

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 10, #4

April 2017

4764 Elmore Ave, Davenport

563-355-2310

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

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

Trivia for April

What is the origin of the phrase, "United we stand, divided we fall"?

See below for the answer.

Did you know?

The first 10 paperbacks ever published:

The Mysterious Affair At Styles – Agatha Christie

The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club – Dorothy Sayers

Gone to Earth – Mary Webb

Ariel – Andre' Maurois

Carnival – Compton MacKenzie

A Farewell to Arms – Ernest Hemingway

William – E.H. Young

Twenty-Five – Beverley Nichols

Poet's Pub – Eric Linklater

Madame Claire – Susan Ertz

British publisher Allen Lane was the pioneer of this cost-effective publishing coup in 1935.

April Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

April is - Lawn and Garden Month – We have some wonderful books for you

- National Poetry Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month

2-8 – Library Week

24-28 – Administrative Assistant Week

1 – Teresa LaBella book signing 11-1:00

1 – April Fools Day

2 – Childrens Book Day

4 – Elizabeth's Day (aka School Librarian's Day)

8 – Adam Kugler book signing 11-1:00

15 – Arlene Rundle book signing 11-1:00

15 – Husband Appreciation Day

16 – Easter Sunday – The Book Rack will be CLOSED

22 – Earth Day

28 – Great Poetry Reading Day

29 – Jon Hart book signing 11-1:00

Free Verse is a regular, monthly, feature by one of our wonderful Quad Cities area local authors. Our Free Verse Author for April is:

Adam Kugler

THE MONSTER

There I stood. I could hear something in the woods behind me.
What was I thinking?

I should have been running, but I was glued in place. I was terrified, but at the same time I wanted to look this beast in the face.

I was not someone who scared easily.

No.

I was the kind who tried to face my fear, but this time I wasn't sure that I was going to be able to do that.

I turned my head. Trying to get a bearing on where this thing was. What this thing was. I just wanted to know. I had to know. If it was going to kill me then I wanted to see it, face to face.

You know how a man gets when he is threatened. He turns and looks that threat in the eyes.

How dare I hide my face?

How dare I cower before this thing.

But still in the back of my mind I was right there. I was the kid under the covers as the monsters took over the room.

No one believed me then. Why would anyone believe me now?
I know why.

I am just a grown man. I should be able to face my enemies. I should be able to face my fears.

I know plenty of people who step up here on the stage and tell you these things, but I am in the darkest place you could ever imagine. There is nothing that I could tell you that would scare you more. I would love to tell you that I saw the monster, but I never did.

No matter which direction I looked, it was not there.

I sometimes think that the scariest monsters are the ones that we never have seen.

I have believed that since I was a little boy. I still believe that to this day. I want to think that there is a way out. I wanted to believe that there was something more to the story that I was living—but here I was standing in the middle of the woods.

I was still wearing my pajama pants, and the pair of socks I had slipped on. Had this thing chased me from my home?

What was this thing doing? What did it want from me?
Why was it hiding from me?

I could feel it gazing upon me. There were no breaks in what it was doing. I couldn't tell if it was big or small.

"What do you want from me?" I asked of the darkness.

There was only a stillness. There was only a million things going through my head right then, right there.

I could see someone—there was blood all over them.

Who was this?

What had they been doing out here?

Was it the same thing for them as it was for me? It couldn't be.

Death, it was the best way out—at least that is what I was thinking.

It meant that there would be no more running, no more hiding.

I wouldn't have to answer any more questions. I wouldn't have to think about the monsters in my closet.

Yes—there was a monster in my closet when I was little. Isn't there one in every kid's closet? I think about this every day of my life. Was this the life that I had been building up to in the last thirty years? To be chased down and killed by the monster that had been in the closet all those years ago?

What was I thinking?

Where was I going to go?

I had nothing. I had no home anymore. I was here. I was by the creek. I could feel the moisture in my socks, as I ran through the dampened grass.

I had nothing more that I could do than to hide the person that was hiding inside of me. I couldn't become that child again. I just couldn't. I was a grown man. I was not the child that was in that room with the monsters climbing out all over again.

What was the name of that monster? What was its purpose in coming after me? Was I some kind of threat?

I looked around again and I realized I had followed the creek about as far as it would go. There in front of me was the one thing I feared the most. It was the old prison. I could have seen it a million times more clearly, if only I had grabbed my glasses. But, no, I had run off without them.

I was being chased here.

Something wanted me here.

What it was, and why it wanted me here—those were questions that I was not sure I was ever going to get an answer to. It was like it was working me into a corner, and in many ways it **was** working me into the corner. I was not the kind of person who wanted to get involved with all of that.

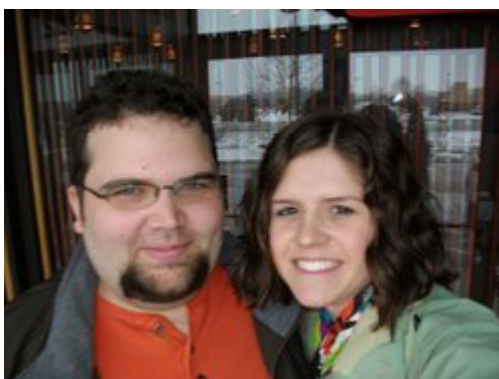
I was just a lawyer. What had I done?

I was a lawyer named Judd David. I know that seems like a strange thing, but at the same time there were plenty of other things to think about. I was just trying to earn my keep. I never told a lie, and I never advised my clients to lie. Do I know that they did? Sure. But I could only try to make them recant. I could only try to take it back.

Now I was the one being judged and there was nothing more I could do. I was the one that had fallen into the pits. I was the one who had made the fateful mistakes. I was being called upon to answer for the things that my clients and friends have done. Maybe even something I have done from time to time. I still shouldn't be the one being stalked out here into the cool, damp, night air. I am just trying to get better. I am just trying to be the person that I was born to be.

There, right in front of me was the great wall of the old prison, and I knew there was nowhere left for me to go. I was trapped. And in time I would be the next victim of this thing.

It had killed already. All the faces that had come into my head—they were all gone. I had seen their faces come and go. I was missing. I was lost. What had I done? What was I doing? Had I become the monster? I am the monster.



Adam J Kugler is an author from the small town of Aledo, IL. He went to school at Olivet Nazarene University to study to become a youth pastor. He also studied history, sociology and a couple other topics before taking the time to study English. He has also taken multiple different story telling seminars and classes.

He enjoys watching movies of all types and reading all different kinds of books. He is right now working on the follow up to the book FEAR which was released publicly on March 8, 2017. He also is working on putting together a history essay on General Ulysses S. Grant.

Do not be afraid to stop by his website where he keeps up a weekly blog it is to be found at <http://adamjkugler.com>.

Featured Authors

Teresa LaBella will be at The Book Rack April 1 from 11-1:00



New Life In Love Trilogy Book 3

When Marisa's certain path to her future ends, the struggle to recover from heartbreak begins.

The daughter of Darien McKenna admires and adores her Michelin star chef father. Lessons learned at his side earn her acceptance into a prestigious school of culinary arts and an apprenticeship at the upscale mid-town Manhattan kitchen Chef Darien once commanded.

Pressure to succeed in a high-stress career crushes her confidence. Devastating loss shatters her world. Marisa's search to find a new path leads to the land of the McKenna Clan and the arms of a heart-stopping handsome, yet lonely man.

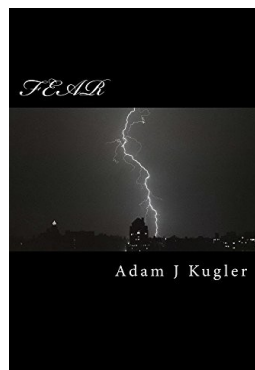
Alistair McKenzie traded his barrister career and life in Glasgow to preserve family history and honor on a farm in the Scottish Highlands. He's tired of wearing his kilt to weddings and lifting a glass to another happy bride and groom. He yearns for everlasting love with the lass who will be his wife.

Smoldering attraction and ignited passion bring them together. Have Marisa and Alistair found forever love in their desired place of "Belonging?"

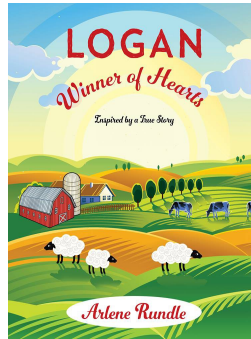
Teresa LaBella published her first contemporary romance novel "Reservations" in 2013. The big city story continued in "Heartland" set in small town Iowa.

"Belonging," the final novel in the New Life in Love trilogy, moved the McKenna family saga to the west coast of Scotland. A freelance writer and consultant, Teresa resides in her Iowa hometown with her husband John and three rescued Husky fur kids.

Adam Kugler will be at The Book Rack April 8, 11-1:00 signing copies of his books. See Adam's bio above with his story: **THE MONSTER**. Adam's most recent book is "Fear" - She has been locked away in a mental health facility for many years. Ever since her daughter was little. It was because she had a close encounter with this one man. Now she's free and he is out to get her.



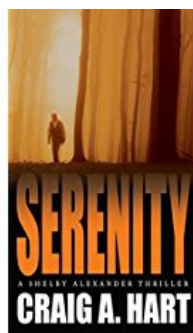
Childrens book author **Arlene Rundle** will appear at a book signing for her new childrens book "Logan, Winner of Hearts" at The Book Rack on Saturday, April 15, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.



Inspired by a true story, "Logan, Winner of Hearts" is an adventurous and poignant new childrens book about the love a young boy has for an unusual pet. Despite loss and sorrow, a gift is given which brings joy and hope to the young boy and his family.

Author Arlene Rundle grew up on a dairy farm in the rolling hills near Soldier's Grove, Wisconsin. As a young child she joined the Audubon Society and developed an interest in wildlife and the environment. Her love for children and education inspired her to become an elementary school teacher. In retirement, she has focused on writing stories for children. Logan, Winner of Hearts is her third children's book. She is also the author of Percy the Lone Pelican and The Monarch Mystery.

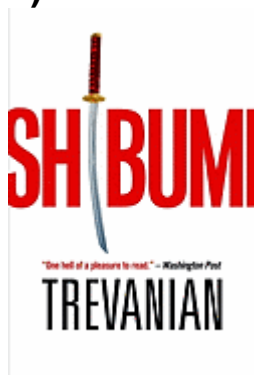
Craig Hart will be at The Book Rack April 29, 11-1:00 signing copies of his books.



A bullet slams into a wall just past Shelby's head. A drug dealer offers him \$10,000 for information regarding his dead sister. The local sheriff has Shelby in his sights. It's just another day in the small town of Serenity

Book Reviews

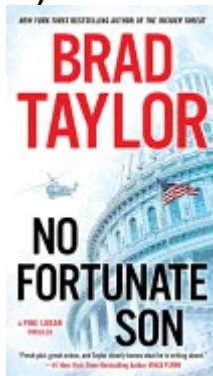
Shibumi by Trevanian (1979)



Nicholai Hel is the world's most wanted man. Born in Shanghai during the chaos of World War I, he is the son of an aristocratic Russian mother and a mysterious German father and is the protege of a Japanese Go master. Hel survived the destruction of Hiroshima to emerge as the world's most artful lover and its most accomplished--and well-paid--assassin. Hel is a genius, a mystic, and a master of language and culture, and his secret is his determination to attain a rare kind of personal excellence, a state of effortless perfection known only as "shibumi". Now living in an isolated mountain fortress with his exquisite mistress, Hel is unwillingly drawn back into the life he'd tried to leave behind when a beautiful young stranger arrives at his door, seeking help and refuge. It soon becomes clear that Hel is being tracked by his most sinister enemy--a supermonolith of international espionage known only as the Mother Company. The battle lines are drawn: ruthless power and corruption on one side, and on the other . . . "shibumi".

Earlier I'd shared a review of Don Winslow's, Satori, which is a prequel to Shibumi. I love Satori. Shibumi became a must-read. It is a very good book, but not as good as Satori. It includes great depth on Nicholai's background and doesn't really get to the suspense of the moment until the last third of the book. If this was the first of an extended series with Hel as the protagonist, then the investment would be well worth it. But it is Trevanian's only book with Hel in it. I still give it a B+, but it could have been better.

No Fortunate Son by Brad Taylor (2015)



A hostage situation places America's most powerful political elite at the mercy of its worst

enemies in this Pike Logan thriller from retired Delta Force Operator and *New York Times* bestselling author Brad Taylor.

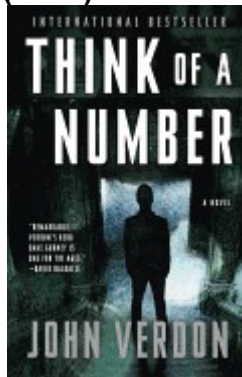
When veteran operator Pike Logan and partner Jennifer Cahill receive a letter from Blaisdell Consulting the umbrella cover company for their real employer, a top secret counter-terrorist unit called the Taskforce they expect orders for their next mission-impossible tasking. Instead, they learn that their latest actions have gotten them fired, despite having saved thousands of innocent lives.

Pike's shock and fury is redirected when their commander, Colonel Kurt Hale, asks him and Jennifer for help with a personal matter: His niece Kylie, an exchange student in England, has gone missing. Neither Pike nor Jennifer understands how critical her disappearance will become.

Meanwhile, all Taskforce teams have been redirected to a developing situation. A terrorist organization has targeted military relatives of key members of the US government, including the vice president's son. Their seizure of hostages was far-reaching and meticulously coordinated, and the full extent of the threat and potential demands has thrown the government into turmoil. They face a terrible choice: Cease counter-terrorist operations, or watch hostages die one by one. How much is a single life worth? Unless the Taskforce can decipher the web of lies devised by their enemies, the United States is about to find out.

A very good thriller. Constant action, twists and turns and characters you can really get behind. I give it an A-. If you like Ben Coes, Brad Thor or Jack Coughlin, you'll probably like Taylor.

Think of a Number by John Verdon (2010)



An extraordinary fiction debut, *Think of a Number* is an exquisitely plotted novel of suspense that grows relentlessly darker and more frightening as its pace accelerates, forcing its deeply troubled characters to moments of startling self-revelation.

Arriving in the mail over a period of weeks are taunting letters that end with a simple declaration, Think of any number picture it now see how well I know your secrets. Amazingly, those who comply find that the letter writer has predicted their random choice exactly. For Dave Gurney, just retired as the NYPD's top homicide investigator and forging a new life with his wife, Madeleine, in upstate New York, the letters are oddities that begin as a diverting puzzle but quickly ignite a massive serial murder investigation.

What police are confronted with is a completely baffling killer, one who is fond of rhymes filled with threats and warnings, whose attention to detail is unprecedented, and who has an uncanny knack for disappearing into thin air. Even more disturbing, the scale of his ambition seems to widen as events unfold.

Brought in as an investigative consultant, Dave Gurney soon accomplishes deductive

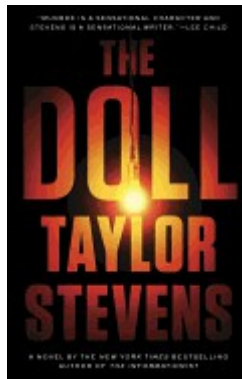
breakthroughs that leave local police in awe. Yet, even as he matches wits with his seemingly clairvoyant opponent, Gurney's tragedy-marred past rises up to haunt him, his marriage approaches a dangerous precipice, and finally, a dark, cold fear builds that he's met an adversary who can't be stopped.

In the end, fighting to keep his bearings amid a whirlwind of menace and destruction, Gurney sees the truth of what he's become what we all become when guilty memories fester and how his wife Madeleine's clear-eyed advice may be the only answer that makes sense.

A work that defies easy labels -- at once a propulsive masterpiece of suspense and an absorbing immersion in the lives of characters so real we seem to hear their heartbeats *Think of a Number* is a novel you'll not soon forget.

My first Vernon book, it was a fascinating. I tried to sort out how the killer managed to know what number the victims would choose, but in the end had to rely on Gurney to reveal it. The whole book is a puzzle, but an intriguing one and a very good police procedural and thriller. I give it an A- and recommend you try Vernon. Think of a Numb3r is Vernon's debut, but he has since released 4 more, so if you like him you'll have several more to enjoy and probably a continuing stream.

The Doll by Taylor Stevens (2013)



A heroine every bit as provocative as Stieg Larsson's Lisbeth Salander. "The Dallas Morning News"

Haunted by a life of violence and as proficient with languages as she is with knives, Vanessa Michael Munroe, chameleon and hunter, has built her life on a reputation for getting things done - dangerous and often not-quite-legal things. Born to missionary parents in lawless Africa, taken under the tutelage of gunrunners, and tortured by one of the jungle's most brutal men, Munroe was forced to do whatever it took to stay alive.

The ability to survive, fight, adapt, and blend has since taken her across the globe on behalf of corporations, heads of state, and the few private clients who can afford her unique brand of expertise, and these abilities have made her enemies.

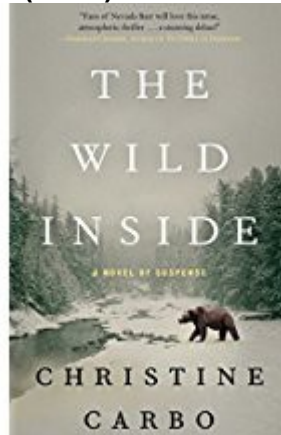
On a busy Dallas street, Munroe is kidnapped by an unseen opponent and thrust into an underground world where women and girls are merchandise and a shadowy figure known as The Doll Maker controls her every move. While trusted friends race to unravel where she is and why she was taken, everything pivots on one simple choice: Munroe must use her unique set of skills to deliver a high-profile young woman into the same nightmare that she once endured, or condemn to torture and certain death the one person she loves above all else. Driven by the violence that has made her what she is, cut off from help, and with attempts to escape predicted and prevented, Munroe will hunt for openings, for solutions, and a way to

strike back at a man who holds all the cards. Because only one thing is certain: she cannot save everyone.

In this high-octane thriller for fans of Lee Child, Stieg Larsson, and Robert Ludlum's Bourne trilogy, Vanessa Michael Munroe will have to fight fast, smart and furiously to overcome a dangerous nemesis and deliver her trademark brand of justice."

I'd previously reviewed Steven's "The Informationist" and given it a high recommendation. This one is even better. Non-stop suspense and Michael Monroe is a terrific heroine! I give it an A.

The Wild Inside by Christine Carbo (2015)



A haunting crime novel set in Glacier National Park about a man who finds himself at odds with the dark heart of the wild and the even darker heart of human nature.

It was a clear night in Glacier National Park. Fourteen-year-old Ted Systead and his father were camping beneath the rugged peaks and starlit skies when something unimaginable happened: a grizzly bear attacked Ted's father and dragged him to his death.

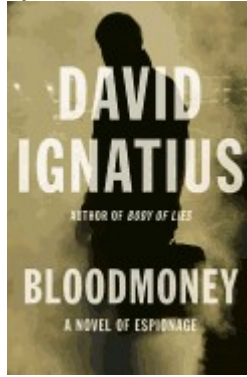
Now, twenty years later, as Special Agent for the Department of the Interior, Ted gets called back to investigate a crime that mirrors the horror of that night. Except this time, the victim was tied to a tree before the mauling. Ted teams up with one of the park officers a man named Monty, whose pleasant exterior masks an all-too-vivid knowledge of the hazardous terrain surrounding them. Residents of the area turn out to be suspicious of outsiders and less than forthcoming. Their intimate connection to the wild forces them to confront nature, and their fellow man, with equal measures of reverence and ruthlessness.

As the case progresses with no clear answers, more than human life is at stake including that of the majestic creature responsible for the attack. Ted's search for the truth ends up leading him deeper into the wilderness than he ever imagined, on the trail of a killer, until he reaches a shocking and unexpected personal conclusion.

As intriguing and alluring as bestselling crime novels by C.J. Box, Louise Penny, and William Kent Krueger, as atmospheric and evocative as the nature writing of John Krakauer and Cheryl Strayed, *The Wild Inside* is a gripping debut novel about the perilous, unforgiving intersection between man and nature."

Another new author for me and another one I want to continue to read. Do you like murder mysteries set in the wild? This one is definitely for you. And, Ted Systead is a solid homicide detective. I give it a B+.

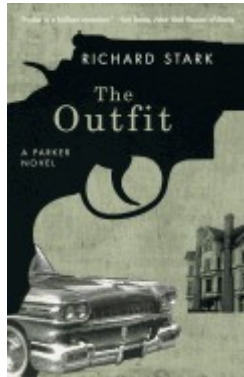
Bloodmoney by David Ignatius (2011)



Sophie thinks she has the backing of her hard-nosed boss, Jeffrey Gertz, and his genial mentor at headquarters, Cyril Hoffman. In addition, she gets help from the well-mannered lieutenant general heading Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate. But the closer Sophie gets to her quarry, the more she realizes that nothing in this gallery of mirrors is quite what it seems. This is a theater of violence and retribution, in which the last act is one that Sophie could not have imagined David Ignatius has written a disturbing and compelling novel where the price of unchecked government is paid in blood, and peace can be bought only through betrayal.

Bloodmoney is among the top spy thrillers I've read. We often hear that the US involvement in the Middle East creates more and more adversaries and individual enemy combatants. Bloodmoney is rich in background and cultural biases that contribute to this phenomenon. Are they accurate? I can't say for certain, but they seem to ring true, and I don't say this with any political agenda, just that it's part of the story line in this novel and an integral piece of this novel. Ignatius does a stellar job with this complex plot. If you like Littell, LeCarre or Len Deighton you'll love this book. I give it an A.

The Outfit by Richard Stark aka Donald E Westlake (1963)



After he evens the score with those who betrayed him and recovers the money he was cheated out of from the syndicate, Parker is riding high, living in swank hotels and enjoying the finer things in life again. Until, that is, he's fingered by a squealer who rats him out to The Outfit for the price they put on his head... and they find out too late that if you push Parker, it better be all the way into the grave!

What a fun read. Parker is an unrepentant, professional crook, as are nearly all his friends. Normally, they would never do anything to confront the Outfit, a major criminal organization. But when the Outfit goes after Parker, all constraints are off. The scheme Parker employs is

creative and you quickly join his posse of supporters. Outfit is a quick read at 213 pages, so you don't need to invest much time to try out Stark, but I'd bet once you do you'll add his to your Request List at The Book Rack. I give The Outfit an A- and a strong recommendation. If you like Duane Swierczynski, Dan Marlow or Lawrence Block you may like Richard Stark.

Trivia for April

What is the origin of the phrase, "United we stand, divided we fall"?

Answer:

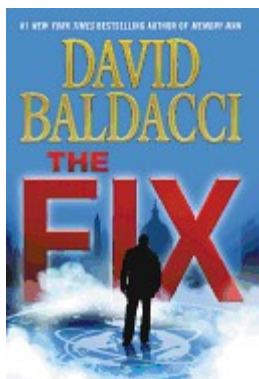
Aesop's Fables. It's from "The Four Oxen and the Lion", written in the sixth century B.C.

Upcoming New Releases:

Check out the prices following the title of the book. The price is the publisher's price. 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.

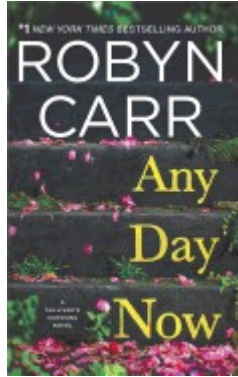
Hardcover and Trade Paperback

David Baldacci – The Fix – 29.00



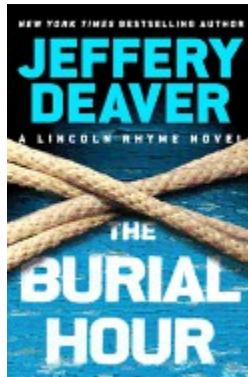
Steve Berry – The Lost Order – 28.99

Robyn Carr - Any Day Now – 26.99



Mary Higgins Clark – All by Myself, Alone – 26.99

Jeffrey Deaver – The Burial Hour – 28.00

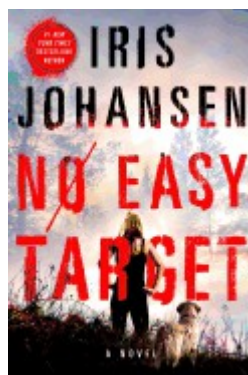


Louise Erdrich – LaRose – 15.99



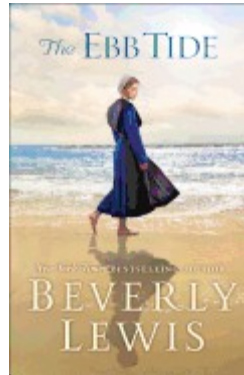
Emily Giffin – First Comes Love – 17.00

Iris Johansen – No Easy Target – 27.99



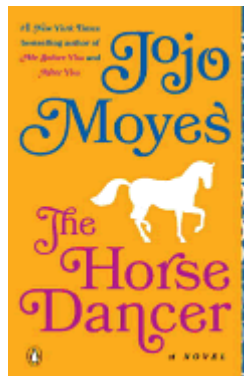
Anne Lamott – Hallelujah Anywhere – 20.00

Beverly Lewis – The Ebb Tide – 22.99



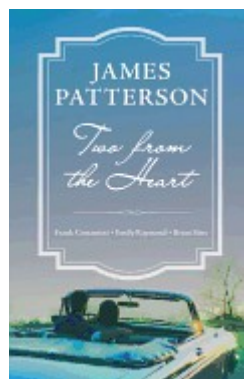
Terry McMillan – I Almost Forgot about You – 16.00

Jojo Moyes – The Horse Dancer – 16.00



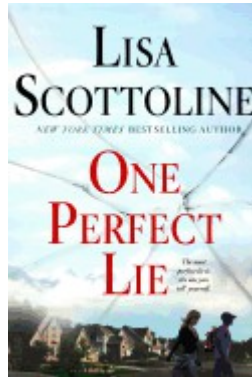
Sara Paretsky – Fallout – 27.99

James Patterson – Two from the Heart – 27.00

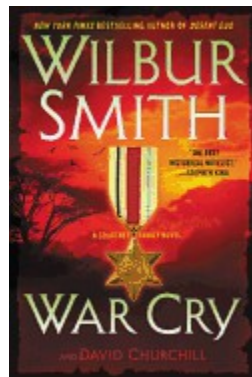


John Sanford – Golden Prey – 29.00

Lisa Scottoline – One Perfect Lie – 27.99

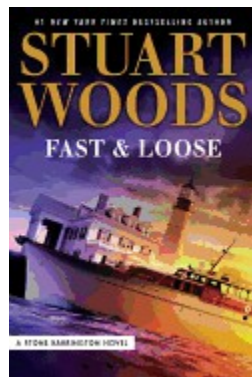


Wilbur Smith – War Cry – 28.99



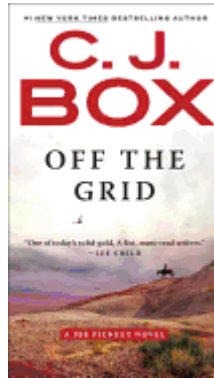
Lisa Unger – The Red Hunter – 25.99

Stuart Woods – Fast & Loose – 28.00

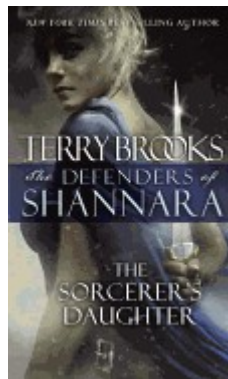


Paperback

CJ Box – Off the Grid – 9.99

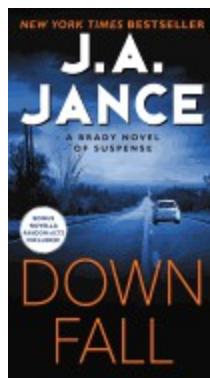


Terry Brooks – The Sorcerer's Daughter – 8.99



Emily Griffin – Where We Belong – 7.99

JA Jance – Downfall – 9.99



Sherrilyn Kenyon – Dragonmark – 8.99

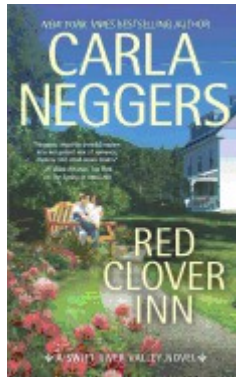


Stephen King – End of Watch – 9.99

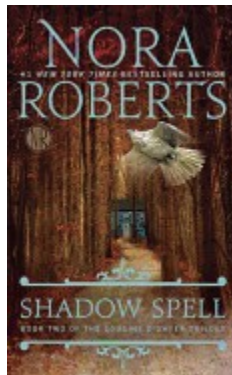


Fern Michaels – A Family Affair – 7.99

Carla Neggers – Red Clover Inn – 7.99



Nora Roberts – Shadow Spell – 7.99

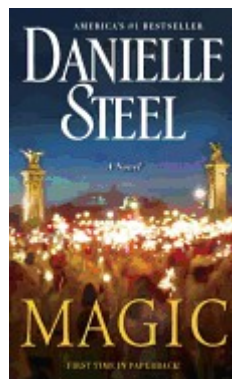


John Sanford – Extreme Prey – 9.99

Wendy Corsi Staub – Bone White – 7.99



Danielle Steel – Magic - 8.99



Robert Tannenbaum – Infamy – 9.99

