

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 8, #8
August 2015
3937 41st Ave Dr., Moline
309-797-1985
4764 Elmore Ave, Davenport
563-355-2310

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

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

*****Important Announcement*****

It's with great regret that I announce that **The Book Rack** in **Moline** will be permanently closing in late September! After 5 wonderful years next to Starbucks off John Deere Road our lease is expiring and we'll not be renewing it.

Several factors led to the decision. The expiration of the lease forced us to evaluate extending versus relocating or closing. If we renewed the lease the rent would increase, as it has annually for the past 5-years while sales have leveled off. There just does not seem to be sufficient demand for two full service, used book stores in the Quad Cities. Sales have not risen nearly as much as costs since we expanded into Illinois and enlarged our Iowa store. They've definitely grown, but not enough to support both stores.

The exact date of closing is yet to be determined, but will be around September 21. A final date will be in the September newsletter and prominently posted in the stores.

All customer records and credit will be consolidated at our Davenport store and, as always, your credit will never expire. We will continue to operate normally in Moline through August and may have some specials in September to help us reduce the inventory we'll need to move. Those, too, will be announced in

the September newsletter and in the stores.

Please rest assured that there is no plan or expectation that the Davenport **Book Rack** will also close. We are completely confident the consolidated business will be very sound and financially viable and see no end in sight to its service to readers throughout the QCA and beyond.

We hope you will understand and continue to actively support your reading through **The Book Rack**.

Book shelves for sale!

A related note: The wonderful custom shelves we have at the Moline **Book Rack** will be available shortly following the closure. These shelves have been in use for 5-years and are still in near new appearance. We have approximately 150 shelf units to sell. They are primarily 7' tall, 6" deep & 3-4' wide, but range from 11" to 43" wide and 31 units are 10' tall. Most have backs, but some do not. Most have 9 1/4" clearance between each shelf, 8 shelves/unit, are made of premium quality poplar and painted the beautiful **orange color** you all love! Of course, you can repaint them if orange should clash with your home décor – or you could remodel to match the shelves! We also have 15 units that are 3' wide by 10' tall, with the other dimensions the same as the shorter units. The shelves will become available in late September and early October. If you are interested in purchasing some of these shelves, there will be a small form on the counters at both stores. Fill one out with the requested information, the number of each units and your proposed purchase price for each unit. Upon closing, we will simply take all the proposals, place them in order from highest proposed price to lowest acceptable proposal and contact the buyers to come in and select their units. For your reference, comparable ones on-line run \$150 - \$300+. While we don't expect to receive those amounts, would we turn them down! ;-)

Dedication in a scientific book: To my wife, without whose absence this book could not have been written.

Reading Trivia

What kind of tree was Betty Smith referring to in her book "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"?

See below for the trivia answer

August Events:

9 - Book Lovers Day encourages you to find a place in the shade to relax with a good book.

15 – Local author Arlene Rundle will be at [The Book Rack](#) in Moline 11-1:00 signing copies of her latest book, "The Monarch Mystery."

15 – Relaxation Day

21 – Senior Citizen Day

Reading Group Choices: The 10 favorite books for reading groups, based on a survey of thousands of groups in 2013 were:

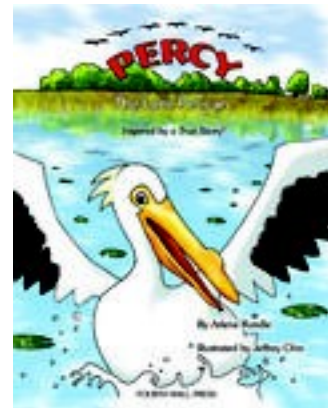
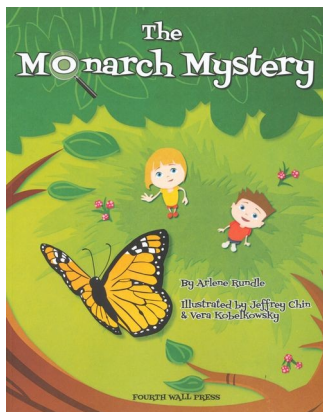
1. The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt
2. The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
3. Me Before You by Jojo Moyes
4. The Light Between the Oceans by M.L. Stedman
5. The Orphan Train by Christina Baker Cline
6. And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini
7. Where'd You Go, Bernadette? By Maria Semple
8. The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman
9. Life After Life by Kate Atkinson
10. The Fault of our Stars by John Green

Let us help you find just the right book and/or just the right

number of copies and price for your group. Set up an account for your group and put a request in for upcoming books. We'll do our best to get you all you need, and you can return them for credit if you want to after the group is through with them.

Featured Author:

Local Author Arlene Rundle will be at [The Book Rack](#) in Moline, **11-1:00**, on August 15 to share with you her books, including her latest release, *The Monarch Mystery* and *Percy, the Lone Pelican*.



Jeff Chin is the illustrator for both books.

The *Monarch Mystery* is Arlene's second childrens book. She is also the author of *Percy the Lone Pelican*, the true story of a wounded pelican rehabilitated by a Quad Cities man and released back into the wild.

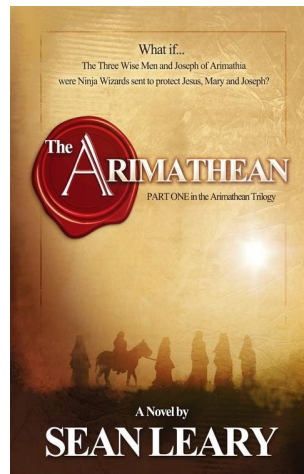
***The Monarch Mystery* follows the fascinating journey of twins Grace and Scott beginning with their discovery of mysterious white bumps on the back of a leaf while working on a school project. With self-determination and the help of their mother, a teacher, a neighbor, the internet and books from a library, the competitive and independent twins cooperate to successfully raise and release two Monarch butterflies. Written by retired elementary teacher Arlene Rundle and beautifully illustrated by Jeffrey Chin and Vera Kobelkowsky, the book is supplemented with photos depicting the amazing life cycle of Monarch**

butterflies.

We hope you will stop in and visit with this very talented local author. If you can't make it on the day Arlene is at the store, please check out her books in our Local Author shelves at both stores.

Free Verse is a regular, monthly, feature by one of our wonderful Quad Cities area local authors. Each month we enjoy writing by a different talent. These articles and poems are on a variety of topics bound to be of interest to many of our readers. Please help spread the word by forwarding the newsletter to others. Give these folks as wide an audience as possible, please.

The following is the first chapter of the novel **THE ARIMATHEAN**, currently available at the Davenport and Moline **Book Rack** locations.



BY SEAN LEARY

Awash in shadow jagged by light, surrounded by the soulless remains of men drowning the cries of their sins, he sat apart, alone, untouched by eyes and words. None dared to cusp his territory, as the tales that preceded him were enough to razor the spines of even these men whose hands had snapped bone and bathed in blood.

The dying day's choking sun coughed a dull, sanguine luminosity into the bar but it failed to venture anything but a sad, grasping hand towards the man slunk into the corner, whose presence was gouged into the room like a vicious scar.

His hair was dark and wild, askew and turbulent and torn as the thoughts rampaging beneath the weathered cage of his lined forehead. His face was drawn hard and forbidding, coiled in barely suppressed rage.

His body was thick and armored in muscle, undiminished despite his persistent

attempts at ruin and drunken decay. Loose, earth-colored garments wrapped around him, caught by a thick brown belt of great weight, strapped with small satchels rumored to be containing a myriad of treasures, and sheathes harnessing deadly hunks of steel dangling ominously, blood-stained teeth waiting to sate themselves on the flesh of the unwise.

On those who would dare to challenge him.

Like a fang piercing the pale, a shadow penetrated the doorway of the dismal edifice.

A hulking figure eclipsed the fading light from outside, and into the hive of decay entered a monster of a man, encased in furs and metals, with a body full as a rhino and a cruel slit of a smile ripped across a face captured in jet-black barbed wire hair.

The men in the bar kept their heads to their drinks, their eyes darting like ferrets, through sideways glances, as they watched the grinning giant lumber in, making his way to the lonely table at the back. The goliath punished the ground with each step, through the gasp of the bartender and across the dirt and dust, over the grotesque pockmarks of crimson stains stubbornly refusing to fade from the floor, leading to the edge of the silent man's table. The dried, faded pools grew larger as the pariah's sanctuary loomed, the final destitute tombstones of men, arrogant, greedy and stupid, who had dared to challenge or threaten him, only to be thrown to the wild dogs and forgotten to the world.

The giant reached a pair of hulking arms behind his back and withdrew an axe the size of a lion.

He spit onto the fore of the table, a thick mass, black and bloody.

The man seated before the mountainous warrior looked up from his drink. His wizened eyes were flecked in gold, framed in sienna, the color of the line of horizon at dusk, where earth and heavens meet, cutting and alive, ethereal and aware.

“You are Arimathean?” the hulking beast growled.

The sitting man remained silent, lifting his glass and taking a swig, pursing his lips and grimacing as he set it down.

“You are Arimathean? You spawn of a diseased whore?”

The Arimathean's face stalked upward slowly, and for a moment, it met the larger man's, and, however slightly, the giant retreated.

“You know why I have come,” the man with the axe growled. “Give them to me and I may let the wildlings drag your dead flesh until it is only half-eaten before buried.”

The Arimathean's gaze pierced the goliath's stark, malevolent orbs.

The mammoth halted, then trembled, before regaining himself and clasping the handle of his axe tightly.

“Your powers hold no sway over me,” the man said, in a deep, booming voice. “I have been trained in the clouded temples and carry some of the same charms.”

He choked the leather of his axe and lifted it slowly.

“But not all,” he spat. “Yet.”

The seedy crowd dove for whatever cover could be found as with a mighty swing the

cruel metal was hefted upwards and thundered down, exploding the table into a riot of shards.

But even more quickly, the Arimathean bolted from behind it, a split-second before his destruction.

A blur of steel sliced through the air!

Blood splattered and sailed about the room!

And then, with a sick thud, the armless, headless body of the mountain of man, his limbs scattered, his axe clattered impotently to the ground, slunk onto the dirty floor, melting into a slick pool of red.

The Arimathean did not bother to look down, kicking the dismal meat bag aside and reaching into a pouch on his belt.

He flipped a heavy, glittering coin to the bartender.

“I need another drink.”

He looked down at the lifeless, gory lump of flesh, the once fiery, arrogant volcano of torso, and watched as a throng of rats the size of bread loaves scrambled to it.

“I would pay you for the mess,” the Arimathean scowled, “but apparently that will not be necessary.”

He grabbed his new bottle, took a long drink, looked around at the men, whose eyes feared his, and then he sheathed his sword and walked to another corner of the ramshackle bar, to another table, returning once more to the barbed womb of his Cimmerian solitude.

Book Reviews:

Our first review is, of course, from Dave Moyer, 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 available from the Local Author shelves at both **Book Racks**.

The Forgetting Place: A Novel by John Burley



Wow.

John Burley's second novel, *The Forgetting Place*, is a worthy successor to *Absence of Mercy*. At first it did not appear as if that would be the case, as the story seemed to meander for a while. But, Burley's managed to do it again.

Dr. Lise Shields arrives at Menaker, a correctional psychiatric facility in Maryland and becomes embroiled in a massive "cover up" – or does she? That is the question readers are left with when they finish the book. Who exactly are the victims in this story?

The plot is well conceived, but pulling this story off was no easy task. Fortunately, Burley did pull it off. So much so that one cannot be sure with any absolute certainty what did or did not happen. This brilliantly parallels the confusion evident in the minds of the mentally ill that Dr. Shields is or is not treating.

One of the main male characters has a lover, who is a suspected terrorist; the latter winds up being murdered. That's about all one can say for certain. To go into much greater detail would create too many spoilers for prospective readers of this work.

This is a fine novel, Mr. Burley! If you can keep this going, you'll wind up with a cult following and perhaps much more.

Well recommended.

Dave Moyer

This review originally appeared on the Joseph's Reviews site:

<http://josephsreviews.wordpress.com/>

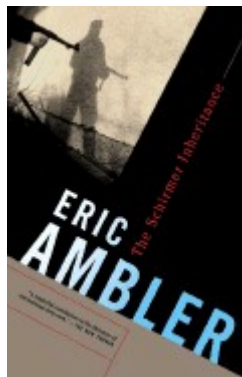
The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Orczy (1905)



It is 1792 and France is in the grip of a seething, bloody revolution. Mobs roam the Paris streets hunting down royalists, barricades block any chance of escape, and every day hundreds die under the blade of Madame la Guillotine. But in the hearts of the condemned nobility there remains one last vestige of hope: rescue by the elusive Scarlet Pimpernel. Renowned for both his unparalleled bravery and his clever disguises, the Pimpernel's identity remains as much a mystery to his sworn enemy, the ruthless French agent Chauvelin, as to his devoted admirer, the beautiful Lady Marguerite Blakeney. First published in 1905, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* is an irresistible novel of love, gallantry, and swashbuckling adventure." (From the publisher's marketing)

This is considered the first of the genre called the "masked avenger" novels which is now in its second century. I've "always" heard of this book but had never before picked it up. It is a very entertaining story of adventure but also gives a good insight into the reign of terror that engulfed France in the immediate aftermath of the French Revolution. The horror of the guillotine, the English nobility lifestyle, and general life of the aristocracy of the time. I give it a B- and recommend it to those who enjoy period mysteries. It is at times slow developing but with bursts of excitement. *The Scarlet Pimpernel* is very clever, and an early prototype for Zorro, Batman and Superman, who followed.

The Schirmer Inheritance by Eric Ambler (1953)



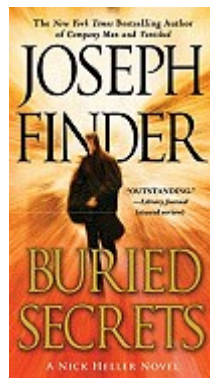
It wasn't anyone's idea of a glamorous first assignment at a prestigious law firm. George Cary, former WWII bomber pilot and newly minted lawyer, was given the

ignoble task of going through the tons of files on the Schneider Johnson case, just to make sure nothing had been overlooked. But, as luck would have it, George did discover something among the false claims and dead-end leads that made this into more than just another missing-heir-to-a-vast-fortune case. And what he found would connect a deserter from Napoleon's defeated army to a guerrilla fighter in post-war Greece, and lead Cary himself into a dangerous situation where his own survival will depend more on what he learned in the army than anything he learned in law school.

This is my first Eric Ambler book. Ambler had a very successful career as a screen writer, receiving an Academy Award for his work on 'The Cruel Sea' by Nicolas Monsarrat in 1953. Many of his own works have been filmed, the most famous probably being 'Light of Day', filmed as 'Topkapi' under which title it is now published. He established a reputation as a thriller writer of extraordinary depth and originality and received many accolades during his lifetime, including two Edgar Awards from The Mystery Writers of America (best novel for 'Topkapi' and best biographical work for 'Here Lies Eric Ambler'), and two Gold Dagger Awards from the Crime Writer's Association ('Passage of Arms' and 'The Levanter'). Often credited as being the inventor of the modern political thriller, John Le Carre once described Ambler as 'the source on which we all draw'. A recurring theme in Ambler's works is the success of the well meaning yet somewhat bungling amateur who triumphs in the face of both adversity and hardened professionals.

I give this book a solid B. I guess it's timely now with Greece so much in the news, but mainly it's a thriller. The pace is not up to modern standards, but, as with The Scarlet Pimpernel, you are acquainted with a different time period, this one right after WWII, and location with which you may not be familiar.

Buried Secrets (A Nick Heller novel) by Joseph Finder (2012)



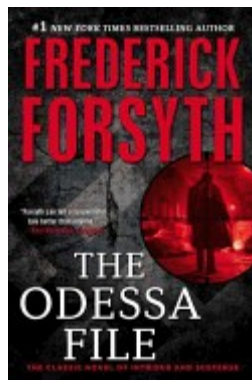
When Alexa Marcus, the teenage daughter of a billionaire hedge fund titan, is kidnapped, it's up to family friend and "private spy" Nick Heller--a former intelligence operative trained in the Special Forces--to find her before time runs out.

Alexa has been buried alive, a videocam trained on her night and day, her terror streamed live over the Internet. Who are her cunning and ruthless captors--and what do they want? And why is there no ransom request? With the help of an ex-lover, FBI

Special Agent Diana Madigan, Nick must penetrate layers of deceptions and manipulations to hunt down Alexa's abductors. He will destroy anyone who gets in his way--even Alexa's own father, who refuses to reveal the one secret that will save his daughter's life. Meanwhile, powerful members of a conspiracy are on Nick's trail and determined to make sure that their secrets stay buried. But they don't realize how far Nick Heller will go to uncover the truth--and save a life. (Publisher's Marketing)

A very good thriller! I give it a B+ and highly recommend it. Claudia & I listened to it on audiobook on a recent road trip and what's normally a 9-hour trip seemed more like 5! Fast paced and you have to really feel for Alexa, who already had a fear of tight spaces. If you haven't read Finder, pick up one of his books and you'll want more of them!

The Odessa File by Frederick Forsyth (1972)

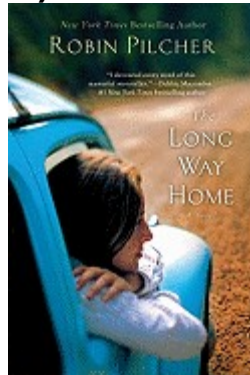


The Odessa of this title is not a city in Russia or a town in Texas but an acronym for the secret organization which has, with a large measure of success, protected the identities and advanced the destinies of Hitler's dreaded SS in and out of Germany since shortly before the end of World War II. One of the rare major defeats it suffered came in the spring of 1964, when a packet of dossiers arrived anonymously at the Ministry of Justice in Bonn. How and why a once carefree young German free-lance journalist named Peter Miller came to send the packet is told in this brilliant new extrapolation from reality into terror. With Miller the reader enters a Nemesis pursuit that takes him from a sleety night in Hamburg to the cornering of his human prey in a snowbound eyrie in the Taunus Mountains. He will begin with the searing diary of a survivor of the Riga, Latvia, extermination camp commanded by SS Captain Eduard Roschmann (who earned his reputation as the "Butcher of Riga" by directly overseeing the slaughter of eighty thousand German and Australian Jews between 1941 and 1944), and learn of Roschmann's many escapes and then current involvement with a plant secretly designing CBW warheads to be rained on Israel from Egypt: he will meet Simon Wiesenthal, the real man who lived to track down Nazi war criminals, and the man known as Werwolf, who headed the sadistic Odessa inside West Germany; he will be imperiled by bomb and assassin, he will feel the iron of guilt and retribution strike into his very soul.

This is a very sobering historical novel set in 1964 and based on real people and events. I give it an A- for its terrific writing, the historical accuracy and Forsyth's ability to weave a realistic projection of what happened during this set of events. Like

historical novels set around WWII and the events that followed? Don't miss this one!

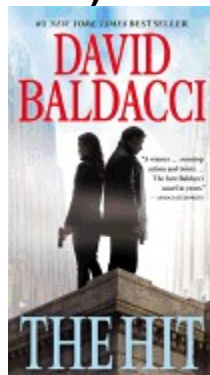
The Long Way Home by (Mr.) Robin Pilcher (2010)



When Claire Barclay's widowed mother marries Leo Harrison and they move to an estate in Alloa, Scotland, Claire's only friend is Jonas, who lives on the estate's rundown farm. The pair is inseparable until the night she decides to confess her love, and he says he wants nothing to do with her. Shocked and devastated, Claire takes time to travel rather than start university right away. When she meets Art Barrington in New York, loves blossoms between them. Years later, she returns to Alloa when her mother dies, and she finds Leo suffering from dementia. Because the house means so much to Claire, Art conceives the notion of turning it into a conference center, but they aren't the only ones interested in the house. Jonas, who has made his fortune, has also been running Leo's life, leaving Claire to question his motivations. Pilcher weaves a wonderful story filled with love, deceit, and friendship. (Booklist)

This is my first Robin Pilcher book. I will return for more. A drama using flashback to provide background. The characters are strong and well developed. The story grabbed me and kept me engaged. I regretted when I had to put it down. I give it a B+ and recommend you give Robin Pilcher a try. He deserves to be considered.

The Hit by David Baldacci (2013)

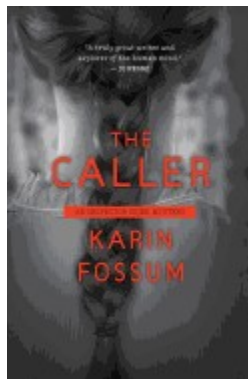


Will Robie is a master of killing. A highly skilled assassin, Robie is the man the U.S. government calls on to eliminate the worst of the worst-enemies of the state, monsters committed to harming untold numbers of innocent victims. No one else can match

Robie's talents as a hitman...no one, except Jessica Reel. A fellow assassin, equally professional and dangerous, Reel is every bit as lethal as Robie. And now, she's gone rogue, turning her gun sights on other members of their agency. To stop one of their own, the government looks again to Will Robie. His mission: bring in Reel, dead or alive. Only a killer can catch another killer, they tell him. But as Robie pursues Reel, he quickly finds that there is more to her betrayal than meets the eye. Her attacks on the agency conceal a larger threat, a threat that could send shockwaves through the U.S. government and around the world.

Baldacci is just one of the best and this book is well done. I give it a B+ and, if your in the small group of fiction readers who've not read him, you should join the fan club!

The Caller by Karin Fossum (2011)



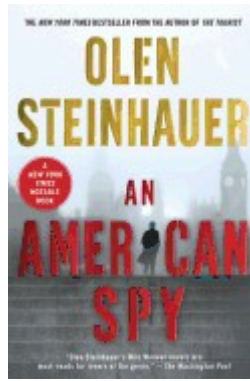
One mild summer evening, a young couple are enjoying dinner while their daughter sleeps peacefully in her stroller under a tree. When her mother steps outside she is stunned: the child is covered in blood.

Inspector Sejer is called to the hospital to meet the family. Mercifully, the child is unharmed, but the parents are deeply shaken, and Sejer spends the evening trying to understand why anyone would carry out such a sinister prank. Then, just before midnight, somebody rings his doorbell.

No one is at the door, but the caller has left a small gray envelope on Sejer's mat. From his living room window, the inspector watches a figure disappear into the darkness. Inside the envelope Sejer finds a postcard bearing a short message: Hell begins now.

Karin Fossum is a Norwegian writer and the book is set in Norway. That takes nothing from it. It is a very good suspense story. Terror takes many forms and she has nailed one of them. The Boston Globe said, "the crimes ... are pranks, but they're hardly harmless. In fact. They're so fiendishly creative they eat away at their victims long after the unsettling events, and the unraveling of their peace of mind, the shattering of their false senses of security..." This is a very good book and I give it an A-.

An American Spy by Olen Steinhauer (2012)



With only a handful of CIA-trained assassins--code name: "tourists"--left, Milo Weaver is more than ready to return to his cherished role as a husband and father. But his former CIA boss, Alan Drummond, can't let the job go. When Alan uses one of Milo's compromised aliases to travel to London and then disappears, calling all kinds of attention to his actions, Milo has no choice but to go in search of him. Worse still, it's beginning to look as if Tourism's enemies are gearing up for a final, fatal blow.

"Remember John le Carre . . . when he wrote about beaten-down, morally directionless spies? In other words, when he was good? That's how Olen Steinhauer writes in this tale of a world-weary spook who can't escape the old game."

---"Time

Do you like international suspense and/or authors like John le Carre, Alan Berenson and Eric Ambler? This is one to pick up. I give it a B

Your Reading Trivia Question for August

What kind of tree was Betty Smith referring to in her book
"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"?

An ailanthus, known as "the tree of Heaven."



Also called shumac, stinking sumac, Chinese sumac, and ailanthus, it was introduced by a Pennsylvania gardener in 1748.

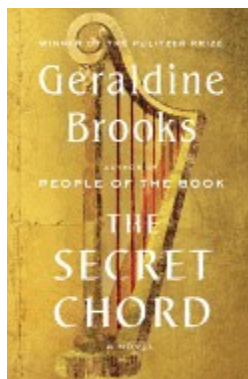
Upcoming New Releases:

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 up your order at one of the stores. There is no shipping charge when you pick camp Order now by calling one of the stores or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment on all special orders.

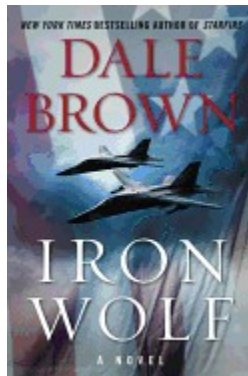
Hardcover:

Ben Bova – Power Surge – 24.99/20.00

Geraldine Brooks – The Secret Chord – 27.95/22.40



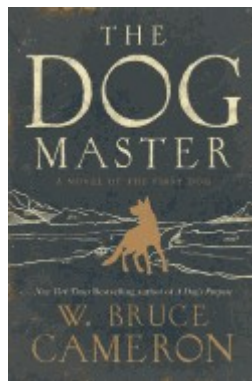
Dale Brown – Iron Wolf – 27.99/22.40



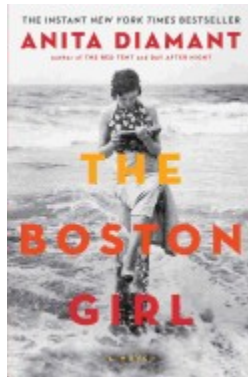
Sandra Brown – Friction – 26.00/20.80

Davis Bunn – The Pilgrim – 14.99/12.00

W. Bruce Cameron – The Dog Master, A Novel of the First Dog – 25.99/20.80

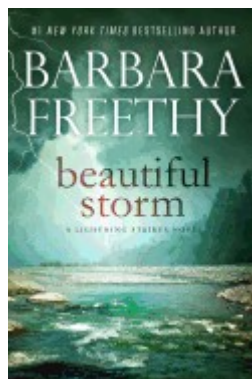


Anita Diamant – The Boston Girl – 16.00/12.80



Jonathan Franzen – Purity – 28.00/22.40

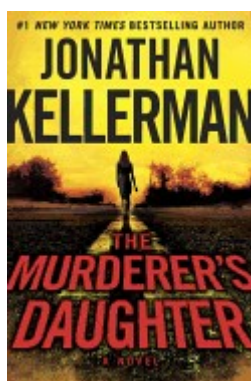
Barbara Freethy – Beautiful Storm – 24.95/20.00



Sue Grafton – X – 29.95/23.20

Alice Hoffman – The Marriage of Opposites – 27.95/22.40

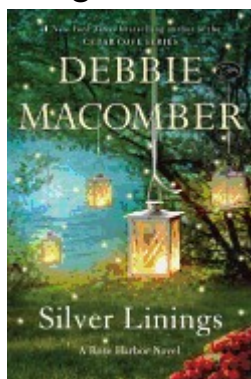
Jonathan Kellerman – The Murderer's Daughter – 28.00/22.40



Michael Koryta – Last Words – 26.00/20.80

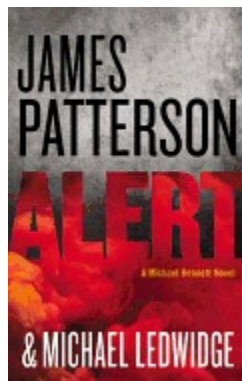


Debbie Macomber – Silver Linings – 26.00/20.80

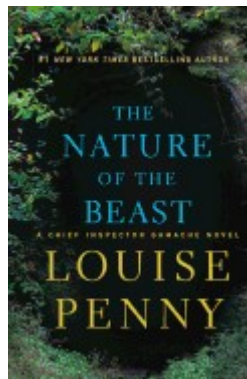


Carla Neggers – Keeper's Reach – 24.95/20.00

James Patterson – Alert – 28.00/22.40



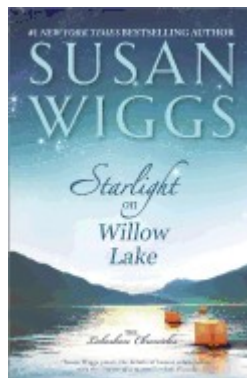
Louise Penny – The Nature of the Beast – 27.99/22.40



Karin Slaughter – Pretty Girls – 27.99/22.40

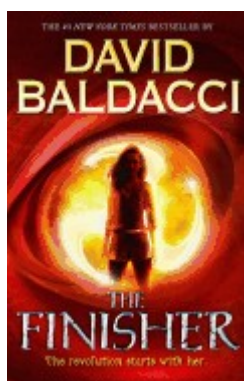
Charles Todd – A Pattern of Lies – 25.99/20.80

Susan Wiggs – Starlight on Willow Lake – 24.95/20.00

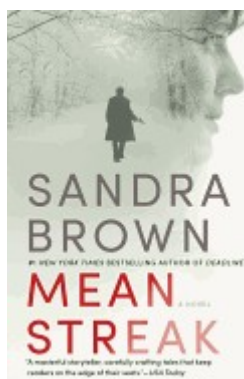


Paperback:

David Baldacci – The Finisher – 7.99/6.40 (Middle School)



Sandra Brown – Mean Streak – 8.00/6.40

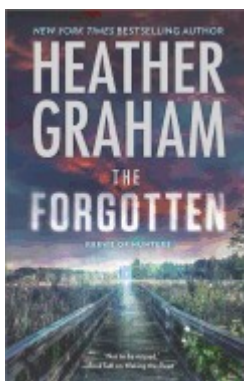


Jayne Castle – Siren's Call – 7.99/6.40

Richard Castle – Raging Heat – 9.99/8.00

John Connolly – The Wolf in Winter – 7.99/6.40

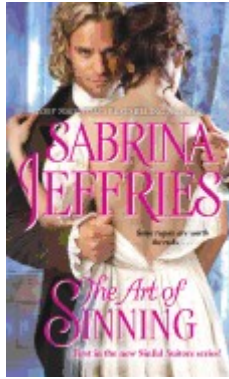
Heather Graham – The Forgotten – 7.99/6.40



WEB Griffin – Top Secret – 9.99/8.00

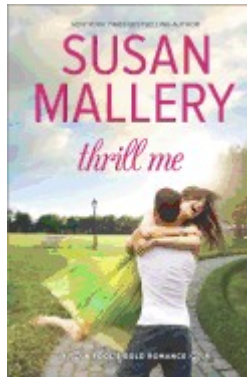
Kay Hooper – Haunted – 9.99/8.00

Sabrina Jeffries – The Art of Sinning – 7.99/6.40



Debbie Macomber – Love Letters – 7.99/6.40

Susan Mallery – Thrill Me – 8.99/7.20

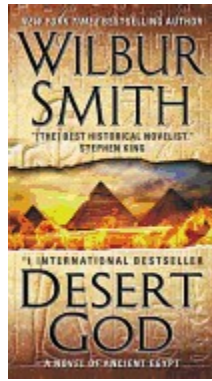


Terry McMillan – Who Asked You? - 9.99/8.00

James Patterson – Unlucky 13 – 8.00/6.40



Wilbur Smith – Desert God – 9.99/6.49



Randy Wayne White – Haunted – 9.99/8.00

Sherryl Woods – The Calamity Janes: Lauren – 7.99/6.40

