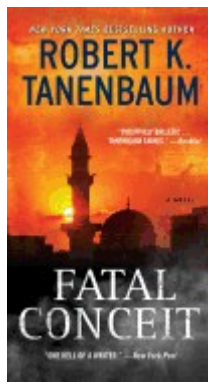
John Sanford – Field of Prey – 9.99/8.00



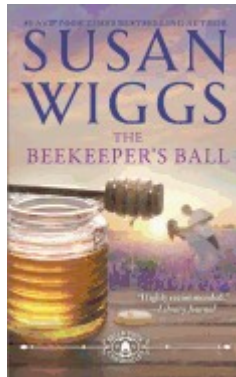
Gena Showalter – The Closer You Come – 7.99/6.40



Robert Tanenbaum – Fatal Conceit – 9.99/8.00



Susan Wiggs – The Beekeeper's Ball – 7.99/6.40



Stuart Woods – Cut and Thrust – 9.99/8.00

