

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 9, #3

March 2016

4764 Elmore Ave, Davenport

563-355-2310

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

<http://www.thebookrackqc.com/>

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Reading Trivia for March

What book was Mark David Chapman carrying with him when he killed John Lennon on December 8, 1980?

See below for the trivia answer

Did you know?

Tennessee Williams had a mental breakdown in 1935 when his father, disapproving of his writing ambitions, withdrew his financial support and sent him to business school instead. He took a night job in a shoe warehouse but the strain of it proved too much for him.

Monthly Drawing Winner for February:

Roxanne Nash

Congratulations!

March Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

March is:

- National **Irish** American Heritage Month
- National Women's History Month

March 2 – Old Stuff Day – We have lots of old books that are really great!

8 – Be Nasty Day – Don't celebrate it at The Book Rack, please!

12 – Girl Scout Day

14 – Pi Day – One of my favorites - Why today? Because today is 3.14, the value of Pi.

15 – Incredible Kids Day – Tell your kids how incredible you know they are!

17 - **St Patrick's Day**

25 – Good Friday

27 – **Easter Sunday – The Book Rack will be closed!**

29 – National Mom & Pop Business Owners Day – This is known as Claudia & Bob's Business Day at The Book Rack!

The Book Rack 10 Best Sellers from 2015

1 – A Game of Thrones (Book 1)

2 – Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (HP Book 2)

3 – Diary of a Minecraft Zombie Book 1: A Scare of a Dare (V 1)

4 – Gone Girl

5 – To Kill a Mockingbird

6 – The Hunger Games (Book 1)

7 – Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (HP Book 3)

8 – Grey (Fifty Shades of Grey Book 4)

9 – Paper Towns

10 – Never Go Back: A Jack Reacher Novel

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.

For March our Feature is by Tom McKay



The Boy Meets Girl Chronicles

Tom McKay

The October issue of the *Newsletter* gave me the opportunity to thank The Book Rack for selling my novel, *West Fork*, and offer a few thoughts on writing short fiction. Over the past several years, I have had fun writing a series of Boy Meets Girl stories. A few have appeared in print. All of the stories focus on how two people meet. It is up to the reader to decide what might happen next. The story that follows is appearing in print for the first time.

DMV

The man in the three-piece suit didn't see Erica as she switched lines and moved directly behind him. He took a half step back and put his foot down on the toe of her right shoe.

“Ouch!”

“Oh! I’m sorry,” he said.

“No you’re not.”

“What?”

“You’re not sorry. You’re just saying that.”

“I assure you,” he said, “I’m sorry I stepped on your foot.”

“I can tell you’re not,” Erica answered. “I can tell things about people.”

“I beg your pardon?”

“I can tell things. Like names. I’ll bet you’re a Jeffery or a Jerry.”

“Sorry. Paul.”

“I know I’m close. You might be one of those two-first-name guys.”

Paul glanced over his shoulder, but the line still hadn’t moved.

“Two-first-name people can throw me off. Like Henry Ward or Ward Henry.

Let’s see, Paul . . . uh, Paul Terry.”

“Sims,” he answered. “Maybe you can’t tell as much as you think.”

“But you’re a lawyer.”

He figured his suit and the briefcase he was holding were hints.

“Right?”

“That makes you one for three,” he said.

“And you’re new in town.”

“I’m standing in the new driver’s license line!”

“Still, if you’re new, it’s hard to meet people in a new town. Give me your number and I’ll call you sometime.”

“Oh brother,” Paul said as he looked down at her. She was sort of cute—in a deranged pixie kind of way. He wondered about the knitting supplies and sketch pad poking out of the paper grocery bag she carried. Was she already in training to be a bag lady? And her scarf. Who wears tie-dye anymore?

“Well, if your number comes to me, can I call? I can tell things about people.”

“Why not?” he answered as the man at the counter motioned him forward. Then he pulled a smart phone from his suit pocket and waved it at Erica. “No land line. Not in the book.”

The clerk examined Paul’s license form, made a few marks, and called “next” as Paul moved away.

“So, Paul, it’s still okay?” she said loudly. “I mean, if I *do* get your number?”

“Sure,” he answered with an amused shrug.

“That’s my brother-in-law,” she said when she got to the counter. “He can’t

just give me the phone number. I'm moving in with him and my sister for a couple of months. So, I need to fill in their phone number. He says 'Just get it off my form.' The jerk, I don't know what my sister sees in him. Kinda handsome, I suppose."

The bored clerk slid Paul's form to Erica. As she wrote the number, he looked down and saw the green papers in her hand.

"Lady, you're in the wrong line."

"Depends," Erica said with a smile. She handed back Paul's form and stepped away from the counter.

If you'll recall from last month, our Free Verse article was by Ann Boaden and titled, *WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? PROMPTS FOR WRITERS FROM SMALL QUIET PLACES*. At the end she made an offer:

Now, if you'd like it, here's a little assignment: try using these observations as prompts for your own imaginings. What stories, poems, or pieces of creative nonfiction might you make of them as you start to ask the questions they raise? And then I'd love it if you'd send me what you come up with: annboaden@augustana.edu. Maybe Bob will let us feature a few in this newsletter!

Well, here's the first one for your reading pleasure, and I assure you it will be a pleasure!

Two Ladies' Lunch

In a booth,
sisters

(or the sisterly)

sit in silent *sang froid*—

carefully coiffed silver heads
in tacit accord:

“It is what it is.”

“Time will tell.”

“This, too, shall pass.”

They only chew
sweet French toast,
comfort food,
for what comes next,
what always comes next.

--Gayle Rein

Geneseo, Illinois

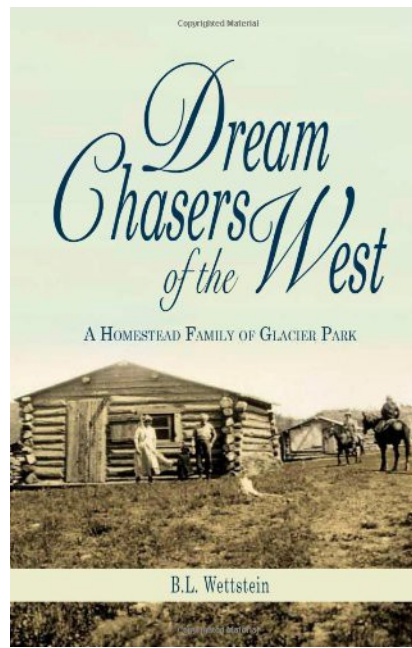
Thank you Gayle!

It's not too late to submit a piece to Ann!! Hint. Hint.

Book Reviews:

Our first book review is by Jodie Toohey and first appeared July 12, 2015 in Jodie's blog, <http://bookreviewsbyjodiet.blogspot.com/>.

DREAM CHASERS OF THE WEST by B.L.
Wettstein



I found *Dream Chasers of the West: A Homestead Family of Glacier Park* at a souvenir shop during my trip to Glacier National Park last month. I was intrigued by the back of the book description about Clara Miller who left Minnesota at thirty and unmarried in 1913 to homestead in Montana. The fact that it was a true story intrigued me more.

I've long time been a fan of the history of people and things - more of the development through time rather than politics. Clara Miller Smiley's story was no different. Though it's a biography, Clara's story (and her family's) is told like fiction. It's full of dialogue, description, and showing rather than telling. There are occasional paragraphs where the author writes an aside or wonders about what Clara may have been thinking at the time; though these asides weren't necessary, they were brief and didn't detract from my reading.

In the interest of avoiding spoilers, I will just say that Clara experienced joy in her life but also incredible hardship. She lived through the depression and worked in the new tourism industry, all while trying to find her true self and follow her passion. Clara, always a storyteller, dreamed of being a writer and publisher; maybe she didn't achieve literary fame but I'm certain she entertained dozens of people with her stories, usually a writer's goal anyway.

I read most of this book while still in Montana, finishing the last few chapters after I returned home. It was a fascinating story and interesting to try to find the places in real life that were written about. 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.

If you have been to Glacier National Park or are just interested in pioneering stories, you will enjoy this book.

Source: **Wettstein, B.L..2006. Dream Chasers of the West: A Homestead Family of Glacier Park. Riverbend Publishing: Helena, MT.**

The next review is from Dave Moyer



The Good Boy: A Novel by Theresa Schwegel (St. Martin's Press, \$15.99, 368 pages)

“And they tell me you are crooked and I answer; Yes it is true I have seen the gunman kill and go free to kill again.” *Chicago*, Carl Sandburg

A Solid Writer Delivers an Average Book

The Good Boy is Theresa Schwegel's fifth novel. The Chicago native won the Edgar Award for Best First Novel for *Officer Down*. In her latest, Officer Pete Murphy and his partner, the dog Butchie, get caught up in a traffic stop gone bad that involves bad people with whom he has a not-so-pleasant past. This leads to a police cover up, revelations of an alleged affair between Pete and a judge he was assigned to protect during an ugly trial, and a civil suit against him.

Pete's strained marriage and problem child daughter, McKenna, take center stage soon enough, and before one can say, "Freeze," Joel – Pete's young son, takes Butchie on an escapade related to McKenna's shenanigans. This compulsive act takes him through virtually every Chicago neighborhood as he becomes mired in the middle of a revenge plot against Pete.

It seems that most contemporary novels requite some form of family dysfunction and troubled children, so that formulaic prerequisite aside, the writing is pretty good. However, despite being well constructed, the plot fails to be compelling enough to make this more than a run-of-the-mill cop story. This being said, readers who favor stories of this genre will likely find it to be an enjoyable read.

Longtime fans of author Schwegel – used to reading her award winning caliber books may, however, be disappointed in this C-level release.

Recommended, for some.

Dave Moyer

*A review copy was provided by the publisher. Dave Moyer is an education administrator and the author of *Life and Life Only: A Novel*.*

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

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

The rest are by me:

Thief of Hearts by Tess Gerritsen (2015)

Reformed cat burglar Clea Rice has witnessed enough crimes to put her on the straight and narrow. But little does she suspect that her search for justice will land her in the arms of wealthy English gentleman Jordan Tavistock. As their attraction grows, so does the danger. Now their biggest concern isn't whether a proper gentleman and a cat burglar can find happiness it s whether they'll survive long enough to find out.

This is one of Gerritsen's romance novels and the first I've read. It was a good read. I enjoyed the characters and story line and would recommend it to anyone looking for a light read with some suspense and not too much romance. I give it a B.

A Dangerous Talent by Charlotte and Aaron Elkins (2012)

Alix London has a promising career as an art consultant, a sumptuous condo in Seattle's toniest neighborhood, a gorgeous figure, and a presence that exudes Ivy League breeding and old money. She has it all...or does she? Only Alix knows that the image she presents to the world is a carefully constructed mirage that veils an embarrassing truth. A brilliant, once-promising art student, the daughter of a prominent New York art conservator, her world was left in ruins when her father went to prison for art forgery. Now a Harvard dropout with an emptied bank account, she is languishing in a career that has produced little more than a lucky house-sitting gig. But all of that changes when Alix meets Christine Lemay, a novice art collector with money to burn and a hot tip on a recently discovered painting by American master Georgia O'Keeffe. Chris hires Alix to perform the authentication, an assignment that finally could launch Alix into the big leagues. But soon after her arrival in Santa Fe, she finds herself tangled up in a web of forgery, deceit—and murder. Anxious to avoid becoming the next victim, she teams up with FBI Special Agent Ted Ellesworth—and gets a little unlikely

help from her roguish father—to uncover the truth behind the painting and those who would kill to have it. Sharp, witty, and devilishly fun, *A Dangerous Talent* offers an insider's look into the surprisingly treacherous contemporary art world.

I really liked this book. It was a good mystery and the information on the art world was intriguing. It was well written and fun. I give it a B+ and recommend it for those who like Mary Anna Evans, Charlotte Armstrong or James Doss.

Blood of the Wicked, A Chief Inspector Mario Silva Investigations by Leighton Gage (2008)

Chief Inspector Mario Silva of Brazil's Federal Police is a good cop in a bad system--Brazil's justice system is rife with corruption, and constantly a beat behind criminal elements. But Silva and his team of colorful sidekicks--baby-faced GonCalves, who is irresistible to lady witnesses; chubby, crass NuNes; Mara Carta, the chief of intelligence with a soft spot for Mario--crack their difficult and sometimes ugly cases with pizzazz.

In the interior of Brazil, landless workers battle the owners of vast "fazendas." When a visiting archbishop is assassinated, Mario Silva is called upon to investigate. Then a newspaper owner, a TV journalist, a landowner's son, and a priest are brutally killed. In a country where dead street kids are known as "hams," justice is scarce.

This is the first book in this police procedural series set in Brazil. It attracted my interest in part because I'd read no book set in Brazil and thought I might find it interesting for that factor, if nothing else. In fact, I found it to be very well written, gruesome - but not gratuitously, and gripping. Gage, who died in 2013, wrote 7 books in the series that touched on the plight of the landless, child prostitution, snuff videos, organ theft and more. I give this book an A and highly recommend it to you if you like realistic crime novels. I look forward to reading more of his books. But, be forewarned of the graphic violence.

Die Again Tomorrow by Kira Peikoff (2015)

Isabel Leon, the star of a survival reality show, thinks she can endure anything. But when she unwittingly gives an unscrupulous mogul a chance to profit from her murder, she becomes the target of a terrifying killer who makes nature seem tame by comparison.

At first left for dead, she is rescued by a medical research team that operates outside the law. She awakens to find she's the living proof of a breakthrough that can change the world. Some people would pay any price to control it. Others would simply steal the secret--even if it costs Isabel's life. As powerful rivals pursue her, Isabel must risk everything to protect those she loves--or die again tomorrow.

An intriguing plot where a person dies, but wakes up later to find she's been revived long after normal efforts are ended. It grips you in the first chapter and keeps you engaged to the end.

This is Peikoff's 3rd book and I give it a A- and recommend you seriously consider her if you like Robin Cook, Tobias S Buckell, Ted Kosmatka or other suspense of SciFi authors with medical themes.

The Secret Hangman, An Inspector Peter Diamond Investigation, by Peter Lovesey (2007)

Widowed Inspector Peter Diamond of the Bath, England Police Department, is being pursued by a secret admirer even as he pursues a serial killer. First, Delia Williams, a waitress with

two young daughters, is reported missing by her mother. She is soon found dead in a public park, hung from the crossbar of a swing set. It looks like suicide but the postmortem reveals that she was murdered. Delia was divorced, living with a new man. Her former husband lives in the vicinity. And she had been chatted up by a customer at the restaurant, a traveling salesman, the night she was killed. Diamond has three suspects to investigate. Other deaths follow, with Mrs William's ex-husband among the victims. Now earlier deaths are attributed to this killer. The latest bodies are found prominently positioned in public places around the historic city of Bath. As the investigation evolves, so does Peter's relationship with Paloma, his new lover. The murderer is no longer shy. What's he trying to say. Diamond must unravel motive and means before more people are killed by this secret hangman.

What a good mystery! A police procedural novel with everything to like: an effective and likable inspector in Peter, a committed and bright team of colleagues, a series of clues leading in different direction all woven together into a very believable story. I give this book an A and strongly recommend Lovesey to you if you love police procedural novels. He's written 107 books. You may have some difficulty finding his books, but he's well worth the effort. You'll probably like him if you like Reginald Hill, John Dickson Carr or Margaret Miller.

Reading Trivia for March

What book was Mark David Chapman carrying with him when he killed John Lennon on December 8, 1980?

Answer: J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*.

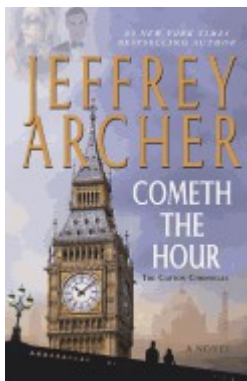
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Hardcover and Trade Paperback

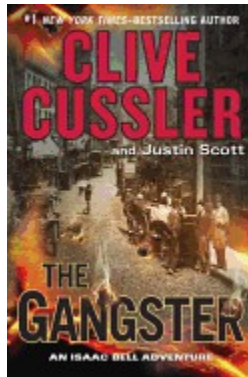
Jeffrey Archer – Cometh

the Hour – 27.99



Harlan Coben – Fool Me Once – 28.00

Clive Cussler – The Gangster – 29.00

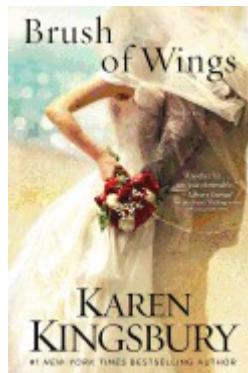


Jeffery Deaver – The Steel Kiss – 28.00



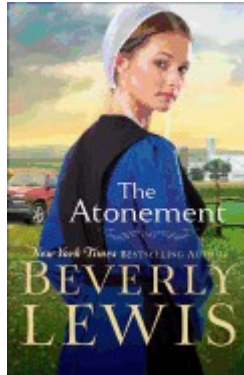
Heather Graham – Flawless – 26.99

Karen Kingsbury – Brush of Wings – 22.99

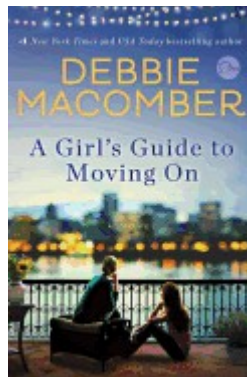


JA Jance – Clawback – 25.99

Beverly Lewis – The Atonement – 15.99

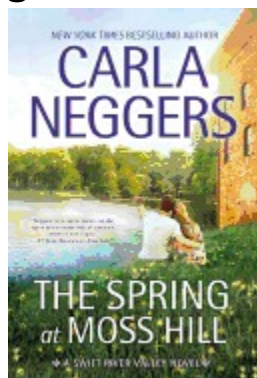


Debbie Macomber – A Girl's Guide to Moving On – 26.00



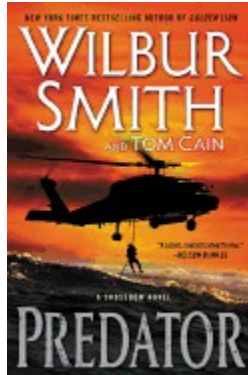
Jacquelyn Mitchard – Two If By Sea – 25.99

Carla Neggers – The Spring at Moss Hill – 26.99



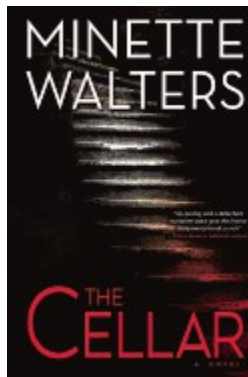
Ian Pears – Arcadia – 27.95

Wilbur Smith – Predator – 28.99



Charles Todd – No Shred of Evidence – 25.99

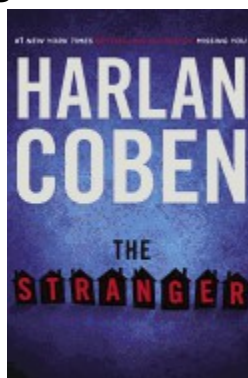
Minette Walters – The Cellar – 24.00



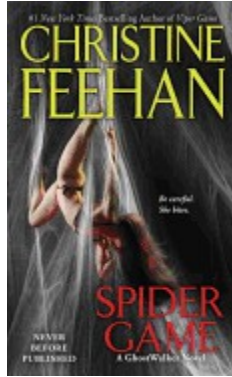
Mass Market Paperback

VC Andrews – The Forbidden: Sage's Eyes – 7.99

Harlan Coben – The Stranger – 9.99



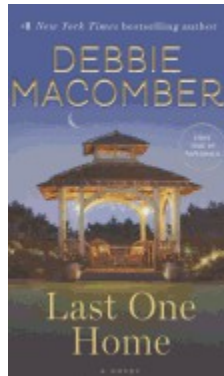
Christine Feehan – Spider Game – 7.99



William Johnstone – Sixkiller; US Marshal – 7.99

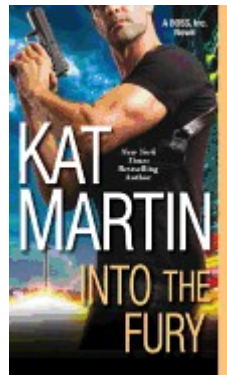
Jonathan Kellerman – Motive – 9.99

Debbie Macomber – Last One Home – 7.99

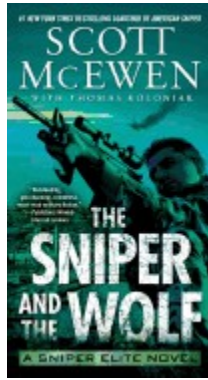


Susan Mallery – Evening Stars – 7.99

Kat Martin – Into the Fury – 7.99

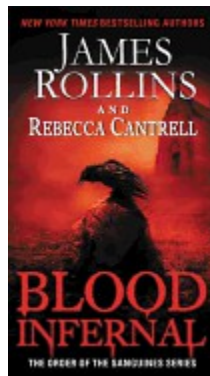


Scott McEwen – The Sniper and the Wolf – 9.99



James Patterson – Private Vegas – 9.99

James Rollins – Blood Infernal – 9.99



Lisa Scottoline – Come Home – 8.99

Randy Wayne White – Cuba Straits – 9.99



Dick Wolf – The Ultimatum – 9.99

