

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 11, #3  
March 2018  
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](mailto:BookRackQC@Gmail.com)

**"Many people, myself among them, feel better at the mere sight of a book." Jane Smiley, Pulitzer Award winning author of "A Thousand Acres"**

## Trivia for March

**Dr. Seuss wrote "Green Eggs and Ham" after his editor dared him to write a book using fewer than 50 different words.**

**William Shakespeare invented the words: hurry, boredom, disgraceful, hostile, money's worth, obscene, puke, perplex, on purpose, shooting star, and sneak.**

**John Milton used how many different words in his poem, "Paradise Lost?"  
For the answer see below!**

## **\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!**

**In January 2018 we began giving away two \$25.00 Gift Certificates to 2 lucky Book Rack account holders each month. The names are selected randomly from all our registered customers who have registered and or had a trade or purchase since 1 January 2016. All the winners have to do is to go to the newsletter and find your name listed, 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 March 2018 winners are:

Kelly Thornberg

Twyla Lingard

**Congratulations!**

Just call or stop at the store on or before March 31 to claim your prize: a \$25 gift certificate from [The Book Rack](#).

## March Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

March is:

**National Irish American Heritage Month**- designated by Congress in 1995

National Women's History Month

3 – I Want You to Be Happy Day

4 – Oscar Night (Who do you think will win?)

10 – Lauren Wood, Local Author, book signing 11-1:00

13 – Girl Scout Day

14 – National Pi Day

**17 – St Patrick's Day**

20 – International Earth Day

24 – John Brassard, Local Author, book signing 11-1:00

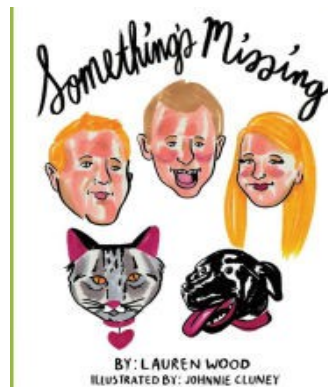
**29 – National Mom & Pop Business Owner's Day**

30 – Good Friday

## Featured Local Authors for February:

**Lauren Wood & John Brassard**

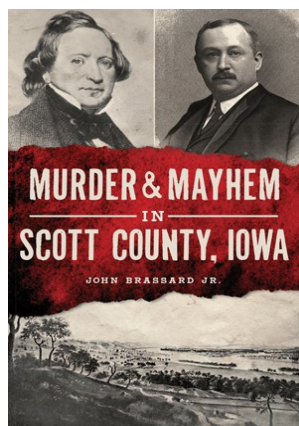
**Lauren Wood** recently released her first book, *Something's Missing*, and will be at The Book Rack, Saturday, March 10, 11-1:00 visiting with readers and signing copies of her book.



In this adorably-illustrated, funny, and heartwarming book we meet one big happy family on the quest to uncover the one thing that would make their lives complete. While they try to uncover the missing piece, each family member makes a suggestion even sillier than the last. Parents and children alike will relate to this quirky tale. A perfect gift for expecting parents and the perfect way to help a soon-to-be older sibling welcome a younger one!

**John Brassard** is the author of the newly released book, *Murder & Mayhem in Scott County, Iowa* and will be at **The Book Rack** 11-1:00, Saturday, March 24.

Discover the Dark Past of Scott County, Iowa in *Murder & Mayhem in Scott County, Iowa*. The book is set to release on February 5, 2018. Scott County is one of the oldest counties in Iowa. It is where the Blackhawk Treaty was signed and where the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River was built. But Scott County has also been witness to many shameful deeds. Travel down Utica Ridge Road, where young Grace Reed paid the ultimate price for spurning the affections of a local farmer. Enter the bedroom of Margaretha Nehlsen, who poisoned her children with chocolate candies. Hear the tale of Harry Hamilton, a former policeman turned career criminal who played a key part in perhaps the most infamous bank robbery in Scott County history. Come and explore these stories and more with author John Brassard Jr. as he guides you through the darker side of Scott County history.



The book gives one of the most complete accounts of the infamous Long Grove Bank Robbery of 1921, an event that is still a prominent legend in the area today. Many of the stories in the book have rarely been seen or talked about since the initial coverage they received when they happened, from the late 1800s to the early 20th century. By reading the stories in this book, the reader will come to see that the people of the past had many of the same problems and issues that we do today.



John Brassard Jr. is an author and historian from Eastern Iowa. He has a degree in History from Iowa State University, and is also the coauthor of **Scott County Cemeteries**. John enjoys sharing local Iowa history with that area's residents. He writes a regular column about Clinton County history called "Brassard's Attic" for the DeWitt Observer, and has been named a Contributing Writer to the North Scott Press in Scott County, featuring stories about rural Scott County.

## Free Verse for March

### The Blazing Guns

By

Adam J Kugler

Aledo Author

See and buy Adam's books [here](#) at [The Book Rack](#)

There was a sudden landing and it felt as if he had hit his head. He was tired.

He was really tired, and probably really doped up on whatever the doctor had given him to take for the pain. But he felt like he was outside. He was tired. He was really tired. That was all he could really focus on.

Then he opened his eyes, there was the sun just starting to peek out from between the trees. Where was he? What happened to him the night before?

Whatever had happened, it had hit him quick and it had hit him hard. He was not the kind to balk at the idea that something had happened. No, he was different, and he was the kind of person that really wanted to get through the painful parts of life.

He could remember something had happened.

He thought he'd gone to the dentist, but he hadn't. Not really.

Someone had done this to him. They had planted the idea in his head. Still he looked out at the fog covered field and there was nothing he wanted to forget more than some of the things that were going on.

He looked down at the clothes he was wearing. His legs were itching. They must have been wool pants. He'd never choose this to wear. Not on a bet. He was still wearing them, whatever had happened.

He could hear voices on the other side of the foggy field. He looked and could see some figures. They were loading a cannon, and it was aimed in his direction. Damn. There was nothing he could do. Not one thing.

He looked left and then right. There was nothing in either direction. Nothing but bodies which were strewn everywhere. Men dead or dying were lying at his feet. Had they been expecting this when they had gone to war?

Was he the only one who had any sense? War was dangerous.

He took off running. He had to keep away from the sights of the cannons. He knew if he slowed up he would be the next target. Was that something he wanted? Hell, no, that was not what he wanted. He failed to look where he was going and a hand reached up and it snagged him and drew him down to the ground.

He looked into the face of the man. He was dead.

Dead.

There was no getting around it. The man was blue around the lips and his eyes had rolled back into his head. He looked a little closer, there was a big chunk that was taken out of the side of the man. And then closer.

This was not a man.

A boy.

Nothing more than a boy.

What were people coming to when they sent boys off to war?

He could hear moans all over the place around him. He was now out of sight of the cannons and that was hopefully going to save him.

Where was he? What had he done?

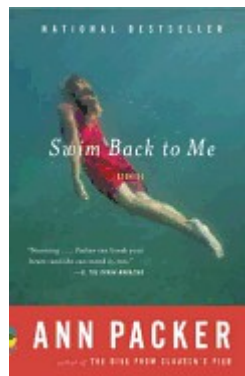
He looked in all directions that there was nothing more that he could do. He was sure that he wouldn't be able to stay here for long. Not with the kid that he was laying beside.

He was going to have to be the brave one, he was going to get up and run. Where to, well, he had no idea.

**To Be Continued... in the April newsletter**

## **Book Reviews**

### **Swim Back to Me by Ann Packer (2011)**

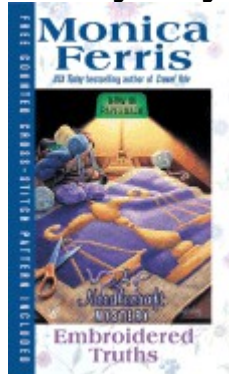


From the bestselling author of *Songs without Words* and *The Dive from Clausen's Pier*, her strongest work yet -- a collection of burnished, impossible-to-put down narratives framed by two stunning, linked novellas. A wife struggles to make sense of her husband's sudden disappearance. A mother mourns her teenage son through the music collection he left behind. A woman shepherds her estranged parents through her brother's wedding and reflects on the year her family collapsed. A young man comes to grips with the joy -- and vulnerability -- of impending fatherhood. And, in the masterly opening novella, two teenagers from very different families -- one a tightly knit foursome, the other a father and son who share little more than having been abandoned by the same woman -- forge a sustaining friendship, only to discover the disruptive and unsettling power of sex.

Claudia & I listened to the audio book on a recent trip and were both captured by all 4 of the stories. I don't normally care much for short story collections. I like

to get to know the characters better than you can in this format, but Packer tells great stories and this is a fascinating and entertaining collection well worth your time. I give it a B.

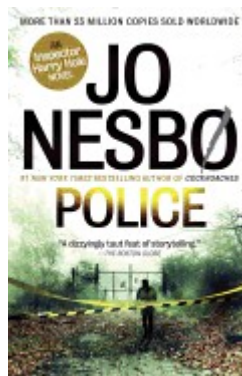
### **Embroidered Truths, A Needlecraft Mystery by Monica Ferris (2005)**



After her good friend Godwin has a nasty quarrel with John, his significant other, full-time needlework shop owner and part-time sleuth Betsy Devonshire finds herself with a roommate. Betsy doesn't mind having company, though Godwin is restless and unhappy over the sudden break-up. But sadness turns to grief when Betsy and Godwin discover John dead in his home, and Godwin is arrested for the murder. Betsy knows her friend couldn't be the killer, and sets out to prove it. What she learns is that John had a cat's cradle of secret dealings that had made him a bundle of money, and a lot of enemies. Now, Betsy has to untangle a web of lies if she's going to save Godwin--and find the murderer.

I reviewed the first book in this series (Crewel World) not long ago and recommended it. As you may recall – or not – the setting is in Excelsior, Minnesota on the shore of Lake Minnetonka in the Twin Cities metroplex, next door to Chanhassan, Mn. Our daughter, son-in-law and beautiful new Granddaughter Allie live in Chanhassan. While visiting we went to lunch in Excelsior and next door to the cafe was a book store, which we just had t visit. And, of course, I also had to buy another Monica Ferris Needlecraft Mystery. This is as good as the first and I give it a B+. You don't have to go to Excelsior to buy the book, but if you are in the area check out the scene and pick up a book for yourself.

### **Police by Jo Nesbo (2013)**

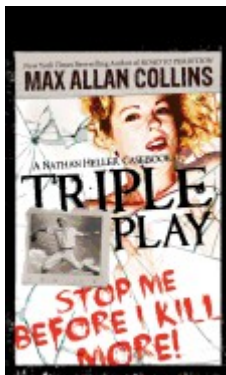


A vindictive killer is stalking Oslo's streets, slaying police officers at the scenes of crimes they once investigated but failed to solve. The department urgently needs Harry Hole.

For years, detective Harry Hole has been at the center of every major criminal investigation in Oslo. His brilliant insights and dedication to his job have saved countless lives over the years. But as the killer grows increasingly bold and the media reaction increasingly hysterical, the detective is nowhere to be found. This time, when those he loves and values most are facing terrible danger, Harry is in no position to protect anyone—least of all himself.

Jo Nesbo is without a doubt one of the top 5 thriller novelists in the world. Whether it's a Harry Hole series book (as is the Police) or another, he simply nails it. Police does nothing to dilute this standing. I give it an A and the usual high recommendation.

### **Triple Play by Max Allan Collins (2012)**



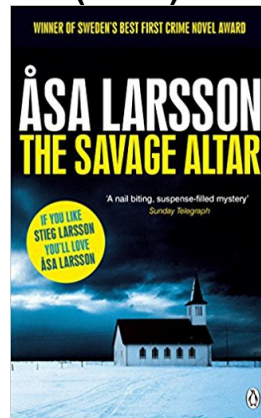
Since his introduction in 1983's *True Detective*, Chicago-based private eye Nathan Heller has handily earned his spot alongside American crime-fiction greats Phillip Marlowe, Archie Goodwin, and Mike Hammer. Now the classic gumshoe is back in this collection of three novellas, all based on real cases of the 1940s, '50s, and '60s. In "Dying in the Post-War World", Heller returns from combat to find his marriage a shambles and himself square in the middle of the notorious Lipstick Killer case of 1946. "Kisses of Death" follows the PI into the 1950s, when he is hired to guard Marilyn Monroe. The famous starlet's intellectual pursuits eventually take Heller to Greenwich Village and a grisly murder. And in "Strike Zone", Heller is hired by zany baseball manager Bill Veeck to investigate the 1961 murder of a famous pinch hitter, whose private life will suck Nate into a dangerous new world of little people and big sins. With



*Triple Play*, New York Times-bestselling author Max Allan Collins has pried back the lid of history to reveal the ugly, entertaining truth behind three of the twentieth century's most shocking crimes.

Collins does such a wonderful job of incorporating real celebrities into his books and make them real and logically within Nathan Heller's orbit. You learn a bit about history, if you can sort the real from the creative, and enjoy a fun story. In these 3 short stories Collins skill is highlighted and if you read the book, I suspect you will want more. I give it an A-

### **The Savage Alter by Asa Larsson (2003)**



In Kiruna, in the far north of Sweden, it is the coldest winter on record. The Northern Lights are stronger this year than in any other year in living memory. When Viktor Strangard is found ritually murdered inside the town's fundamentalist church, *The Strength Of All Our Strength*, his hands cut off and his eyes gouged out, the media goes into overdrive. For this is the second time that Viktor has died. The first time, after a car accident, God had brought Viktor back. He had seen heaven. And the book he wrote about it, and the church to which he belonged, had made Kiruna into magnet for pilgrims... and cold, hard cash.

Rebecka Martinsson, a successful, driven, Stockholm tax lawyer, had thought that she had rid herself of Kiruna, its church and the poison in her past. But when Sanna, the murdered Viktor's sister, rings and begs for her help, Rebecka finds herself risking her job to return.

This is an impressive and very confident debut from Asa Larsson, mixing the psychological and procedural crime novel to great effect. Its greatest strength is in characterization - the central figure, Rebecka, is flawed yet sympathetic, but not too sympathetic. She is interesting too, never flat, never one-dimensional. The church pastors and their wives are all deeply unpleasant people, long since seduced by the desire for influence and wealth and all with their own private Faustian pacts. As Rebecka and the separate police investigation into Viktor's murder gradually peel

away the layers one by one, the church is forced to reveal the real ugliness at its core.

My first Asa Larsson was favorably compared by published reviews to that other Swede with a last name of Larsson (Stieg). This is a good book, but not on the same plane as The Millennium Trilogy. It lacks the complexity of plot or the complexity of characters. Its a good book, but not a great book. I give it a B.

## Trivia for March

**Dr. Seuss wrote “Green Eggs and Ham” after his editor dared him to write a book using fewer than 50 different words.**

**William Shakespeare invented the words: hurry, boredom, disgraceful, hostile, money’s worth, obscene, puke, perplex, on purpose, shooting star, and sneak.**

**John Milton used how many different words in his poem, “Paradise Lost?”**

**Answer:**

**John Milton used 5000 different words in his poem “Paradise Lost.”**

## 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

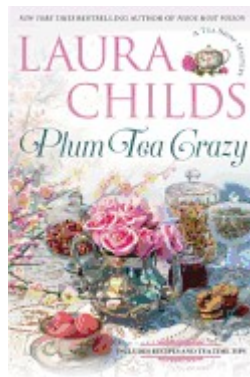
**Steve Berry – The Bishop's Pawn – 28.99**

**Chris Bojalian – The Flight Attendant – 26.95**



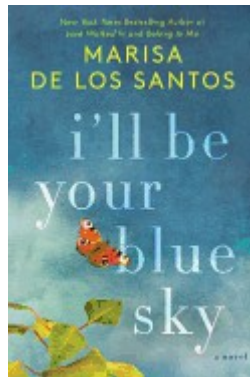
**C.J. Box – The Disappeared – 27.00**

**Laura Childs – Plum Tea Crazy – 26.00**



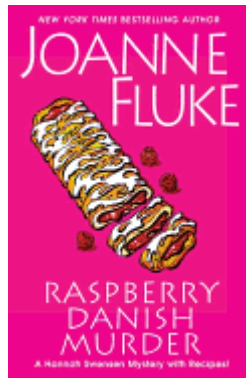
**Clive Cussler – The Rising Sea – 29.00**

**Maria De los Santos – I'll Be Your Blue Sky – 26.99**



**Jude Deveraux – As You Wish – 28.99**

**Joanne Fluke – Raspberry Danish Murder – 26.00**



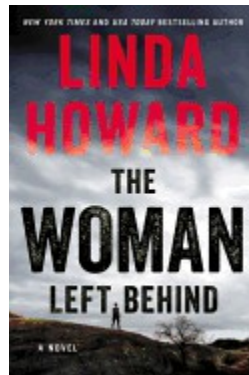
**Elizabeth George – The Punishment She Deserves – 28.00**

**Heather Graham – A Dangerous Game – 26.99**



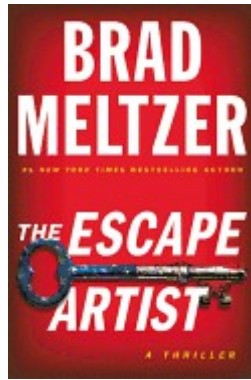
**Beth Gutcheon – The Affliction – 26.99**

**Linda Howard – The Woman Left Behind – 26.99**



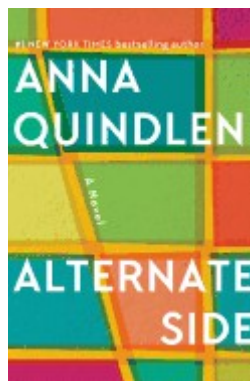
**J.A. Jance – Duel to the Death – 25.99**

**Brad Metzler – The Escape Artist – 28.00**



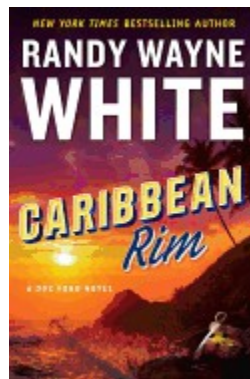
**Carla Neggers – The River House – 26.99**

**Anna Quindlen – Alternative Side – 28.00**



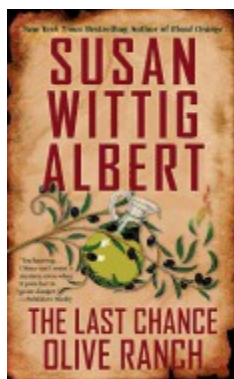
**Danielle Steel – Accidental Heroes – 28.99**

**Randy Wayne White – Caribbean Rim – 27.00**



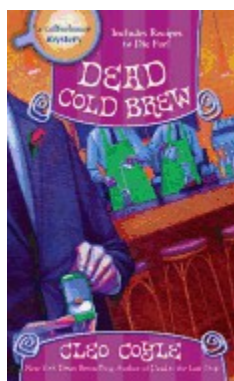
## **Mass Market Paperbacks**

**Susan Wittig Albert – The Last Chance Olive Ranch – 7.99**



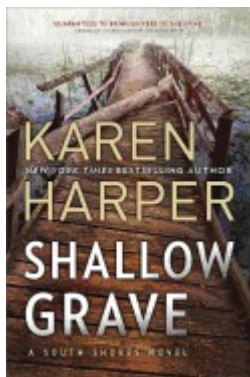
**Robyn Carr – Any Day Now – 8.99**

**Cleo Coyle – Dead Cold Brew – 7.99**



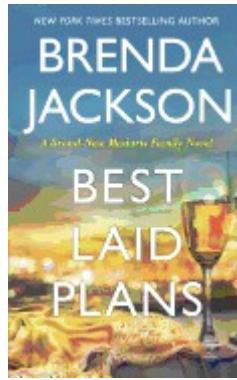
**Clive Cussler – The Cutthroat – 9.99**

**Karen Harper – Shallow Grave – 7.99**



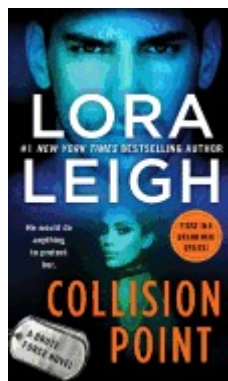
**Kay Hooper – Wait for Dark – 9.99**

**Brenda Jackson – Best Laid Plans – 7.99**



**Lisa Jackson – Ruthless – 7.99**

**Lora Leigh – Collision Point – 7.99**



**Sharon Sala – The Color of Love – 7.99**

**Randy Wayne White – The Heat Islands – 9.99**



**Stuart Woods – Indecent Exposure – 9.99**