

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 8, #2
February 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

"Literature is the art of writing something that will be read twice; journalism what will be grasped at once."

Cyril Connolly

A Poetic Line that has passed into common usage:

"The female of the species is more deadly than the male."

Rudyard Kipling, "The Female of the Species"

February Holidays and such:

Feb 1 – Super Bowl Sunday – This obscure recognition celebrates the end of the professional football season. It's a great day for reading a good book, so **The Book Racks** WILL be open! ;-)

2 – Groundhog Day – If the groundhog sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter.

7 – Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day

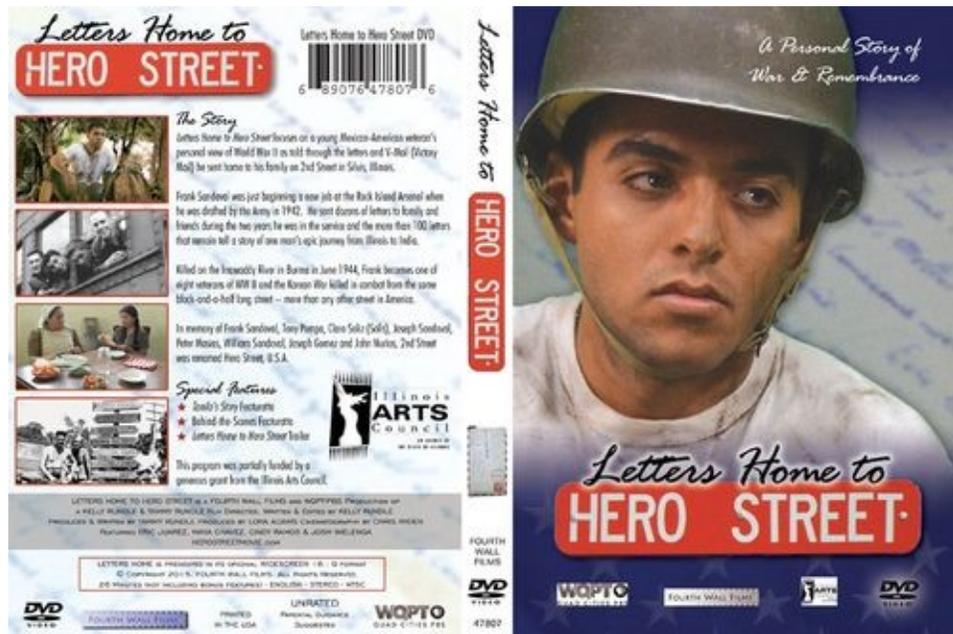
13 – Friday the 13th – Local legend has it that buying a good book at The Book Rack will protect you from misfortunes on this day.

14 – Valentine's Day

16 - President's Day

19 – Chinese New Year – it's the year 4713

Now available at The Book Racks:



Letters Home to Hero Street focuses on a young Mexican-American veteran's personal view of World War II as told through the letters he sent home to his family in Silvis, Illinois. He becomes one of eight veterans of WWII and the Korean War killed in combat from the same block-and-a half long neighborhood now called Hero Street, USA.

Frank Sandoval was just beginning a new job at the Rock Island Arsenal when he was drafted in 1942. He sent hundreds of letters to family and friends during the two years he was in the service and the 130 letters that remain tell the story of one man's dramatic and epic journey from Illinois to India. Killed on the bank of the Irrawaddy River in Burma on June 1944, Frank was one of the first of the Hero Street Eight to fall in combat.

Letters Home to Hero Street features Eric Juarez, Maya Chavez, Cindy Ramos and Josh Wielenga.

The film is a co-production between Fourth Wall Films and WQPT-PBS.

Letters was produced by Lora Adams, produced and written by Tammy Rundle, and directed by Kelly Rundle.

The film was partially funded by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

DVD Features

- *Letters Home to Hero Street* (25-minutes)
- *Tanilo's Story* - Honor Flight Featurette
- Behind-the-Scenes Featurette
- Film Trailer

Pick up your copy of “Letters Home to Hero Street” for only \$22.95 at either of your Quad Cities [Book Racks](#). Other titles are also available.

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.

How Reading Local Authors Saves the World

By Jodie Toohey

Okay, so that was really just a catchy title designed to get you to read this first line of this article. But it's true – at least indirectly. We've all heard of Small Business Saturday when we're all encouraged to shop at our locally-owned shops to purchase holiday gifts on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Your participation may have included shopping at a local bookstore, like one of the Quad Cities' The Book Rack locations. But, did you know that if you purchased a book that day from the local authors section at one of The Book Racks, that you doubly helped local small businesses?

Though we authors love what we do and, unfortunately for our pocketbooks, more often than not, we love it so much that we would do it anyway, even if we never received a cent, we have bills to pay. And the time we spend writing takes away from time we could be spending working at another job – so we sell books, making each and every one of us a business. When we sell books on our own, we collect sales taxes (and if you are an Iowa author reading this, I hope you sent yours end by the 31st of January). We fill out Schedule C (business) tax returns and we pay income taxes on our profits. We have office supply and advertising expenses to keep track of (and often if you're a “words” person, numbers aren't your strong suit).

You probably realized all this, but have you ever considered the bigger picture? Just like when you shop at The Book Rack on Small Business Saturday or any one of the other great stores owned and operated by someone living in your area, when you buy a local author's book, more of that tax revenue stays in your city and state. It gives an income to your neighbors who then use that money to buy more things, the revenue from which also stays in the local economy. It also makes us happy – which means more smiles when we're walking down the street. More smiles mean a more charitable

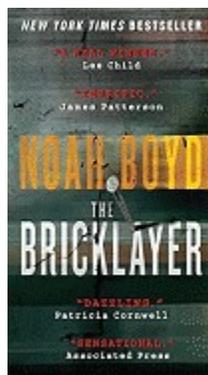
attitude and a desire to make the world a better place. More desire to make the world a better place ... saves the world.

So there you go, reading local authors' work saves the world. But it even does more than that. If you've never perused the local authors section, make a point to do it the next time you are at The Book Rack. You might be surprised at how many books are there. And these are just a sampling of what local authors have out in the marketplace, including e-books that can't be sold on a physical book shelf. Pick up a few and read the blurbs on the back – you will likely find at least one that interests you. And these are good books – some of them better than the ones you find on the national best-seller lists. Not only can you help save the world by buying one, but you will get to enjoy a great reading experience. Everybody wins!

Jodie Toohey is a Davenport author with two published poetry collections – *Crush and Other Love Poems for Girls* and *Other Side of Crazy* – and two novels – *Missing Emily: Croatian Life Letters* and *Melody Madson – May It Please the Court?*. Her next novel, *Taming the Twisted: Gaining Ground after the Great Tornado*, is due out later this year. When she's not writing poetry and fiction, Jodie helps people say what they want to say for themselves or their business through her Wordsy Woman company (URL Link: www.wordsywoman.com). Learn more about Jodie and her books at www.jodietoohey.com (<http://www.jodietoohey.com>). If you need help getting your book written, edited, and/or promoted, visit her new Author Services division website at www.wordsywomanforauthors.com. (<http://www.wordsywomanforauthors.com>)

Book Reviews:

The Bricklayer by Noah Boyd (2010)

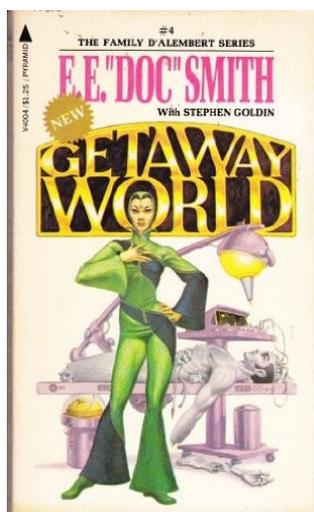


People are dying . . . Each victim has been a thorn in the side of the FBI, and, inexplicably, domestic terrorists who claim to be anti-Bureau are claiming responsibility--and threatening more murders if their huge financial demands aren't met. The trap has been set. The Bureau's best agents attempt to follow the detailed demands of the blackmailers, only to be drawn into intricate mazes which are ingeniously riddled with hazards, ensuring that no one will emerge alive. The FBI has used every technological secret at their disposal to beat the killers at their game--and

they have failed. The clock is ticking. Deputy Assistant Director Kate Bannon knows that the solution will not be found by following the rules. It's time to call in someone from her past, someone who has routinely handled the impossible--a loose cannon ex-agent fired for insubordination but still the very best she has ever seen. It's time to call in Steve Vail . . . The Bricklayer.

I thoroughly enjoyed The Bricklayer and give it an A-. This is the first of Boyd's 2 novels, but I hope it's not the last. If you like Lee Child (and who doesn't), Tom Clancy or Daniel Silva, I'm confident you'll enjoy The Bricklayer!

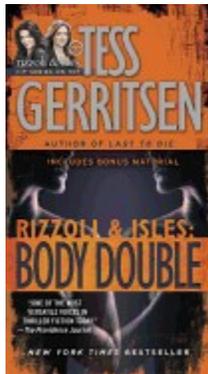
Getaway World by E.E. "Doc" Smith (1977)



First, the good news: All the top crooks in the whole sector of the galactic Empire of Earth are vanishing, one by one. Now, the bad news: They're all cropping up again on one small planet. What's going on? That's for archvillain Garst to know and superagents Jules and Yvette d'Alembert to find out. And find out they do, with the aid of the superhuman strength they developed on their native planet, the triple-gravity DesPlaines. Now it's just a question of getting out alive -- with their boss's daughter in tow!

This is the 4th title in The Family D'Alembert series, written by Doc Smith and Stephen Goldin. To paraphrase a reviewer on Goodreads.com, this is not deep fiction; it's pure spy and cloak and dagger candy, nothing too gory or unpredictable; it's got good guys and bad guys and nobody ever philosophizes much about it; they just do their respective things and the good guys win. It's fast and fun to read. I give it a solid B. It is imaginative and well done. These short SciFi books are a great change of pace. And, you may even get hooked, if you aren't already.

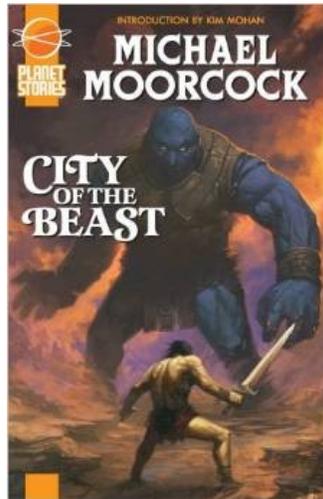
Body Double by Tess Gerritsen (2013)



Dr. Maura Isles makes her living dealing with death. But never before has her blood run cold, and never has the grim expression “dead Ringer” rung so terrifyingly true. Because never before has the lifeless body on the medical examiner's table been her own. Yet, there can be no denying the mind-reeling evidence before her shocked eyes and those of her colleagues, including Detective Jane Rizzoli: the woman found shot to death outside Maura's home is the mirror image of Maura, down to the most intimate physical nuance – and they have the same birth date and blood type. For the stunned Maura, an only child, there can be just one explanation. And when a DNA test confirms that Maura's mysterious doppelganger is in fact her twin sister, an already bizarre murder investigation becomes a disturbing and dangerous excursion into a past full of dark secrets. But perhaps more frightening, an unknown murderer is at large on a cross-country killing spree. To stop the massacre and uncover the twisted truth about her own roots, Maura must probe her first living subject: the mother that she never knew ... an icy and cunning woman who could be responsible for giving Maura life – and who just may have a plan to take it away.

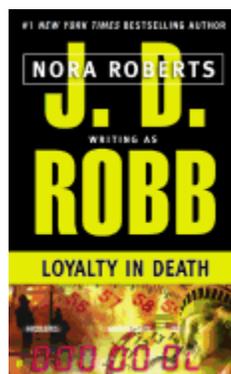
Another very good effort by Gerritsen. I give it a B+ and a solid recommendation. If you like Karin Slaughter, Lisa Gardner or Alex Kava, you need to read Gerritsen. If you already haven't.

City of the Beast or Warriors of Mars by Michael Moorcock (1965)



“I went to Mars...an older Mars, eons in the past, yet still ancient...I encountered a strange, romantic civilization totally unlike any we have ever had on Earth...It was beautiful, fantastic, breathtaking – a place where a man could be a man and survive and be recognized for his true qualities of character and prowess... And there was a girl, young, ravishingly attractive, an aristocrat from a line that would have made the dynasties of Egypt appear trifling bgy comparison. She was Princess of Varnal, city of the green mists, with its spires and colonnades, its strong, slender people – and the finest fighting men in that martial world...” Thus spoke Michael Kane, twentieth-century scientist, who found himself transported through space and time-past. Thus begins the first volume of Michael Moorcock's famous Martian novels. If you like Edgar Rice Burroughs Martian tales, you don't want to miss Moorcock's. I give it a B and encourage you to step back in time and space and enjoy the ride! If you like Fritz Leiber, Jack Vance or Robert Howard you might just like Moorcock. And, if you like him, he has written 443 books, which should keep you entertained for a very long time!

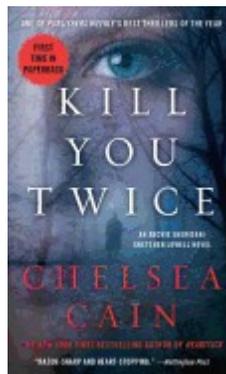
Loyalty in Death by J.D. Robb (aka. Nora Roberts) (1999)



Eve Dallas returns to face her most ingenious foe – a “Secret Admirer” who taunts her with letters...and kills without mercy. An unknown bomber is stalking New York City. He is sending Eve Dallas taunting letters promising to wreck mass terror and destruction among the “corrupt masses.” And when his cruel web of deceit and destruction threatens those she cares for most, Eve fights back. It's her city...and her job...and it's hitting too close to home. Now, in a race against a ticking clock, Eve must make the pieces fit – before the city falls.

Loyalty in Death is the 10th book in Robb's “In Death” series. Claudia & I listened to it on a trip to Chicago (and back) and it was a good listen. Set in 2060 it's slightly futuristic, but not reaching SciFi level. I give it a B. If you are an avid reader and like mystery/suspense, you really should give her a try. Robb sells a lot of this series for a good reason. They are good, quick reads.

Kill You Twice by Chelsea Cain (2012)



Nothing makes Portland detective Archie Sheridan happier than knowing that Beauty Killer Gretchen Lowell is locked away in a psych ward. Archie can finally heal from the near-fatal physical and emotional wounds she's inflicted on him and start moving on with his life. Or can he? His latest case, involving a man who was mutilated and murdered in a public park in broad daylight, bears the stamp of an expert killer...and before long, Archie gets a message from Gretchen, who makes him an offer he can't refuse. Gretchen claims to have inside knowledge about the grisly Mount Tabor Park murder--and Archie can't risk losing his only lead in the case. At least, that's what he tells himself after he agrees to visit Gretchen...But the ties between Archie and Gretchen have always been stronger, deeper, and more complex than he's willing to admit, even to himself. What game is Gretchen playing this time? And even more frightening, what long-hidden secrets from her past have been dredged up that someone would kill to protect?

I liked this a lot and give it an A- and a strong recommendation. I'll also issue a

WARNING. The violence described is graphic. Or, maybe I should say the results of the violence are graphic, since the commission of the violence is mostly not described as it occurs. This is a complex, well conceived story line for those of you who like suspense and police procedural books. If you like JT Ellison, Alex Kava, Cody McFadyen or JA Konrath you'll likely like Cain.

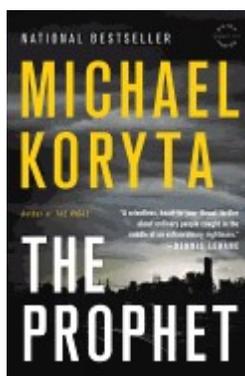
This Immortal by Roger Zelazny (1966)



After being devastated by a nuclear war, the Earth is a planet with a population of only 4 million, overrun by a variety of mutated lifeforms. Worse, much of the Earth is now owned by the Vegans, a race of blue-skinned aliens who see the planet as a tourist location. Conrad Nomikos, the **first person narrator**, is a man with a past that he'd rather not talk about, and he's been given a task that he'd rather refuse: to show an influential Vegan around the old ruins of Earth. But Conrad is suddenly the reluctant protector of this alien visitor when attempts are made on the Vegan's life. Conrad knows that keeping the Vegan alive is important—but he must find out why. Conrad is pitted against a group of Earth rebels that includes an old comrade-in-arms and an old lover, neither of whom can understand why he would want to protect one of Earth's subjugators. The Vegan is confounded by Conrad's actions. Ostensibly there as a tourist to see Earth's sights, he is horrified to find that Conrad is having the pyramids of Egypt torn down. At the end, the rebels realize that Conrad has been fighting to protect the Earth in his own way.

This book tied with Frank Herbert's much better known "Dune" for the 1966 Hugo Award as the year's best Science Fiction Novel. It's a very good little book (174 pages) and one I commend to you with a B+

The Prophet by Michael Koryta (2012)



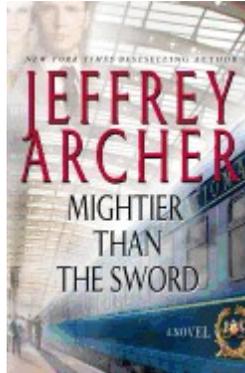
Adam Austin and his brother, Kent, live in the small town of Chambers, Ohio. Adam hasn't spoken to his brother in years. When they were teenagers, their sister was abducted and murdered, and their devastated family never recovered. Now Adam keeps to himself, scraping by as a bail bondsman, working so close to the town's criminal fringes that he sometimes seems a part of them. Kent Austin is the beloved coach of the local high school football team, a religious man and hero in the community. After years of near misses, Kent's team has a shot at the state championship, a welcome point of pride in a town that has had its share of hardships. Just before playoffs begin, the town and the team are thrown into shock when horrifically, impossibly, another teenage girl is found murdered. As details emerge that connect the crime to the Austin brothers, the two must confront their buried rage and grief-and unite to stop a killer. Author Dennis Lehane, author of Shutter Island, calls it "A relentless, heart-in-your-throat thriller about ordinary people caught in the middle of an extraordinary nightmare." That says it far better and more succinctly than I could. The Prophet is a terrific book that you will either not put down or you'll keep thinking about it as you anxiously have the time to read some more. I give it an "A" and highly recommend it to you. I read many really good books, but this one has few peers, in my opinion. Fortunately, Koryta has now written several books and we have copies of some. I will read another one soon!

Upcoming New Releases:

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

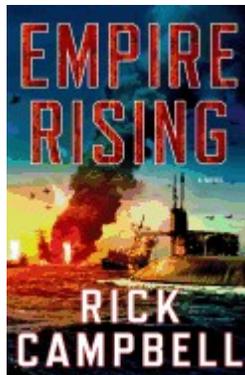
Hardcover:

Jeffrey Archer – Mightier Than The Sword – 27.99/22.40



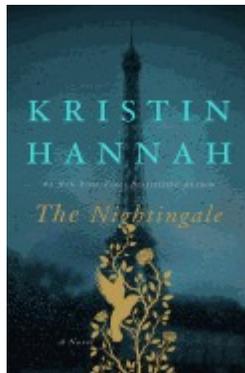
Alex Berenson – Twelve Days – 27.95/22.40

Rick Campbell – Empire Rising – 25.99/20.40



Lisa Gardner – Crash & Burn – 27.95/22.40

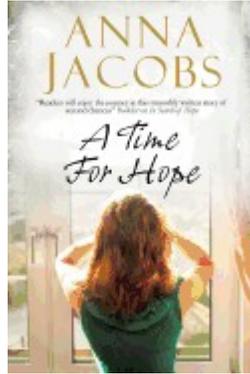
Kristin Hannah – The Nightingale – 27.00/22.40



Jim Harrison – The Big Seven – 26.00/20.40

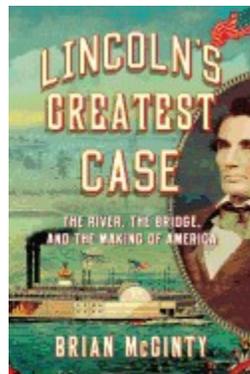
Nick Hornby – Funny Girl – 27.95/22.40

Anna Jacobs – A Time for Hope – 29.95/24.00



Jonathon Kellerman – Motive – 28.00/22.40

Brian McGinty – Lincoln's Greatest Case: The River, the Bridge, and the Making of America – 26.95/21.60



In the early hours of May 6, 1856, the steamboat *Effie Afton* barreled into a pillar of the Rock Island Bridge the first railroad bridge ever to span the Mississippi River. Soon after, the newly constructed vessel, crowded with passengers and livestock, erupted into flames and sank in the river below, taking much of the bridge with it.

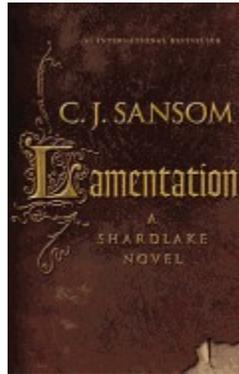
As lawyer and Lincoln scholar Brian McGinty dramatically reveals in *Lincoln's Greatest Case*, no one was killed, but the question of who was at fault cried out for an answer. Backed by powerful steamboat interests in St. Louis, the owners of the *Effie Afton* quickly pressed suit, hoping that a victory would not only prevent the construction of any future bridges from crossing the Mississippi but also thwart the burgeoning spread of railroads from Chicago. The fate of the long-dreamed-of transcontinental railroad lurked ominously in the background, for if rails could not cross the Mississippi by bridge, how could they span the continent all the way to the Pacific? Re-creating the *Effie Afton* case from its unlikely inception to its controversial finale, McGinty brilliantly animates this legal cauldron of the late 1850s, which turned out to be the most consequential trial in Lincoln's nearly quarter century as a lawyer.

Bryan Reardon – Finding Jake – 26.99/21.60



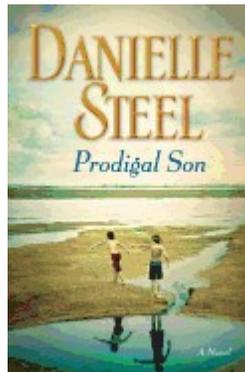
J.D. Robb – Obsession in Death – 27.95/22.40

C.J. Sansom – Lamentation – 26.00/20.40



Erica Spindler – The First Wife – 25.99/20.80

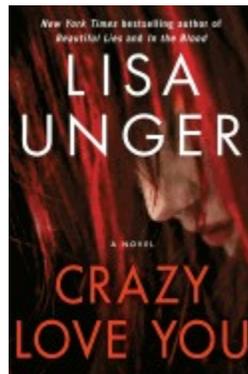
Danielle Steel – Prodigal Son – 29.00/22.40



Anne Tyler – A Spool of Blue Thread – 25.95/20.80

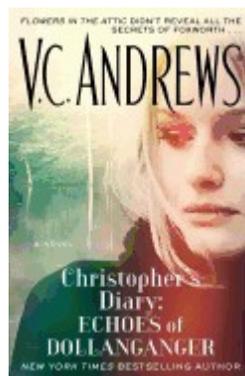


Lisa Unger – Crazy Love You – 25.99/20.40

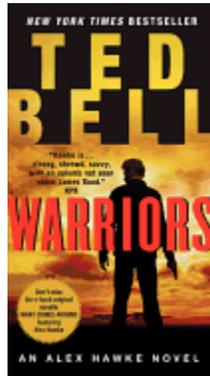


Paperback:

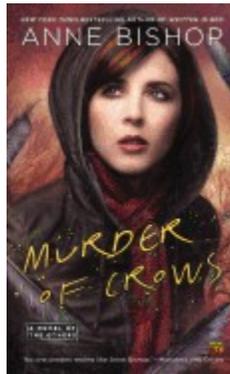
V.C. Andrews – Christopher's Diary: Echoes of Dollanganger – 7.99/6.40



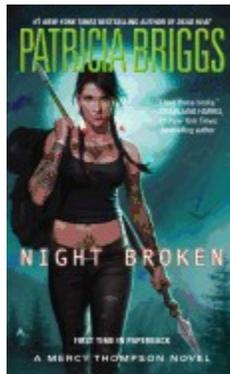
Nevada Barr – Destroyer Angel – 9.99/8.00
Ted Bell – Warriors – 9.99/8.00



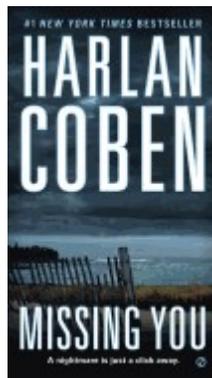
Anne Bishop – Murder of Crows – 7.99/6.40



Patricia Briggs – Night Broken – 7.99/6.40



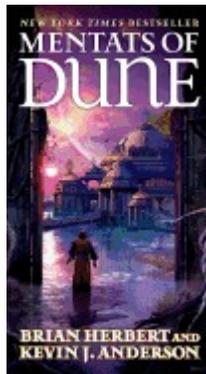
Harlan Coben – Missing You – 9.99/8.00



Joanne Fluke – Blackberry Pie Murder – 7.99/6.40

Heather Graham – Waking the Dead – 7.99/6.40

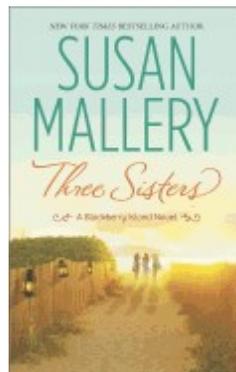
Brian Herbert – Mentats of Dune – 9.99/8.00



William Johnstone – Winchester 1886 – 7.50/6.00

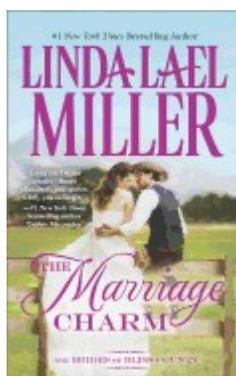
Sherrilyn Kenyon – Born of Fury – 8.99/7.20

Susan Mallery – Three Sisters – 7.99/6.40



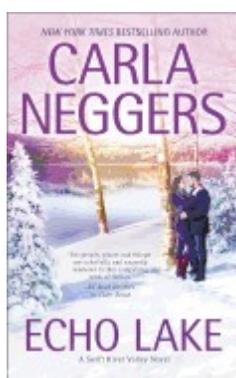
Kat Martin – Against the Sky – 7.99/6.40

Linda Lael Miller – The Marriage Charm – 7.99/6.40

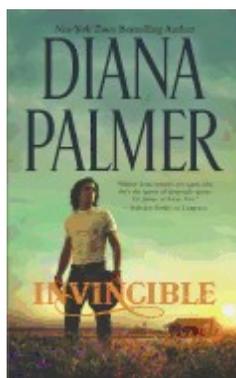


Rick Mofina – Full Tilt – 7.99/6.40

Carla Neggers – Echo Lake – 7.99/6.40

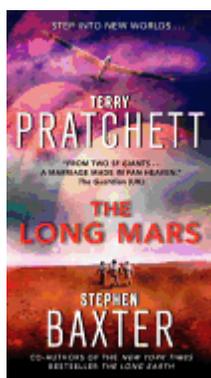


Diana Palmer – Invincible – 7.99/6.40



James Patterson – Private LA – 10.00/8.00

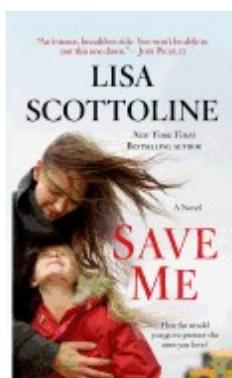
Terry Pratchett – The Long Mars – 9.99/8.00



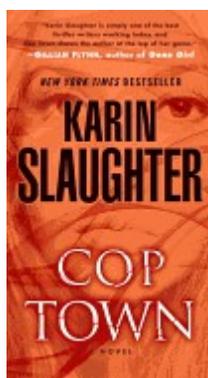
Melanie Rawn – Thornlost – 7.99/6.40

Karen Rose – Closer Than You Think – 7.99/6.40

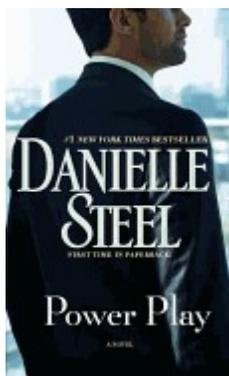
Lisa Scottoline – Save Me – 7.99/6.40



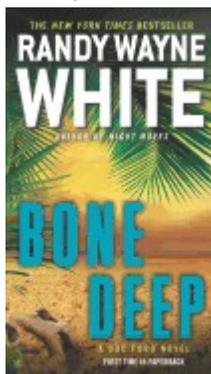
Karin Slaughter – Cop Town – 9.99/8.00



Danielle Steel – Power Play – 7.99/6.40



Randy Wayne White – Bone Deep – 9.99/8.00



Susan Wiggs – The Apple Orchard – 7.99/6.40

