

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 9, #5

May 2016

4764 Elmore Ave, Davenport

563-355-2310

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

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

BookRackQC@Gmail.com

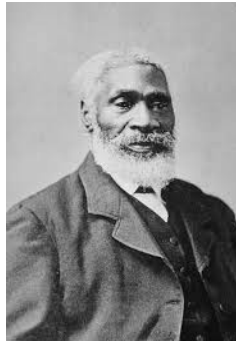
Reading Trivia for May

Sherlock Holmes' sidekick, Dr. Watson, suffered a wartime bullet wound. Where was on his body was it?

See below for the trivia answer

Did you know?

The prototype for Harriet Beecher Stowe's black slave, Uncle Tom, was one Josiah Henson, who achieved fame as a Methodist preacher after escaping from the South.



Josiah Henson

Monthly Drawing Winner for April:

Charles Goodson

Congratulations!

May Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

May is:

- National Barbecue Month – Anyone you know need a new barbecue recipe? Check our cookbooks.
- National Recommitment Month

1 – May Day

1 – Mother Goose Day

3 – National Teachers Day – Give your childrens' favorite teacher a book, or a gift certificate from The Book Rack

7 – Local Author Sean Leary will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00

8 – *Mother's Day!!*

11 – Twilight Zone Day

13 – Friday the 13th – the only one in 2016!!

21 – Armed Forces Day

30 – Memorial Day – The Book Rack will be OPEN!

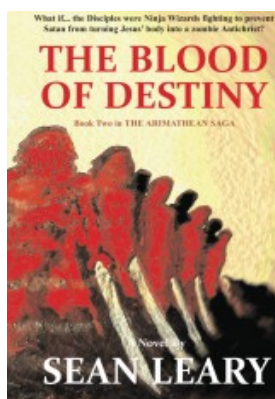
Did you know you can search our store inventory from your home, tablet and smart phone? Just go to our web site: <http://www.thebookrackqc.com/> When you find what you want, you can reserve it and pick it up at the store or we can mail it anywhere in the US for \$4.00 for the first book and \$.50 for each additional title.

Featured Author for May is:



Sean Leary

Sean's latest book is *The Blood of Destiny*.



What if the disciples were ninjas fighting to prevent Satan from possessing Jesus' body and creating a zombie antichrist to rule the world? Good Friday, 33 AD. Jesus Christ has been ritually crucified, his soul sent to hell, to free the lost souls of purgatory. In three days' time, it is prophesized he will rise and once more walk the earth. But until then, his body is a hollow shell of power. With a massive army of beasts from the bowels of hell, King Herod, the Roman Emperor Tiberius and Satan plot to demonically possess the body, turning it into a zombie antichrist to rule the world. Only a mighty cadre of warriors stand against them.

Sean will be at The Book Rack May 7, 11 – 1:00 to meet his fans, sign copies of his books and visit with anyone who stops by. This is a great

opportunity to pick up one of Sean's books for a Mother's Day gift.

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.

From the book *DOES THE SHED SKIN KNOW IT WAS ONCE A SNAKE?* By Sean Leary, www.seanleary.com

Baby Bird

“I love you.”

He looked into the face of his father.

Eyes clear and blue.

He held him like a child, like a baby, as his father had once done for him.

“I love you too.”

His father had always been a night owl, which was a blessing for his mother when he was a baby. His father would wake up with him at odd times of the night and take him from the room, bring him into the sunroom looking out into the night, and hold the tiny bundle against his chest, against his heart.

He would feed him. Burp him. Hold him close and let him snuggle against the warmth of his chest, relax to the rhythmic beating of his heart. And his father would watch his most cherished son snuggled up against him and sing softly, or tell him stories, or read to him, the depth and calm of his voice nuzzling the boy to sleep.

“I love you.”

When he got a little older, he would wake up with bad dreams or discomfort and his father would do the same thing. He'd wrap a big blanket around them and call it a nest, say he was the Daddy bird and he was snuggling up and protecting his baby bird.

“Tweet tweet,” the little boy would say.

“Tweet tweet,” his father would say, smiling.

The little boy, now a man, sat on the bed, holding his father as his father had once held him.

“Tweet Tweet,” the son said, holding his father close and nuzzling his Dad’s head against his chest so he could hear his son’s heartbeat. The same heartbeat he’d once heard, so many years ago, as a wonderful, quick thwip on a sonogram, now heavy, slow, warm.

The father paused, and tears came to his eyes.

“Tweet tweet,” the father said. “Love you baby bird.”

“Love you, Daddy bird.”

”Tweet tweet,” his father said.

“Tweet tweet,” he repeated, his little boy voice breaking.

He held his father’s body close.

“Love you,” the father said softly, “baby bird.”

“Love you,” the boy kissed his forehead, “Daddy bird.”

And the father exhaled and faded in his arms, his eyes closed, a tear slowly moving down his cheek, down to a beautifully calm smile on his lips.

“Love you.”

The boy held his father close.

“Love you, Daddy bird.”

There was no answer.

“Tweet tweet.”

There was no answer.

“Love you, Daddy bird.”

There was no answer.

And then there was no sound, except the boy’s slow sniffles that grew and grew into tremendous sobs and the sound of him crying, crying, crying, like he once had in his father’s arms.

Copyright 2016 Sean Leary

Sean has been published and been involved in the publishing of 18 books, including eight solo works: Sean Leary’s Greatest Hits Volumes One and Two (collections of pop culture columns), Exorcising Ghosts (graphic novel), Your Favorite Band and Dingo Boogaloo (screenplays), Every Number Is Lucky To Someone (collection of short stories) and The Girl Of Dreams And Magick (collection of poetry) and My Life As A Freak Magnet (humorous memoir).

Book Page available at [The Book Rack](#)

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Pick up your FREE copy each month from the counter just inside the front door.



Scribbles on WVIK-FM, 90.3

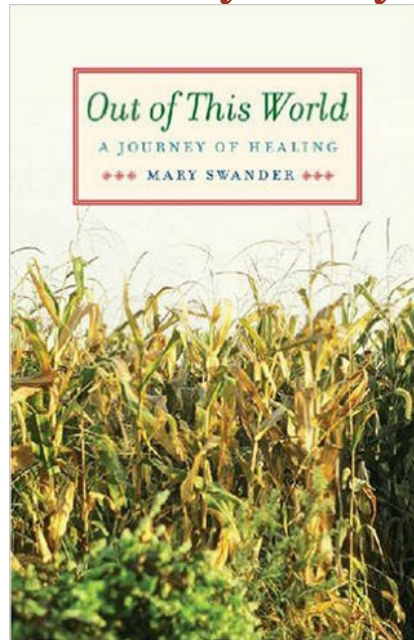
If you like to hear about books, authors, writing, bookselling and related topics, take a little time Saturdays at noon and tune into Scribbles on WVIK. Roald Tweet & Don Wooten, local notables in their own right, host a variety of guests to talk about writing, poetry and the craft.

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/>.

OUT OF THIS WORLD by Mary Swander



I also bought [Out of this World](#) at the first annual (I hope) Clinton Book Festival on August 29, 2015 while I was there promoting my book, *Taming the Twisted*. I've met Mary Swander before, enjoyed her poetry, and like books telling the history of where I live in Iowa.

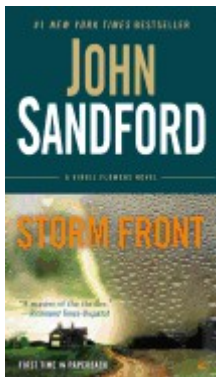
Out of This World is a memoir broken into four parts about Mary Swander's adult life living in the middle of an Amish community in east central Iowa. Living in an Amish community, however, is just one of the "out of this world" themes in the book. It's also about learning to live in her own body, which doesn't tolerate food and chemicals the same as most other people in the world, sort of like her body rejecting our modern way of life. Mary had the unique opportunity of finding the detailed story of the previous owner of one of the homes in which she lived, thereby living essentially in someone else's world. She also lived in a converted schoolhouse, also unusual. Though lots of people live in pastoral settings, including Iowa, in a sense, that's also a way of living "out of this world."

The picture Mary creates of the Amish part of Iowa was interesting; though I live near there, I've never had the chance to be immersed in the community as she has. For the setting, Mary also creates a beautiful and accurate picture of Iowa. I'm here and am familiar with the landscape, but if I wasn't, I think I'd know what it looks, sounds, smells, and feels like. She also weaves in interesting bits of history, facts, and philosophy. Reading *Out of This World* made me wonder about my own attraction to solitude and about how a lot of people say they would or want to choose clean, simple living and eating, but we don't. In Mary's case, she was essentially forced to live clean if she wanted to live at all.

Out of This World interestingly portrays one person's experience in one setting during a particular time in her life, which is I suppose what makes it a memoir. If you've never been to Iowa and want one perspective about how it is to live here (contrary to some beliefs, we are NOT all the same, just as nobody nowhere is the same), you'll enjoy Mary Swander's book. It did take me a bit of time to read it with the holidays and other commitments, 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 a six and a half.

Source: Swander, Mary. (1995). *Out of This World*. Penguin Books.

This Review Is From Claudia:

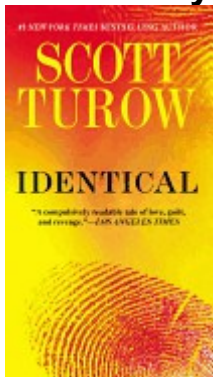


Storm Front, a Virgil Flowers novel by John Sanford, begins with the theft of

an apparent block buster find at an Israeli archeological dig. The suspected thief is a retired Lutheran pastor and professor from Minnesota, so Virgil Flowers is called in to find the man and the missing stele. The mysterious relic bears inscriptions in both Egyptian hieroglyphics and ancient Hebrew which could change basic beliefs in the world's religious communities. Among the parties who want the stele are the Israeli Antiquities Authority, Mossad, Turks, and a couple TV archeologists / authors who have claimed recovering everything from a piece of the one true cross to lumber from Noah's Ark. The obligatory lust interest is found in Ma Noble, a 38 year old mother of 4 sons by different fathers, whose IQ is off the charts, but who perpetuates a backwoods persona. I've always enjoyed reading a John Sandford novel; the Minnesota locations are familiar, characters are well-developed, and the story lines keep me interested. The last pages of *Storm Front* revealed a final twist that I could not have guessed. Good leisure reading without having to think too much.

The rest are by me:

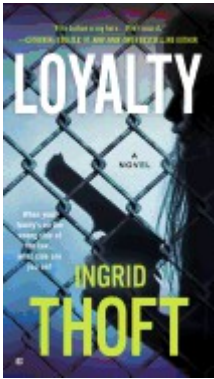
Identical by Scott Turow (2013)



Based loosely on the myth of Castor and Pollux, is the story of identical twins Paul and Cass Giannis and the complex relationships between their family and their former neighbors, the Kronons. The novel focuses principally on events in 2008, when Paul is a candidate for Mayor of Kindle County, and Cass is released from the penitentiary, 25 years after pleading guilty to the murder of his girlfriend, Aphrodite Kronon. The plot centers on the re-investigation of Aphrodite's murder, carried out together by Evon Miller, an ex-FBI agent who is the head of security for the Kronon family business ZP, and private investigator Tim Brodie, 81, a former homicide detective. The complex web of murder, sex, and betrayal-as only Scott Turow could weave-dramatically unfolds, and the chilling truth is revealed: people will believe what they want to believe.

I give this book a B. If you like Steve Martini, Richard North Patterson or Nelson DeMille, you'll like Scott Turow & this novel. It is a good read.

Loyalty by Ingrid Thoft (2014)



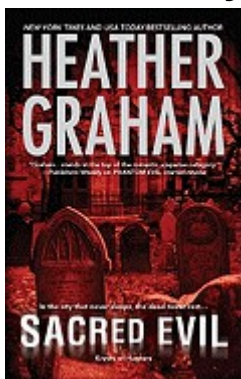
When your family is on the wrong side of the law what side are you on? The Ludlows are a family of fast-talking Boston lawyers, and patriarch Carl Ludlow treats his offspring like employees which they are. Black-sheep daughter, Fina, dropped out of law school, but her father keeps her in the fold as the firm's private investigator, working alongside her brothers.

Juggling family, business, cops and crooks is no problem for Fina. But when her sister-in-law disappears, she's caught up in a case unlike any she's encountered before.

Carl wants things resolved without police, but the deeper Fina digs, the more impossible that seems. As she unearths more dirt, the demands of family loyalty intensify. But she is after the truth no matter where it lies "

Fina Ludlow is a character I really like. She's tough and honest in a family that's not. She handles it adeptly and is a great PI. Loyalty is the first book in the series. Identity and Brutality are #2 & 3, with more to come. Thoft should be a name you will hear more of if Loyalty is any indication. I give it an A-.

Sacred Evil by Heather Graham (2011)



A terror born of Jack the Ripper

The details of the crime scene are no coincidence. The body--a promising starlet--has been battered, bloodied and then discarded between two of Manhattan's oldest graveyards.

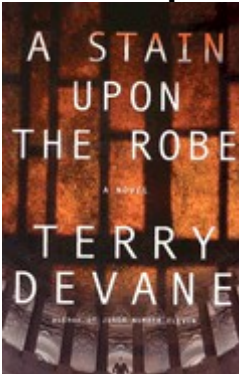
One look and Detective Jude Crosby recognizes the tableau:

A re-creation of Jack the Ripper's gruesome work. But he also sees something

beyond the actions of a mere copycat. Something more dangerous...and unexplainable. As the city seethes with suspicion, Jude calls on Whitney Tremont, a member of the country's preeminent paranormal investigating team, to put the speculation to rest. Yet when Whitney and Jude delve deeper, what they discover is more shocking than either could have predicted, and twice as sinister...

The "Ripper" theme may sound really contrived, but it works well. Paranormal team? OK. It may not be realistic, but that's part of the enjoyment of reading. While you're reading, anything is possible and Graham handled it well and I enjoyed the book. I give it a B,

A Stain Upon the Robe by Terry Devane (2003)

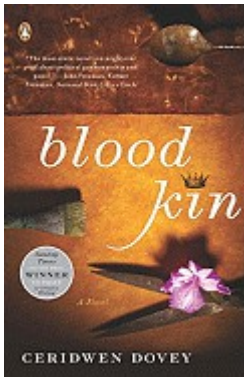


Smart, depressive criminal defense attorney Sheldon Gold is approached by old flame Judge Barbara Pitt, who's presiding over the page-one trial of a Catholic priest accused of raping 23 boys. Judge Pitt says she's mystified by the recent disappearance of her hunky young research clerk, Charles Vareika, after admitting to sleeping with him. Afraid of a Gary Condit-type scandal, Pitt implores Shel to find Vareika without implicating her or tanking the trial. Shel mobilizes his usual team: Mairead O'Clare, the naive but tough young associate; Pontifico (the Pope) Murizzi, a street-smart, gay ex-cop turned private investigator; and Billie Sunday, a legal secretary with impeccable instincts and candid opinions. The pseudonymous Devane constructs the plot through a rather blocky series of interviews, as the team makes its rounds interrogating Vareika's unsavory friends, Pitt's cagey family members, several trial-watchers with competing agendas and the accused priest himself. Characters tend to speechify rather than speak; the priest takes a page from Hannibal Lecter when he insists on meeting Mairead in his lockup (" `I really enjoy telling [my story], young lady.' Now [he] pressed his nose against the screen, distorting his face into a gargoyle's mask. `I really, really do' "). Devane compensates for much of this artificiality by demonstrating hands-on

intimacy with Boston's criminal justice system and by creating soulful, savvy, appealing protagonists who manage to excel at their jobs, despite the heartbreak in their private lives.

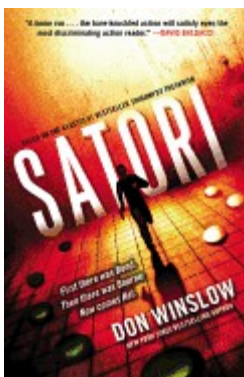
This is a very good read from a little known author. Unfortunately, it's apparently the last book Devane wrote! I give it a B and suggest you fine a Devane book and, if you like it, get the other 2 in the series before they are even more scarce!

Blood Kin by Ceridwen Dovey (2009)



This tale centers around a military coup in an unnamed country, with characters who have no names or few identifying physical characteristics. Known simply as the ex-President's chef, barber, and portrait painter, these three men perform their mundane tasks and appear unaware of the atrocities of their employer's regime. When the President is deposed, the trio are revealed as less than innocent. A deeply chilling yet sensual novel, "Blood Kin" illustrates Lord Acton's famous quip, "Absolute power corrupts absolutely." Each chapter focuses on one of the three, or one of their family members and the tale develops step by step to its climax. This is an interesting piece of literature. I give it a B-. It just wasn't as compelling or "thrilling" as many others, though the message delivered is important and well delivered.

Satori by Don Winslow, a novel based on Trevanian's "Shibumi" (2011)



First there was Bond. Then there was Bourne. Now comes Hel--

Cover.;Originally published: New York: Grand Central;London: Headline, c2011.;Nicholai Hel - a Westerner by birth but an Asian by upbringing - speaks seven languages, kills with a naked hand, and is a master of the world's most challenging game of strategy: Go. All this has made him a very dangerous man - an assassin who blends in anywhere, doesn't need weapons to kill his targets, and sees ten moves ahead. Released from three years of honing his mental and physical skills in solitary confinement on the condition that he kill a high-ranking Soviet official in China, Hel must survive a suicide mission to save his own life and the beautiful French spy he loves.

David Baldacci said it far better than I could. (No surprise there!) "A home run...carefully choreographed, bare-knuckled action...elegant writing, a mature, confident narrative, and characters so real you can almost touch them on the page..." I give Satori a resounding A. If you loved Robert Ludlum's Bourne trilogy, then you'll love this book. It's that good!

Reading Trivia for May

Sherlock Holmes' sidekick, Dr. Watson, suffered a wartime bullet wound. Where was it?

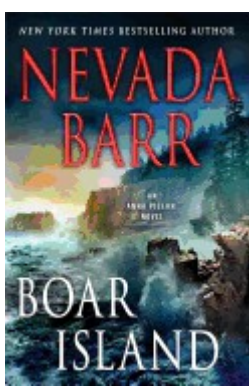
Answer: To his shoulder, according to "A Study in Scarlet"; in his leg, according to "The Sign of Four."

Upcoming New Releases:

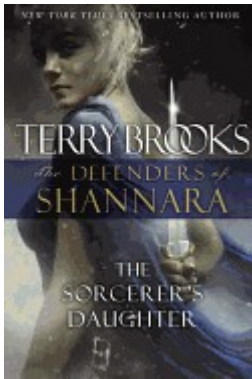
Check out the prices following the title of the book. The price is the publisher's price. The **Book Rack** price is normally 20% lower. When you pick it at the store there is no shipping cost, though we can also ship it to you. Order now by calling one of the stores or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment 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. The genre follows the price.

Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Nevada Barr – Boar Island – 26.99/21.60

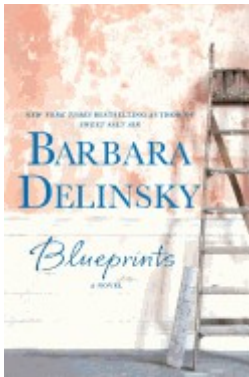


Terry Brooks – The Sorcerer's Daughter – 28.00/22.40

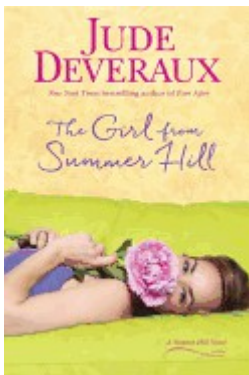


Max Allan Collins – Better Dead – 26.99/21.60

Barbara Delinsky – Blueprints – 15.99/12.80

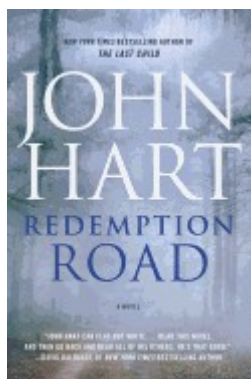


Jude Deveraux – The Girl from Summer Hill – 27.00/21.60



Heather Graham – Haunted Destiny – 26.99/21.60

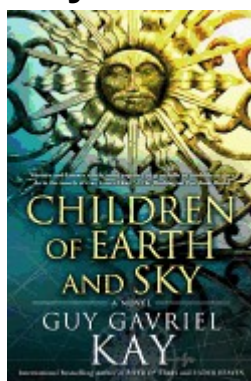
John Hart – Redemption Road – 27.99/22.40



Linda Howard – Troublemaker – 26.99/21.60



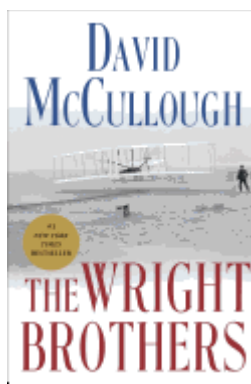
Guy Gavriel Kay – Children of Earth and Sky – 27.00/21.60



Steve Martini – Blood Flag – 27.99/22.40

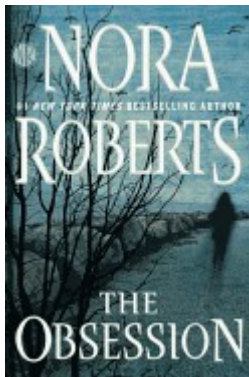
David McCullough – The Wright Brothers –

17.00/13.60



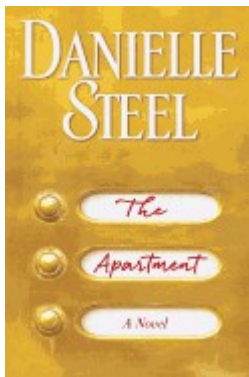
James Patterson - 15th Affair – 28.00/22.40

Nora Roberts – The Obsession – 28.00/22.40



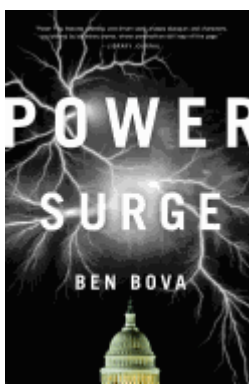
Richard Russo – Everybody's Fool – 27.95/22.40

Danielle Steel – The Apartment – 28.95/23.20

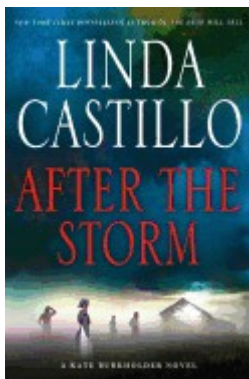


Mass Market Paperback

Ben Bova – Power Surge – 8.99/7.20



Linda Castillo – After the Storm – 7.99/6.40

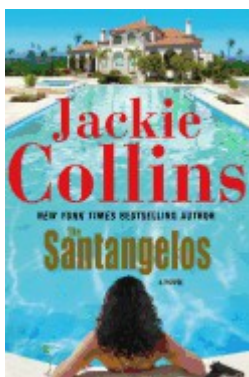


Lee Child – Make Me – 9.99/8.00



Mary Higgins Clark – The Melody Lingers On – 7.99/6.40

Jackie Collins – The Santangelos – 9.99/8.00

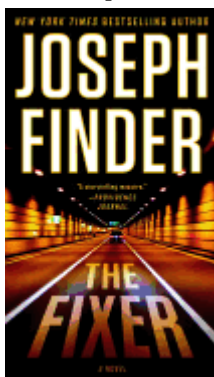


Clive Cussler – Piranha – 9.99/8.00

Christine Feehan – Fire Bound – 7.99/6.40



Joseph Finder – The Fixer – 9.99/8.00

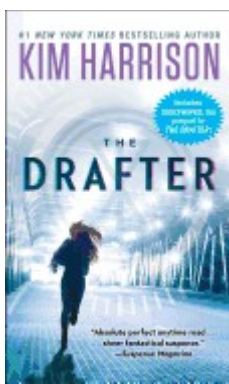


Joanne Fluke – Eyes – 7.99/6.40



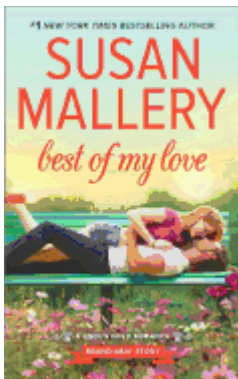
Laurell K Hamilton – Dead Ice – 7.99/6.40

Kim Harrison – The Drafter – 7.99/6.40

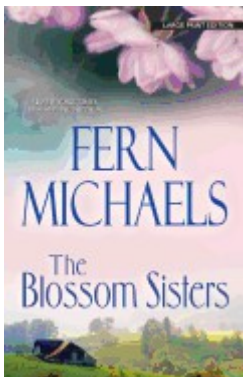


William W. Johnstone – Rimfire – 7.99/6.40

Susan Mallery – Best of My Love – 8.99/7.20

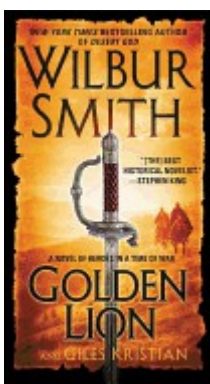


Fern Michaels – The Blossom Sisters – 7.99/6.40



James Patterson - 14th Deadly Sin – 9.99/8.00

Wilbur Smith – Golden Lion – 9.99/8.00



Robert Tannenbaum – Trap – 9.99/8.00

Sherryl Woods – Destiny Unleashed – 7.99/6.40

