

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 12, #1
January 2019
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

Happy New Year!

Trivia for January

What title did Russian writer Leo Tolstoy originally give to the novel we know as *War and Peace*??

For the answer, see below

Our January

\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!

We try to give away four \$25.00 Gift Certificates to The Book Rack account holders each month.

The names are selected from all our registered customers who have registered and/or had a trade or purchase since 1 January 2017.

All a winner has to do is read the newsletter and find your name listed below, 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 January 2019 winner #1 is:

Nancy Kaplan

See the other 3 winning names elsewhere in the newsletter, below. Find your name and just call or stop at the store on or before January 31 to claim your prize: a \$25 gift certificate from **The Book Rack!**

January Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

National Blood Donor Month

National Braille Literacy Month

National Hobby Month

Hot Tea Month

January 1 – New Years Day – [The Book Rack](#) will be Closed

3 – Humiliation Day - not a day to humiliate someone. Rather, it should be viewed as a time to recognize the negativity of humiliating someone, or a group, of people.

5 – Adam Kugler, Local Author will be at [The Book Rack](#) 11-1:00.

7 – College Football Championship, 7 p.m. CT

10 - Peculiar People Day - in honor of uniquely different people. Look for the good in your peculiar acquaintances.

18 - Thesaurus Day - celebrates the birthday of the author of *Roget's Thesaurus*. Peter Roget was born on this day in 1779.

21 - Martin Luther King Day

24 – Compliment Day - a great opportunity to say something positive about the people you come into contact with.

27 - Chocolate Cake Day - I **LOVE Chocolate Cake!!**

Featured Author

Adam Kugler

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

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

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

Adam will be at [The Book Rack](#) January 5



Champions

by Adam Kugler

The ball shot off the end of the bat and there it went. It was hard to say whether there was anything going to stop it. Ted, the center fielder was back against the wall. He had already scaled the wall to keep the other team from scoring, but he wasn't sure about this hit. He was sure to keep people guessing as to what was going to come next. He was always giving people a good show out there in center field.

He'd grown up going to baseball games. He'd sat out there in the center field bleachers more than once. He'd always hoped that he would one day be able to play on the field, and here he was.

He looked up at the ball and he thought that it might just stay in the park. He was hoping it would. The last thing the team needed was more than one score to have to make up. He'd

seen them claw and fight their way back from a deficit already this game. It was a game that was already down to the wire.

There were two outs in the inning, the last thing Ringo, the pitcher needed to do was give up a grand slam here in the ninth inning. Ted wasn't sure they could claw their way back out of the hole again. He was sure there was more that they could get done if this ball came down where Ted could get it.

He looked up and there it was. He was going to be able to catch the ball. As long as he was willing to work for it. Which he was.

They called Ringo in during the fifth inning because the other pitcher had given up three runs and the opposing team, the Muskrats, had already jumped out to a lead that they were not willing to give up. But here were the Rattle Snakes, and they were not willing to just lose. The Rattlers as they were affectionately called were just there, ready to play the game, ready to dig in and hit the ball into the outfield. How should I know? I was there.

Yes, being a part of the game has helped me over the years. Sometimes one has to remember the things that have happened. I guess you hold onto the positive things in life more often than you do the things that are negative, although there are plenty of people who think that they're the best. I know that I've had my share of bad things happen. I know there are plenty of people who have needed to see the shame in the things that happened. I happen to have a positive outlook on this one. I never had a happier memory of my childhood than this. I know there are a lot of things out there that could have made me happy, but there are times shame overrides history. I have all too often wondered what it would have been like to have been someone else—to not have come out the winner.

Now I don't mean I wanted us to lose that game, I wouldn't wish that on anyone, but there is that possibility. I know there are plenty of people who really need to learn how to be good sportsmen. I wasn't one of them. I was always quick to shake hands and congratulate the other team on a hard fought victory, or to console them. Did that mean I was always perfect? No. That's not it at all. I really didn't want to think that way no matter what I thought. I was as bad as some of the others, but I knew at any rate I was going to have to walk down the line and say, "Good game; good game."

The question was whether or not I could make it through that line. I wanted to let people see there was a good way to handle things.

Does that mean I didn't celebrate with the team when we made it into the playoffs and then again into the final round of the championship? No. I did plenty of that. There was always the desire to be a little bit better, but there was also always the dog pile on the winning scorer. We'd done that from the beginning. What team out there didn't do just that? I couldn't think of a single team that was willing to ignore that ritual.

I know there are people who haven't been on the top of the things that took place all over. I have watched a lot of people play the game since those days growing up, and I remember the things that have been good and the things that we didn't do quite right, but this game we weren't going to mess up. For many of us this was the last game we would play. Little League was fading away and we were going to be something else. We were going to be in eighth grade and things were going to be different for us. For others we were leaving behind a legacy—so to speak—so they might know that there's a chance to be just like us, all they had to be willing to do was work hard.

I'd seen the things that were happening, and there was a desire for so many people. I'd played many a game and I wanted to leave a lasting impression on the kids who were coming up. I had seen the successes of the things we had done. We'd fought for the things that were happening. Every play we needed to show the younger guys that they had to make them all count. They had to try every last thing they could to make everything count.

In the small town I grew up in there wasn't much of a "Little League" but every year we tried to get to the championship. It worked most years. We had to encourage one another to try to get each other to play the best we could.

I knew there were plenty of people out there who could be counted on to be going to regional playoffs. It was usually there that we tended to lose. I don't like to admit that, but, I have to say it was sometimes disappointing, but there were times when we managed to get past the first round. It was hard to be the kind of person who had not been on the winning team. Not everyone got to play. I wanted to say the truth about the game and there's something magical about the game. I wanted to show people that there was something beautiful about running the bases.

Sure, they may not believe it, but there was something that worked about it all. I wasn't impressed by the game all the time that I played, but there was a part of me that wanted to see the game as I grew up.

I'd often buy a ticket and I'd go to the big league games. To go and see the Chicago Cubs play a game in the middle of the summer. Whether it was something that there was about seeing the big leaguers play or what it was, I'm not sure what was so special, but in a way it made sense to me.

I played the game on a field just a few blocks from the great "Friendly Confines."

I loved knowing that when the day was done I could go out and see the lights of the great Wrigley Field shining out in the night. I used to go down and hang out with my friends and hope there'd be a home run ball come our way. Some nights it happened and some afternoons we were a little disappointed.

There were those who'd tell you that you needed to watch your back out there at the Friendly Confines, because if you were from the opposing team, that homer was coming back out on the field.

Some of us are now old enough to remember the first night game. I know that I am. 1988.

Who can forget that fateful year? So many things happened, and baseball came to primetime that year, and some people were happy about it, while there were some who weren't as happy. I can remember the fit Mrs. Jones threw when she found out the city was letting the Cubs play night games. She said her husband was always late to work as it was, now he was going to be even later.

I'm not sure that she had a legitimate excuse for what she thought, other than she was a die hard Cardinals fan. She'd grown up in St. Louis, and then she met her husband, who happened to be an engineer for a construction firm. He was a Cubs fan. I knew that by the way he talked.

He'd come to a couple of my games. Said if I kept up with the way things were going, I was going to be a "candidate for the big show," one of these years. I think he might have been right. I wanted to be a champion, and there were times when I thought that the team was going to hold me back, but then again, was it them, or was it me holding them back? I knew there were plenty of people who could have played, plenty who were as good as I was, but the coach relied on me. He knew that I could play the game, because I knew the game as well as anyone.

I had even studied the old Abbott and Costello routine, "Who's On First."

Who couldn't find a little fun on the field. I had grown up with Harry Carey singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" for the seventh inning stretch. I watched people like now Hall of Fame-er Ryne Sandberg when he played the bases. I had seen men like Greg Maddox come up and go to other teams only to come back and finish his career where he started. To have one of the best arms in all of baseball.

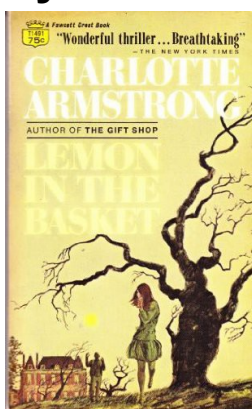
That's what I wanted. I wanted to know that I was "The Greatest."

I mean how many people can claim to be that. I knew that in boxing there was "The Greatest" when it came down to Ali, but in baseball there was always someone who was trying to do just a little bit better than you did when you were at the level you were at. It is a matter of trying to be the greatest.

The lights are being shut off now, and I know that it's long past my bedtime. I know that the stories I have shared here, they will never compare to the year that we were the champions. A Little League team from the suburbs of Chicago. The team was affectionately known as the Rattlers, but there was so much more to us.

Book Reviews

Lemon in the Basket by Charlotte Armstrong (1967)



Among the Tylers of Santa Clara are a matriarch lauded as the first lady of American theater, a judicial appointee of the president, a noted fundraiser for international charities, a university vice-chancellor, and an esteemed and admired surgeon. The Tylers are, in their own words, "worthy of Paradise." Then, a violently anti-US Middle Eastern leader sends his son to California to be treated by the young Dr. Michael Tyler. The king's deal: Save his "little prince," and the lives of the twenty-eight American hostages languishing in his prison will be spared. And there's another caveat: The agreement must be kept secret. But there's one more Tyler to contend with. Rufus Tyler is the family "lemon in the basket," an underachiever who has finally found his moment in history. By exposing his family to the press as conspirators in a terrorist's negotiation, Rufus will do more than breach the walls of privacy. He will plunge his family into the dangerous waters of international politics. As unfounded fears and dreadful rumors take hold, an inevitable and shocking act of violence will threaten not only the Tylers, but also the fate of the entire country.

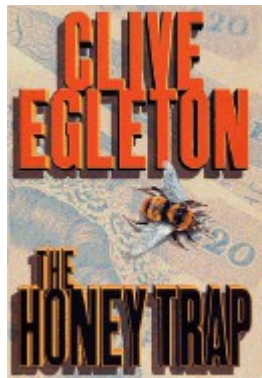
My first Charlotte Armstrong book proved to be fairly light reading compared to my normal fare. That's not to say it wasn't a good read, because it was. While tame by contemporary standards for suspense thrillers, it did offer a very good

story. I give it a B. Want a respite from graphic sex and gore, but still want a well written suspense that could have come from present day headlines? (Second page after the political page 1 stories.) Charlotte Armstrong's would be such an option.

The January 2019 winner #2 is:

Judy Davidson

The Honey Trap by Clive Egleton (2000)



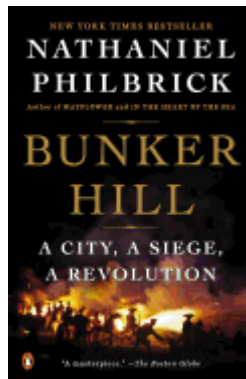
From Publishers Weekly

The cold war is over, but men like Peter Ashton of the British SIS still face extraordinary dangers as they confront multinational terrorism that can strike anywhere, at any time, with powerful weapons. And in the world of spies, counterspies, traitors, double agents and backbiting bureaucrats convincingly described by Egleton, the dangers from one's friends seem as great as from one's enemies. Ashton, featured in many of the prolific Egleton's novels (*Dead Reckoning*; etc.), is detailed to investigate the grisly murder of a Queen's Messenger in Costa Rica. To uncover the hydra-headed monster lurking behind that torture killing, Ashton will have to explore links among terrorists as diverse as the IRA, the KGB, Turkish Cypriots and a former Cuban intelligence officer. A combination of inspired deduction, hard (and very clever) spade work and good luck are almost offset by the handicaps Ashton faces from either deliberate or incidental obfuscations within the SIS and its allies. Egleton offers some riveting dramatic passages while making the necessarily plodding investigative process both entertaining and informative. Ashton is smooth, likable, bright and perfectly willing to ruffle the feathers of his superiors if it will inch him closer to a solution. All in all, Egleton provides great entertainment, and if the novel's conclusion

strains credulity, with Ashton always in the right place at the right time, it isn't enough to diminish the pleasure of the journey.

Lots of players in this novel and at times I had difficulty remembering who was who and which side they were on. It's not as credible as Le Carre' nor as thrilling as Ludlum, but still a good book. I give it a B-. It was interesting to reflect on the changes that occurred shortly after the book was staged and published and the 9/11 attacks took place. I would not recommend it for a late night read, unless you're having trouble sleeping.

Bunker Hill by Nathaniel Philbrick (2013)



Boston in 1775 is an island city occupied by British troops after a series of incendiary incidents by patriots who range from sober citizens to thuggish vigilantes. After the Boston Tea Party, British and American soldiers and Massachusetts residents have warily maneuvered around each other until April 19, when violence finally erupts at Lexington and Concord. In June, however, with the city cut off from supplies by a British blockade and Patriot militia poised in siege, skirmishes give way to outright war in the Battle of Bunker Hill. It would be the bloodiest battle of the Revolution to come, and the point of no return for the rebellious colonists.

Philbrick brings a fresh perspective to every aspect of the story. He finds new characters, and new facets to familiar ones. The real work of choreographing rebellion falls to a thirty-three year old physician named Joseph Warren who emerges as the on-the-ground leader of the Patriot cause and is fated to die at Bunker Hill. Others in the cast include Paul Revere, Warren's fiancé the poet Mercy Scollay, a newly recruited George Washington, the reluctant British combatant General Thomas Gage and his more bellicose successor William Howe, who leads the three charges at Bunker Hill and presides over the claustrophobic cauldron of a city under siege as both sides play a nervy game of brinkmanship for control.

With passion and insight, Philbrick reconstructs the revolutionary landscape--geographic and ideological--in a mesmerizing narrative of the robust, messy, blisteringly real origins of America.

It seems every time I read/listen to a book like this I learn so much that I think I should have already known. Or, maybe I did know it at some point but it has been lost in my memory banks. Regardless, it was an interesting book and one I'd recommend to history fans. It covers a pivotal time in the history of America and is quite well written. I give it a B+.

The Stone God Awakens by Philip Jose' Farmer (1970)

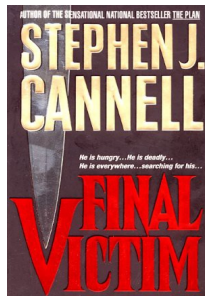


Ulysses Singing Bear had no idea that his scientific work would result in a twenty-million-year journey to a world peopled by the descendants of present-day animals. It was the world of Awina, the cat-woman with an impossible love for Ulysses. It was the planet of a mammoth continent-spanning intelligence – The Tree– who knew that Ulysses, the newly-awakened Stone God, could destroy his reign.

To enable his species to survive, Ulysses had to find a human mate. To do so, and to fulfill the single condition set by his worshipers, he had to confront The Tree. It would have been an easy task for a god, but he was only a man—and the only man at that.

The description sounds a bit hokey, but the story is actually pretty good. I do love how good science fiction authors can create a whole new world and people it with wonderfully unique, sentient creatures, plants and a strange and wonderful environment. Farmer does all this well in *The Stone God Awakens*. A classic Sci Fi book, not long, but rich in content I give it a B. Farmer, who won the Hugo Award and many other Science Fiction awards is an author you should try, whether a Sci Fi lover or not.

Final Victim by Stephen J Cannell (1996)

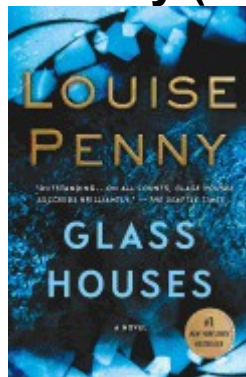


Leonard Land is a seven-foot-tall, completely hairless computer genius, wired to the cyber-punk subculture of Death Metal and Satan worship. He is also a twisted, multipersonality maniac who is systematically murdering women. When he is The Rat, he is smart and cunning; when he becomes The Wind Minstrel, he is God and the Devil. The Rat only covets women; The Wind Minstrel possesses them. Hot on Land's trail is a formidable, if unlikely, trio of heroes: John Lockwood - a renegade U.S. Customs agent who never met a rule he didn't break or a regulation he didn't violate; Karen "Awesome" Dawson - a beautiful and brainy forensic psychologist who never met a challenge she couldn't overcome; and Malavida Chacon, a street-wise master hacker who never met a computer program he couldn't crack. They pursue their quarry through the convoluted corridors of cyberspace and deep into the Florida swamps. But when Land discovers who has been infiltrating his programs, his nemesis becomes his prey. The hunters are now the hunted, and they must stop Land before he claims...the Final Victim.

Stephen J Cannell was, in addition to being a master storyteller, the Emmy award-winning creator of more than 35 hit television shows, including "The Rockford Files", "The A-Team," "Wiseguy," and "The Commish." He died in 2010.

If you grew up enjoying Cannell's TV shows you'll thoroughly enjoy his books. Fast-paced with interesting and likable protagonists and despicable bad guys with just enough quips and comedic passages to lighten the mood. Final Victim is well done. I give it a B- and hope you try Cannell, though his books are increasingly difficult to find.

Glass Houses by Louise Penny (2018)



When a mysterious figure appears in Three Pines one cold November day,

Armand Gamache and the rest of the villagers are at first curious. Then wary. Through rain and sleet, the figure stands unmoving, staring ahead. From the moment its shadow falls over the village, Gamache, now Chief Superintendent of the S urete du Quebec, suspects the creature has deep roots and a dark purpose. Yet Gamache does nothing. What can he do? Only watch and wait. And hope his mounting fears are not realized. But when the figure vanishes overnight and a body is discovered, it falls to Gamache to discover if a debt has been paid or levied. Months later, on a steamy July day as the trial for the accused begins in Montreal, Chief Superintendent Gamache continues to struggle with actions he set in motion. "This case began in a higher court," he tells the judge, "and it's going to end there."

Having read most of Penny's books I have to say this is her best yet! I give it an A+. She writes clearly and in language anyone can read and understand (with possible exceptions for the French words and phrases). Armand Gamache is the perfect principle and Three Pines, Quebec the perfect village for murder and mayhem. What a wonderful collection of residents! How Penny manages to meld the two into so many exceptional murder mysteries is remarkable. In the case of Glass Houses she adds an even more complex plot than previous books. I can't wait for her 14th book, "Kingdom of the Blind", due to be released November 27, 2018.

The January 2019 winner #3 is:

Melanie & Jim Hullinger

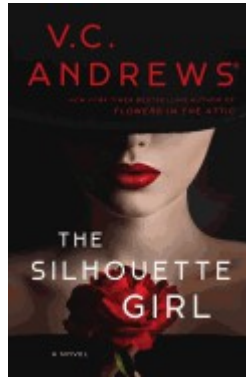
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

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.

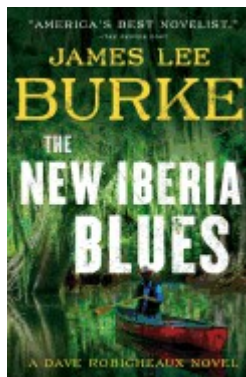
Hardcover and Trade Paperback

V.C. Andrews – The Silhouette Girl – 28.00

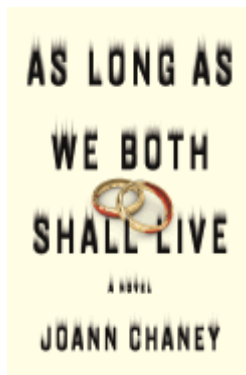


Chris Bohjalian – The Flight Attendant – 16.00

James Lee Burke – The New Iberia Blues – 27.99



Joann Chaney – As Long As We Both Shall Live – 27.99 - You can't be married to someone without sometimes wanting to kill them...



As Long As We Both Shall Live is JoAnn Chaney's wicked, masterful examination of a marriage gone very wrong, a marriage with lots of secrets...

"My wife! I think she's dead!" Matt frantically tells park rangers that he and his wife, Marie, were hiking when she fell off a cliff into the raging river below. They start a search, but they aren't hopeful: no one could have survived that fall. It was a tragic accident.

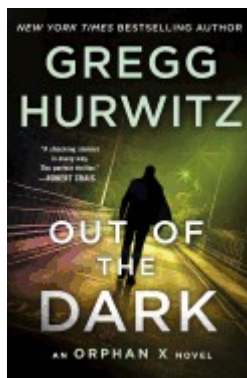
But Matt's first wife also died in suspicious circumstances. And when the police pull a body out of the

river, they have a lot more questions for Matt.

Detectives Loren and Spengler want to know if Matt is a grieving, twice-unlucky husband or a cold-blooded murderer. They dig into the couple's lives to see what they can unearth. And they find that love's got teeth, it's got claws, and once it hitches you to a person, it's tough to rip yourself free. So what happens when you're done making it work?

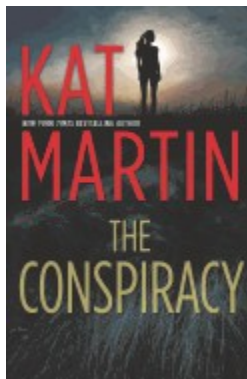
Tim Dorsey – No Sunscreen for the Dead – 26.99

Gregg Hurwitz – Out of the Dark, An Orphan X Novel – 27.99



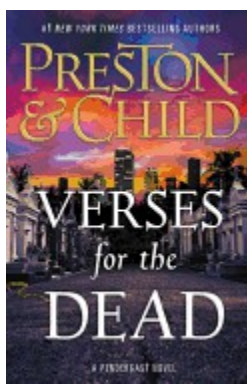
Karen Kingsbury – To the Moon and Back – 16.00

Kat Martin – The Conspiracy – 24.99



Tracie Peterson – Under the Midnight Sun, The Heart of Alaska, #3 – 15.99

Preston & Child – Verses for the Dead – A Pendergast Novel – 28.00



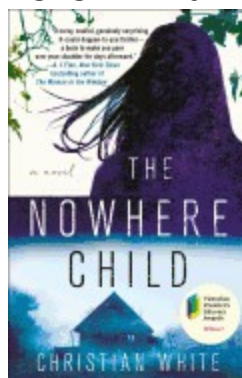
E.G. Scott - The Woman Inside – 27.00 - An impossible-to-put-down domestic thriller about secrets and revenge, told from the perspectives of a husband and wife who are the most perfect, and the most dangerous, match for each other.



Rebecca didn't know love was possible until she met Paul, a successful, charismatic, married man with a past as dark as her own. Their pain drew them together with an irresistible magnetism; they sensed that they were each other's ideal (and perhaps only) match. But twenty years later, Paul and Rebecca are drowning as the damage and secrets that ignited their love begin to consume their marriage. Paul is cheating on Rebecca, and his affair gets messy fast. His mistress is stalking them with growing audacity when Rebecca discovers Paul's elaborate plan to build a new life without her. And though Rebecca is spiraling into an opiate addiction, it doesn't stop her from coming up with a devious plot of her own, and this one could end absolutely everything. What follows is an unpredictable and stylish game of cat and mouse--a shocking tale of unfaithfulness and unreliability that will keep you racing until the final twist and make you wonder how well you really know your spouse.

Danielle Steel – Turning Point – 28.99

Christian White – The Nowhere Child – 26.99

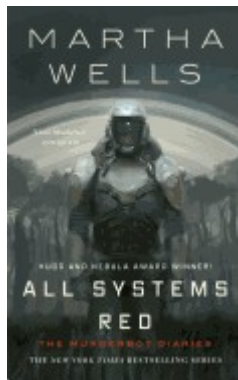


Kimberly Leamy is a photography teacher in Melbourne, Australia. Twenty-six years earlier, Sammy Went, a two-year old girl vanished from her home in Manson, Kentucky. An American accountant who contacts Kim is convinced she was that child, kidnapped just after her birthday. She cannot believe the woman who raised her, a loving social worker who died of cancer four years ago, crossed international lines to steal a toddler.

On April 3rd, 1990, Jack and Molly Went's daughter Sammy disappeared from the inside their Kentucky home. Already estranged since the girl's birth, the couple drifted further apart as time passed. Jack did his best to raise and protect his other daughter and son while Molly found solace in her faith. The Church of the Light Within, a Pentecostal fundamentalist group who handle poisonous snakes as part of their worship, provided that faith. Without Sammy, the Wents eventually fell apart.

Now, with proof that she and Sammy are in fact the same person, Kim travels to America to reunite with a family she never knew she had. And to solve the mystery of her abduction--a mystery that will take her deep into the dark heart of religious fanaticism where she must fight for her life against those determined to save her soul...

Martha Wells – All Systems Red, The Murderbot Diaries – 16.99



Trivia for January

What title did Russian writer Leo Tolstoy originally give to the novel we know as *War and Peace*??

Answer:

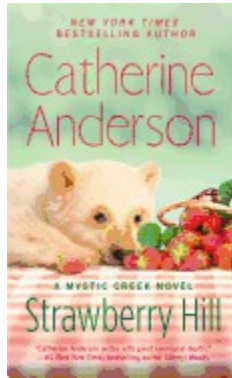
All's Well That Ends Well

The January 2019 winner #4 is:

Kathleen Sandry

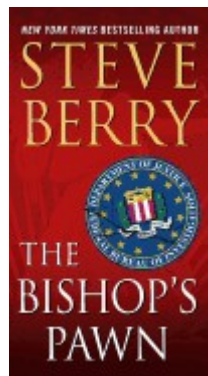
Mass Market Paperback

Catherine Anderson – Strawberry Hill, A Mystic Creek Novel – 7.99



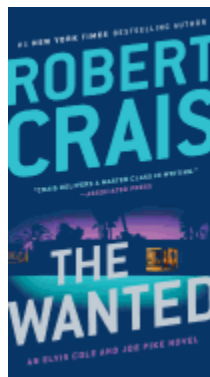
David Bell – Someone I Used to Know – 9.99

Steve Berry – The Bishop's Pawn – 9.99



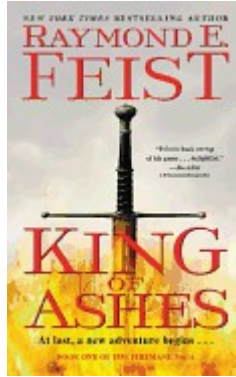
Robyn Carr – The Family Gathering – 8.99

Robert Crais – The Wanted – 9.99



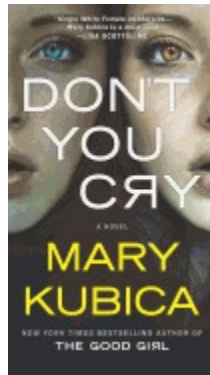
Fiona Cummins – The Collector – 9.99

Raymond E. Feist – King of Ashes – 7.99



Jonathan Kellerman – Night Moves – 9.99

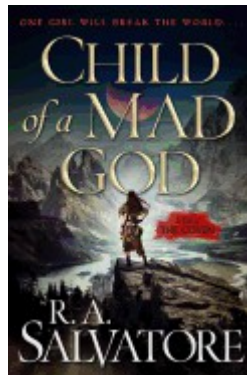
Mary Kubica – Don't You Cry – 9.99



Fern Michaels – Safe and Sound – 7.99

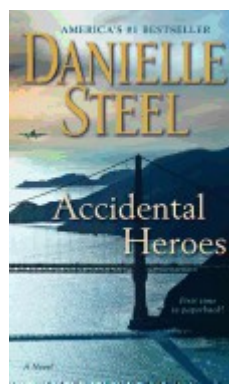
J.D. Robb – Leverage in Death – 8.99

R.A. Salvator – Child of a Mad God – 9.99



**Paige Shelton – Lost
7.99**

Danielle Steel – Accidental



Books and Old Bones –

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Brad Taylor – Operation Down – 9.99