

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 10, #10
October 2017
563-355-2310

*Store Hours: 10:00 - 6:00 Daily (except New Years Day, Easter, July 4,
Thanksgiving and Christmas)*

<http://www.thebookrackqc.com/>
BookRackQC@Gmail.com

Trivia for October

By what pseudonym is novelist David John Moore Cornwell best known?

See below for the answer.

October Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

October:

Week 1 - Customer Service Week

5 – World Teachers' Day

9 – Columbus Day

11 – It's My Party Day

19 – Evaluate Your Life Day

22 - Mother-in-Law Day

27 – Frankenstein Day

27 – Navy Day

28 – Make a Difference Day

28 – Local Author Donna Beserra Book Signing 11-1:00

31 – Halloween

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.

Our Free Verse Author for October is **Robin Throne**



Your brain on Jane Austen: Writing in the betwixt and between

Robin Throne

I make my living as a researcher and educator; yet, I like to sometimes call myself a writer—though probably not often enough. I never know when a poem, a character, or conflict will emerge as I go about my days, especially the ones that take hold and call to me louder and louder to distract me from the routine attention of the research proposal for new work or a conference presentation that must be drafted, or over the coming month, it will be the archival data that must be gathered, because in those 191 boxes that run along 167 linear feet where a character exists (I am sure of it) that has haunted me since I first saw Hauberg’s images of her now some 10 years past.

It is usually within those moments where my brain experiences the luxury of betwixt-between time, sometimes with a graduate student who cannot meet sample size, but more often in a garden or in the sand listening to soft rolling beach waves and sometimes in spaces that reek of others’ memories like cathedrals or museums, and yes, linear feet of archival documents. It somehow leads me into that zone that some neuroscience researchers have called “creative flow” or a suspended state of personal time where our brains are more conducive creatively, and some claims have even stated this can continue into subsequent days following the flow event. That is if we let it, of course, and the most enduring and dependable way I have found to bring forth this time for me is in reading literary fiction, something we all should likely do more. Stanford researchers released a momentous study on this five years ago: Google ‘your brain on Jane Austen’ and you will find it. Like many of us who love bookstores, we always knew reading fiction is good for the brain and creativity.

Let’s make some space for more of it.

Robin Throne, PhD, will be spending the month of October in the J.H. Hauberg Papers maintained by Special Collections at the Thomas Tredway Library, Augustana College, in Rock Island, for a study entitled, “Hermeneutic Archival Research & Artistic License: Exhuming Dispossessed Sauk Voices through Creative Non-Fiction,” with generous support by Northcentral University, San Diego, California.

She will also facilitate the writing workshop, [“Literary Character Development: Genealogy, Memory &](#)

[Artistic License](#)” at the Midwest Writing Center October 28. The workshop is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Regional Development Authority and the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

When: Saturday, October 28, 2-4pm

Where: Midwest Writing Center (RIPL, 401 19th St. Rock Island, IL 61201)

Cost: \$10 for MWC members // \$15 for non-members // **FREE for high school/college students!**

Fiction authors such as Tolkien, Salinger, and J.K. Rowling created elaborate fictional family trees as they wrote their stories, but authentic genealogies can also be a creative tool for writing historical fiction, creative nonfiction, or family history. In this session, genealogy, specifically Ancestry.com, is explored as an avenue for historical and literary fictional character development and research. This workshop is for *genealogists* as well as *writers* of fiction, creative nonfiction, or life story.

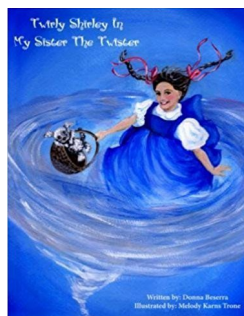
To register, you can use the PayPal link below; or, call Ryan Collins at 309-732-7330 to pay over the phone; or send a check with a note to Midwest Writing Center, c/o RIPL, 401 19th St., Rock Island, IL, 61201.

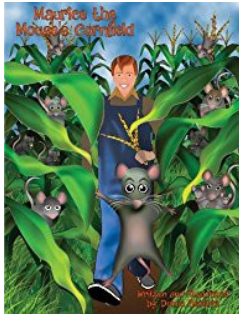
Robin Throne holds a doctorate in educational research and a master’s degree in creative writing, was a 2016 writer-in-residence at Wolff Cottage, and is a fall 2017 visiting researcher at the John Henry Hauberg papers, Augustana College Thomas Treadway Library Special Collections. She is the recipient of the fourth David R. Collins literary achievement award, the third fiction chapbook prize from Gambling the Aisle, and a literary fiction award from the Writer’s Well for her debut novel, *Her Kind*, a novel. Her work has appeared recently in *Trampset*, *The Voices Project*, *Tipton Poetry Journal*, and *SAGE Open* among others.

Featured Author: Donna Beserra



Donna Beserra will be at The Book Rack on October 28, 11-1:00 to meet fans, make new friends and sign copies of her books.





Donna was inspired to write books because of a hobby she shared with her children. When they were very young, the children loved to act out their favorite fairy tales. In order to encourage their creativity, Donna began making costumes and allowing her kids to perform the stories on home video. Donna decided to invent her own fairy tale and Twirly Shirley was born. Her first story was titled, Twirly Shirley In My Sister The Twister.

Donna later decided to publish her story as a book so she could share it with others. This evolved into a series. She went on to publish "Twirly Shirley In Hurricane Shirley", "Twirly Shirley And the Brother Like No Other" and "Twirly Shirley And The Tsunami Mommy". She began visiting schools and children's organizations to discuss the importance of reading and writing.

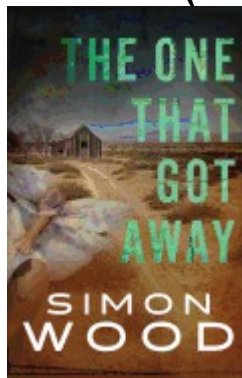
She went on to add Creative Creatures to her collection of published work. These books were designed to inspire children to discover their talents. Each book features a different child and animal, therefore emphasizing that each person is unique, with his or her own special set of talents.

Donna has taught a variety of classes at Black Hawk College and Midwest Writing Center. Children's classes include; "Jump Write In" (How to write and illustrate a book), "Movie Making Fun", and "Discover Your Talent". She has taught Self-Publishing for adults as well.

Besides teaching, Donna has organized and directed performances throughout the community based on her books. She has worked with children at Midwest Writing Center and Mississippi Valley Boys and Girls Club. Donna also produces her own "Discover Your Talent" television show, and works as a "College for Kids" instructor at Black Hawk College

Book Reviews

The One That Got Away by Simon Wood (2014)



Graduate students Zoe and Holli only mean to blow off some steam on their road trip to Las Vegas. But something goes terribly wrong on their way home, and the last time Zoe sees her, Holli is in the clutches of a sadistic killer. Zoe

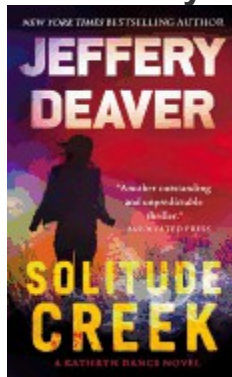
flees with her life, changed forever.

A year later and still tortured with guilt, Zoe latches on to a police investigation where the crime eerily resembles her abduction. Along with a zealous detective, she retraces the steps of that fateful night in the desert, hoping that her memory will return and help them find justice for Holli. Her abductor--labeled the "Tally Man" by a fascinated media--lies in wait for Zoe. For him, she is not a survivor but simply the one that got away.

With an unforgettable heroine, a chillingly disturbed psychopath, and a story that moves at breakneck speed, *The One That Got Away* is thriller writer Simon Wood at his finest.

A thriller that really kept my attention I give it a B. If you like Geraldine McCaughrean, Tina Wainscott or Gayle Wilson you'll likely enjoy Simon Wood.

Solitude Creek, A Kathryn Dance Novel by Jeffrey Deaver (2015)



Kathryn Dance, an agent with the California Bureau of Investigation, finds herself suspended from duty when an interrogation goes bad in a horrific way. She's busted down to the Civil Division of CBI and given the boring assignment of checking permits after a stampede in a local roadhouse results in several deaths and a number of injuries. Dance soon learns, however, that the panic was intentional—a classic case of someone yelling fire in a crowded venue—and unofficially begins to investigate.

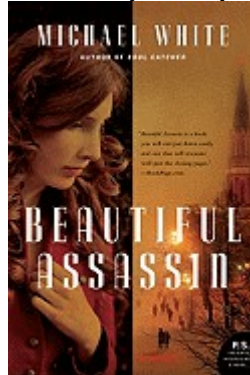
Thus begins a deadly chess match between Dance, working with Michael O'Neil, and the eerie perpetrator, Antioch March, who is planning more such panics in the Central California area. He's obsessed with the idea of people turning into pure animals to escape from threats he creates. No one attending a play, sitting in a movie theater, dining in a restaurant or stepping into an elevator is safe. . . .

Dance's personal life—her connection to both O'Neil and boyfriend Jon Boling—adds to the pressure, as do issues with her children, Wes and Maggie. And the consequences of her botched interrogation, resulting in her suspension, return to haunt her and may permanently end her career . . . if not more.

In any Deaver novel, things never go the way you think they will and Solitude Creek is no exception. You've probably read Deaver, if you read thrillers or

police procedurals, just make sure you don't skip this one. It's vintage Deaver, and that's a VERY good thing! I give it an A. If you like Alex Kava, John Sandford or Jonathan Kellerman you probably already read Deaver, but if not – WHY NOT??

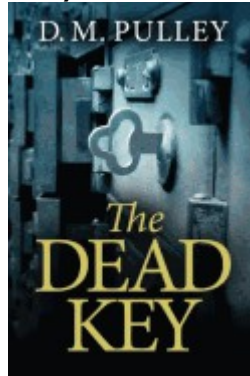
Beautiful Assassin by Michael White (2010)



Elizabeth Moynihan, a young journalist, has hit the jackpot. It's 1992 and a chance remark has sent her to a small farm in the middle of nowhere in Colorado. There resides Russia's most notorious sniper-turned-spy, the one-time beautiful assassin, Tat'yana Levchenko, and she's ready to tell her story. During the Second World War, Tat'yana was Russia's secret weapon. After the Germans killed her daughter, aged four, she enlisted as a sniper for the Russian army. Having finally achieved her goal of killing three hundred Germans, she was badly injured in a siege and shipped back to Moscow. She was presented to Stalin, paraded among the ranks of high society and before the world's press. Her duty to her country not yet over, she was sent to America, to befriend Eleanor Roosevelt, touring the nation with her, securing support for the war. And all the while, she was to send vital information about American armament and troop plans back to her homeland. Before long, Tat'yana was ready to defect, putting her own life - and that of the man she loves - in more grave danger than ever before. As quickly as she rises to fame, Tat'yana vanishes. Did she defect? Was she silenced – and if so, by whom? Decades later, a clever journalist will discover Tat'yana's story...and reveal the truth. A heartrending story of war, betrayal, and a mother's love that can never be extinguished. Lyrical, evocative, and powerfully moving, this is a tale you will not soon forget. (publisher's marketing)

I agree with the above description of the caliber of the book. It was very well written and gave sufficient insight to the main players' character and background to bring them to life and compel me to not be distracted from finishing. I give it a B+.

The Dead Key by DM Pulley (2015)



It's 1998, and for years the old First Bank of Cleveland has sat abandoned, perfectly preserved, its secrets only speculated on by the outside world. Twenty years before, amid strange staff disappearances and allegations of fraud, panicked investors sold Cleveland's largest bank in the middle of the night, locking out customers and employees, and thwarting a looming federal investigation. In the confusion that followed, the keys to the vault's safe-deposit boxes were lost.

In the years since, Cleveland's wealthy businessmen kept the truth buried in the abandoned high-rise. The ransacked offices and forgotten safe-deposit boxes remain locked in time, until young engineer Iris Latch stumbles upon them during a renovation survey. What begins as a welcome break from her cubicle becomes an obsession as Iris unravels the bank's sordid past. With each haunting revelation, Iris follows the looming shadow of the past deeper into the vault--and soon realizes that the key to the mystery comes at an astonishing price.

The Dead Key is an engaging mystery about an abandoned bank building with a dangerous secret. It is as much a story of greed as it is about deception and betrayal. While D.M. Pulley as a first-time author is not without her shortcomings as the story seems to lack pace and depth at times, she has managed to pull off a coup of sort by bringing the story to a satisfying end. (adapted from Goodreads) I give it a B. I actually found the ending just a bit lacking. It left more threads hanging than I prefer.

The Man Who Wasn't There by John Wainwright (1989)



A clandestinely engineered promotion brings Inspector Lyle from his beat in the sleepy resort town of Rogate-on-Sands to the bustling city of Lessford, in order to take charge of a secret investigation of unsolved murders linked to Lessford's crime boss, Foster Adams. Lyle has to use brute force as well as cunning to infiltrate Adam's empire: Fellow officers are on the take and cannot be trusted, and Lyle's predecessor was killed for coming too close. With unorthodox tactics and a good deal of bluff, Lyle manages to get the better of Adams – only to discover how deeply the conspiracy really runs and that he must maneuver skillfully to avoid becoming its next victim. Taut and convincing, it is a masterfully plotted police procedural novel that explodes with action right up to the truly surprising ending. (from book jacket)

Wainwright really does a masterful job in a short novel (190 pages). He wastes no words, but fully develops the characters and plot. I thoroughly enjoyed the book, give it an A and recommend you pick up a Wainwright book at your next opportunity. They may be few and far between, but like mushrooms in May, well worth the patient search. I should mention that the language is distinctly British, but I had no problem “translating” it as I read.

Trivia for October

By what pseudonym is novelist David John Moore Cornwell best known?

Answer: John Le Carre', which translated from the French means John the Square.

John Le Carre' is a British author of espionage novels. During the 1950s and the 1960s, he worked for both the Security Service and the Secret Intelligence Service, and began writing novels under his pen name. His third novel, *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* (1963), became an international best-seller and remains one of his best-known works. Following the success of this novel, he left MI6 to become a full-time author.

Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

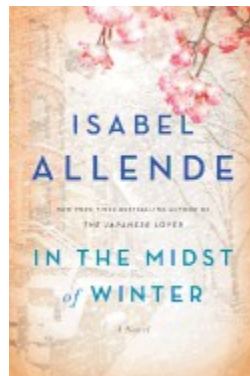
Check out the prices following the title of the book. Those prices are the

publisher's prices. The **The Book Rack** price is normally 20% lower. When you pick it up at the store there is no shipping cost, though we can also ship it to you. Order now by calling the store or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment on all special orders.

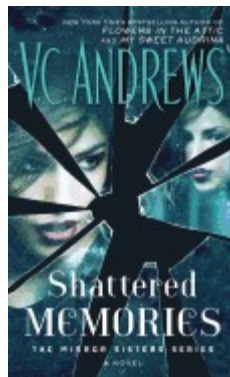
You can also add any of these titles to your request list. Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but most will get to you eventually.

Hardcover and Trade Paperback

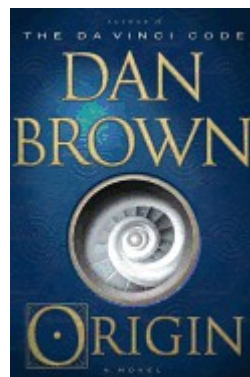
Isabel Allende – In the Midst of Winter – 28.00



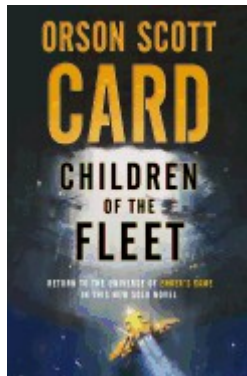
V.C. Andrews – Shattered Memories – 26.99



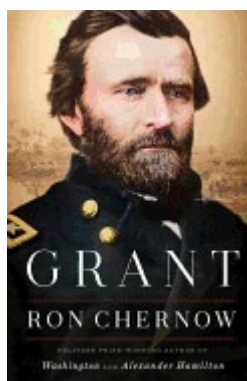
Dan Brown – Origin – 29.95



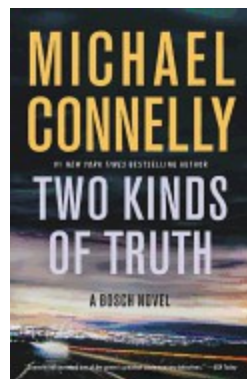
Orson Scott Card – Children of the Fleet – 25.99



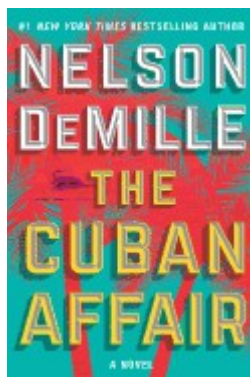
Ron Chernow – Grant - \$40.00



Michael Connelly – Two Kinds of Truth – 29.00



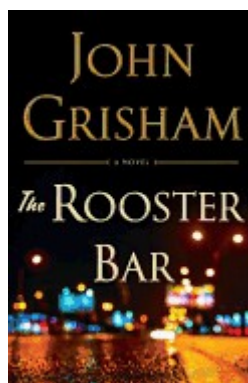
Nelson DeMille – The Cuban Affair – 28.99 Pub Date: September 19, 2017



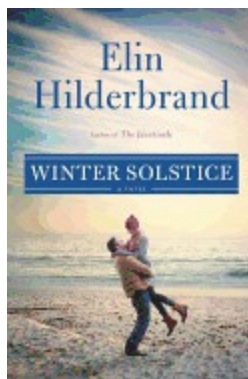
Christine Feehan – Dark Legacy – 27.00



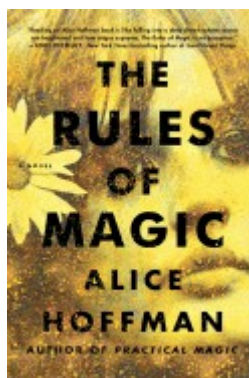
John Grisham – The Rooster Bar – 28.95



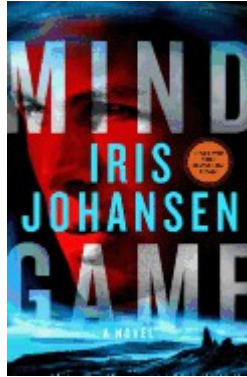
Elin Hilderbrand – Winter Solstice – 28.00



Alice Hoffman – The Rules of Magic – 27.99



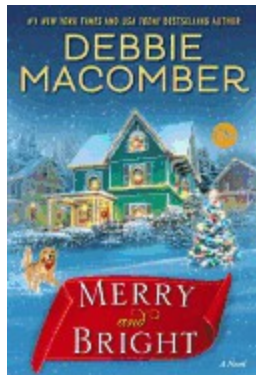
Iris Johansen – Mind Game – 27.99



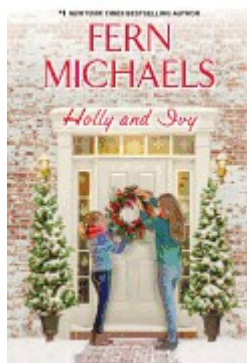
H.P. Lovecraft – The H.P. Lovecraft Collection, Slip-cased Edition – 59.99



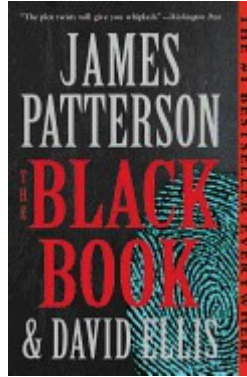
Debbie Macomber – Merry and Bright – 20.00



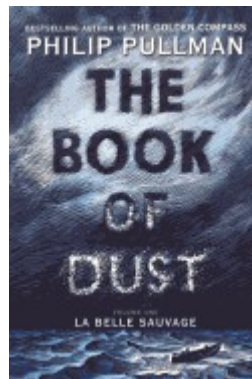
Fern Michaels – Holly and Ivy – 22.95



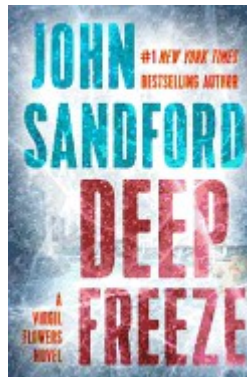
James Patterson – Black Book – 15.99



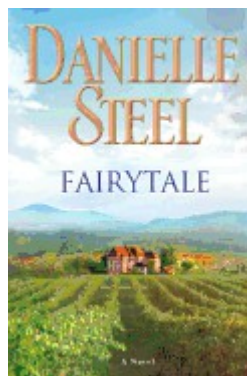
Philip Pullman – The Book of Dust, Vol. 1: La Belle Sauvage – 22.99



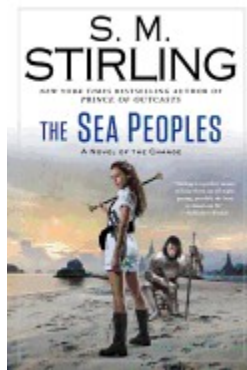
John Sandford – Deep Freeze – 29.00



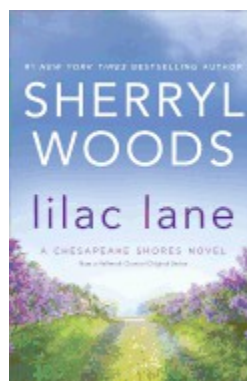
Danielle Steel – Fairytale – 28.99



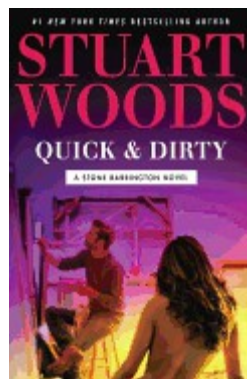
S.M. Stirling – The Sea Peoples – 28.00



Sherryl Woods – Lilac Lane – 26.99

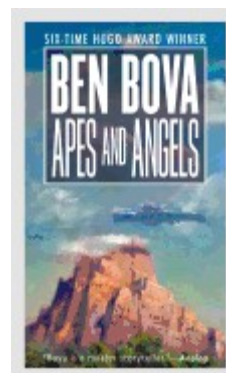


Stuart Woods – Quick & Dirty – 28.00

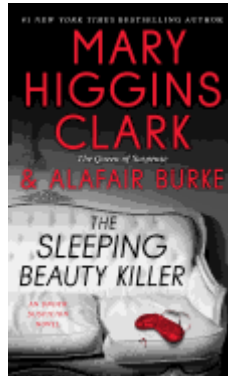


Paperback

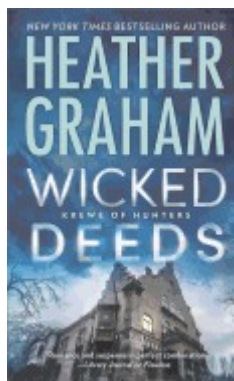
Ben Bova – Apes and Angels – 8.99



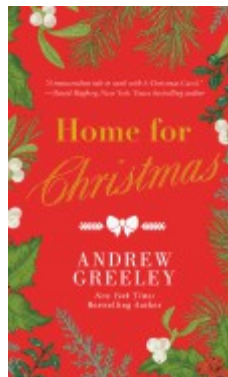
Mary Higgins Clark – The Sleeping Beauty Killer – 8.99



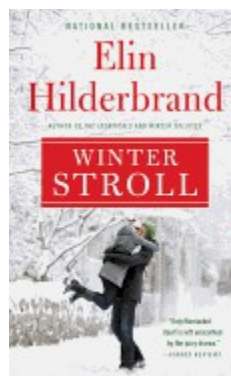
Heather Graham – Wicked Deeds – 8.99



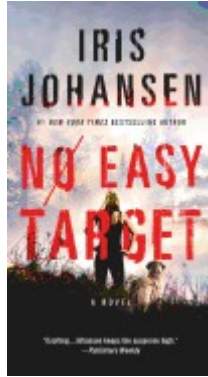
Andrew Greeley – Home for Christmas – 7.99



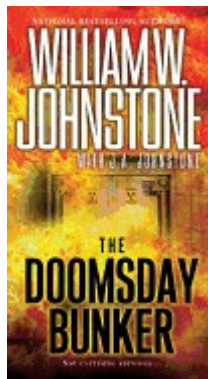
Erin Hilderbrand – Winter Stroll – 7.99



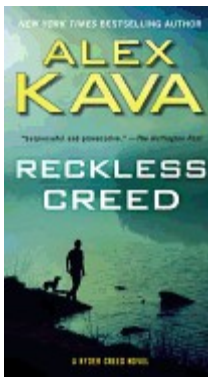
Iris Johansen – No Easy Target – 9.99



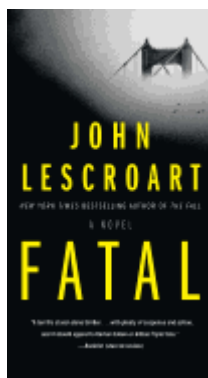
William W. Johnstone – The Doomsday Bunker – 9.99



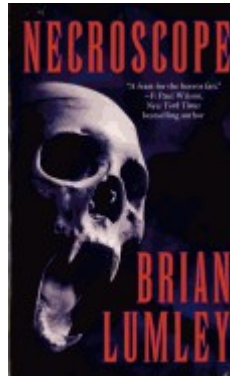
Alex Kava – Reckless Creed – 9.99



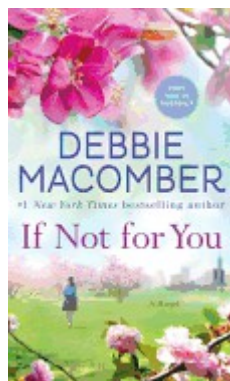
John Lescroart – Fatal – 9.99



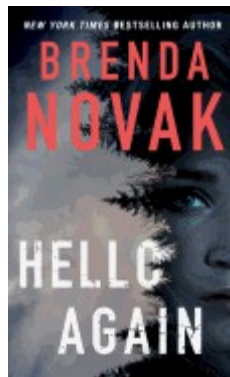
Brian Lumley – Necroscope – 9.99



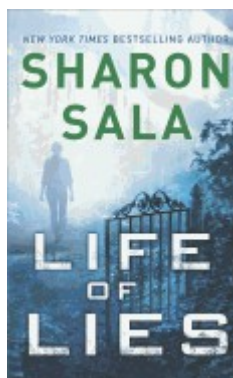
Debbie Macomber – If Not for You – 7.99



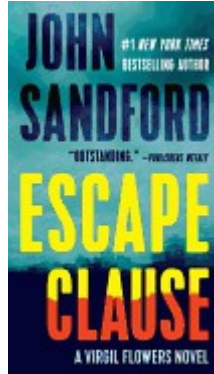
Brenda Novak – Hello Again – 7.99



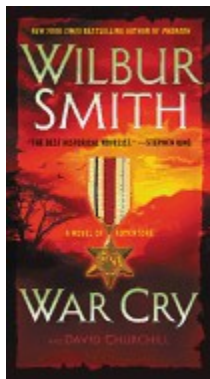
Sharon Sala – Life of Lies – 7.99



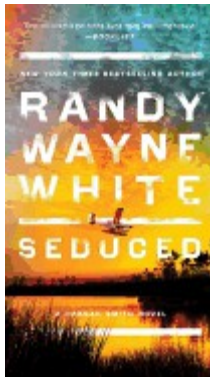
John Sandford – Escape Clause – 9.99



Wilbur Smith – War Cry – 9.99



Randy Wayne White – Seduced – 9.99



Don Winslow – The Cartel – 9.99

