

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 7, #10  
October 2014  
3937 41st Ave Dr., Moline  
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<http://www.thebookrackqc.com/>  
[BookRackQC@Gmail.com](mailto:BookRackQC@Gmail.com)

*"Fools and their money are easily parted."*

*Tobias Smollett's Roderick Random (1661)*

**A Poetic Line that has passed into common usage:**

*"All hell broke loose."*

**John Milton, Paradise Lost**

## **October Holidays and such:**

**Adopt a Shelter Dog Month**

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

**Clergy Appreciation Month**

**Cookie Month**

**National Diabetes Month**

**Seafood Month**

**3 – World Smile Day**

**5 – World Teachers Day**

**9 – Curious Events Day**

**11 – It's My Party Day**

**11 – Jim Pransky, Local Author, will be at The Book Rack in Davenport**

with his new book, John “Flash” Flaherty, 11-1:00

13 – Columbus Day

16 – Bosses Day

18 – Bob Bancks, Local Author, will be at The Book Rack in Davenport, 11-1:00

18 - Jim Pransky, Local Author, will be at The Book Rack in Moline with his new book, John “Flash” Flaherty, 11-1:00

21 – Babbling Day

25 – Jodie Toohey, Local Author, will be at The Book Rack in Davenport, 11-1:00

25 – Make a Difference Day

31 – **Frankenstein Day**

31 – **HALLOWEEN**

**Special Note:** The 38<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to our shopping center is now OPEN!!!! A special “Thank you!” to all of you who braved the traffic congestion to continue to frequent **The Book Rack** in Moline! You are loved and appreciated! ;-)

**Do you love all those political ads on radio and TV??**

I didn't think so. I was driving home today and had the radio on when one of the ads came on. Fortunately, I had an audio book in my CD player and quickly hit the CD button and *voilà*, the ad disappeared! We have a very good selection at both stores. Save yourself from the ads. Pick up a couple audio books. You just may find it hard to return to the radio!

**Featured Authors:**

**Local Poet and Author Jodie Toohey will be at The Book Rack**



in Davenport, October 25, 11-1:00 and would love to meet you and spend some time visiting. She recently released her latest book, Melody Madison – May It Please the Court? Melody is a genius sixteen-year old attorney at the law firm of Lazlo, Marshdon and Brown. When she is introduced to L, M and B's other attorneys and employees on her first day, she immediately realizes how difficult it will be getting the new adults in her life to take her seriously, but resolves to give it her best and try to make friends at the firm.

Melody spends her first few weeks at work sitting idle in her office and begins to question her decision to become an attorney. Things start looking up when she is photocopying a binder of exhibits and helps senior partner, Dan Marshdon, Jr., locate a lawsuit opinion in the law books after another associate, Maggie, is too busy to help him. On her way to lunch, Maggie thanks her for helping and Melody thinks she may have found her first friend at the firm.

Another two weeks pass before Melody finally gets her big break when Dan Marshdon assigns her to handle her first real case representing a client trying to stop demolition of the Midland Marquee Theater building as the result of the settlement of a slip and fall case at the building.

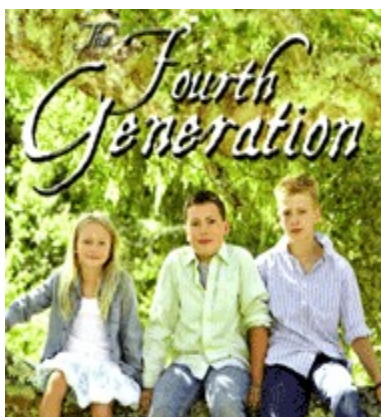
Melody's excitement about her first real case is cut short when her best friend, Jewel Johnson, barely pays attention to her news and is more concerned with her date to her high school's fall dance. Melody and Jewel's friendship becomes more strained as Melody's friendship with Maggie advances and she develops romantic feelings for Dan's son, Eric, who is assigned to help with her case as an high school assistant. Her feelings for Eric deepen, her relationship with Jewel goes sour, the key medical record in her case turns up missing, and Melody feels her life is crumbling around her. Things appear even more hopeless when the original of the key medical record is destroyed from the doctor's office so cannot be duplicated.

When she can stand it no longer, Melody tells Eric about her true feelings for him, but she doesn't get the reaction she expected. After

working the entire weekend before trial to try to find a way to save the case, Melody finds the missing medical record but, before she can celebrate, she's cornered. Jewel attempts to free her but she is caught and the friends are tied to an office chair, driven out to the middle of nowhere and left alone. Will they be able to save the case – or themselves?

When not writing fiction or poetry, Jodie operates her professional writing and editing business, Wordsy Woman Word Sales and Service (helping people say what they want to say). Jodie Toohey, lives in Davenport, Iowa, with her husband, daughter, son, cat, and dog.

**Local Author Bob Bancks** will be at [The Book Rack](#) 11-1:00 in Davenport on October 18 and at [The Book Rack](#) in Moline on November 1 to share with you his books, including his latest releases, Fourth Generation and Call Sara.



**Call Sara synopsis:** In continuation of a short series of stories, we find Sara Maas, the widow of Paul Maas, in the novel "The Nightgown" lonely and worried of what life holds for her future. She quickly finds out that many people need her. She fixes fences with her son's family and fills in for an injured neighboring farm wife. Through her life in school teacher she returns to teaching and helping others. This new career is sandwiched in between taking care of her aging mother and mother-in-law. When anyone needs a helping hand or advice, they call Sara.

While being a teacher's helper, she and a student are kidnapped by a frustrated father. She and her little partner survive terror of being captive, whippings by the captor, and spend several days locked in a steel grain bin.

She meets Dan, a fellow teacher, and cannot decide if she loves him or not. He tries to become her best friend, but not for the reason of companionship, but for his gain. His photography excellence lures Sara on. The twist and turns of this pseudo-courtship lead Sara through an interesting period. But is he the one? You'll have to read the book to find out.

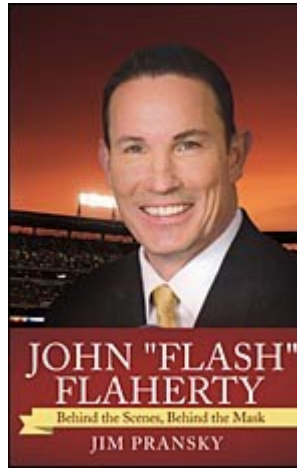
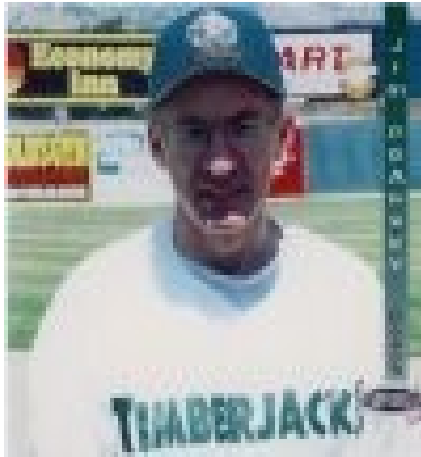
Bob and his wife, Jane, live on the family farm which was established in 1868 by his great grandfather. The farm has grown since its beginning, from the original 80 acres to 640 acres. Bob was raised on the farm. He worked and played there all his life. The pastures and corn fields are featured in his stories. Bob and Jane raised three sons and taught them the rewards of diligent work. After farming for 48 years they retired in 2008.

Bob started writing as a hobby. He had written some small essays before and some church skits, but never a novel. In fact, his first novel "The Nightgown."

To his surprise, he discovered readers actually liked his prose. He continues to write using the thoughts from his many hours in the tractor or combine cab. His writings give a different perspective on the lives of rural America. His stories take the reader on a trip which reveals not all rural living is drudgery and heart ache, but there are many fun and romantic times involved.

**Local Author Jim Pransky will be at The Book Rackin Davenport, 11-1:00 on October 11 and at The Book Rack in Moline 11-1:00 on October 18 to share his most recent release,**

**John "Flash" Flaherty**  
**Behind the Scenes, Behind the Mask**



**"Whatever you do, write this book so you can put it in school libraries so kids can read about John."**

**-Joe Klein, former General Manager of the Texas Rangers, Cleveland Indians and Detroit Tigers**

**"John Flaherty is an inspiration to all the people someone ever said no to."**

**◆ Gary Tuck, coaching mentor**

**Twenty-four-year-old John Flaherty was at his home in West Nyack, NY, in early April preparing for a trip to Pawtucket to start his AAA season with the Boston Red Sox. It was 10:45 a.m. when he got the call. The big league club had an injury to one of their catchers, and John was going to the big leagues for the first time.**

**It wasn't just any game; it was Opening Day at Yankee Stadium, the Yankees hosting the Red Sox at 1:00.**

**John's toughest battle was fighting the bumper to bumper traffic, finally reaching the player's lot at 12:30 where the first policeman he met manning the players' gate would not let him enter. No major leaguer**

drove a somewhat beat up miniwagon that John had navigated to that point. The Flash went to the back of his car and took out his Red Sox bag to prove he was indeed part of the organization. He got the okay to proceed, quickly signed his major league contract in the clubhouse, and made his way to the third baseline just in time to hear his name announced by public address announcer, Bob Sheppard, and look up in the stands at 56,000 people.

Jim Pransky is a professional baseball scout, when not writing books, and lives in Davenport.

**We hope you will stop in and visit with these very talented local authors. If you can't make it on the days they are at the stores, please check out their books in our Local Author shelves at both stores.**

**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.

### **“*The Solarium-3 Trilogy*” by John R. Spencer**

Many readers have asked me how I first had the idea for the *Solarium-3 Trilogy*. Actually, I didn't originally conceive the work as a series.

*Solarium-3* was to be a free-standing novel. What would become the first book of the Trilogy is “captivating and realistic,” as a writer for Midwest Book Review put it, because it's grounded in real events, not your typical “sci-fi” read of far off places and fantasy-like characters.

In the late 1990's, when my first novel, *ICEQUAKE*, had just been published and while working on a number of other projects, I quite accidentally stumbled across a newspaper article about the Biosphere 2 experiment that was about to get underway in the desert of southern Arizona. I couldn't forget a comment by one of the research team who was about to be sealed inside the complex. She said that because the project had been so thoroughly and carefully planned out to the last



detail, when they went inside there would be no surprises.

And I thought, what if there were?

That was the seed of *Solarium-3*. I wrote the work but it sat on the shelf for several years. I wasn't completely satisfied with my work. What writer ever is? Finally, I pulled it off the shelf—or, to be more precise, out of my computer—and began to work on it again. I sent an early, very-unpolished draft to a professional friend to be proofread. She asked how soon I needed it. I said two to three weeks would be fine, as I was very busy.

She blazed through it in just over a day and a half, staying up the second night into the wee hours to finish.

I'll never forget this either. She called me late the next morning, after dragging herself out of bed, to say she was done. The first she thing asked was, "What happens next?" I said, "Nothing, it's a book. That's how it ends." But she was insistent. "No, you can't leave us there! Everyone will want to know what happens to them!"

I gave this a lot of thought but could not see my way forward. How in the world *could* the story go on? Those who have read it will know what I mean.

I gave up. *Solarium-3* went back on the shelf. Then one day, driving home from a long trip, my mind drifted back to the Solarium. And without even trying, a continuing storyline flooded my mind. I literally pulled to the side of the road, found several scraps of paper, and began scribbling notes for the opening lines of book two, where it would go, and what would happen in book three. I drove a few miles, stopped again, scribbled more notes.

In just over four weeks, I wrote the first drafts of books two and three. Then the trouble began. There were conflicts, bits of detail that didn't fit between them and what I had in *Solarium-3*. Taking a deep breath—and many, many hours—I went back with the two new drafts in hand and began carefully rewriting the first book. By the fall of 2012, *Solarium-3* was done. It was released in late March, 2013.

The immediate problem was, every reader who could figure out how to contact me had one single question: *When is book two coming?!*



After several months of reworking and polishing *Haeven*, it was released in March of this year. Then a similar question erupted from readers: *How soon can I get my hands on book three?!*

The final book of the trilogy, *ReGeneration*, is in the works and should be on shelves early in 2015.

Hold your breath.

—John R. Spencer

## Book Reviews:

### Personal, A Jack Reacher Novel, by Lee Child (2014)



Jack Reacher returns in the latest fast-moving, action-packed, suspenseful book from #1 "New York Times "bestselling author Lee Child.

"You can leave the army, but the army doesn't leave you. Not always. Not completely," notes Jack Reacher--and sure enough, the retired military cop is soon pulled back into service. This time, for the State Department and the CIA.

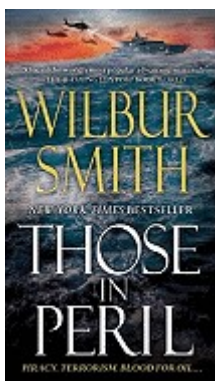
Someone has taken a shot at the president of France in the City of Light. The bullet was American. The distance between the gunman and the target was exceptional. How many snipers can shoot from three-quarters of a mile with total confidence? Very few, but John Kott--an American marksman gone bad--is one of them. And after fifteen years in prison, he's out, unaccounted for, and likely drawing a bead on a G-8 summit packed with enough world leaders to tempt any assassin.

If anyone can stop Kott, it's the man who beat him before: Reacher. And

though he'd rather work alone, Reacher is teamed with Casey Nice, a rookie analyst who keeps her cool with Zoloff. But they're facing a rough road, full of ruthless mobsters, Serbian thugs, close calls, double-crosses--and no backup if they're caught. All the while Reacher can't stop thinking about the woman he once failed to save. But he won't let that that happen again. Not this time. Not Nice. Reacher never gets too close. But now a killer is making it personal.

I always read Lee Child as soon as a new book comes out. They are always very good, as you all know – Right? You all read Jack Reacher novels, don't you?? I can't say I've ever been disappointed by Lee Child, though some are better than others and I'd put “Personal” into that “Better than” category and give it an A. I really like the way Child writes and the stories he tells and found this title to be top tier in both aspects. Of course it's only out is hard cover and audio book, but we can order it for you in hard cover for only \$22.40 or audio book for \$25.60, both being 20% less than the cover price. Or, you can add it to your request list at The Book Rack and when it comes in we'll give you a call. (That could take a while!) If you like to read any book with suspense in it you'll probably like Lee Child!

### Those in Peril by Wilbur Smith (2011)



In this nail-biting tale of adventure, bestselling author Wilbur Smith brings his matchless storytelling to bear on the violent, ruthless world of twenty-first-century piracy.

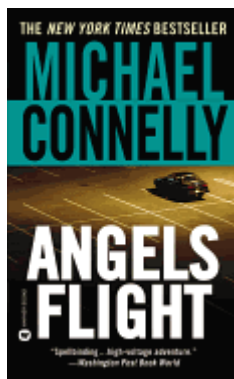
While cruising on the family yacht in the Indian Ocean, nineteen-year-old

**Cayla Bannock is attacked and taken hostage by Somalian pirates. Her kidnappers demand a staggering ransom: twenty billion dollars. And Cayla's not just anyone--she's the daughter of Hazel Bannock, heiress to the Bannock Oil Corporation, one of the world's foremost oil producers.**

**The sensitive global political climate means not even the most powerful groups in the world can intervene. Left to handle the problem on her own, Hazel calls on Hector Cross, head of the security agency that protects Bannock Oil. As threats increase and evidence arises of horrific torture, the need to take action becomes more urgent than ever--and soon Hazel and Hector will have no choice but to take the law into their own hands...**

**Those in Peril starts fast , then accelerates! There is a brief lull toward the middle, but you just know it won't last. This is a very entertaining tale and one I give a solid B+. If you like WEB Griffin, Jeffrey Archer or David Baldacci, you'll love Wilbur Smith!**

**Angels Flight by Michael Connelly (1995)**

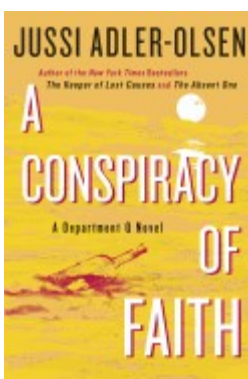


**At the foot of Angels Flight, an inclined railway in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, a lawyer is found murdered on the eve of a landmark trial. Howard Elias's lawsuits charging the LAPD with racism and brutality made him a celebrity - even as his success earned him the hatred of nearly every police officer in the city. When Harry Bosch is put in charge of the team investigating Elias's murder he knows that his colleagues are likely to be his chief suspects. He also knows that the city's smoldering racial tensions could ignite if he missteps. As he works night**

and day in the glare of a major media event, Bosch struggles with a more personally urgent mystery: trying to find out whether his wife's disappearance means she has left him for good or fallen deeper into a dangerous addiction. On streets filled with angry mobs, amid burning buildings and under fire from rooftop snipers, Bosch must find the one answer that will make sense of the case's strangely unconnected pieces - exposing himself to grave danger in the hope of saving his job, his marriage, and his city.

I've long liked Connelly, but haven't read him for probably 4-years. There have been way too many other authors I wanted to try. Angels Flight reminded me why I like him. The Denver Post said, in part, "A wonderful novel...fast-paced, intricate, and elegant tension...Bosch in a magnetic character" I couldn't have said it better. OK, I couldn't have said it nearly as well! I give it a B+ and encourage you to pick up a Connelly book. Of course, many of you have already done so so I'm preaching to the choir.

**A Conspiracy of Faith, A Department Q Novel** by Jussi Adler-Olsen (2013)



Detective Carl Morck holds in his hands a bottle that contains old and decayed message, written in blood. It is a cry for help from two young brothers, tied and bound in a boathouse by the sea. Could it be real? Who are these boys, and why weren't they reported missing? Could they possibly still be alive?

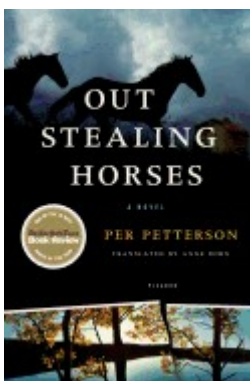
Carl's investigation will force him to cross paths with a woman stuck in a desperate marriage- her husband refuses to tell her where he goes, what

he does, how long he will be away. For days on end she waits, and when he returns she must endure his wants, his moods, his threats. But enough is enough. She will find out the truth, no matter the cost to her husband--or to herself.

Carl and his colleagues Assad and Rose must use all of their resources to uncover the horrifying truth in this heart-pounding Nordic thriller.

I like foreign thrillers. I was bitten by the Stieg Larsson bug and then kept looking for the next Stieg.... I haven't really found that author, but have found a rich source of great writers, none-the-less. Adler-Olsen is one of those authors. I read and recommended his debut book, "The Keeper of Lost Causes" and steadfastly stick to my recommendation based on "A Conspiracy..." Its a very, very well conceived and delivered novel. I give it an A- and a strong recommendation!

## Out Stealing Horses by Per Petterson (2008)



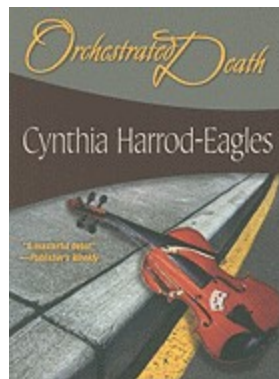
In 1948, when he is 15, Trond spends a summer in the country with his father. The events - the accidental death of a child, his best friend's feelings of guilt and eventual disappearance, and his father's decision to leave the family for another woman - will change his life forever.

Panoramic and gripping, it tells the story of Trond Sander, a sixty-seven-year-old man who has moved from the city to a remote, riverside cabin, only to have all the turbulence, grief, and overwhelming beauty of his youth come back to him one night while he's out on a walk. From the moment Trond sees a strange figure coming out of the dark behind his home, the reader is immersed in a decades-deep story of searching and

loss.

This book is not a “thriller”. It's a good read and for me was a wonderful change of pace. I recommend it and give it a B. This is not Petterson's only book, but to read his others you'll have to read Norwegian! It may be a hard book to find in used condition, but it's worth the investment to buy it new.

## Orchestrated Death by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles (1991)

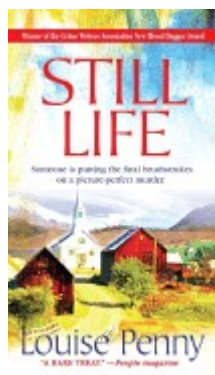


Ignored once again for promotion. Slider knows he is never going to make it from London's metropolitan police to the more glamorous ranks of Scotland Yard. His routine at home also sounds like a nagging refrain. Almost dreading his off-duty hours with wife Irene in the ranch-style house he abhors, he fears he may be losing not only his patience but his sense of humor. Slider welcomes any excuse to flee domesticity, including an emergency call that brings him to a run-down housing project where a young woman's naked body has been found in a barren flat. The woman clearly didn't belong in her present surroundings, but there's no sign of a struggle and no apparent cause of death. Her gleaming hair and smooth, tan complexion reveal nothing but the traces of an affluent, young life. Neither the ruddy callus on her neck, nor her painfully short fingernails, nor the strange cuts etched into the palm of her left foot tell who she was or how she died so far removed from what must have been familiar comforts. Slider must first discover the victim's identity and then probe her past in a case in which the only clues seem to be a priceless Stradivarius violin and a large tin of olive oil. He must



also question the woman who knew the victim best, a woman to whom he feels an immediate and intense attraction. Slider is torn between old-fashioned mores and today's fast-changing social customs as he struggles to reconcile his professional standards and his personal needs. This was the first Inspector Bill Slider novel. There are now 17 and climbing. It's a good read. Slider is a very likable protagonist and the story is quite well conceived and developed. I thoroughly enjoyed the book, give it a B and recommend it and Harrod-Eagles.

### **Still Life by Louise Penny (2005)**

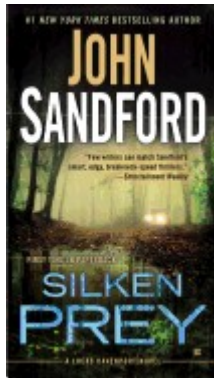


Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and his team of investigators are called to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal and yet a world away. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, has been found dead in the woods on Thanksgiving morning. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache smells something foul this holiday season. This is the Penny's debut novel and introduces the wise and engaging Inspector Gamache, who commands his forces with integrity, strength, and charm.

I continue to read and love this series. Gamache is terrific. It's fascinating how Penny can turn a small, out of the way Canadian village into a murder capital, yet maintain it's charm. I give it a B+ and continue to recommend Penny's Gamache series.



## **Silken Prey by John Sanford (2013)**



**Lucas Davenport is called by the Democratic Minnesota governor to investigate child pornography found on a conservative Republican senator's computer. While political opponents, the governor is impressed by the senator's claims of innocence, and wants to be certain of the facts. Davenport's confidential investigation ends when the porn is linked to a political jack-of-all-trades who's disappeared and hasn't used his credit cards for days. Now, with a potential homicide on his hands, Davenport's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension takes the case public, allowing him to more openly question potential witnesses. Finding the Minnesota Police Department files is the source of the child porn and that the campaign of an heiress who wants the accused' senator's seat is involved, he's in a race to get answers before the election, less than a week away. Davenport must tread lightly, and turns to another person to help in securing the evidence he needs to bring the case to a close. Sanford is great at layering his stories, bringing various pieces together for a satisfactory read. I appreciate his inclusion of characters from his other books, including nods to Virgil Flowers' cases. This is another easy read for a murder mystery.**

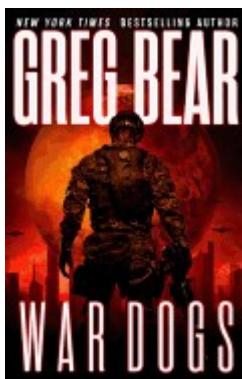
***Reviewed by Claudia***

**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:

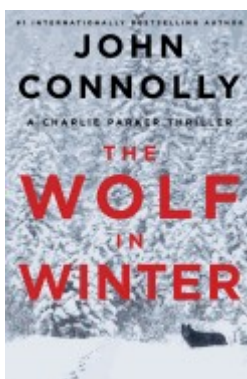
Greg Bear – War Dogs – 25.00/20.00



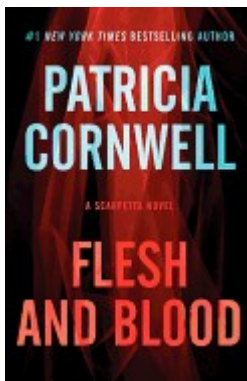
Jack Campbell – The Lost Stars: Imperfect Sword – 26.95/21.60

PC Cast - Redeemed, A House of Night Novel – 19.99/16.00

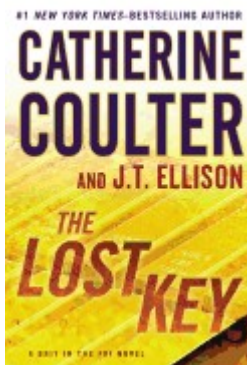
John Connolly – The Wolf in Winter – 26.00/20.80



Patricia Cornwell - Flesh and Blood – 28.99/23.20



Catherine Coulter – The Lost Key – 26.95/21.70



Clive Cussler – Havana Storm, A Dirk Pitt Novel – 28.95/23.20



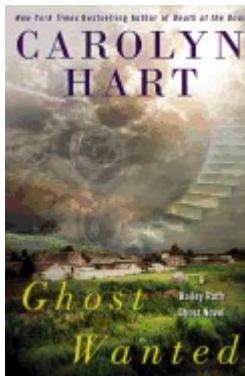
Mary Daheim – Clam Wake – 25.99/20.80

Michael Faber - The Book of Strange New Things - 28.00/22.40



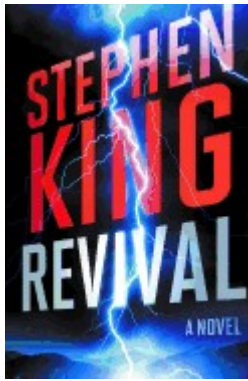
William Gibson – The Peripheral – 27.95/22.40

Carolyn Hart - Ghost Wanted - 25.95/20.80

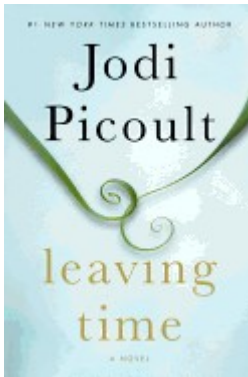


JA Jance – Remains of Innocence – 26.99/21.60

Stephen King – Revival – 30.00/24.00 (November 14)



Jodie Picoult – Leaving Time – 28.00/22.40

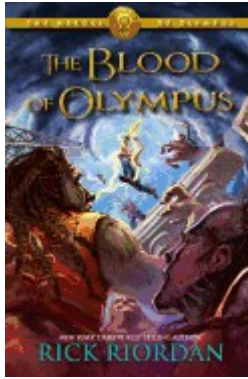


Terry Pratchett – Raising Steam – 14.95/12.00

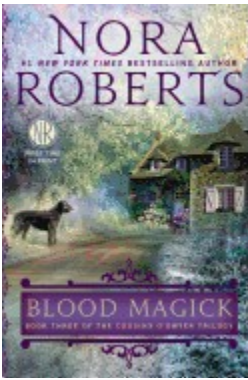
Anne Rice – Prince Lestat – 28.95/23.20



Rick Riordan – The Heroes of Olympus Book Five: The Blood of Olympus – 19.99/16.00

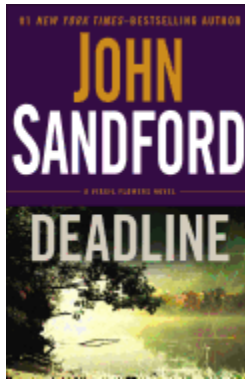


Nora Roberts – Blood Magick, book three of the Cousins O'Dwyer Trilogy –  
17.00/13.60

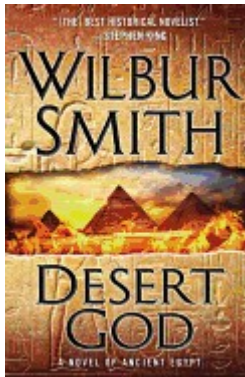


James Rollins – The 6<sup>th</sup> Extinction – 27.99/22.40

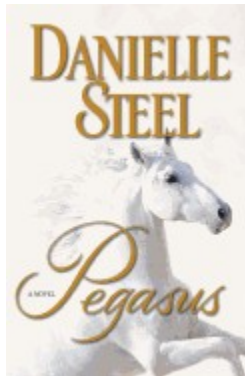
John Sanford – Deadline, a Virgil Flowers Novel – 27.95/22.40



Wilbur Smith - Desert God – 28.99/23.20



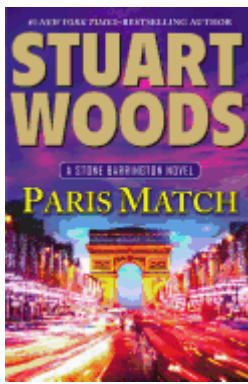
Danielle Steel – Pegasus – 28.00/22.40



Charles Todd – An Unwilling Accomplice – 25.99/20.80

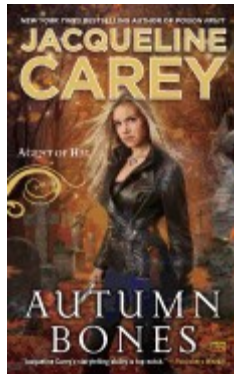
Stuart Woods – Paris Match – 26.95/21.60



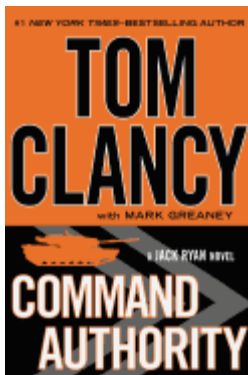


## Paperback:

Jacqueline Cary – Autumn Bones: Agent of Hel



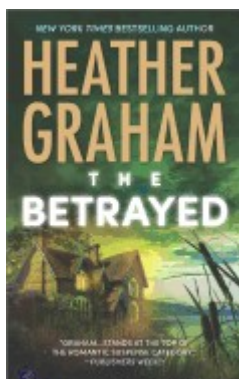
Tom Clancy – Command Authority – 9.99/8.00



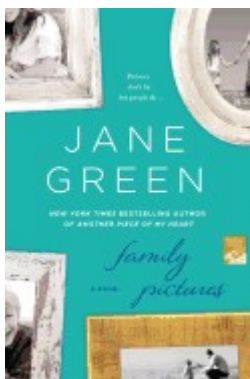
Ralph Cotton – Golden Riders – 6.99/5.60

Robert Crais – Suspect – 9.99/8.00

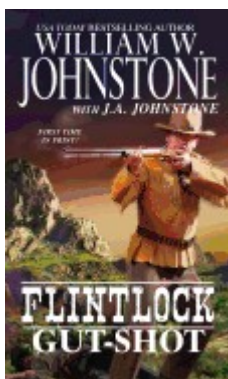
Heather Graham – The Betrayed – 7.99/6.40



Jane Green – Family Pictures – 7.99/6.40

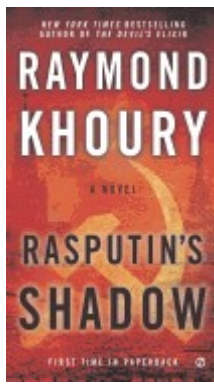


Iris Johansen – Live to See Tomorrow – 7.99/6.40



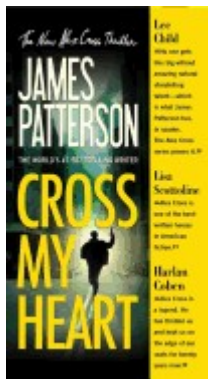
William Johnstone – Flintlock: Gut-shot – 7.50/6.00

Raymond Khoury - Rasputin's Shadow – 9.99/8.00

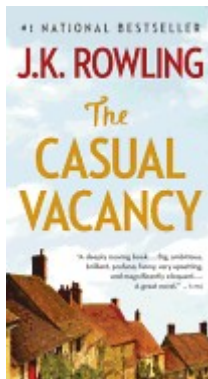


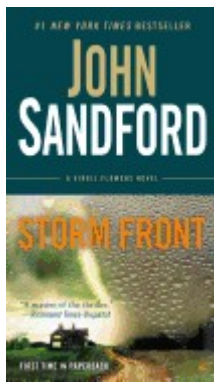
Eric Van Lustbader – Beloved Enemy – 9.99/8.00

James Patterson – Cross My Heart – 10.00/8.00



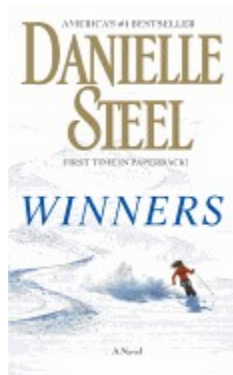
JK Rowling – The Casual Vacancy – 10.00/8.00





John Sanford – Storm Front: A Virgil Flowers Novel – 9.99/8.00

Danielle Steel – Winners – 7.99/6.40



Stuart Woods – Standup Guy – 9.99/8.00

