

The Book Rack Newsletter

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Vol 8, #7

July 2015

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If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading or do things worth the writing.

Benjamin Franklin

Reading Trivia:

What Frenchman wrote about two fantastic space odysseys - one to the moon and one to the sun - more than 200 years before Jules Verne??

Read on for the answers

July Holidays

National Anti-boredom Month – How can anyone get bored with a good book in their hands!

July 3 – Disobedience Day (Don't tell your kids about this day)

July 4 – Independence Day – Fly your flag !

7 – Chocolate Day – one of my annual favorite days

13 – National Barbershop Music Day – My barbershop doesn't have music??

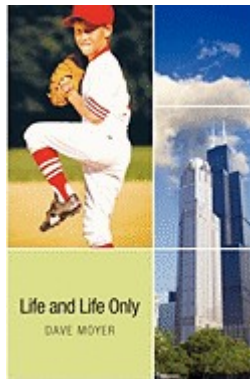
13 – Remodeling Day – We start remodeling our home on this day!

22 – Hammock Day – What a great invention for readers

30 – International Day of Friendship

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](#). Please give it a serious consideration when you are next in the stores.



“Someone’s got it in for me, they’re planting stories in the press”

--Bob Dylan

“Idiot Wind”

**“I’ve learned to hate Russians
All through my whole life
If another war starts, it’s them we must fight”**

--Bob Dylan, “With God on Our Side”, from 1963’s *The Times They Are A-Changin’*

Where is Angie Dickinson When You Need Her

Dennis Lehane’s *Moonlight Mile* is a typical crime novel that weighs in as above average, but not enough so to be considered a great work.

The book relies significantly on dialogue, and, when an author chooses to do that, the dialogue better be pretty good. In this case it is strong at times but just as cheesy at others. So, it would seem, that if Lehane were to rely on that convention

to this degree, it should be pretty strong. In this case, the results are mixed.

While Lehane's *Live by Night* is a superb novel with a crime backdrop, *Moonlight Mile* is more of a stereotypical crime novel, and, although there are high points sprinkled throughout, it is more "run of the mill" than great.

Private Investigator Patrick Kenzie and wife, Angela Gennaro, are caught up in the sequel to *Gone, Baby, Gone*, in which the enigmatic Amanda resurfaces 12+ years later. Well, as in any good crime novel, Russian gangsters are prominent, and, in this case, baby smuggling is the theme/motive/cause celeb. Dre, the Doctor that becomes entangled in the whole enterprise, is introduced later on into the story, as if we should care. But, we have to, because his dereliction of duty explains how everybody got into their respective spots in the first place. There is just not enough character development, even with the main characters, or a reason for the reader to care, except to arrive at the exciting conclusion, for this book to be more of a real novel and less of a stereotypical crime novel.

Patrick and Angela struggle through the typical marital issues of how it is to be a part of a relationship in which one person is shot at on a regular basis, but that is easily solved by the fact that they are hot for each other. Okay. As a reader, I need a little more than that.

Well, this is a good book that many will enjoy, but, by this reviewer's standards, it is just OK. Read any Forsyth novel, and it will blow this work out of the water.

Recommended

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

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

The rest of the reviews are mine :-)

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 shock waves 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.

Do you like international suspense and/or authors like Alan Berenson and Eric Ambler? This is one not to pick up. I give it a B

The Snowman by Jo Nesbo (2011)

Oslo in November. The first snow of the season has fallen. A boy named Jonas wakes in the night to find his mother gone. Out his window, in the cold moonlight, he sees the snowman that inexplicably appeared in the yard earlier in the day. Around its neck is his mother's pink scarf. He suspects a link between a menacing letter he's received and the disappearance of Jonas' mother--and of perhaps a dozen other women, all of whom went missing on the day of a first snowfall. As his investigation deepens, something else emerges: he is becoming a pawn in an increasingly terrifying game whose rules are devised--and constantly revised--by the killer. Fiercely suspenseful, its characters brilliantly realized, its atmosphere permeated with evil, "The Snowman" is the electrifying work of one of the best crime writers of our time. (Publisher's marketing)

I like Jo Nesbo and this is an excellent example of his writing. Very suspenseful, complex and entertaining. I give it an A.

The Way Back by A. Bertram Chandler (1978)

Lost in space and lost in time. There can be no more terrifying situation for any spaceman to be in, and such was the problem when Commander Grimes' Faraway Quest broke free from the mysterious Kinsolving's Planet. Because the universe was vast and they had been out beyond the Galactic Lens. Because time is infinite and they had slipped beyond their own epoch. Because in whatever universe they were in they could raise no etheric word, no telepathic beacon, no other star vessel. But for John Grimes, a veritable Commodore Hornblower of the future space seas, there had to be a way back. The first step was to locate Earth, the launching place for all humanity. But Earth turned out to be legend and myth and faith – and Grimes' rebellious crew were to enact roles already fabled before they were born.

Another classic Science Fiction title by a renowned author. At only 175 pages, it's a quick, fun read. As with all good Sci Fi, it is a very creative story. How do you get from one end of the universe to a lost Earth and then from an epoch far from the one you left, back to where you belong. Tying in Earth's history and myths to the space crew was particularly ingenious. I give it B- and hope you give this genre a try, if you're not already hooked.

Zero Hour by Clive Cussler (2013)

It is called zero-point energy, and it really exists--a state of energy contained in all matter everywhere, and thus all but unlimited. Nobody has ever found a way to tap into it...until one scientist succeeds. Unfortunately, his intentions are far from noble.

Rejected and vilified by the international community, he plans to use zero-point energy to exact terrifying revenge on entire nations, constructing machines of unthinkable destruction...machines that could unleash world-altering earthquakes and create fissures in tectonic plates. He claims that the fate of whole continents will be his to command. But the truth may be more terrifying still, for others believe that once the force of zero-point energy is released... it can't be controlled. Kurt Austin, Joe Zavala and the rest of the NUMA team begin a desperate race to find these deadly machines and destroy them before they're activated. But other parties are also in the hunt and their goals may be more sinister.. From the barren plains of the Australian Outback to the crashing waves of the Great Southern Ocean to a volcanic, icebound island, the team will risk everything to stop the devastation before it's too late.

Clive Cussler's book are always fun to read. They are full of adventure, heroes, vile villains and spectacular settings and accomplishments. Zero Hour is no exception. The pace make the book fly by – in a good way. If you have never read Cussler and like thrillers, make sure and give his a try. I give Zero Hour a B+ and definitely recommend it to you.

Reading Trivia Answer:

What Frenchman wrote about two fantastic space odysseys - one to the moon and one to the sun - more than 200 years before Jules Verne??



Cyrano de Bergerac, author of *A Voyage to the moon: with some account of the Solar World*, 1754. These stories of imaginary journeys to the Moon and Sun, published posthumously in 1656 and 1662, satirize 17th-century

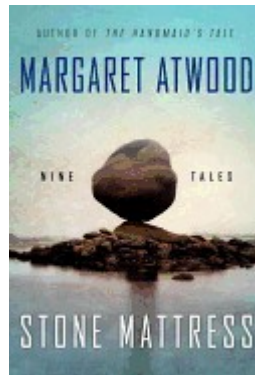
religious and astronomical beliefs, which saw man and the world as the center of creation.

Upcoming New Releases: I'm changing the approach for this section, only listing a few titles that seem to me to be potentially quite good. I'll include a brief description of each. Your feedback is always appreciated. Just drop me a note at: BookRackQC@Gmail.com.

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:

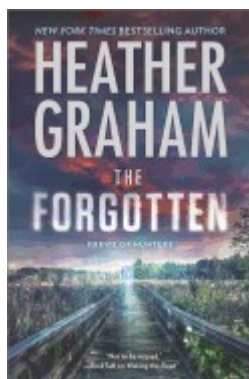
Margaret Atwood – Stone Mistress 15.95/12.80



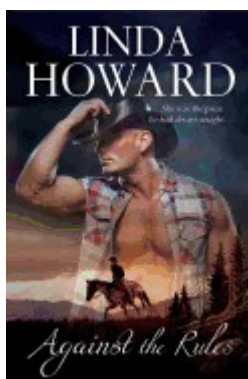
CJ Box – Badlands – 26.99/21.60

Catherine Coulter – Nemesis 26.95/21.60

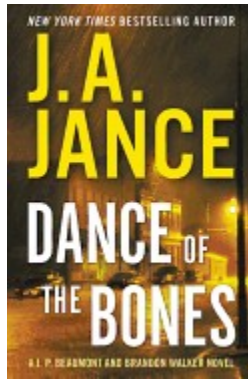
Heather Graham – The Forgotten – 24.95/20.00



Linda Howard – Against the Rules 28.95/23.20

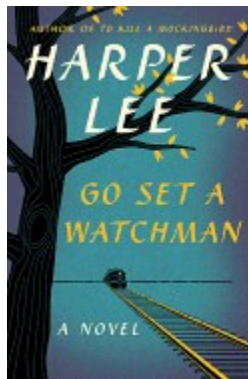


J.A. Jance – Dance of the Bones 26.99/21.60



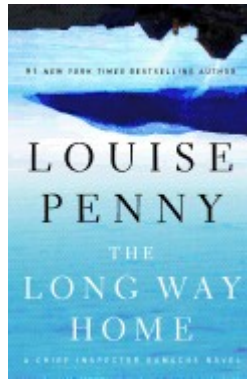
Sophie Kinsella – Finding Audrey 18.99/15.20

Harper Lee – Go Set A Watchman 34.99/28.00



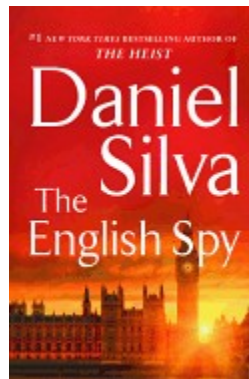
Susan Mallery – Thrill Me 24.95/20.00

Louise Penny – The Long Way Home 15.99/12.00

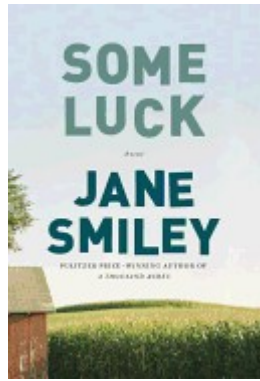


Jodi Picoult - Leaving Time 16.00/12.80

Daniel Silva – The English Spy 27.99/22.40



Jane Smiley – Some Luck 15.95/12.00

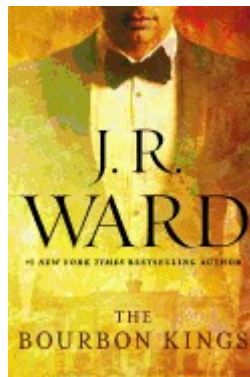


Brad Taylor – The Insider Threat 26.95/21.60

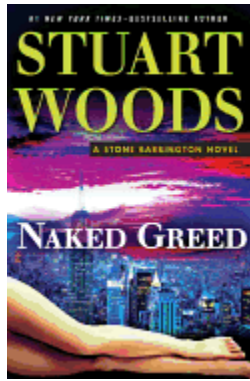
Brad Thor – Code of Conduct – 27.99/22.40



JR Ward – The Bourbon King



Stuart Woods – Naked Greed 27.95/22.40



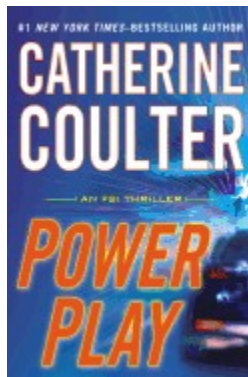
Paperback:

Keri Arthur – Wicked Embers 7.99/6.40



Patricia Cornwell – Flesh & Blood 9.99/8.00

Catherine Coulter – Power Play 7.99/6.40



Christine Feehan – Earth Bound 7.99/6.40

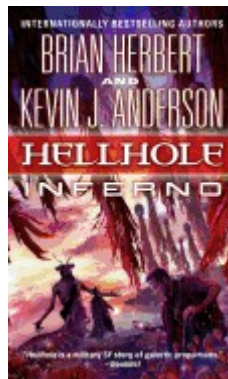


Terry Goodkind – Severed Souls 9.99/8.00

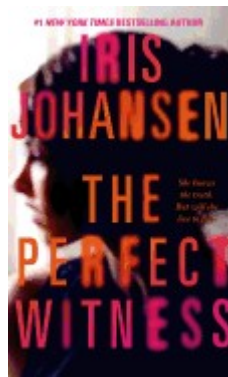


Heather Graham – Conquer the Night 7.99/6.40

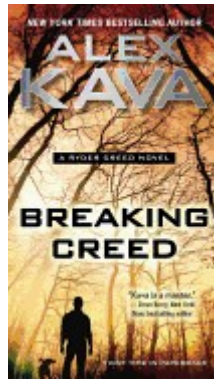
Brian Herbert – Hellhole Inferno 8.99/7.20



Iris Johansen – The Perfect Witness 7.99/6.40

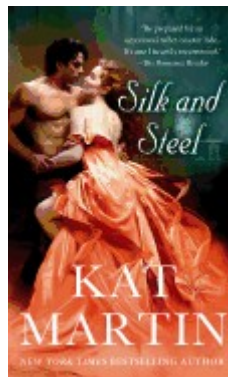


Alex Kava – Breaking Creed 9.99/8.00



Susan Mallery – Kiss Me 8.99/7.20

Kat Martin – Silk and Steel 7.99/6.40



Fern Michaels – In Plain Sight 7.99/6.40

Karen Robards – Her Last Whisper 7.99/6.40

Danielle Steel – A Perfect Life 7.99/6.40

