

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 8, #11

November 2015

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 November

What great American writer ran rum because he couldn't sell his work?

See below for the trivia answer

Did you know?

Daniel Defoe based his character, Robinson Crusoe, on the seafarer Alexander Selkirk, who objected to the conditions on a ship on which he was employed in 1704 and asked to be put ashore on a tiny desert island in the Pacific Ocean off South America. He lived alone there for four years and four months and Defoe used his experiences as the template for Crusoe.

November Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

November is National Novel Writing Month – Take time on your next visit to [The Book Rack](#) to look through the novels (and non-

fiction) offered by our local authors.

November 7 - Book Lovers Day - A great day to celebrate. Just grab an interesting book, find a quiet, cozy place, and crack open the cover.

7 - **Christmas Books** – Around this date a wide selection of Christmas Books will begin to appear on our front shelves.

10 – Young Readers Day

11 – Veterans Day – **The Book Rack** will be **open**

14 – Local Author **Chuck Oestreich** will be at **The Book Rack**

26 – Thanksgiving Day – **The Book Rack** will be **Closed**

27 – Black Friday – We'll be **open!!** Please stop in.

28 – Small Business Saturday – Shop Small, Shop Local at **The Book Rack**

Gift Certificates From

The Book Rack

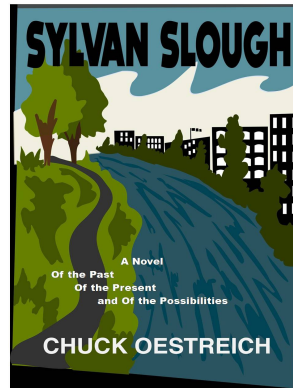
Make Great Gifts for Readers on Your

Holiday List

Featured Local Author:



Local Author Chuck Oestreich will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00 on November 14 with his brand new release, “Sylvan Slough”, a novel set in the Quad Cities.



New Novel, “Sylvan Slough” located on our own Sylvan Slough

Rock Island writer Chuck Oestreich has a new novel, called simply “Sylvan Slough” His second novel, it tells of five area people who spend time along this backwater of the Mississippi River between Moline and Rock Island, Illinois. They enjoy its path until events happen which severely complicate their lives. The slough's history and geography – from the novelist's point of view – brings a deep sense of place to the story.

The novel brings out an aura of mystery along Sylvan Slough's mostly pleasant waters and bucolic surroundings. Its presence affects the lives of five of its users:

A woman ad executive, whose recreational bike rides provoke action and reaction.

A successful young banker, who gets caught up in a vision of yellow while riding on the slough's path.

An almost retired freight dispatcher, who made a tragic mistake early in his life.

A budding high school artist, caught up in youthful romance and more.

A homeless bum, who has also lived with life-long guilt.

Their lives come together as the past mixes with the present in the waters of Sylvan Slough.

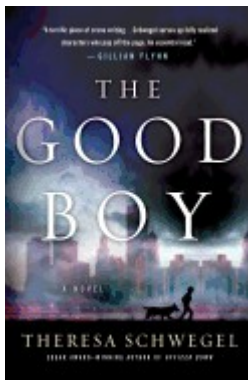
This novel, one of the few to be located in the Quad Cities, is available at The Book Rack. A number of copies have also been donated to area

libraries.

We hope you will stop in and visit with this very talented local author. If you can't make it on the day he is at the store, please check out his books on our Local Author shelves.

Book Reviews:

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 require 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**. Dave Moyer is an educator, and the author of **Life and Life Only: A Novel**, available at [The Book Rack](#)*

This review originally appeared on the Joseph's Reviews site: <http://josephsreviews.wordpress.com/>

The next 2 reviews are by Claudia:

Make Me by Lee Child is his latest installment of Jack Reacher novels.



Reacher is in his usual form, ready to right wrongs and woo strong women wherever he bumps into them on his travels. I have to say that as a real Reacher fan, this latest did not grab my attention and interest as much as others. I figured out the plot fairly quickly, and the action just didn't keep me as involved as I'd hoped. Still, for those of you who

need a Jack Reacher fix now and then, it may be worth the read.

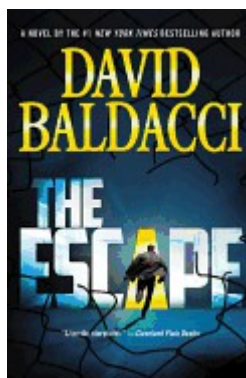
***The Liberation of Gabriel King* by K.L. Going** is a children's book with interesting characters and great lessons.



Set in Georgia in 1976, African American Frita Wilson is intent on “liberating” her best friend, a white boy named Gabriel Allen King, from his lengthy list of fears including spiders, bullies and fifth grade. After graduating from the fourth grade, the two set out to overcome their individual lists of fears before entering fifth grade. Gabe’s listed fears are Frita’s outward focus, but the real hateful prejudice that Frita is subjected to leads to insights and ability for both Gabe and Frita to face down their fears. While references to Jimmy Carter’s presidential campaign may be lost on younger folks, this is a good book to read and discuss with your children.

The rest of the reviews are mine:

The Escape (John Puller) by David Baldacci (2014)



David Baldacci is one of the world's most popular, widely read storytellers. In his blockbuster thrillers "Zero Day" and "The Forgotten," he enthralled readers with John Puller. A combat veteran and special agent with the U.S. Army, Puller is the man they call to investigate the toughest crimes facing the nation. But all his training, all his experience, all his skills will not prepare him for his newest case, one that will force him to hunt down the most formidable and brilliant prey he has ever tracked: his own brother.

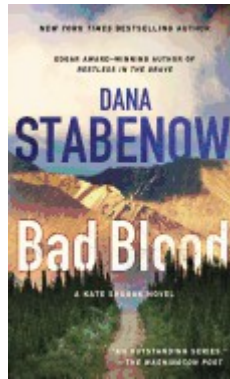
THE ESCAPE

It's a prison unlike any other. Military discipline rules. Its security systems are unmatched. None of its prisoners dream of escaping. They know it's impossible . . . until now. John Puller's older brother, Robert, was convicted of treason and national security crimes. His inexplicable escape from prison makes him the most wanted criminal in the country. Some in the government believe that John Puller represents their best chance at capturing Robert alive, and so Puller must bring in his brother to face justice. But Puller quickly discovers that his brother is pursued by others who don't want him to survive. Puller is in turn pushed into an uneasy, fraught partnership with another agent, who may have an agenda of her own. They dig more deeply into the case together, and Puller finds that not only are her allegiances unclear, but there are troubling details about his brother's conviction . . . and someone out there doesn't want the truth to ever come to light. As the nationwide manhunt for Robert grows more urgent, Puller's masterful skills as an investigator and strengths as a fighter may not be enough to save his brother-or himself.

The Escape is another terrific book by Baldacci. I just wish I had time to read all of his books, but, frankly, there are many other authors whose book lists I also would love to read through and there are just not enough hours in the day... The escape is non-stop action with countless twists, turns, switch-backs and leaps forward; traitors, liars, and murders, all crammed into a measley 630 pages! OK, it's a long book, but it flew by, which to me means it was gripping and well

written. I give it an A and highly recommend it. If you like Silva, Clancy, Grisham, Coes or Thor, you already love Baldacci and will grab this one as soon as you can, so I'm preaching to the choir! Right?

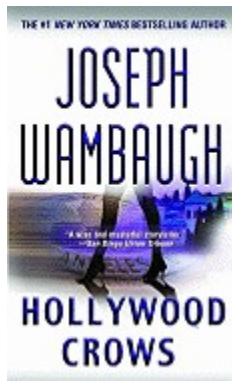
Bad Blood by Dana Stabenow (2013)



The Alaskan villages of Kushtaka and Kuskulana sit across the river from each other, but Kuskulana's always thrived while Kushtaka is slowly dying out. One hundred years of bad blood between the communities threaten to come to a boil when the body of a young Kushtaka ne'er-do-well is found dead, wedged in a fish wheel--and questions of love, loyalty, and revenge rise to the surface. Could this one, unexplained death ignite an all-out war? Sergeant Jim Chopin gets the unenviable task of investigating, difficult since members of both tribes refuse to speak to him. When a second murder that looks suspiciously like payback occurs, the escalating enmity can no longer be ignored. Now it's up to private investigator Kate Shugak, along with Sergeant Chopin, to find the truth about what happened while a killer remains at large. And is on their trail.

Claudia & I listened to this book while on a recent road trip and it helped a long drive fly by.. The conflict between the two villages added an element to the puzzle. The book was engrossing and one I'd recommend. It give some good locality background that made it more interesting. It wasn't multi-levelled and as complex as I tend to prefer, but I give it a B.

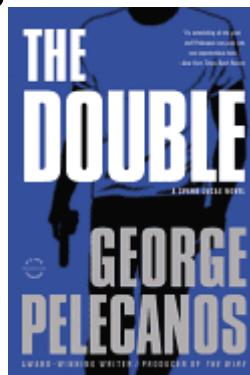
Hollywood Crows by Joseph Wambaugh (2008)



Seduction, black-market booze, burglary, and murder-not your ordinary fare for a division of peacekeeping officers, but Hollywood isn't your ordinary town. When a couple of LAPD cops find themselves caught up with a certain femme fatale, they're in for trouble. Meet Margot Aziz, the beautiful, soon-to-be-ex wife of Ali Aziz, proprietor of a Sunset Boulevard strip club. Ali has his diamond-studded fingers in multiple shady business deals-and he wants his lovely wife dead. Enter Hollywood Nate Weiss, a cop hungry for stardom and looking for love. Nate works alongside a squad of L.A.'s finest, including a duo of suntanned surfer cops, two tenacious women officers, and a wily veteran. As they all discover, Hollywood always deceives you, and love always comes packing heat.

This is primarily a look into the Community Relations Officers and their varied responsibilities, with more violent crimes mixed in for good measure. Much of the book was a fairly routine chronicle of a wide variety of personal and professional challengers with an emerging thread of bigger things to come. While an interesting book, it didn't grab and hold me as most do. I give it a C+.

The Double by George Pelecanos (2013)



Every man has his dark side...Spero Lucas confronts his own in the most explosive thriller yet from one of America's best-loved crime writers.

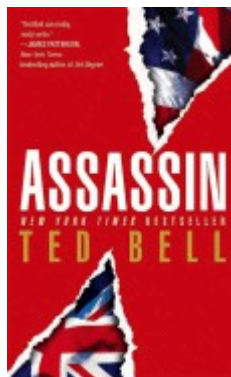
The job seems simple enough: retrieve the valuable painting--"The Double"--Grace Kinkaid's ex-boyfriend stole from her. It's the sort of thing Spero Lucas specializes in: finding what's missing, and doing it quietly. But Grace wants more. She wants Lucas to find the man who humiliated her--a violent career criminal with a small gang of brutal thugs at his beck and call.

Lucas is a man who knows how to get what he wants, whether it's a thief on the run--or a married woman. In the midst of a steamy, passionate love affair that he knows can't last, in pursuit of a dangerous man who will stop at nothing to get what he wants, Lucas is forced to decide what kind of man he is--and how far he'll go to get what he wants.

"The writing is spare; the dialogue rings with authenticity; and walking D.C.'s mean streets with Lucas is the next best thing to being there. Easily the best crime novel I've read this year." Hallie Ephron, "Boston Globe"

I concur with Ephron's assessment. This is a very good book. I liked the dialogue and the general pace of the book. It is a very credible story well done. I give it a B+. If you like the mysteries of Elmore Leonard, Walter Mosley or Lawrence Sanders, you'll likely enjoy Pelecanos.

Assassin by Ted Bell (2004)



In an elegant palazzo on the Grand Canal, an American ambassador's tryst turns deadly. In the seamy underbelly of London, a pub-crawling killer is on the loose. And in a storybook chapel nestled in the Cotswolds, a marriage made in heaven turns to hell on earth. Isolated incidents? Or links in a chain of events hurtling towards catastrophe? So begins *Assassin*, the tour de force thriller that heralds the return of every terrorist's worst nightmare, Alex Hawke. A shadowy figure known as the Dog is believed to be the ruthless terrorist who is systematically and savagely assassinating American diplomats and their families around the globe. As the deadly toll mounts inexorably, Hawke, along with former NYPD cop and Navy SEAL Stokely Jones, is called upon by the U.S. government to launch a search for the assassin behind the murders. Hawke, who ""makes James Bond look like a ""slovenly, dull-witted clockpuncher"" (Kirkus Reviews), is soon following a trail that leads back to London in the go-go nineties, when Arab oil money fueled lavish, and sometimes fiendish, lifestyles. Other murky clues point to the Florida Keys, where a vicious killer hides behind the gates of a fabled museum. And to a remote Indonesian island where a madman tinkers with strains of a deadly virus and slyly bides his time.

This was a bit fanciful for me. Kind of a cross between Ian Fleming (James Bond) and Clive Cussler. Still, if you like this brand of adventure, this one is well done. All kinds of threats and escapes with the virtually indestructible Hawke in the lead. I give it a B, mostly because it's not in a style I favor.

If you like Alan Berenson, Steven Hunter or Stephen Coonts, give Bell a shot.

Your Reading Trivia Question for November

What great American writer ran rum because he couldn't sell his work?

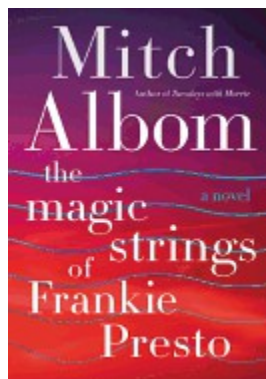
Answer: William Faulkner, creator of Yoknapatawpha County and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction (A Fable and The Reivers).

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 you pick it at the store there is no shipping cost, though we can 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.

Hardcover:

Mitch Albom – The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto – 24.99/20.00

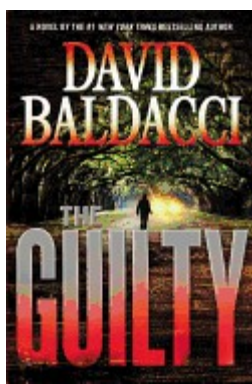


Isabel Allende – The Japanese Lover – 30.00/24.00

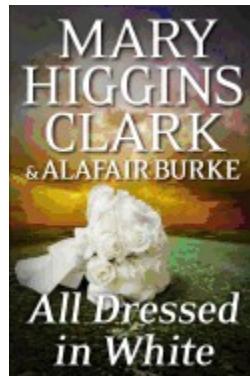
David Baldacci – The Guilty – 28.00/22.40

Will Robie is the government's most professional, disciplined, and lethal assassin. He infiltrates the most hostile countries in the world, defeats our enemies' advanced security measures, and eliminates threats before they ever reach our shores.

But now, his skills have left him. Sent overseas on a critical assignment, he fails, unable to pull the trigger. Absent his talents, Robie is a man without a mission, and without a purpose. To recover what he has lost, Robie must confront what he has tried to forget for over twenty years: his own past.



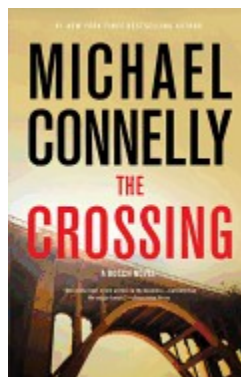
Mary Higgins Clark – All Dressed in White – 26.99/21.60



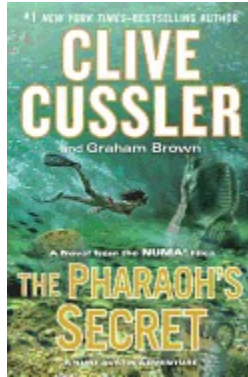
Five years ago Amanda Pierce was excitedly preparing to marry her college sweetheart in a lavish ceremony at The Grand Victoria Hotel in Palm Beach. Then, with their guests and families on site, Amanda disappeared.

In present-day New York City, Laurie Moran realizes a missing bride is the perfect cold case for her investigative television series, "Under Suspicion." She and her team set out to recreate the night of the disappearance at the Florida resort with Amanda's friends and family in attendance, hoping to shed new light on the mystery as the series has done in past episodes. With a jealous sister, playboy groomsmen, Amanda's former fiancé now married to a bridesmaid, and rumors about the beloved bride herself, Laurie and "Under Suspicion" host Alex Buckley quickly realize everyone has a theory about why Amanda vanished into thin air. One thing is certain: whoever was behind Amanda's disappearance plans to keep the truth hidden until death do they part.

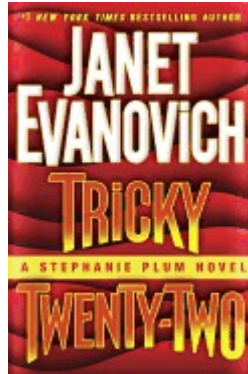
Michael Connelly – The Crossing – 28.00/22.40



Clive Cussler – The Pharaoh's Secret – 28.95/23.20

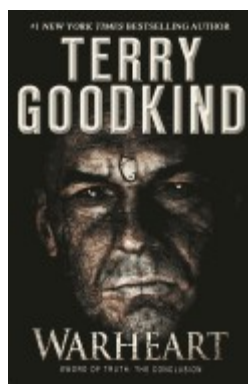


Janet Evanovich – Tricky Twenty-Two – 28.00/22.40



Something big is brewing in Trenton, N.J., and it could blow at any minute. Stephanie Plum might not be the world's greatest bounty hunter, but she knows when she's being played. Ken Globovic (aka Gobbles), hailed as the Supreme Exalted Zookeeper" "of the animal house known as Zeta fraternity, has been arrested for beating up the dean of students at Kiltman College. Gobbles has missed his court date and gone into hiding. People have seen him on campus, but no one will talk. Things just aren't adding up, and Stephanie can't shake the feeling that something funny is going on at the college and it's not just Zeta fraternity pranks. As much as people love Gobbles, they hate Doug Linken. When Linken is gunned down in his backyard it's good riddance, and the list of possible murder suspects is long. The only people who care about finding Linken's killer are Trenton cop Joe Morelli, who has been assigned the case, security expert Ranger, who was hired to protect Linken, and Stephanie, who has her eye on a cash prize and hopefully has some tricks up her sleeve."

Terry Goodkind –



Warheart – 29.99/24.00

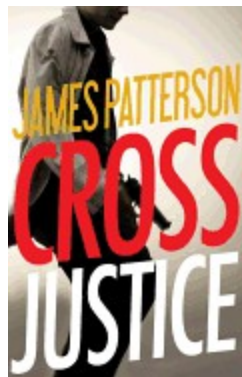
All is lost. Evil will soon consume the D'Haran Empire. Richard Rahl lies on his funeral bier. It is the end of everything.

Except what isn't lost is Kahlan Amnell. Following an inner prompting beyond all reason, the last Confessor will wager everything on a final desperate gambit, and in so doing, she will change the world forever.

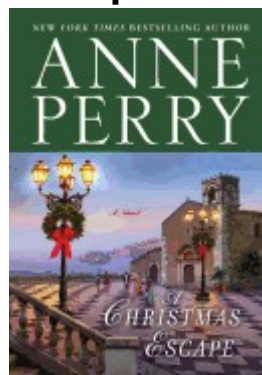
Jonathan Kellerman – The Golem of Paris – 27.95/22.40

Sherrilyn Kenyon – Born of Betrayal – 27.99/22.40

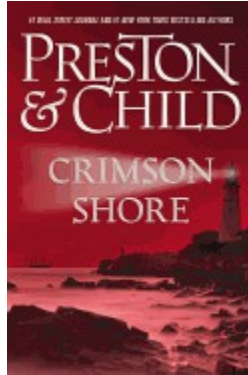
James Patterson – Cross Justice – 29.00/23.20



Anne Perry – A Christmas Escape – 18.00/14.40



Preston & Child – Crimson Shore – 27.00/21.60



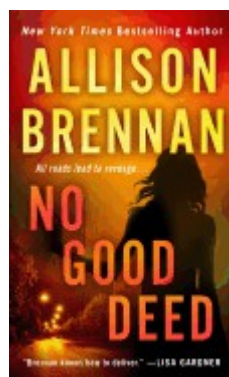
James Rollins – The Bone Labyrinth – 27.99/22.40

Olen Steinhauer – All the Old Knives – 16.00/12.80



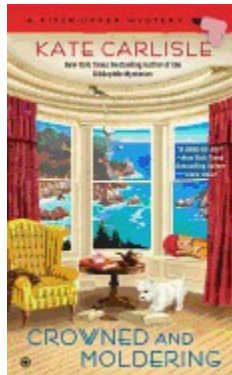
Paperback:

Allison Brennan – No Good Deed – 7.99/6.40



JoAnna Carl – The Chocolate Clown Corpse – 7.99/6.40

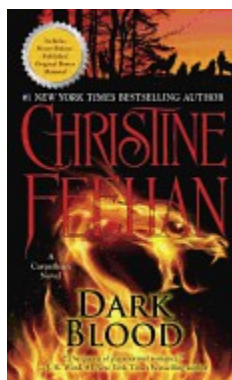
Kate Carlisle – Crowned and Moldering – 7.99/6.40



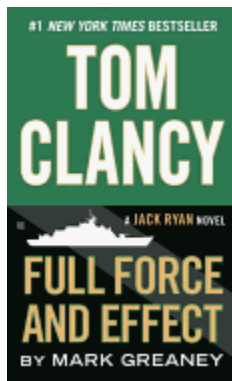
in the "New York Times" bestselling Fixer-Upper mysteries, contractor Shannon Hammer can repair even the most distressed building. But clearing out the cobwebs from her current project may distress "her" to death. When Mac Sullivan famous thriller writer and Shannon s new beau first moved to Lighthouse Cove, California, he bought the historic lighthouse mansion that the town is named after. Mac needs help cleaning up the place, and Shannon is more than happy to get her handywoman hands on the run-down Victorian. But during demolition, a grisly discovery is made among the debris the bones of a teenage girl who went missing fifteen years ago. Locals had always assumed Lily Brogan ran away from her difficult life, but it seems her troubles followed her to the grave. If Shannon has any chance of getting her renovation back on track, she ll need to tackle the cold case. But with new suspects coming out of the woodwork every day, she ll have to be careful to pry the right secrets and clues from the poor girl s problematic past "

Ralph Cotton – Payback at Big Silver – 6.99/5.60

Christine Feehan – Dark Blood – 7.99/6.40



Tom Clancy/Mark Greeney – Full Force and Effect – 9.99/8.00

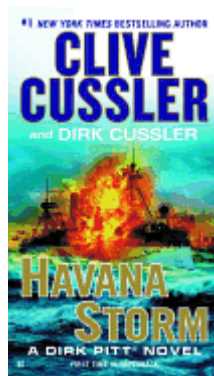


A North Korean ICBM crashes into the Sea of Japan. A veteran CIA officer is murdered in Ho Chi Minh City, and a package of forged documents goes missing. The pieces are there, but assembling the puzzle will cost Jack Ryan, Jr. and his fellow Campus agents precious time. Time they don't have. The challenge facing President Jack Ryan is an old one with a terrifying new twist. The international stalemate with North Korea continues into its seventh decade. A young, untested dictator is determined to prove his strength by breaking the deadlock. Like his father before him, he hangs his plans on the country's nuclear ambitions. Until now, that program was impeded by a lack of resources. However, there has been a dramatic change in the nation's economic fortune. A rich deposit of valuable minerals have been found in the Hermit Kingdom. Coupled with their nuclear capabilities, the money from this find will make North Korea a dangerous force on the world stage. There's just one more step needed to complete this perfect plan: the elimination of the president of the United States."

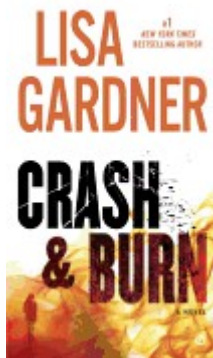
Michael Connelly – The Burning Room – 9.99/8.00



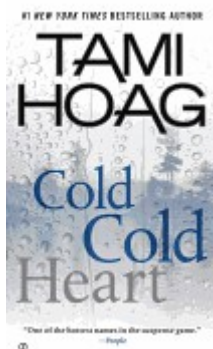
Clive Cussler – Havana Storm – 9.99/8.00



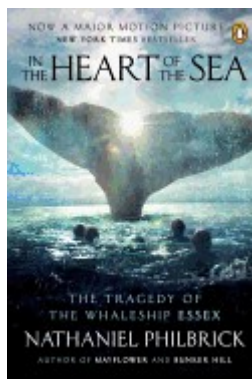
Lisa Gardner – Crash & Burn – 9.99/8.00



Tami Hoag – Cold Cold Heart – 9.99/8.00



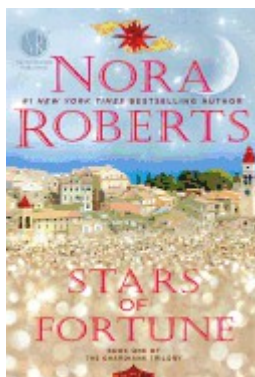
Nathaniel Philbrick – In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex – 17.00/13.60



The riveting and critically acclaimed bestseller, soon to be a major motion picture on December 11, 2015, directed by Ron Howard Chris Hemsworth, Cillian Murphy, Ben Whishaw, and Brendan Gleeson will star in a new film based on this National Book Award winning account of the true events behind "Moby Dick." In 1820, the whaleship "Essex "was rammed and sunk by an angry sperm whale, leaving the desperate crew to drift for more than ninety days in three tiny boats. Nathaniel Philbrick uses little-known documents and vivid

details about the Nantucket whaling tradition to reveal the chilling facts of this infamous maritime disaster. "In the Heart of the Sea" and now, its epic adaptation for the screen will forever place the "Essex" tragedy in the American historical canon."

Nora Roberts – Stars of Fortune – 17.00/13.60



To celebrate the rise of their new queen, three goddesses of the moon created three stars, one of fire, one of ice, one of water. But then they fell from the sky, putting the fate of all worlds in danger. And now three women and three men join forces to pick up the pieces... Sasha Riggs is a reclusive artist, haunted by dreams and nightmares that she turns into extraordinary paintings. Her visions lead her to the Greek island of Corfu, where five others have been lured to seek the fire star. Sasha recognizes them, because she has drawn them: a loner. All on a quest. All with secrets. Sasha is the one who holds them together the seer. And in the magician, Bran Killian, she sees a man of immense power and compassion. As Sasha struggles with her rare ability, Bran is there to support her, challenge her, and believe in her. But Sasha and Bran are just two of the six. And they all must work together as a team to find the fire star in a cradle of land beneath the sea. Over their every attempt at trust, unity, and love, a dark threat looms. And it seeks to corrupt everything that stands in its way of possessing the stars.