

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 11, #4
April 2018
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 April

Where did mystery writer Agatha Christie acquire her extensive knowledge of poisons?

For the answer see below!

\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!

In January 2018 we began giving away two \$25.00 Gift Certificates to 2 lucky Book Rack account holders each month. The names are selected randomly from all our registered customers who have registered and/or had a trade or purchase since 1 January 2016. All the winners have to do is to go to the newsletter and find your name listed, then come in and claim your reward. No purchase is required and you don't have to register separately from your initial account registration.

The April 2018 winners are:

Jacinda Martinez

Janet Peterson

Congratulations!

Just call or stop at the store on or before April 30 to claim your prize: a \$25 gift certificate from [The Book Rack](#).

Books we need for our other customers:

David Baldacci

Clive Barker

CJ Box

Jim Butcher

Robert Jordan

Jan Karon

Stephen King

Louise Penny

Lisa Scottoline

Daniel Silva

Star Wars

Forgotten Realms

Thank you!

April Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

April is:

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

National Poetry Month

1-7 – Library Week

1 – Easter Sunday – The Book Rack will be Closed

2 – Children's Book Day

4 – School Librarian Day (Elizabeth's Day at [The Book Rack](#))

13 – First Friday the 13th Day of 2018 – Be careful. Be VERY careful!!

15 – Income Taxes Due Day
21 – Husband Appreciation Day
27 – Arbor Day
30 – National Honesty Day

Featured Local Authors for February:

Free Verse for April

Getting Away

By

Adam J Kugler

Part 2 of a Trilogy

“I could have sworn that there was a man running around over there.”

“Man you’re imagining things again. I thought the colonel told you to stay away from the whiskey, that it was only for patients, and you were not one of those.”

“I just took a sip,” John said as he took his seat watching the darkness.

“I am telling you, things are going to be different after this war gets over.”

“Why is that?”

“Because I will finally be able to go home to my lady and we will get the chance to start the family we never had.”

“You and the ghosts out there on the field. It is just two things for you in this life. Right?” David said.

The two of them had signed up as volunteers in Northwest Illinois and they were

going to do their jobs. No one had ever heard of the town that they were from, unless they were there in the near vicinity. Not even the people who lived a short distance away often had heard of them.

David had been a good strong man, John, well he had to bulk up a little and he was sure that all the marching was going to do some good.

John thought back to his lady in Aledo, the place that no one had ever heard of before. He thought of his lady and there was a desire to be a someone, and the only way that was going to happen, was to get through this bloody war.

There was noise off in the distance.

“Do you hear that?”

“It is probably just an animal. Be quiet and listen closer.”

It would not come as a surprise that the enemy had come upon them. They were the front men tonight. They were the ones who would let camp know that there was going to be a fight. David had offered to be a guard many times because he had gotten tired of listening to John go on and on about his lady back home.

Don't get him wrong, he liked hearing good news, but there was a need to have quiet out on the front lines like this. Anything happens and you could get your head blown off by the enemy.

“Sorry.”

He went back to the quiet state. I had to imagine my lady for a while. I had met her in St. Louis and she was sitting there waiting for some kind of letter to let him know that she was still there. Still David was not going to let a little thing like a letter or anything else get in the way when he was doing his job.

Being guard, well, it meant being guard.

He was sure that John had volunteered to come out here as well because he wanted to talk to me about what to write in a letter to the woman of his dreams.

That was when he saw something. Off in the distance was someone's shadow. There was a man coming across the line. The moon lit him up like a lantern out there on the battlefield. Maybe it was an enemy combatant out trying to rob the dead or find the wounded.

He was smart. He grabbed his rifled musket and he just held it there. He had no clue what this man was here for.

Maybe John had not been dreaming after all.

“Who goes there?” John called out into the night.

The man stopped. He raised a white handkerchief. He was surrendering to us. Something must be wrong with this whole thing.

I stepped out on the field and I reached but couldn't get to him. There were too many bodies there to count. I was surprised by the number of dead. There were a lot of them along the skirmish line. I knew that they were going to come and get us in the morning, but right now it was just the way things were going go.

We needed to get this man off the field. He was dressed strangely, but for now we just needed to get him to General Sherman. He would be able to get the answers to the questions that were out there to be asked.

Was this some new tactic the enemy was using?

He slipped and fell onto the pile of bodies we had been using to shield ourselves for when the morning light came. We didn't want to be out there with no place to hide. It was too dangerous.

“John take him to the General.”

“Why me? Why not you?”

“Because you have been just sitting here daydreaming anyway.”

“Was not.”

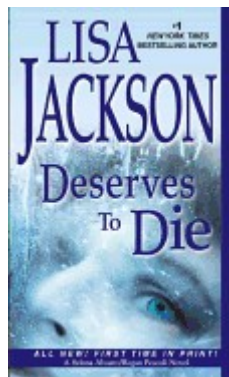
“Just go.”

I was guessing that if he was here and he was dressed like that, he was more than likely an enemy combatant. I didn't want to take a chance.

To Be Concluded... in the May newsletter

Book Reviews

Deserves to Die by Lisa Jackson (2014)



Judged

As he watches, her body drifts below the water's surface, forever altered. Before he disposes of each victim, he takes a trophy. It's a sign of his power, and a warning--to the one destined to suffer most of all. . .

Condemned

In Grizzly Falls, Montana, Detectives Selena Alvarez and Regan Pescoli are struggling with a new commander and a department in the midst of upheaval. It's the worst possible time for a homicide. A body has been found, missing a finger. Alvarez hopes this means a murderer with a personal grudge, not a madman. But then a second body turns up. . .

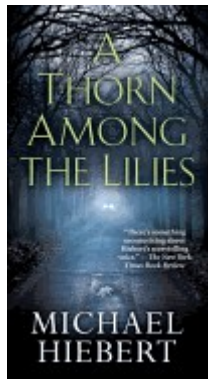
Executed

As the clues begin pointing toward a suspect, Pescoli's unease grows. Even

with Alvarez barely holding it together and her own personal life in chaos, she senses there's more to this case than others believe. A killer has made his way to Grizzly Falls, ready to fulfill a vengeance years in the making. And Pescoli must find the target of his wrath--or die trying. . .

I listened to the book and it kept me fully engaged. (Well, I did pay attention to driving, but you know what I mean.) It's been a while since I read a Jackson book and I wonder why. She's a great author and thrillers are her forte. The protagonist, not mentioned in the summary, is on the run and came to Grizzly Falls looking for help, but her hope for hero had been killed. Now she has to recalibrate and try to stay alive. It's a very good book with plenty of suspense. I give it a B+. Not tried Jackson? Pick up one of her books. You'll be glad you did.

A Thorn Among the Lilies by Michael Hiebert (2015)



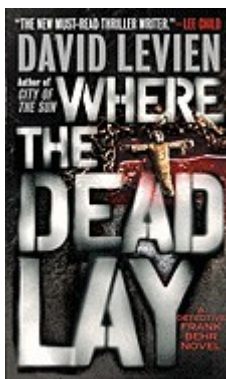
From the author of the acclaimed *Dream with Little Angels* comes a haunting novel of a long-ago tragedy that echoes through small-town Alabama as one woman tries to track down a serial killer . . .

Detective Leah Teal knows most of the secrets in her hometown of Alvin, but there are always surprises. Like the day she agrees to take her daughter to see a psychic for a reading. The psychic hones in on Leah instead, hinting at a string of gruesome killings--and insisting that she intervene to prevent more. Of course, when you go looking for trouble, you never know how much you'll find.

Sure enough, the psychic's scant clues lead Leah to a grisly cold case from six years ago. A young woman was found shot to death, her eyelids sewn shut. As Leah digs deeper, a second unsolved case surfaces with the same pattern. While her shrewd young son, Abe, observes from the sidelines, Leah races to stop another horrific murder--unaware of just how deep the roots of evil can go . . .

I must admit right up front that I didn't finish this book. I read through the first 65 of the 400 pages and closed it for the last time. I think the story line was OK, but I was very put off by the weak sentence structure, dialogue and simplistic verbiage. I don't crave high English, but this was way short of that. I just couldn't rationalize going farther. I'd still give it a C- just for the story, but don't say I didn't warn you...

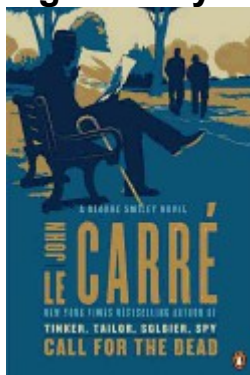
Where the Dead Lay by David Levien (2009)



When Frank Behr's friend and mentor is murdered without any apparent motive, he thirsts for answers and retaliation. But before he can make headway in the dead-end investigation, a private firm approaches him with a delicate proposition: two of its detectives have gone missing, and the firm wants Behr to find out what happened to them. The search for the missing detectives takes Behr into the recesses of Indianapolis' underworld, a place rife with brutality and vice where Behr uncovers a shocking thread connecting the missing detectives to his friend's brutal murder, and, in the process, an ominous, deadly new breed of crime family."

A murder mystery set in Indianapolis??? How good could that be!?!? Well, let me tell you. It's a good one! Frank Behr is an interesting guy, not too "damaged", clever and someone you can easily like. The story is innovative and well scripted. I give it a B+ and recommend you give Levien a try. He has 4 novels out and will hopefully keep writing more.

Call for the Dead, The First George Smiley Novel by John Le Carre' (1961)

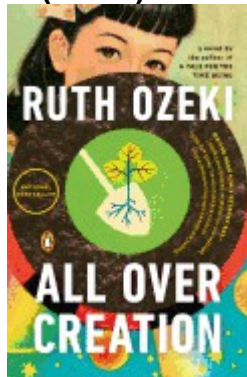


With the incomparable opening chapter, titled “A Brief History of George Smiley,” John Le Carre’ introduces his legendary spy and immediately ensnares you in the shadowy world Smiley inhabits.

Pulled back from overseas duty during WWII, Smiley was redirected to face the threats of the Cold War. He had been asked to interview Samuel Fennan of the Foreign Office after an anonymous letter accuses Fennan of Communist Party membership. Smiley’s report cleared him of the allegations, so he was stunned to learn that Fennan had died the day after the interview, leaving a suicide note that claimed his career had been ruined. Investigating circumstances that make no sense to him, Smiley gradually uncovers a spy ring and in so doing is led into a lethal dual of wits with the best of his war-time pupils. *Call for the Dead* marks the beginning of John Le Carre’s brilliant career, just as it launches the life of one of the most memorable fictional characters of the twentieth century.

Smiley is clearly at, or near, the top of the list of contemporary protagonists and this book provides the introduction to him and in addition, provides a very good spy story. That said, I find Le Carre’s books to be slow developing and hard to keep me fully engaged. I give it a B.

All Over Creation by Ruth Ozeki (2003)



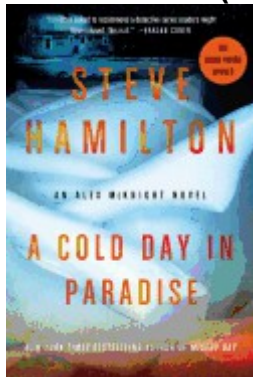
A warm and witty saga about agribusiness, environmental activism, and community--from the celebrated author of *My Year of Meats* and *A Tale for the Time Being*.

Yumi Fuller hasn't set foot in her hometown of Liberty Falls, Idaho--heart of the potato-farming industry--since she ran away at age fifteen. Twenty-five years later, the prodigal daughter returns to confront her dying parents, her best friend, and her conflicted past, and finds herself caught up in an altogether new drama. The post-millennial farming community has been invaded by Agribusiness forces at war with a posse of activists, the Seeds of Resistance, who travel the country

in a camping car, "The Spudnick," biofueled by pilfered McDonald's french-fry oil. Following her widely hailed, award-winning debut novel, *My Year of Meats*, Ruth Ozeki returns here to deliver a quirky cast of characters and a wickedly humorous appreciation of the foibles of corporate life, globalization, political resistance, youth culture, and aging baby boomers. *All Over Creation* tells a celebratory tale of the beauty of seeds, roots, and growth--and the capacity for renewal that resides within us all.

A surprising story that Claudia & I listened to as we traveled. It definitely kept us interested and entertained. An odd mix of characters drawn to an Idaho potato farm for various reasons and their interactions and those of the "natives" makes an interesting, instructive and enjoyable book. I give it a B+ and recommend picking it up if the opportunity to arises.

A Cold Day in Paradise by Steve Hamilton (1998)



Other than the bullet lodged near his heart, former Detroit cop Alex McKnight thought he had put the nightmare of his partner's death and his own near-fatal injury behind him. After all, the man convicted of the crimes has been locked away for years. But in the small town of Paradise, Michigan, where McKnight has traded his badge for a cabin in the woods, a murderer with the same unmistakable trademarks appears to be back. McKnight can't understand who else would know the intimate details of the old murders. And it seems like it'll be a frozen day in Hell before McKnight can unravel truth from deception in a town that's anything but Paradise.

WINNER OF THE EDGAR AWARD FOR BEST FIRST NOVEL
WINNER OF THE SHAMUS AWARD FOR BEST FIRST NOVEL

Hamilton's first book was, and still is, a winner. This one really kept me guessing up to the end. It's a very good murder mystery. If you like William Kent Krueger, CJ Box or Henning Mankill, I think you'll like Hamilton. I give this book a B+.

Trivia for April

Where did mystery writer Agatha Christie acquire her extensive knowledge of poisons?

Answer:

In a hospital dispensary – where she worked during World War I

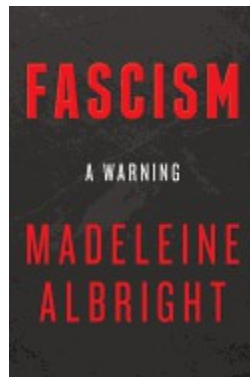
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

Check out the prices following the title of the book. Those prices are the publisher's prices. **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.

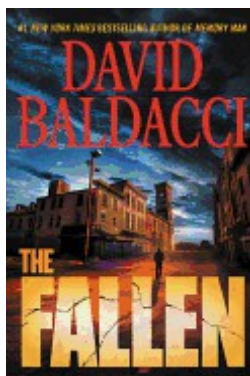
You can also add any of these titles to your request list. Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but most will get to you eventually.

Hardcover and Trade Paperback

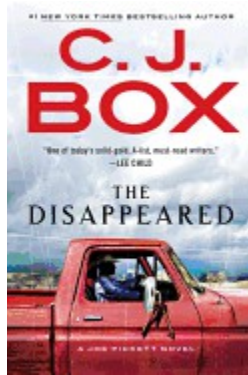
Madeleine Albright – Fascism: A Warning – 26.99



David Baldacci – The Fallen – 29.00



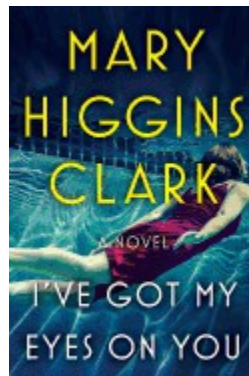
C.J. Box – The Disappeared – 29.00



Robin Carr – The Family Gathering – 26.99

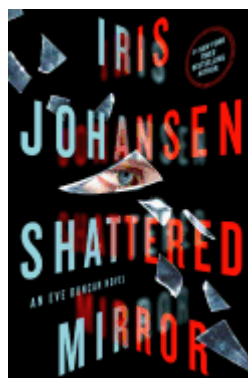
Cleo Coyle – Shot in the Dark – 27.00

Mary Higgins Clark – I've Got My Eyes on You – 26.99



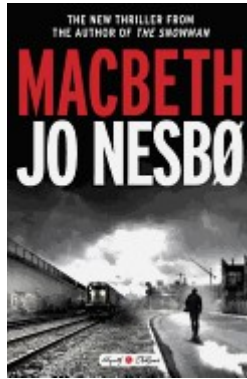
Jeffrey Deaver – The Cutting Edge – 28.00

Iris Johansen – Shattered Mirror – 28.99



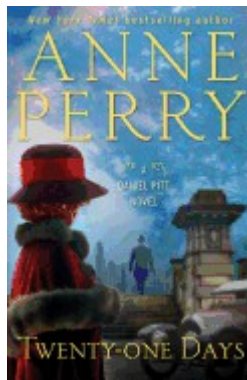
Fern Michaels – Sweet Vengeance – 22.95

Jo Nesbo – Macbeth – 27.00



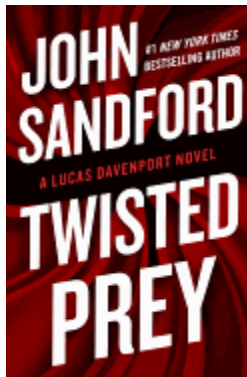
James Patterson – The 17th Suspect – 29.00

Anne Perry – Twenty-one Days – 28.00



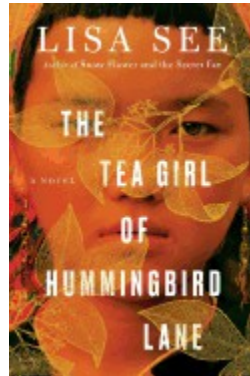
Nora Roberts – Shelter in Place – 27.99

John Sandford – Twisted Prey – 29.00



Lisa Scottoline – After Anna – 17.99

Lisa See – The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane – 16.99

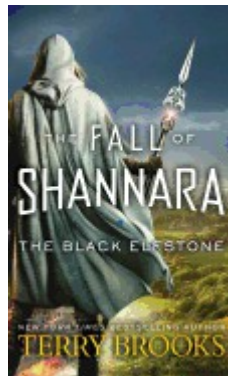


J.R. Ward – The Thief – 28.00

Stuart Woods – Shoot First – 28.00

Mass Market Paperback

Terry Brooks – The Fall of Shannara : The Black Elfstone – 8.99



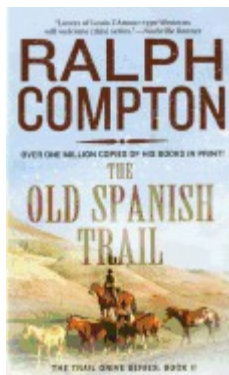
Jack Campbell – Vanguard: The Genesis Fleet – 7.99

Tom Clancy – Point of Contact – 9.99



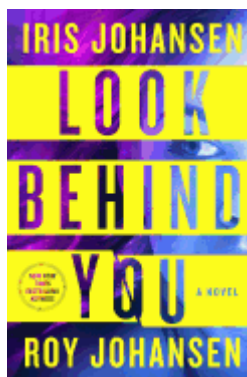
Mary Higgins Clark – All By Myself, Alone – 8.99

Ralph Compton – The Old Spanish Trail, Book II – 7.99



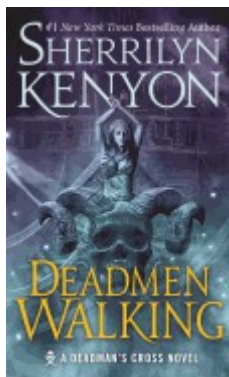
J.A. Jance – Proof of Life – 9.99

Iris Johansen – Look Behind You - 9.99



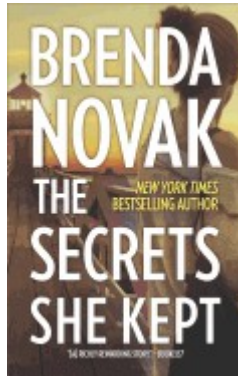
William W. Johnstone – Flintlock: Pitchfork Pass – 7.99

Sherrilyn Kenyon – Deadmen Walking – 8.99



Eric Van Lustbader – The Fallen – 9.99

Brenda Novak – The Secrets She Kept – 7.99



James Patterson – The 16th Seduction – 9.99

John Sandford – Golden Prey – 9.99

Danielle Steel – The Duchess – 8.99

