

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 8, #5

May 2015

3937 41st Ave Dr., Moline

309-797-1985

4764 Elmore Ave, Davenport

563-355-2310

BookRackQC@Gmail.com

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

Did you know that you can search our Davenport store inventory from your home, tablet and smart phone? Just go to our web site: <http://www.thebookrackqc.com/> When you find what you want, you can reserve it and pick it up at either store or we can mail it anywhere in the US for a small fee.

"They borrow books they will not buy.

They have no ethics or religions;

I wish some kind Burbankian guy

Could cross my books with homing pigeons."

Carolyn Wells

Reading Trivia:

What was the working title of Joseph Heller's best-selling Catch 22? And for 20 bonus points, why was it changed?

See below for the answers

May Holidays and Events at The Book Rack

May is:

Date Your Mate Month – Now that's a great idea!

Recommitment Month

National Salad Month

May 1 – Mother Goose Day

May 3 – James Wylder will be at The Book Rack in Davenport signing copies of his books, 1 – 6:00 PM

May 4 – Bird Day

May 5 – National Teachers Day

May 9 – Lost Sock Memorial Day – Yup. I don't make these up!

May 10 – Mother's Day!

12 – Limerick Day

16 – Armed Forces Day

17 – Pack Rat Day

25 – Memorial Day

May 30 – Steven Conness will be at The Book Rack in Davenport 11-1:00 signing copies of his books.



90% of people feel happier when they receive a handwritten card. Do you wish you sent more greeting cards to your family and friends? Visit us at CardBox! We send you cards and stamps ahead of special events, so it is easy for you to make someone's day. As a friend of [The Book Rack](#), you will receive **50%** off your first purchase with the promotional code [bookrack](#). Just visit www.cardbox.org/cards to browse the card designs and order today! How great is that! And Mother's Day and Father's Day are just around the corner!

Free Verse is a regular, monthly feature by one of our wonderful Quad Cities area local authors. This month we're pleased to publish an article by Mark McLaughlin, one of the Quad Cities best known and

best loved authors.

Scary Books I Have Loved

by Mark McLaughlin

Like many authors, I became a writer because I love reading. Most of the books I've written are tales of the macabre, because that's the genre I enjoy reading the most. I've compiled an overview of some of my favorite books, and you might want to seek out some of these, if you're looking for some scary tales to liven up your summer.

The Wine-Dark Sea by Robert Aickman: The late British author Robert Aickman wrote wonderfully subtle, surreal tales. His works have a leisurely pace, and the imagery is never too gruesome – no gore-dripping zombies here. His supernatural chills are most spectral than lurid. His finest story, in my opinion, was “Your Tiny Hand is Frozen,” about a gentleman who holds intimate conversations with a woman he has never met, calling from a disconnected line....

The King In Yellow by Robert W. Chambers: First published in 1895, **The King In Yellow** is a series of horror/dark fantasy stories, most of which are about an evil book called ... **The King In Yellow**. The evil book in the stories is actually an eerie two-act play, and if you read the book, you will go mad. Fortunately, reading the real book won't compromise your sanity!

H.P. Lovecraft: The Fiction: H.P. Lovecraft wrote for the old Pulp Era magazines, like **Weird Tales** and **Astounding Stories**. He managed to scratch out a meager living, back then ... certainly he'd have never guessed that someday, his ghoulish tales would be widely reprinted. Some have even been made into popular movies, like **Re-Animator** and **The Dunwich Horror** (which starred Sandra Dee!). His most popular tales concern such weird deities as Cthulhu, Yog-Sothoth, Nyarlathotep and other monstrosities with names no human tongue can pronounce!

From Evil's Pillow by Basil Copper: British author Basil Copper wrote lots of supernatural novels and story collections, all of which are excellent. His style is sophisticated and his works are filled with exotic adventures. I've read all of his story collections and **From Evil's Pillow** is my favorite. My favorite story from the book is “Amber Print,” which concerns a print of the chilling silent movie, **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari**, that has taken on a life of its own.

Dracula by Bram Stoker: Lots of Dracula movies have been made over the years, but none of them are as complex and compelling as the original novel. The story is told through a series of letters, diary entries and other documents, which allows the reader to see the supernatural goings-on from a variety of angles.

I could go on and on, but I don't want to monopolize the newsletter! The Book Rack always has many great horror books in stock, so be sure to check out their selection the next time you visit one of their locations.

*Mark McLaughlin's latest story collection is **Hideous Faces, Beautiful Skulls**, which features many of his best horror stories from the past thirty years.*

Featured Authors:



James Wylder is the author of An Eloquence of Time and Space, A poetic guide to the TV Series Doctor Who, with every single story in the show getting a poem chronicling it, as well as Torchwood and the Sarah Jane Adventures. A must have for any Whovian! Cascade, An eclectic swirl of poetry that shifts through phases building to a final Cascade of words.

Also contains the full-length play "Paper Gods."

God Save the Pres.! A play about Zoey, an ordinary girl from Colonial America, who is accidentally sent forward in time to the modern day where a pair of political schemers hatch a plan to run the 200 year old teenager for President!

James will be at The Book Rack in Davenport, 1 – 6:00 PM, Sunday May 3.

Steven Conness, local author of Tobias Turtle and Fred and George Huck, The Founding of Huckville: The Huck Family Chronicles will join us at the **Davenport Book Rack, Saturday, May 30** to visit with you and sign copies of his books.

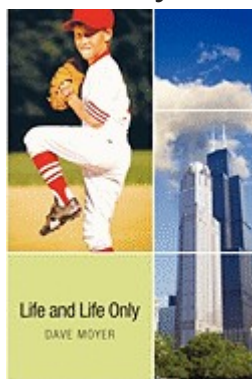
In Tobias..., Freeloaders. We've all encountered them at one time or another. Tobias Turtle is lazy, self-absorbed, and lives his life preying on the generosity and pity of others. Yet he is not too lazy to have one ridiculous get-rich-quick scheme after another. As a counter-point is human Fred, the hard-working, level-headed and long-suffering victim of Tobias' mooching ways, and attempted voice of reason, who has taken Tobias in and tries, unsuccessfully, to reform him. Allegorically, Fred might be seen as the traditional American citizen, who has come up believing the way to be happy and successful is hard work, moderation in all things and a dedication to help others. Tobias is that element of society that believes in getting something for nothing, in quick-fixes and laziness, self-absorption and excess.

In Huckville..., This is the first in a series of books called The Huck Family Chronicles. The story starts off in the 1600s and it tells why George Huck leaves his family in England and travels to the new land looking for adventure. George seeks adventure but he is too busy with his new friend, Indian maiden "Happy Beaver". George is accepted into her tribe with open arms. He and Happy Beaver eventually have seventeen children together. George builds a school and lodge and this is the beginning of Huckville. George decides to write books about the adventures of all the settlers who stop by the village. He sends the books to England to be sold. These books are the historical account of the founding of Huckville.

Stop in and visit with these talented authors.

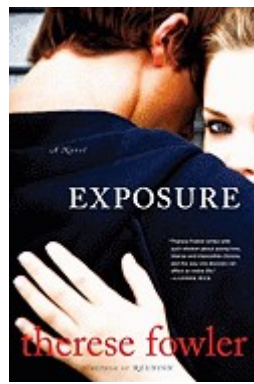
Book Reviews:

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, of course, available from the Local Author shelves at both [Book Racks](#). Please give it a serious consideration when you are next in the stores.



Tomorrow a Long Time for Teen Lovers

Therese Fowler's novel, Exposure, is the latest attempt to bring *Romeo and Juliet* to modern-day audiences.



In it, two seemingly well-adjusted teens, Anthony and Amelia, fall for each other with Amelia shielding the relationship from her controlling father, Harlan, a wealthy car dealer. The two attend a prep school in North Carolina where Anthony's mother is an art teacher. The young lovers are theater enthusiasts who meet during a school performance and conceal their intimate relationship, hoping to head for the big city after high school, where Anthony aspires to attend NYU.

Anthony is described as an Adonis and Amelia as her father's princess, on the cusp of womanhood and striving for her independence. Nothing is easy, of course, and complicating their dream of running off to New York is the fact that her father, a colossal snob, will only accept the "right" man for her daughter, and that person is an equally well-bred snob, whom he has decided she will meet attending college at Duke.

The relationship turns sexual soon enough, and further complications ensue. While on a family vacation, Amelia requests that Anthony send her naked pictures of himself, and he obliges. Of course, Anthony is 18, and Amelia one-year shy of "adulthood." Soon thereafter, Harlan discovers the pictures on her computer, setting off a chain of events that nearly destroys everyone in the story—the survivors' lives forever altered.

Anthony's mother has tacitly approved of their relationship, often recalling her youth, and eventually ends up trapped in the mire herself. Amelia's mother, who probably could have prevented the unraveling, is not capable of standing up to her husband, who self-righteously declares war on the boy.

Fowler does well early on to intersperse character development with the plot. The story itself tackles a most contemporary issue—sexting. The legal and education systems are dumbfounded as to how to deal with the issue. Concurrently, teens seem ignorant of the magnitude of these actions, while many parents appear relatively oblivious to the extent of the problem. Some might question how big a deal sexting is in the first place, but this reviewer speculates those people would change their minds if compromising pictures of their 13-year old daughter were being passed around school.

A minor critique is that the dialogue seems a bit forced at times. The rest of the storytelling is strong. *Exposure* is a good and relevant tale of the potential perils of growing up in the technology age.

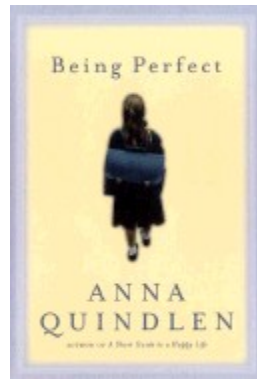
This review originally appeared on the Joseph's Reviews site:

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

The next 2 reviews are from Claudia!

Being Perfect by Anna Quindlen

GIFT – SELF-HELP



This little book is essentially a guide for those caught in a “perfection trap”. Quindlen says, “Trying to be perfect may be inevitable for people who are smart and ambitious and interested in the world and its good opinion.... What is really hard, and really amazing, is giving up on being perfect and beginning the work of becoming yourself.” Quindlen’s narrative is woven of bits of wisdom and truths she has learned through her life, and is interspersed with black and white photos that help to reinforce human uniqueness. Quindlen quotes George Eliot, “It is never too late to be what you might have been”, then writes, “It is never too early, either.” Neat little book for the person who might benefit from leaving the pursuit of perfection behind in favor of listening to her / his own heart.

All That I Am by Anna Funder

NOVEL - BASED ON TRUE EVENTS

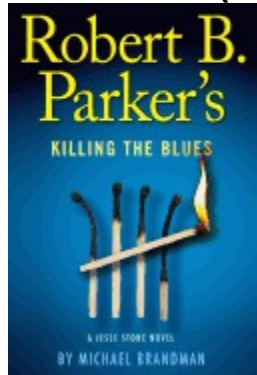


All That I Am, although a work of fiction, is inspired by Anna Funder’s friendship with German Jewish activist Ruth Blatt (also known as Ruth Koplowitz). Based on true events, this book has won more awards than any other book in Australian history. The story is told in alternating chapters, as Ruth reflects on her past during her final years in Australia, and playwright Ernst Toller (also based on a real person) dictates his biography in New York. Ruth, her journalist husband Hans, Toller and his lover Dora Fabian (who is also Ruth’s cousin, a fellow activist and early feminist) are witness to the events leading up to World War II. Ruth and Dora hide and smuggle Toller’s work out of Germany in the wake of the Reichstag fire of 1933. All four flee to London in the late 1930s from Nazi Germany and try to warn the British Government of the impending chaos of Hitler’s rise to power. “But”, as the review on the back cover of the book states, “England is not the safe haven they think it will be, and a single, chilling act of

betrayal will tear them apart.” The characters are complex and flawed, and their relationships realistic. This is an excellent book that provides both a fact-based look into extreme risk-taking to open the world’s eyes to dangers of the Nazi menace, as well as relationships marked by friendship, love and betrayal.

The rest of the reviews are mine!

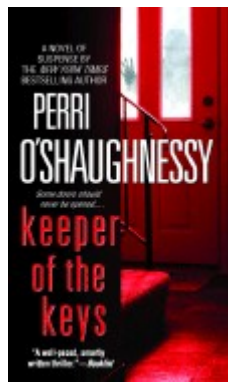
Killing the Blues by Robert B. Parker(2011)



Paradise, Massachusetts, is preparing for the summer tourist season when a string of car thefts disturbs what's usually a quiet time in town. In a sudden escalation of violence the thefts become murder, and chief of police Jesse Stone finds himself facing one of the toughest cases of his career. Pressure from the town politicians only increases when another crime wave puts residents on edge. Jesse confronts a personal dilemma as well: a burgeoning relationship with a young PR executive, whose plans to turn Paradise into a summer concert destination may have run afoul of the law. And when a mysterious figure from Jesse's past arrives in town, memories of his last troubled days as a cop in L.A. Threatens his ability to keep order in Paradise – especially when it appears the stranger is out for revenge. (from the jacket)

I “read” this book from via audio book and really enjoyed it. It's only a 4 ½ hour audio book, so perfect for a fairly short round trip on the interstate. Parker's dialogue is especially fun. I wish I could banter as adeptly. It adds so much to the enjoyment of Parker's books. I give this book a B+ and highly recommend it. Easy, fun read, but with a serious story very well developed and presented.

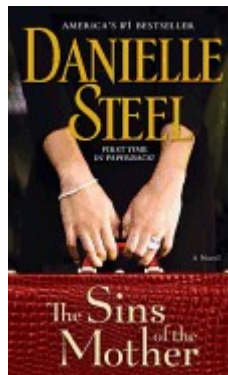
Keeper of the Keys by Perri O'Shaughnessy (2006)



A Haunting tale of love, obsession, and the secrets that we keep- especially from ourselves. For ambitious, troubled architect Ray Jackson, the nightmare begins one sultry California night when his wife disappears. No phone call, no ransom note, no body, reveals whether Leigh is dead or alive. Then, suddenly, a woman shows up on Ray's doorstep demanding answers: Kathleen, an old friend of Leigh's. Ray wants answers, too, but his questions seem strange and shady to Kat. Suspected by his wife's friend and by the police, Ray launches a desperate and alarming search of his own. Using a collection of keys he has held on to since he was a boy – keys to homes he and his mother once lived in – Ray quietly yet boldly enters each house, one by one, hoping to unlock the secrets of his own past. As past and present collide, as a chilling mystery begins to unravel, Ray is suddenly confronted with the most agonizing decision of his life – to face his own violence-laden past, acting to prevent another horrendous act of violence, or not. His choice will leave nothing and no one the same. (from the jacket)

A nice effort by O'Shaughnessy. Several unexpected twists and turns well presented. I give it a B and suggest you read him, if you don't already.

The Sins of the Mother by Danielle Steel (2012)



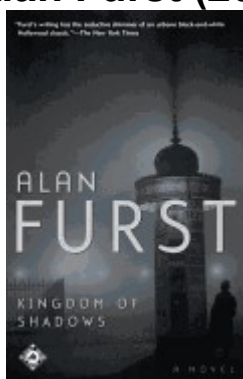
As a way of making up to them for time lost, Olivia spends months every year planning a lavish holiday that everyone in her family will enjoy. This summer she has arranged a dream trip in the Mediterranean on a luxurious yacht, which she hopes will be the most memorable vacation of all. Her lavish gesture every year expresses her love for them, and regret at all the

important times she missed during her childrens' younger years. Her younger daughter, Cassie, a hip London music producer, refuses the invitation altogether, as she does every year. Her older daughter, Liz, lives in her mother's shadow, with a terror of failure as she tries to recapture her dream of being a writer. And her sons, John and Phillip, work for Olivia, for better or worse, with wives who wish they didn't. In the splendor of the Riviera, this should be a summer to remember, with Olivia's children, grandchildren, and daughters-in-law on board. But as with any family gathering, there are always surprises, and no matter how glamorous the setting things don't always turn out as ones hopes.

Family dynamics are complicated, old disappointments die hard, and as forgiveness and surprising revelations enter into it, new bonds are formed, and the future takes on a brighter hue. And one by one, with life's irony, Olivia's children find themselves committing the same "sins" for which they blamed their mother for so many years. It is a summer of compassion, important lessons, and truth.(Publisher's marketing information)

This is my second or third book by Steel and I continue to thoroughly enjoy reading her. She's an excellent author. There's romance and lots of relationships to enjoy as they develop/redevelop. No violence, graphic sex or criminal activity, just a great story. I give it an A and recommend highly that you read it. If you've not read Steel, you are missing out on one of the best. It's a great change of pace for those who don't normally read this genre. Stretch a little!

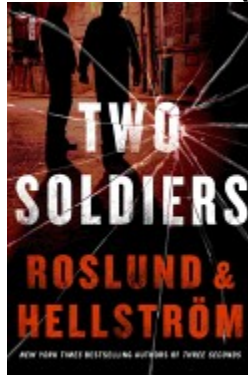
Kingdom of Shadows by Alan Furst (2000)



Paris 1938, as Europe edges toward war, Nicholas Morath, an urbane former cavalry officer, spends his days working at the small advertising agency he owns and his nights in the bohemian circles of his Argentinian mistress. But Morath has been recruited by his uncle, Count Jonas Polanyi, a diplomat in the Hungarian delegation, for operations against Hitler's Germany. It is Morath who does Polanyi's clandestine work, moving between the beach cafes of Juan-les-pins and the forests of Ruthenia, from Czech fortresses in the Sudetenland to the private gardens of the declassée' royalty in Budapest. The web Polanyi spins for Morath is deep and complex, and pits him against German intelligence officers, NKVD renegades, and Croat assassins in a shadow war of treachery and uncertain loyalties, a war the Hungary cannot afford to lose.

I struggled with this one a bit. It seemed more a series of short stories with the same characters and in a chronological sequence and I had a hard time engaging with the characters or story. I give it a B- and recommend it for those who like John LeCarre or Eric Ambler.

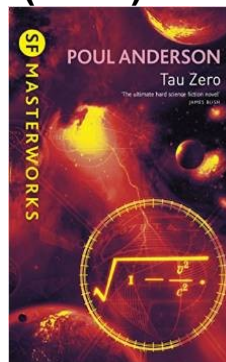
Two Soldiers by Roslund & Hellstrom (2014)



An explosive thriller of drugs, gang warfare, and two fatherless teenage boys on the wrong side of the law. In a bleak Stockholm suburb where juvenile gang crime is rapidly on the rise, two 19-year-old boys, best friends since third grade and drug addicts since age 9, have spent their young lives establishing a ruthless criminal enterprise--known as the Raby Warriors. With the recruitment of children as foot soldiers, the Warriors are now poised to become the most powerful syndicate in the region. Twenty years on the force, Jose Pereira now heads the Organized Crime and Gang Section in Raby. If it was not so deadly, Pereira might appreciate the absurdity of watching boys like Leon and Gabriel, raised on Hollywood images, morph themselves into characterizations of gangsters. After Leon and Gabriel execute a maximum-security prison break, in which a female guard is kidnapped and feared murdered, Pereira is joined in his investigation by Chief Superintendent Ewert Grens, whom Roslund and Hellstrom readers will recognize as the maverick detective who never gives up. For Grens, this case awakens troubled ghosts from his past. Soon all four men are on a violent collision course that will irrevocably change all their lives.

I've reviewed books by these authors in the past and always very favorably. This one is, if anything, better than their earlier offerings. The story is very harsh and, while set in Stockholm it could just as easily have been in a US metropolitan area. It's very well done and I give it an "A". If you like serious suspense that builds from the first page to the last, try to get your hands on this book. It's only available in hardcover, but at some point will also come out in trade paperback. Get it on your request list!

Tau Zero by Poul Anderson (1970)



The starship moved in a universe increasingly foreign – more rapidly aging, more massive, more compressed. Thus the rate at which she could gulp down hydrogen, burn part of it to energy and hurl the rest off in a million kilometer jet flame kept waxing for her. Each minute,

as counted by her clocks, took a larger fraction off her tau than the last minute had done. Inside, nothing changed. Air and metal still carried the pulse of acceleration, whose net internal drag still stood at an even one gravity. The power plant continued to give light, electricity, equable temperatures. The biosystems and organocycles reclaimed oxygen and water, processed waste, manufactured food, supported life. Entropy increased. People grew older at the ancient rate of sixty seconds per minute, sixth minutes per hour. Yet those hours were always less related to the hours and years which passed outside. Loneliness closed on the ship like fingers... (from the cover)

A 1971 Hugo Award nominee and just a **great, hard** science fiction book. So creative and seemingly plausible. As much a story of the people in a very stressful and confined space and how they cope. I give it an A and highly encourage you to find a copy and enjoy the ride!

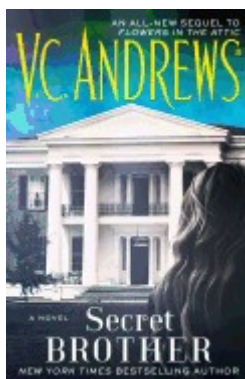
Reading Trivia Answer:

The working title of Joseph Heller's best-selling book Catch 22 was Catch 18. The title was changed because of the Leon Uris novel, Mila 18, published the same year, 1961.

Upcoming New Releases:

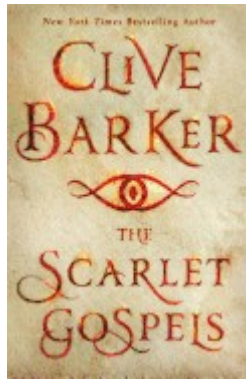
Check out the prices following the title of the book. The first price is the publisher's price. The second price is the **Book Rack** price, when picked up at one of the stores. There is no shipping charge when you pick up your order. Order now by calling one of the stores or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment on all special orders.

Hardcover:

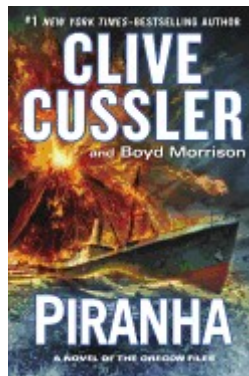


V.C. Andrews – Secret Brother – 26.99/21.60

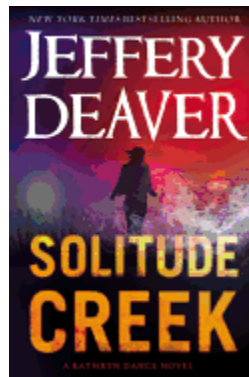
Clive Barker – The Scarlet Gospels – 26.99/21.60



Clive Cussler – – 28.95/23.15



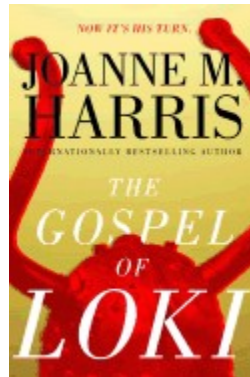
Jerrery Deaver – Solitude Creek – 28.00/22.40



P.N. Elrod – Hanged Man – 24.99/20.00



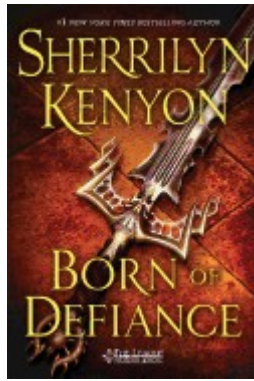
Joanne M Harris – The Gospel of Loki – 25.99/20.80



Stephen Hunter – I, Ripper – 27.99/22.40



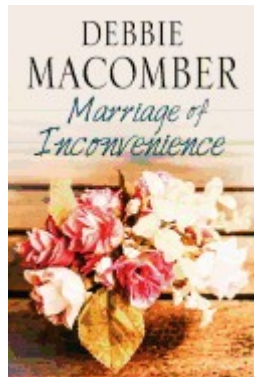
Sherrilyn Kenyon – Born of Defiance – 27.99/22.40



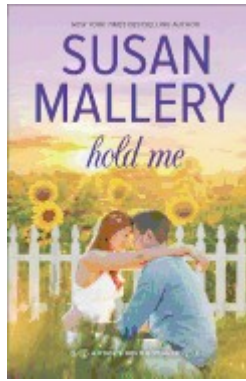
John Lescroart – The Fall – 26.99/21.60



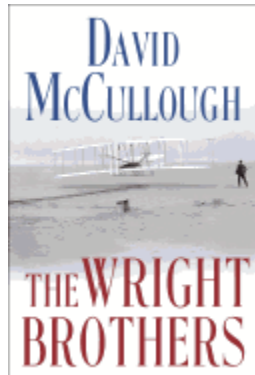
Debbie Macomber – Marriage of Inconvenience – 28.95/23.15



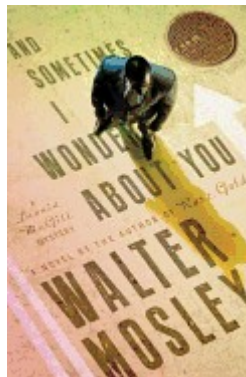
Susan Mallery – Hold Me – 25.95/20.00



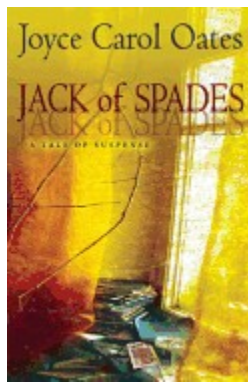
David McCullough – The Wright Brothers – 30.00/24.00



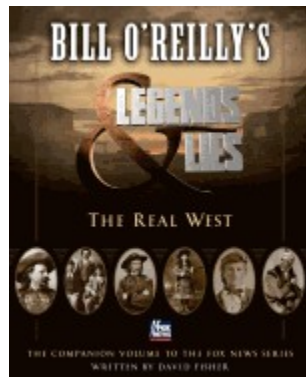
Walter Mosley – And Sometimes I Wonder About You – 26.85/21.60



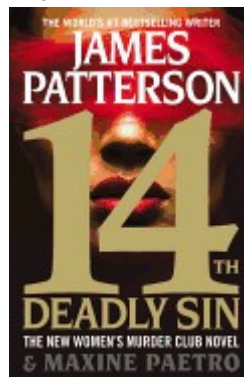
Joyce Carol Oates – Jack of Spades – 24.00/19.20



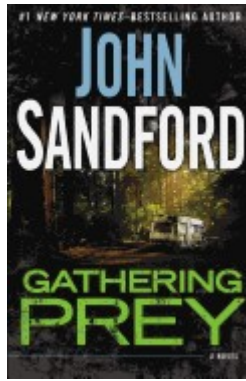
Bill O'Reilly's Legends and Lies; The Real West – 35.00/28.00



James Patterson – 14th Deadly Sin – 28.00/22.40



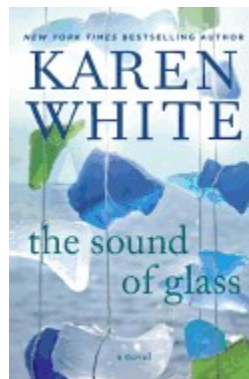
John Sanford – Gathering Prey – 28.95/23.15



Jane Smiley – Early Warning – 26.95/21.60

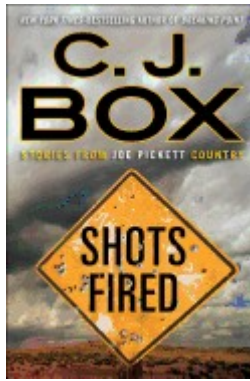


Karen White – The Sound of Glass – 26.95/21.60

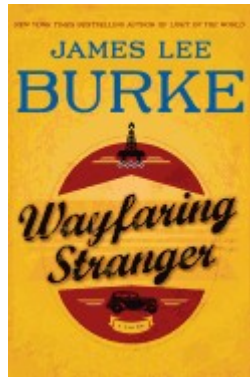


Paperback:

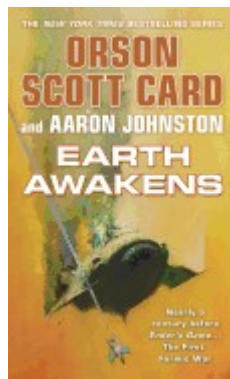
C.J. Box – Shots Fired – 9.99/8.00



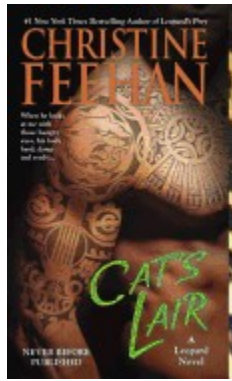
James Lee Burke – Wayfaring Stranger – 9.99/8.00



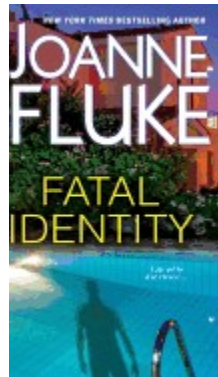
Orson Scott Card – Earth Awakens – 7.99/6.40



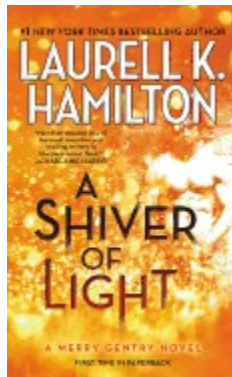
Christine Feehan – Cat's Lair – 7.99/6.40



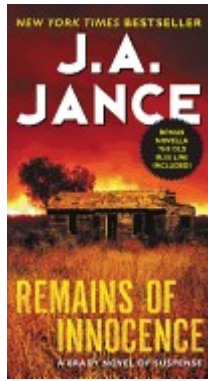
Joanne Fluke – Fatal Identity – 7.99/6.40



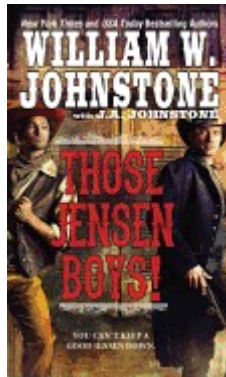
Laurell K Hamilton – A Shiver of Light – 7.99/6.40



J.A. Jance – Remains of Innocence – 9.99/8.00



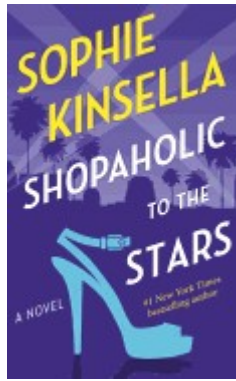
William W. Johnstone – Those Jensen Boys! - 7.50/6.00



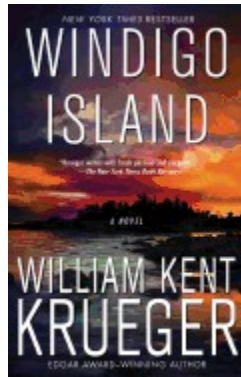
Karen Kingsbury – The Baxters Take One – 10.99/8.80



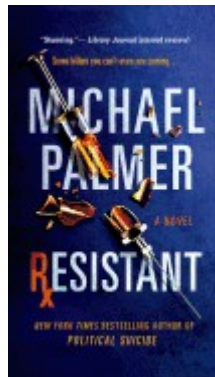
Sophia Kinsella – Shopaholic to the Stars – 16.00/12.80



William Kent Krueger – Windigo Island – 16.00/12.80



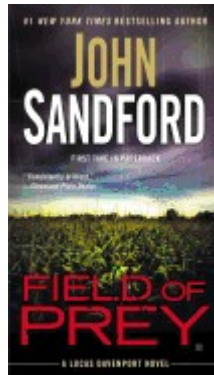
Michael Palmer – Resistant – 9.99/8.00



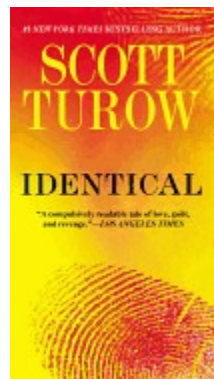
Jodie Picoult & Samantha Van Leer – Off the Page – 19.99/16.00



John Stanford – Field of Prey – 9.99/8.00



Scott Turow – Identical – 10.00/8.00



Susan Wiggs – Summer by the Sea – 14.95/12.00

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

SUSAN
WIGGS

summer
by the sea

"Susan Wiggs gives the details
of family relationships with the
tender of a novelist."
—KODI PICHETTE

