

The Book Rack Newsletter

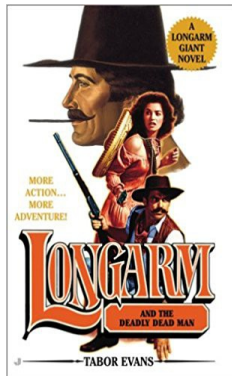
It just makes sense to buy your books at The Book Rack!

Vol 10, #8
August 2017
563-355-2310

*Store Hours: 10:00 - 6:00 Daily (except New Years Day, Easter, July 4,
Thanksgiving and Christmas)*

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

Are you a fan of the Longarm Series of adult westerns by Tabor
Evans?



Well, we recently acquired some 200 of these books. There are too many for us to fit them all on our shelves. If you have a list of the ones you have or the ones you want, we can help you fill the holes in your collection. Talk to anyone on the staff.

Trivia for August

What popular comic strip featured a character named
Appassionata Von Climax?

See below for the answer.

**August Holidays and Events at The Book
Rack:**

Admit You're Happy Month
Family Fun Month
Romance Awareness Month

August 5 – National Clown Day

6 – Friendship Day

6 – Sisters Day

9 – Book Lovers Day

15 – Relaxation Day

21 – Seniors Day

26 – Women's Equality Day

27 – Global Forgiveness Day

Free Verse

Ulysses S. Grant:

From Soldier to Citizen to Soldier Again

(1839-1861)

By

Adam J Kugler

There are not many of us who have not been familiar with the stories we have heard of Ulysses S. Grant. For many years I traveled to the City of Galena and I wanted to see the sights. More than anything I wanted to see the Wax Museum. (It is no longer there.) It is something that brought cub scouts and boy scouts and all other people together to celebrate the life of Ulysses S. Grant.

Usually I would travel up the hill and I would go through the Grant Home, the one that you can tour. It is filled with curious things that would fascinate us all. It had furniture of the Grant family. On the wall there was a painting that showed Lincoln and Grant and the meeting they had. It is a famous painting. Still I never fully appreciated who Grant really was, and even better yet, I had little understanding as to why he was so highlighted in this little town.

It was not until more recently that I discovered some of the things that most people would never think of.

Ulysses S. Grant was born in the small community of Point Pleasant, Ohio. He weighed a hefty 10.75 pounds. At least that is what he claims in his memoirs. He grew quickly attached to horses and the work he could do with horses. His father was a tanner, and in often accounts he would let the boy run the horses to get logs both for the house and for the tannery. There was a point in his early life, before the horses that his family moved from Point Pleasant to Georgetown, Ohio. His grandparents lived not far away in Bethel, Ohio.

He would claim that his family was through and through American. While they were not any worse off than any other families, Ulysses would grow up and grow attached to the friends that he had in Georgetown. However, in 1838 Grant's father, (Grant was now 16), told Ulysses that he thought that he would get the nomination. Grant asked what nomination? His father Jesse had actively been seeking to get his son into the best school there was in the land—West Point. And while at first Grant didn't want to go, it was a surprise that there was deep down inside him a desire to get the education that a top notch school could provide. In 1839 he went off to West Point. He would have to be there in time for the entrance exams. If he passed those—which he did—he would become a plebe or a thing, as the upperclassmen liked to call him. Grant would pass the exams and the test of being out on the ground for two months, July and August, where he slept with only a pair of blankets. He reported this in a letter to his cousin during the time that he was there.

Grant would in the first year wish that Congress would do away with the Institution but by the time he got into his sophomore class he had come to like it. It was during this time that he was doing some work with horses and mathematics. Both were things that he was really good at. He continued on, and there were plenty of things that could have set him back and many would have said that he graduated from West Point in the lower half of his class, but when compared to the idea that he was in the middle of the group that was left, he was not in all that bad of a setting.

Grant would get to go home after his graduation from West Point and he would go to Georgetown. He would have to wait there until he knew what position he was going to be assigned to. Since that was the case he was not able to order his uniforms for when he got ready to go on. He finally got word and told the tailor to make them. It was during this time

that he would face ridicule by a boy who mocked him and a man who worked in the stockyard across from his home in Georgetown. Both of these left him with a distaste for wearing the uniform. (This was re-enforced later during the Mexican-American War.)

Grant would go on and fight under General Taylor in the Mexican-American War in the mid-1840s. He would also, after a short period of time, be transferred to fight under the command of General Winfield Scott. The two of these men were a little different. Taylor was very much a non-conformist. He did not want to be dressed all up in uniforms. And it was this that seemed to have the biggest impact on Ulysses Grant at the time.

However between the time of the Mexican-American War and the time he had graduated from West Point he had gone home for three months. At the same time he went on to Jefferson Barracks where he was stationed with the 4th Infantry. These consisted of many of the friends that Grant had made at West Point. They were also many of the friends that he would keep throughout his life, even some of the ones that he would come to fight against in the Civil War (people like James "Pete" Longstreet and Simon Bolivar Buckner). When the Mexican-American War was over, home came Grant. He married the woman he had fallen in love with when he was stationed at Jefferson Barracks, one Julia Dent.

She would accompany him to Sackets Harbor in New York. He would also come to serve in Detroit Michigan for a short period of time. While this was a great part of the time, the two of them had one child together. Frederick "Fred" Dent Grant. He was a great part of Ulysses life because he wanted to be the father that he had never really had. He wanted to show them that emotion was not a bad thing.

It would be during the second pregnancy of Julia that Ulysses would get the order to leave for station in the West. He was headed to California, and eventually the Oregon Territory. It was during the two years here in Oregon and California that he had a very hard time. He was lonely. He hadn't been able to bring with him his family so he spent much of his time alone. He eventually started to drink. He would also start developing other habits. Somewhere along the line, someone who did not like him had come up with the idea that he was drunk on duty. Whether or not he was, well, it was a matter of opinion.

Ulysses resigned after getting his commission as a captain in the regular army.

He would go home to St. Louis and he would try to eke out a living for the next few years, but nothing would work, and finally in 1860 he went to work for his father at the leather store in

Galena, Illinois. A place that is right up the road from us. He did not like the work, but it helped support his family. However with the break out of the hostilities in April 1861, Grant was right there ready to join the army. The army however, had not forgotten him, and would not take him back. But he was not without hope. A Congressman from Grant's district would talk the governor into letting Grant round up troops and then eventually train them.

It would not be long before Elihu Washburne was trying to bend Lincoln's ear and get him to raise Grant to rank of Brigadier General, and Lincoln did not hesitate. The news however did come as a slight surprise to Grant who ended up reading it in a daily paper. No one had come to know Grant better than these two men, and they had put their trust in the right man to get the job done. It is the story of why Grant is so important to this area's history, and why we must go beyond wondering why Grant and Galena are linked so inseparably. I know that it is a story that I had to learn, and it took me some time to learn it.

Book Reviews

Crewel World by Monica Ferris (1999)

The art of needlecraft requires patience, discipline, and creativity. So, too, does the art of detection. Just ask Betsy Devonshire – who's learning that life in a small-town needlecraft shop can reveal an unexpected knack for knitting...and a hidden talent for unraveling crime. When Betsy arrived in Excelsior, Minnesota, all she wanted was to visit her sister Margot and to get her life in order. She never dreamed her sister would give her a place to stay and a job at her needlecraft shop. In fact, things had never looked so good – until Margot was murdered. In a town this friendly, it's hard to imagine who could have committed such a horrible crime. But Betsy has a few ideas. There's an ex-employee who wants to start her own needlework store. And there's the landlord who wants Margot out. Now Betsy's putting together a list of motives and suspects to figure out this killer's pattern of crime.

This is another delightful mystery. It was particularly enjoyable since our daughter and her husband just bought a home in Chanhassan, Mn, just a hop, skip and a jump from Excelsior! I kept putting the book down and checking on the places mentioned in the book and they are/were actual stores, sights and events located exactly where described in the book! How fun is that! We'll familiarize ourselves with the Excelsior area while visiting them. The story was a very good first effort by Ferris, who has since added 22 more for you to enjoy. I give it a B. You will like Betsy and her staff of needlework experts and she

stitches together the crimes and finds the killers.

(One of our wonderful customers asked that I include some of this genre in my reading and reviewing regimen and I am delighted I took that advice and read Crewel World and Fool's Puzzle(below)).

The Man Who Wasn't There by John Wainwright (1989)

A clandestinely engineered promotion brings Inspector Lyle from his beat in the sleepy British resort town of Rogate-on-Sands to the bustling city of Lessford, in order to take charge of a secret investigation of unsolved murders linked to Lessford's crime boss, Foster Adams. Lyle has to use brute force as well as cunning to infiltrate Adam's empire: Fellow officers are on the take and cannot be trusted, and Lyle's predecessor was killed for coming too close. With unorthodox tactics and a good deal of bluff, Lyle manages to get the better of Adams – only to discover how deeply the conspiracy really runs and that he must maneuver skillfully to avoid becoming its next victim. Taut and convincing, it is a masterfully plotted police procedural novel that explodes with action right up to the truly surprising ending. (from book jacket)

Wainwright really does a masterful job in a short novel (190 pages). He wastes no words, but fully develops the characters and plot. I thoroughly enjoyed the book, give it an A and recommend you pick up a Wainwright book at your next opportunity. They may be few and far between, but like mushrooms in May, well worth the patient search. I should mention that the language is distinctly British, but I had no problem “translating” it as I read.

Fool's Puzzle by Earlene Fowler (1994)

Leaving behind memories of her late husband, Benni Harper is making a fresh start...Moving to the trendy California town of San Celina, she takes an exciting new job as director of a folk-art museum. While setting up an exhibit of handmade quilts, she stumbles upon the body of a brutally stabbed artist. Hoping to conduct an investigation on her own, she crosses paths with the local police chief, who thinks this short and sassy cowgirl should leave detecting to the cops and join him for dinner. But it's hard to keep a country girl down, and soon Benni uncovers an alarming pattern of family secrets, small-town lies--and the shocking truth about the night her husband died...

A thoroughly enjoyable mystery with a protagonist you'll love in Benni Harper and plenty of titles to keep you in suspense for a long spell! I give it a B+ and a strong recommendation. If you like Monica Ferris, Carolyn Hart or Dorothy Cannell, you will like Earlene Fowler!

The Scorpion's Gate by Richard Clarke (2005)

From the noted counter terrorism expert and #1 bestselling author comes an astonishing fiction debut - a novel of terrorism, warring nations, and political treachery... that could happen tomorrow.

For three decades, Richard A. Clarke worked in the White House, State Department, and Pentagon. As adviser to four presidents, he traveled throughout the Middle East, visiting palaces, military bases, and intelligence centers, meeting rulers, soldiers, and spies. Some of what he found appeared in *Against All Enemies*. Much more of it appears here.

In an extraordinary geopolitical thriller filled with the kind of cutting-edge authenticity only someone on the inside could bring, Clarke takes readers just five years into the future, when forces both in the Middle East and the United States are at work to launch another war. But this time, it could be bigger. This time, it could be nuclear, and spread to Asia and beyond.

A coup has finally toppled the sheikhs of Saudi Arabia, and put a determined but shaky Islamic government in its place. Everywhere, the scent of oil has begun to attract the scorpions, and among them are men in Washington and another capital ready to strike a devil's bargain to fundamentally realign the map of the Middle East. The plans are not the same, however - though some of the planners think they are. Hidden agendas, fierce ambition, conflicting loyalties, faulty intelligence, catastrophic miscalculation- soon the dominoes will start to fall, and not even the efforts of a few dedicated men and women on the outside may be able to stop an unstoppable folly. . . .

Blending exceptional realism with intricate plotting, razor-sharp suspense, and a remarkable cast of characters, "The Scorpion's Gate" was one of the most talked-about novels of 2005.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was intricate in its story line, creative in the alliances it portrayed and believable. If you like international thrillers you need to read this book. I give it an A-

The Inspector and the Silence by Hakan Nesser (2011)

This is the fourth novel in the internationally acclaimed Inspector Van Veeteren series. In the heart of summer, the country swelters in a fug of heat. In the beautiful forested lake-town of Sorbinowo, Sergeant Merwin Kluuge's tranquil existence is shattered when he receives a phone call from an anonymous woman. She tells him that a girl has gone missing from the summer camp of the mysterious The Pure Life, a religious sect buried deep in the woods. Chief Inspector Van Veeteren is recruited to help solve the mystery. But Van Veeteren's investigations at The Pure Life go nowhere fast. The strange priest-like figure who leads the sect-Oscar Yellineck - refuses even to admit anyone is missing. Things soon take a sinister turn, however, when a young girl's body is

discovered in the woods, raped and strangled; and Yellineck himself disappears. Yet even in the face of these new horrors, the remaining members of the sect refuse to co-operate with Van Veeteren, remaining largely silent. As the body count rises, a media frenzy descends upon the town and the pressure to find the monster behind the murders weighs heavily on the investigative team. Finally Van Veeteren realizes that to solve this disturbing case, faced with silence and with few clues to follow, he has only his intuition to rely on...

This book was pretty slow in developing and the development of the case to find the killer left me wanting quite a lot more of the police procedures and less of the background clutter. In the end the policing hardly played a role and the inspector's intuition saved the day. I give it a C. I hope his other titles are more satisfying.

Alone (Valentino Mysteries) by Loren D Estleman (2010)

Alone is the second wacky comedic murder romp for Hollywood film detective Valentino from author Loren D. Estleman.

Valentino wants to keep The Oracle, his beloved run-down movie palace, from being condemned before it even reopens, but murder keeps intruding into his otherwise quiet life. At a gala party held in memory of screen legend Greta Garbo, he's having fun until the host, a hotshot developer named Matthew Rankin, tells Valentino about a certain letter from Garbo to his late wife. She and Garbo had been...close.

Such a letter is of great interest to a film archivist like Valentino, but the the plot thickens when Rankin tells Val that his assistant, Akers, is using this letter to blackmail him. Val is appalled by the thought of blackmail...but that letter sounds juicier all the time. Returning to Rankin's mansion after the party, Val finds Rankin sitting at his desk with a pistol in his hand, looking at Akers' dead body on the floor.

Valentino's in a quandary. He'd love to see that letter, but he can't. He's gotten his girlfriend—who works for the police—in trouble, so his love life is, pardon the expression, shot to hell. Worse yet, the building inspector has kicked him out of his unfinished living space in the Oracle, so he takes his life in his hands and moves in with his eccentric mentor, the elderly, insomniac Professor Broadhead. No love, no sleep, no letter—life isn't fair!

While advertised as a comedic murder romp, I didn't find it a laugh-out-loud read. It wasn't serious for the most part and was cluttered with a lot of peripheral activity that I don't feel added anything good to the book. It was slow and generally unsatisfying for me. I give it a C, and that may be a bit generous.

Trivia for August

What popular comic strip featured a character named *Appassionata Von Climax*?

Answer: **Li'l Abner**

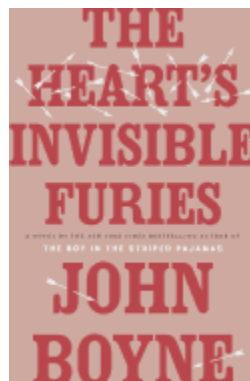
Upcoming New Releases:

Check out the prices following the title of the book. Those prices are the publisher's prices. The [The Book Rack](#) price is normally 20% lower. When you pick it up at the store there is no shipping cost, though we can also ship it to you. Order now by calling the store or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment on all special orders.

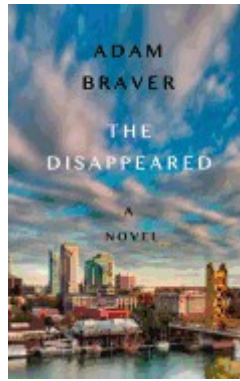
You can also add any of these titles to your request list. Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but most will get to you eventually.

Hardcover and Trade Paperback

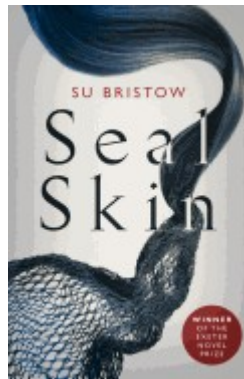
John Boyne – *The Heart's Invisible Furies* – 28.00 (From the author of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* comes a saga about the course of one man's life, beginning and ending in post-war Ireland.)



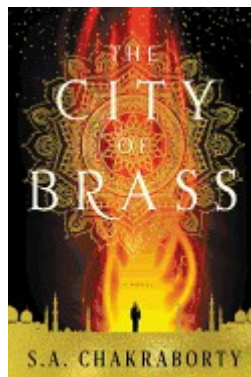
Adam Braver – *The Disappeared*, a Novel – 16.00 (An artfully understated and deeply sensitive novel about the individual trauma of terrorism and its culture of fear.)



Su Bristow – Seal Skin – 14.95 (A young fisherman witnesses something miraculous, and makes a terrible mistake. His action changes lives – not only his own, but those of his family and the entire community.)



S.A. Chakraborty – The City of Brass – 25.99 (The future of a magical Middle Eastern kingdom rests in the hands of a young con artist with miraculous healing gifts.)



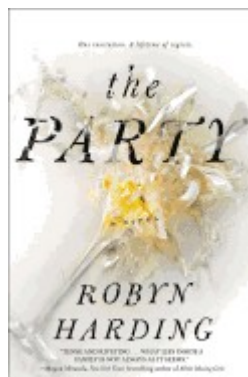
Charlie Donlea – The Girl Who Was Taken - 25.00 (Two abducted girls – one returns; one doesn't – and the forensic expert searching for answers)



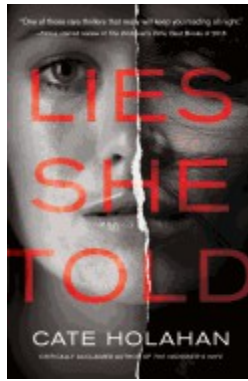
Jennifer Egan – Manhattan Beach – 28.00 (From Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, Anna Kerrigan becomes the first female diver at the Brooklyn Naval Yard, repairing ships that will help America win the war.)



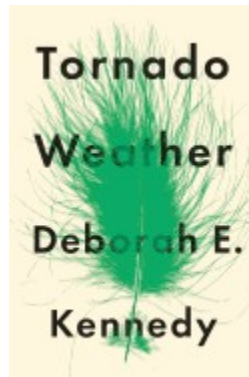
Robyn Harding – The Party – 26.00 (When a sweet 16 birthday party goes horribly awry, a wealthy family in San Francisco finds themselves entangled in a legal battle, their darkest secrets revealed, and their friends turned to enemies.)



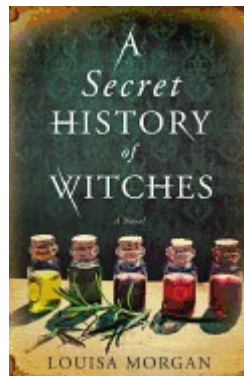
Cate Holahan – Lies She Told – 25.99 (By the author of *The Widower's Wife*. When the lines between fiction and reality begin to blur, Liza will have to face up to the truths about the people around her, including herself.)



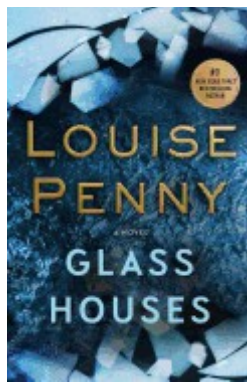
Deborah Kennedy – Tornado Weather – 24.99 (Daisy Gonzalez's father is always waiting for her at the bus stop. Buy today, he isn't, and the five-year-old disappears. Nearly everyone in town suspects or knows something different.)



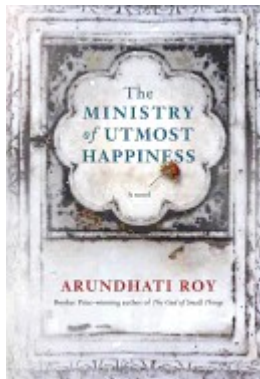
Louisa Morgan – A Secret History of Witches – 25.00 (From early Brittany to London during World War II, five generations of women fight the battles of their time, deciding how far to go to protect their family, heritage and the future.)



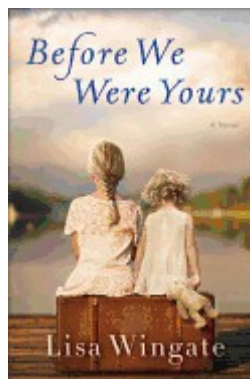
Louise Penny – Glass Houses – 28.99 (Penny shatters the conventions of the crime novel to explore what Gandhi called the court of conscience)



Arundhati Roy – The Ministry of Utmost Happiness – 27.95 (A richly moving new novel – by the author of *The God of Small Things* – takes readers deep into the lives of its gloriously rendered characters, each searching for safety, meaning, and love)

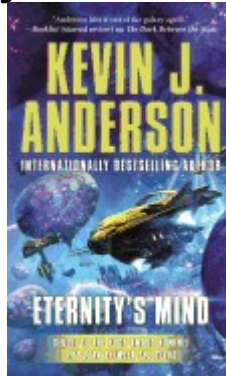


Lisa Wingate – Before We Were Yours – 26.00 (Two families, generations apart, are forever changed by a heartbreaking injustice in this poignant novel, inspired by a true story, for readers of *The Orphan Train* and *The Nightingales*)

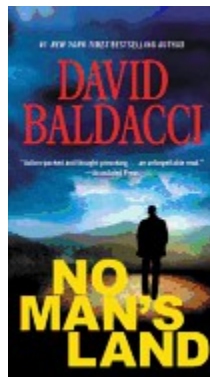


Paperback

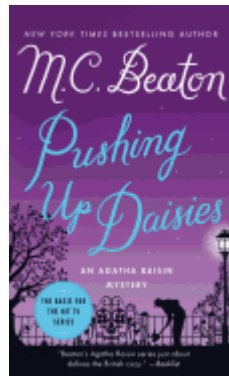
Kevin J Anderson – Eternity's Mind – 9.99



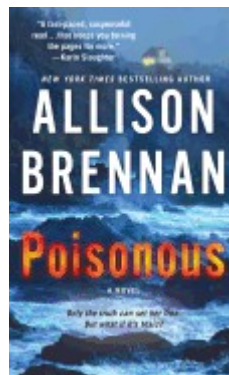
David Baldacci – No Man's Land – 9.99



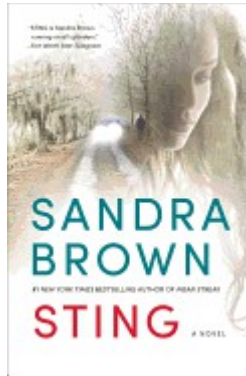
MC Beaton – Pushing Up Daisies – 7.99



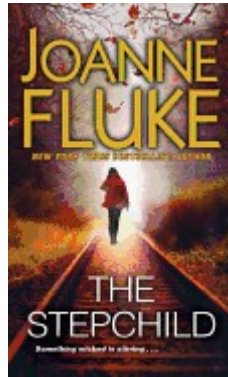
Allison Brennan – Poisonous – 7.99



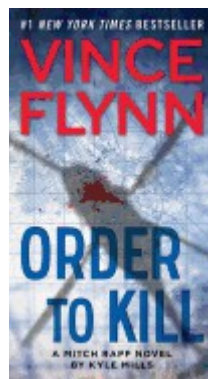
Sandra Brown – Sting – 8.99



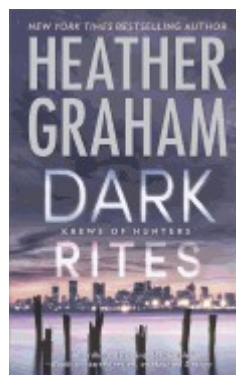
Joanne Fluke – The Stepchild – 7.99



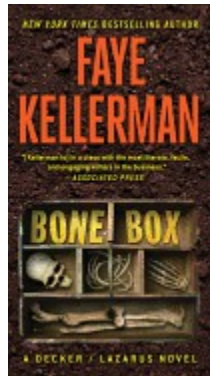
Vince Flynn – Order to Kill – 9.99



Heather Graham – Dark Rites – 8.99



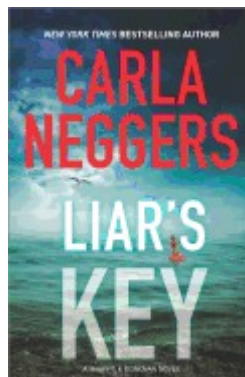
Faye Kellerman – Bone Box – 9.99



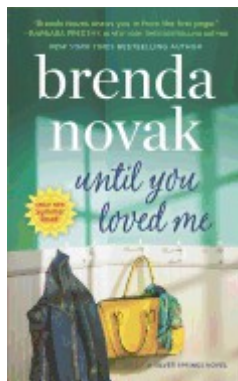
Tanith Lee – Anackire: The Wars of Vis – 7.99



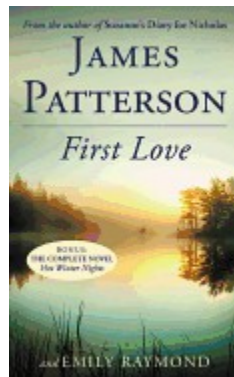
Carla Neggers – Liar's Key – 7.99



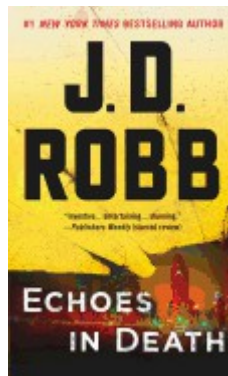
Brenda Novak - Until You Loved Me – 7.99



James Patterson – First Love – 7.99



JD Robb – Echoes in Death – 8.99



Lindsay Sands – Bliss – 7.99

