

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 9, #6

June 2016

4764 Elmore Ave, Davenport

563-355-2310

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

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

Reading Trivia for June

What do mystery writers Gordon Ashe, Michael Halliday, J.J. Marric and Kyle Hunt have in common?

Bonus Trivia Question (Not book related)

Within what range must the water temperature be in competitive swimming events at the Olympics?

See below for the trivia answers

Classic Book Opening:

"Ours is essentially a tragic age, so we refuse to take it seriously."

Lady Chatterley's Lover

D. H. Lawrence

Monthly Drawing Winner for May:

Shirley Hurry

Congratulations!

NOTE: We are suspending our monthly drawing and may restart it later in the year.

June Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

5 – World Environment Day

6 - Ramadan - It is a time of fasting, worship, and renewal of family ties. Fasting lasts the entire month and Muslims can not eat during daylight hours. Fasting is done to show devotion to god.

11 – Local Author **Cindy McDermott** will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00 visiting with you and signing copies of her books.

14 – Flag Day

19 – Father's Day (Think Book Rack Gift Certificate!)

25 – **John Spencer**, a central Illinois author who has written three historical novels/westerns, will be signing copies of his books, 11-1:00.

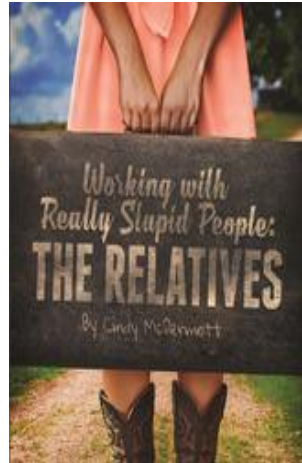
26 – Forgiveness Day

Featured Authors for June are:

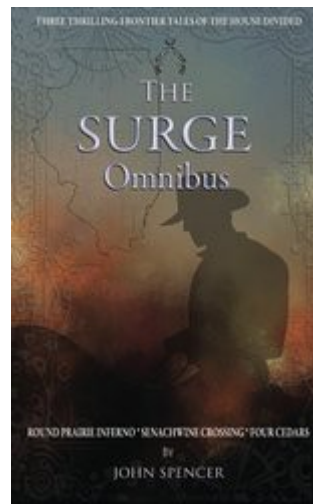
Cindy McDermott and John Spencer

Cindy McDermott (pictured below)

Cindy retired from the United States Navy as a Commander in 2006. She worked for nearly 25 years at Alcoa in Davenport, Iowa. Cindy will be at The Book Rack, 11a-1p, Saturday, June 11 for an author Meet and Greet, celebrating her second book, "The Relatives." Visit her website at www.cindymcdermott.com to learn more.



John Spencer (below) lives and works along the picturesque Sangamon River in the heart of Illinois. He earned his B.A. in Art from the University of Illinois, is a U.S. Navy veteran of Desert Storm and recipient of both the Naut Tahrir al-Kuwait and National Defense medals but it was in his role as assistant to the Historic Sites Director at an Illinois prairie preserve that his interest in antebellum Illinois was piqued. Months spent conducting research for the preserve led to a desire to relate the story of two of the West's most unsung heroes; the reluctant abolitionist and the fiery New England puritan, both of whom were formidable forces with which to contend on the burgeoning frontier.



John will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00 on June 25. Make a point to stop in,

visit and pick up a copy of one, or more, of John's books.

Boxes of Westerns!

During May we obtained for your reading pleasure, several boxes of westerns (@275). Many are in the adult series Longarm, Lonestar, Gunsmith and Spur.

Irish Book Collection!!

We acquired a very nice collection of books about Ireland. We have nonfiction, Classic and contemporary fiction and poetry. These will be available on the free-standing shelves at the front of the store.

New Orleans and Louisiana Collection!!!

We also have a very nice eclectic collection of books about The Big Easy and Louisiana. Many of these are nonfiction and document the calamity of Katrina and the history of the city and some famous and notorious citizens. Some are poetry and short stories. All are intriguing! These too are on the front, free-standing shelves.

These all have been added to our inventory and are available for you to buy at the store or on our web site: TheBookRackQC.com.

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.

TELLING YOUR STORY WORKSHOP FOR MILITARY MEMBERS

By Cindy McDermott

www.cindymcdermott.com

If music soothes the savage beast, then writing is a first step in healing the soul.

Since the beginning of history writing has been used as part of a healing process. But to begin that restorative effort, painful memories must be pulled to the surface, which can be absolutely frightening and painful to do.

Military veterans are no different. But to begin their healing, many are brave enough to call upon those recollections and use writing as part of a process to negotiate their brokenness. I had the pleasure of helping to host and organize our third writing workshop for past or present military members and their families in my new home community of Kansas City, MO.

TELLING YOUR STORY was a three-day weekend workshop in April designed to give veterans and their families the tools and confidence to develop and tell their own stories. It was offered at no charge to past or present military members and their families thanks to the generosity of sponsors. In the past, we've received grants from the Missouri Humanities Council and the Kansas Humanities Council.

Workshop participants explored approaches to writing including personal stories, poetry, fiction and memoir. We also focused on self-editing and self-publishing. All learnings came through ten practical sessions facilitated by leading professional writers and educators in KC. Two keynote speakers inspired and informed on the art and skill of writing. Manuscript review opportunities were provided to allow vets to work one-on-one with professional writers. All sessions were held at The Writers Place in KC, an organization focused on writing. The Moral Injury Association of America also sponsored the workshop.

Our goals of the workshop were to provide a safe place and time for veterans to learn about writing and storytelling; to stimulate an interest in and a commitment to writing stories beyond the workshop; to match the various levels of veterans with appropriate sessions; and to offer resources and services for veterans post workshop, including writers groups and manuscript review.

The work to help our military members heal from their experiences while in service to our country continues to grow. Suicide rates for military personnel occur at an alarming rate in the United States. Although about seven percent of the general population is active or inactive service members, a staggering twenty percent of all suicides in our country are

past or present military members. Nearly 50 percent of those taking their lives are Vietnam Veterans.

Half of the post-9/11 combat veterans describe their transition to civilian life as “very difficult.” Veterans of the U.S. military have disproportionately high rates of domestic violence, divorce, homelessness, substance abuse, Post-Traumatic Stress and incarceration. After departure from service, suicide rates climb to three times the general population. Veterans who have killed in war are two to three times more likely to commit suicide than *the overall veteran population*. By the time veterans reach the crises of suicide, incarceration or homelessness, most will have carried inner anguish and despair for months or even years, as their suffering takes a toll on their families and communities.

But we can make a difference with writing. Workshop attendees have told us this weekend program enabled them to write of their military experiences, and helped them begin the process of negotiating their brokenness. “The value of this workshop, now in its third year, is immeasurable. I think it’s a great start to help me tell my patriotic story of service – however painful it may be,” stated by an attendee in a feedback form.

In the past 20 years, our nation has created a new generation of potential veteran suicide victims, those who served post-9/11. It is the duty of all communities in the United States to help those potential victims successfully reintegrate into society and to prevent the suffering that our Vietnam Veterans had to endure.

My planning committee is willing to share its learnings to help other organizations begin their own community writing programs for veterans and their family members. If you would like to learn more, please contact me: info@moralinjuryassociation.com.

Cindy retired from the United States Navy as a Commander in 2006. She worked for nearly 25 years at Alcoa in Davenport, Iowa. Cindy will be at The Book Rack, 11a-1p, Saturday, June 11 for an author Meet and Greet, celebrating her second book, “The Relatives.” Visit her website at www.cindymcdermott.com to learn more.

Book Reviews:

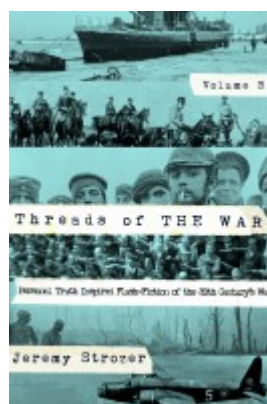
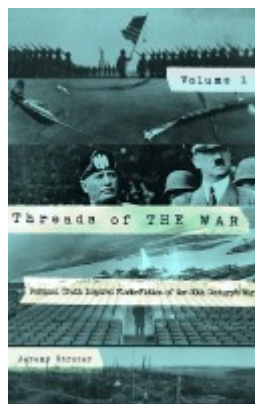
Our first book review is by Local Author Jodie Toohey and first appeared January 12, 2016 in Jodie's blog,

<http://bookreviewsbyjodiet.blogspot.com/>.

I obtained Volume I of [Threads of the War: Personal Truth Inspired Flash-Fiction of The 20th Century's War](#) from the author after he contacted me via the contact form on my website asking about opportunities to promote his work. I told him I didn't do that at this time, but that I did maintain a historical book review blog, so he sent me the electronic copy of his book. I also interviewed him for the Author Spotlight section of my author services website, [which you can read here](#).

Jeremy Strozer's *Threads of the War Volume I* contains numerous entertaining, easily digestible, and quick-to-read short stories based on real war-related historical events. Some of them are suspenseful and some are humorous, but all are engaging and interesting. I also enjoyed the parts that told the "real" stories behind his stories as well as the factual information and photographs included.

Threads of the War Volume I put me into these moments in history, and I greatly appreciated that they were moments, because they provided so much detail and intimacy that gets glossed over in public school history classes. These stories also reminded me that war involves people, and they allowed me to step into history as a breathing, feeling human being.



Volume II of *Threads of the War* was released in March, 2016. I have no reason to doubt that it, like Volume I, would appeal to all history buffs as well as anyone who enjoys stories based on fact. I read these stories quickly, so, on a can't-put-it-down-scale of one for I couldn't even finish it to ten for I was up until the wee

morning hours, I give it an eight.

Source: [Strozer, Jeremy. \(2015\). *Threads of the War: Personal Truth Inspired Flash-Fiction of The 20th Century's War*. The Good Enough Empire, LLC.](#)

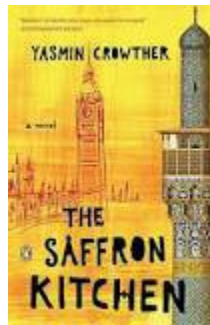
This Next Two Review are by Claudia:

There Once Lived a Girl Who Seduced Her Sister's Husband and He Hanged Himself – Love Stories, is a collection of short stories by Ludmilla Petrushevskaya, selected and translated by Anna Summers. The Soviet Union banned her work for many years, but she is now a well-known fiction writer in her native Russia. As the book cover states, “Here are attempts at human connection, both depraved and sublime, by people across the life span: one-night stands in communal apartments, poignantly awkward couplings, office trysts, schoolgirl crushes, elopements, tentative courtships, and rampant infidelity, shot through with lurid violence, romantic illusion, and surprising tenderness.” I could not have said it better. This collection of odd little stories open an absurd, sad, yet sometimes hopeful world unknown by most of us. I like to read the unusual on occasion, and this fit the bill. Now I want to read Petrushevskaya’s New York Times Bestseller, *There Once Lived a Woman Who Tried to Kill Her Neighbor’s Baby*.



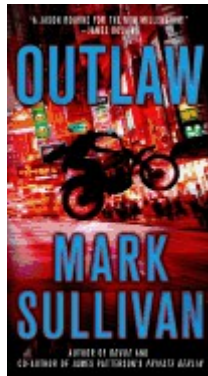
The Saffron Kitchen, by Yasmin Crowder, is about an Iranian woman, Maryam, married to a British man, and their married daughter, Sara. While they all live in London, Maryam’s past and the secrets it holds cause Maryam such guilt that she ultimately leaves her family and travels to the small Iranian village of her youth, where it all began. With the family torn apart, Sara follows her mother to try to understand what has happened and to take her mother home. Sara sees her mother as a different woman - she seems less tense, less concerned about appearances, she sleeps on a mat, and teaches children English in the local school – but Sara is no closer to understanding why her mother has left her husband, Sara’s father, and Sara herself. After several difficult days, Maryam finally tells Sara about the abuse suffered and the price she paid to flee the country and people she loved. Circumstances of the story are not happy ones,

but the love and ultimate understanding between mother and daughter provides hope for continued reconciliation. I liked it.



The rest are by me:

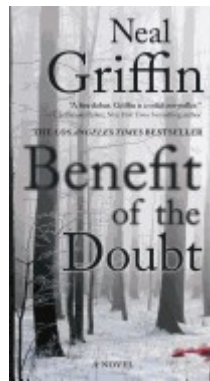
Outlaw by Mark Sullivan (2013)



While conducting top-secret negotiations aboard a tanker in the South China Sea, the U.S. Secretary of State and the foreign ministers of China and India are kidnapped, and the tanker they are on is hijacked. The "Sons of Prophecy" take responsibility and issue an ultimatum: If their demands are not met in seven days, the three will be beheaded live on the Internet. With the presidential election in only eight days, sitting President Sands, about to leave office, calls in former CIA operative and master thief Robin Monarch and convinces him to save the diplomats before the threatened execution. Monarch and his counterpart, a mysterious Chinese agent named Song Le, embark upon a dangerous journey into the underbelly of Southeast Asia, a world of corrupt Vietnamese Army officers, fanatical pirates, Hong Kong triad leaders, and volatile mercenaries living around the red light districts of Thailand. As they get closer and closer, with time quickly running out, Monarch learns that the daring kidnapping and ransom pot diabolical plot is only a front. Behind it is another plot, one designed to alter the outcome of the election itself, a conspiracy that reaches deep inside the White House, back to the very people who hired Monarch in the first place.

There's a wealth of action in *Outlaw*, engaging characters and a good plot well written. I give it a B+. I may be a bit harsh in my rating, but having just finished *Satori*, this book's not up to that standard. It's definitely worth finding and reading, if you like thrillers. Also, if you like Kyle Mills and Ben Coes you'll likely enjoy Sullivan.

Benefit of the Doubt by Neal Griffin (2015)



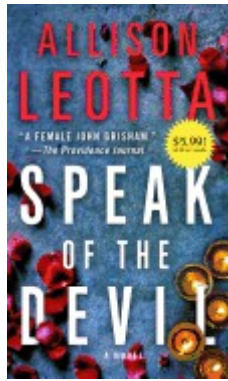
Neal Griffin is a twenty-five year veteran of law enforcement. He's seen it all, from routine patrols to drug enforcement to homicide investigations, from corrupt cops to men and women who went far above and beyond the call of duty.

"Benefit of the Doubt" is a gripping thriller that exposes the dark underbelly of policing in small-town America, where local police departments now deal with big-city crimes and corruption.

Ben Sawyer was a big-city cop, until he nearly killed a helpless suspect in public. Now a detective in the tiny Wisconsin town where he and his wife grew up, Ben suspects that higher-ups are taking payoffs from local drug lords. Before long, Ben is off the force. His wife is accused of murder. His only ally is another outcast, a Latina rookie cop. Worse, a killer has escaped from jail with vengeance on his mind, and Newburg and Ben Sawyer in his sights.

Another new author to the genre and one I hope keeps writing! When experienced law enforcement officers, attorneys, doctors, snipers and others start writing novels they can bring a level of realism to their books not available to the inexperienced. It's one thing to grasp the processes but you can't garner the true emotions of real situations an experienced player has. Griffin has done well relating his personal experiences to the reader. I give this book a B+

Speak of the Devil by Allison Leotta (2013)



SPEAK OF THE DEVIL AND HE WILL APPEAR

On the very night she gets engaged to the man she loves, sex-crimes prosecutor Anna Curtis's professional life takes a shocking turn that threatens everything she holds dear.

While Anna is enjoying a romantic dinner capped off by a marriage proposal, a few miles away two separate groups are gearing up to raid a brothel. A vicious killer known as Diablo the Devil leads one group. A few minutes later, Anna's own investigative team heads in to search the brothel, as part of the fight against human trafficking in D.C. Both groups are caught off guard, with deadly results.

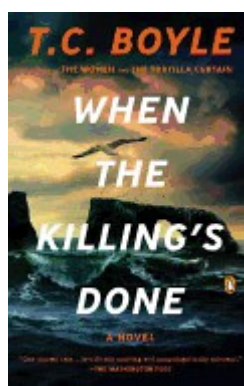
As Anna investigates the bloody face-off, the boundaries between her work and home life begin to blur. Though eager to focus on her new fiancé, the chief homicide prosecutor Jack Bailey, and her soon-to-be stepdaughter, Olivia, this case and the search for Diablo are never far from her mind.

When Anna discovers a web of long-buried secrets and official lies leading straight to her doorstep, the truth about this case threatens to rob her of the happiness she seemed so close to securing. And everything Anna counted on becomes a question mark as Diablo moves in for yet another kill.

Allison Leotta draws on her experience as a D.C. sex-crimes prosecutor to take readers into the back rooms of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the hidden world of the Witness Protection Program, and the secret rituals of one of America's most dangerous gangs.

Allison Leotta was a federal sex-crimes prosecutor in Washington, DC for twelve years. Everything in this novel speaks to this experience. The authenticity and authority in the book make it a very compelling read. I found it very good and give it an A-. If you like Scottoline, Reichs or Cornwell, you need to pick up one of Leotta's books.

When the Killing's Done by



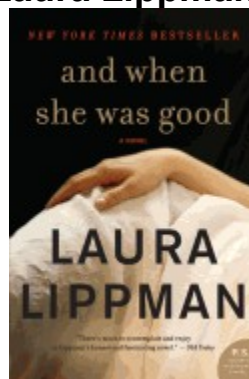
T.C. Boyle (2012)

T.C. Boyle's most powerful and fully realized work yet-"terrifically exciting and unapologetically relevant" ("The Washington Post").

Principally set on the wild Channel Islands off the coast of California, T.C. Boyle's new novel is a gripping adventure with a timely theme. Alma Boyd Takesue is a National Park Service biologist spearheading the efforts to save the islands' native creatures from invasive species. Her antagonist, Dave LaJoy, is a local businessman who is fiercely opposed to the killing of any animals whatsoever and will go to any lengths to subvert her plans. As their confrontation plays out in a series of scenes escalating in violence, drama, and danger, "When the Killing's Done" relates a richly humane tale about the dominion we attempt to exert, for better or worse, over the natural world.

An animal rights activist confronts an environmentalist with sharply differing positions and a no-holds-barred approach leads to conflict, confrontation and death. The arguments posed by these antagonists in themselves are interesting. Add the interpersonal conflict and you have an interesting study in human dynamics. Boyle did a nice job. I give it a B+.

And When She Was Good by Laura Lippman (2012)



In the comfortable suburb where Heloise Lewis lives, she's just a mom, the youngish widow with a forgettable job who somehow never misses a soccer game or a school play. In the state capitol, she's the redheaded lobbyist with a good cause and a mediocre track record.

But in discreet hotel rooms throughout the area, she's the woman of your

dreams if you can afford her hourly fee.

But now, after a decade, her secret life is under siege. Her once oblivious accountant is asking loaded questions. Her longtime protector is hinting at new dangers. Her employees can't be trusted. One county over, another so-called suburban madam has been found dead in her car, a suicide. Or is it? And then she learns that her son's father, a killer and former pimp, might be released from prison. With no formal education, no real family, and no friends, Heloise has to remake her life again. Disappearing will be the easy part. The trick will be living long enough to start a new life.

This is a surprisingly engaging book. Heloise is in nearly every respect a tough, adaptive, likable person who you find yourself rooting for. Crime fiction from the inside of the business looking out and for a way out. I recommend this book and give it a B+. An entertaining diversion from a more typical police focused crime novel.

Reading Trivia for June

What do mystery writers Gordon Ashe, Michael Halliday, J.J. Marris and Kyle Hunt have in common?

Answer: They're all the same man, John Creasey, who used 26 pseudonyms for his 600-plus books. (600 books!! That's insane!)

Bonus Question:

Within what range must the water temperature be in competitive swimming events at the Olympics?

Answer: Between 78 & 80 degrees Fahrenheit (25.5 to 26.6 degrees Celsius)

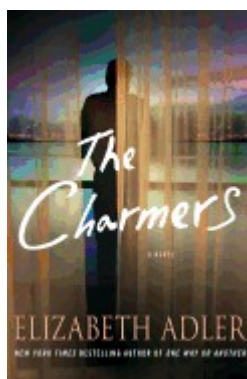
Upcoming New Releases:

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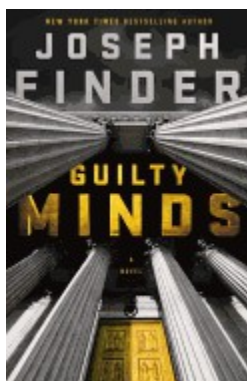
Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Elizabeth Adler – The Charmers – 26.99/21.60



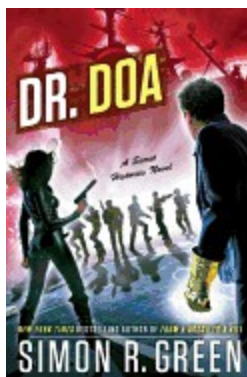
Clive Cussler – The Emperor's Revenge – 29.00/23.20

Joseph Finder – Guilty Minds – 28.00/22.40

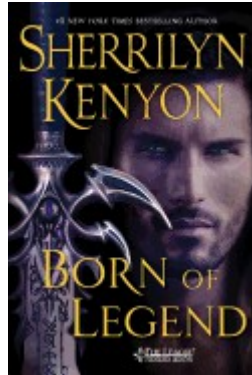


Dorothea Benton Frank – All Summer Long – 26.99/21.60

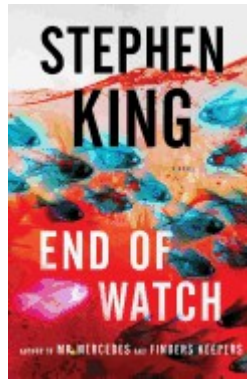
Simon R Green – Dr. DOA – 27.00/21.60



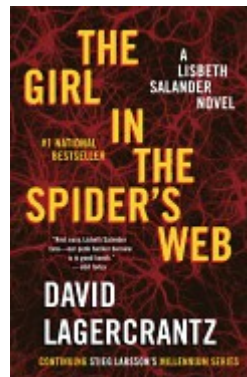
Sherrilyn Kenyon – Born of Legend – 28.99/23.20



Stephen King – End of Watch – 30.00/24.00



David Lagercrantz – The Girl in the Spider's Web – 16.95/13.60

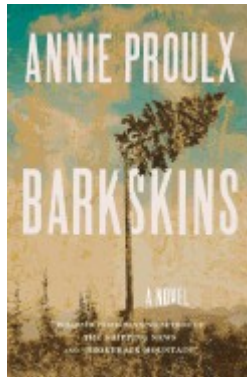


Terry McMillan – I almost Forgot About You – 27.00/21.60

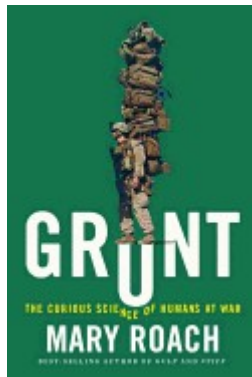
Walter Mosley – Charcoal Joe – 26.95/21.60



Annie Proulx – Barkskins – 32.00/25.60



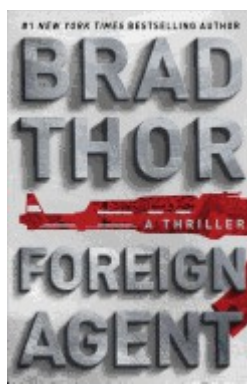
Mary Roach – Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War – 26.95/21.60



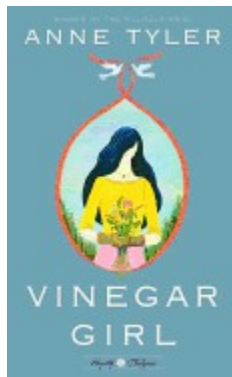
Jeff Shaara – The Fateful Lightning – 18.00/14.40

Danielle Steel – The Apartment – 29.00/23.20

Brad Thor – Foreign Agent – 27.99/22.40



Anne Tyler – Vinegar Girl – 25.00/20.00



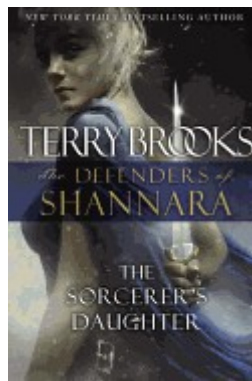
Stuart Woods – Dishonorable Intentions – 28.00/22.40

Paperback

Mitch Albom – The First Phone Call from Heaven – 7.99/6.40

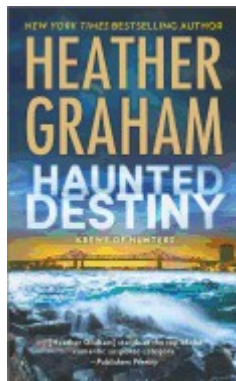


Terry Brooks – The Sorcerer's Daughter – 7.99/6.40

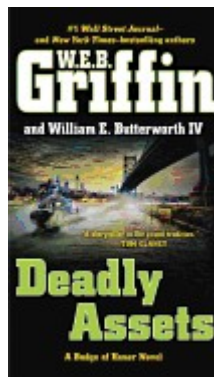


Ben Coes – Independence Day – 9.99/8.00

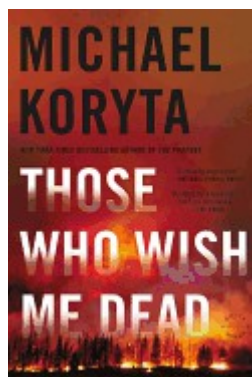
Heather Graham – Haunted Destiny – 7.99/6.40



WEB Griffin – Deadly Assets – 9.99/8.00



Michael Koryta – Those Who Wish Me Dead – 7.99/6.40



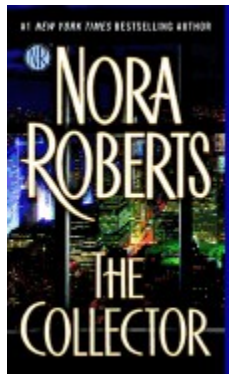
JA Jance – Dance of the Bones – 9.99/8.00

Iris Johansen – – 8.99/7.20



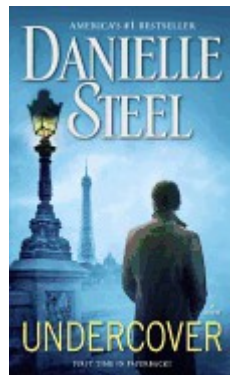
Sara Paretsky – Brush Back – 9.99/8.00

Nora Roberts – The Collector – 7.99/6.40



John Scalzi – The End of All Things – 8.99/7.20

Danielle Steel – Undercover – 7.99/6.40



Brad Thor – Code of Conduct – 9.99/8.00

Stuart Woods – Foreign Affairs – 9.99/8.00