

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 13, #8  
August 2020  
563-355-2310

*Normal Store Hours: 10:00 - 6:00 Daily (except New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, July 4, Thanksgiving and Christmas)*

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

[BookRackQC@Gmail.com](mailto:BookRackQC@Gmail.com)

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## Have you watched the NEW Features from Your Book Rack? The Book Rack Story Time

Be sure to watch **virtual story time** from us on Facebook, Instagram (@qcbookrack), and YouTube (The Book Rack QC)! At the end of June, we began two different video segments entitled "**Virtual Story Time for Children**" and "**Campfire Ghost Stories**."

Our "**Virtual Story Time for Children**" on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays features both short picture books and entire classics revisited one chapter at a time. We've begun with Lewis Carroll's beloved Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. The videos are not live and will be available on the aforementioned social media platforms for those who need to catch up.

"**Campfire Ghost Stories**" ensures that adults are not left behind in the post-COVID world of virtual story times. If you're missing those camping trips with s'mores, beer, and the exchanging of spooky tales late at night, this one's for you. We'll be reading classic ghost stories by candlelight-- some very familiar and some mostly unknown. Gather round to explore the Victorian storyworld of spirits, seances, and graveyards. This segment will be posted on Wednesdays and Fridays through August.

Please share with others you know who might be interested and send us your feedback or share it when you are in the store.

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## Trivia for August

**What is the Greek meaning of Utopia – the name of the perfect island society created by Sir Thomas More in his book of the same name?**

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

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## Our August 2020

### **\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!**

We try to give away five (5) \$25.00 Gift Certificates to The Book Rack account holders each month. (It's harder than you think!) There are 5 winners this month since there were only 3 in July, so we're catching up.

The names are selected from all our registered customers who have registered and/or had a trade or purchase since August 1, 2018.

All a winner must do is read the newsletter and find your name listed below, then come in and claim your reward. No purchase is required, and you don't have to register separately from your initial account registration.

**The August 2020 winner #1 is:**

**Melissa Peschang**

See the other 4 winning names elsewhere in the newsletter, below. Find your name and just call or stop at the store on or before **September 1, 2020** to claim your prize:

**A \$25 gift certificate from The Book Rack!**

# August 2020 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

## Month:

- Admit You're Happy Month
- Family Fun Month
- [Dog Days of Summer](#) - July 3 - August 11
- [International Clown Week](#) - always August 1-7
- National Catfish Month
- National Eye Exam Month

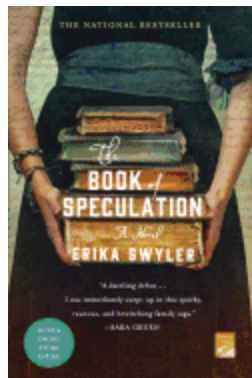
## Day:

- 1 – National Girlfriends Day
- 2 – National Friendship Day
- 4 – National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
- 5 - National Work like a Dog Day
- 9 – Book Lovers Day
- 10 – Lazy Day
- 11 – Son and Daughter Day
- 18 – Bad Poetry Day (not at The Book Rack!)
- 21 – Senior Citizen Day
- 26 – Women’s Equality Day

## Book Reviews

### Book Reviews by Claudia

*The Book of Speculation* is a Fantasy novel by Erika Swyler.



Propped behind the screen door of his old Long Island Sound family home, Simon Watson finds a strange old book with odd drawings and elaborate script that records generations of circus “mermaids” who have all drowned on the

same date - 24 July - the same date his mother drowned. This begins Simon's search to find the purpose and meaning of the book, and to discover whether the "mermaids" in his family – including his circus performer sister, Enola – may be cursed. Good read.

*The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt, won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It's a book



I've had on my "To Read" stack for quite some time. I've always read a lot, but now that I'm a coronareader, I decided to use my abundant time in isolation to read it. OMG goodness. After the art museum bombing that leaves Theo Decker motherless and in possession of a ring given him by an old man and a small Dutch masterpiece, his life is turned upside down. With his alcoholic father out of the picture, and a grandfather and wife no less welcome, a friend's family takes him in. Eventually, Theo follows instructions to take the ring to James Hobart, arguably one of the most endearing and welcome characters in the book, and in Theo's life. At times, the book is a slow read, depressing, and hard to read. Theo's choices deserved a smack on the side of his head so often I lost count. Still, Tartt's character development and building of the circumstances in Theo's life provided a little more context, if not understanding, into his actions. I was both anxious and happy when I reached the last couple chapters, not knowing what was coming, so I personally appreciated the last 23 pages. With that ambiguous and maybe titillating closure, I did like the book and think it's worth the read.

**The August 2020 winner #2 is:**

**Deborah Sloat**

## Book Reviews by Bob

### The Bone Garden by Tess Gerritsen (2007) Mystery



Present day: Julia Hamill has made a horrifying discovery on the grounds of her new home in rural Massachusetts: a skull buried in the rocky soil-human, female, and, according to the trained eye of Boston medical examiner Maura Isles, scarred with the unmistakable marks of murder. But whoever this nameless woman was, and whatever befell her, is knowledge lost to another time. . . .

Boston, 1830: In order to pay for his education, Norris Marshall, a talented but penniless student at Boston Medical College, has joined the ranks of local "resurrectionists"-those who plunder graveyards and harvest the dead for sale on the black market. Yet even this ghoulish commerce pales beside the shocking murder of a nurse found mutilated on the university hospital grounds. And when a distinguished doctor meets the same grisly fate, Norris finds that trafficking in the illicit cadaver trade has made him a prime suspect.

To prove his innocence, Norris must track down the only witness to have glimpsed the killer: Rose Connolly, a beautiful seamstress from the Boston slums who fears she may be the next victim. Joined by a sardonic, keenly intelligent young man named Oliver Wendell Holmes, Norris and Rose comb the city-from its grim cemeteries and autopsy suites to its glittering mansions and centers of Brahmin power-on the trail of a maniacal fiend who lurks where least expected . . . and who waits for his next lethal opportunity.

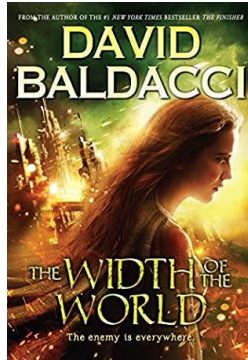
With unflagging suspense and pitch-perfect period detail, *The Bone Garden* deftly interweaves the thrilling narratives of its nineteenth- and twenty-first century protagonists, tracing the dark mystery at its heart across time and place to a finale as ingeniously conceived as it is shocking. Bold, bloody, and brilliant, this is Tess Gerritsen's finest achievement to date.

I concur with the above assessment. It's an A rated book in my world, with the past and present seamlessly tied together, favoring the past, and rightfully so.

This book will grab you and you'll have to fight it to be able to lay it down to get some sleep. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

If you like John Grisham, Karin Slaughter or Kathy Reichs and haven't discovered Gerritsen, it's time you do.

### **The Width of the World by David Baldacci (2017) Young Adult Fantasy**



This is it. Vega Jane's time. She's been lied to her whole life, so she breaks away from Wormwood, the only home she's ever known, in search of the truth. She battles horrors to fight her way across the Quag with her best friend, Delph, and her mysterious canine, Harry Two. Against all odds, they survive unimaginable dangers and make it through.

And into a new world that's even worse. Not because deadly beasts roam the cobblestones, but because the people are enslaved but don't even know it. It's up to Vega, Delph, Harry Two and their new comrade, Petra, to take up the fight against a foe that's unrivaled in savagery and cunning. Not only is Vega's life and the lives of her friends on the line, but whether she triumphs or fails will determine whether a whole world survives.

Baldacci's venture into Your Adult Fantasy works quite well, I must say. Vega Jane is someone you can get behind and cheer for as she battles the forces of evil to free the world. Now, you don't want to start reading the series with *The Width of the World*, as I did, since it's the third book in the Vega Jane series. It was still a very fun read and one I'd recommend you work toward. I give it a B+. It could actually be an A, but not reading books 1 & 2, I did miss out on quite a bit of the back story. See for yourself.

### **Outlaw World by Edward Hamilton (1965) Sci-Fi**



Captain Future... the Ace of Space! Born and raised on the moon, Curt Newton survived the murder of his scientist parents to become the protector of the galaxy known as Captain Future. With his Futuremen, Grag the giant robot, Otho, the shape-shifting android and Simon Wright, the Living Brain, he patrols the solar system in the fastest space ship ever constructed, the Comet, pursuing human monsters and alien threats to Earth and her neighbor planets. The exploits of Captain Future, Wizard of Science, originally appeared in the days before NASA's manned space program. On the trail of malevolent space pirates, Curt Newton and the Futuremen combat the evil machinations of the Uranian Ru Ghur, who plans the total destruction of the Universe!

Fantastical adventure spanning the solar system at seemingly light speed, with unbelievable escapes and alien worlds... this is a fast, fun, short read. Hamilton (1904-1977) was a Golden Age Sci-Fi writer who worked on Batman, the Legion of Super-Heroes, and many sci-fi books. I give it a B and a recommendation to find a Hamilton book and read it when you want a break with a book that doesn't carry a message other than enjoyment.

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If you need a book and can't find it on our site, please try:

<https://www.ChrisLandsSearch.com>

This will search hundreds of other independent bookstores around the world to help you. If all else fails...there's always AMAZON!

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**The August 2020 winner #3 is:**

**Cheryl Juergens**

**Recent and Upcoming New Releases:**

Check out the prices following the title of the book. Those prices are the publisher's prices. **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 many will get to you eventually.

## Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Stacy Abrams – Our Time is Now – 27.99 – Politics



Robyn Carr – Shelter Mountain, A Virgin River Novel – 28.99 - Romance

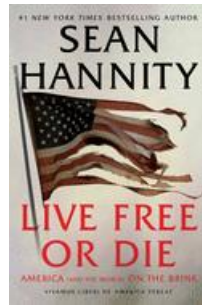
Ann Cleeves – The Long Call – 16.99 – General



Clive Cussler – The Saboteurs, An Isaac Bell Adventure – 29.00 - General

Sean Hannity – Live Free or Die, America (and the World) On The Brink – 30.00 - Politics





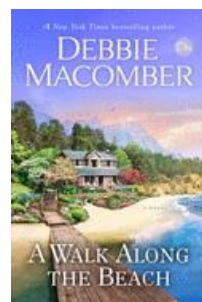
**Jonathan Kellerman – Half Moon Bay – 28.99 - Thriller**

**Camilla Lackberg – The Golden Cage – 26.95 – Thriller**



**Peter Lovesey – The Finisher, A Peter Diamond Mystery – 27.95**

**Debbie Macomber – A Walk Along the Beach – 27.00 – Romance**

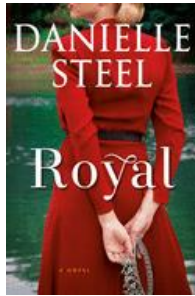


**T. Jefferson Parker – Then She Vanished – 27.00 – Thriller**



**James Patterson – The Midwife Murders – 29.00 – Thriller**

**Danielle Steel – Royal – 28.99 – General**



**J.R. Ward – The Jackal, Vol. 1 – Black Dagger Brotherhood, Prison Camp – 28.00 - Romance**

**Stuart Woods – Chippy Water, A Stone Barrington Novel – 28.00 – General Fiction**



## **Trivia for August**

**What is the Greek meaning of Utopia – the name of the perfect island society created by Sir Thomas More in his book of the same name?**

**Answer:**

***It means nowhere, from the Greek ou, meaning "not," and topos, meaning "a place."***

**The August 2020 winner #4 is:**

**Callahan Herrig**

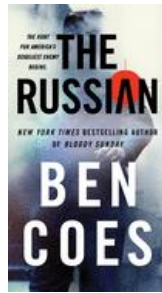
**Mass Market Paperback**

**Nevada Barr – What Rose Forgot – 9.99 – Thriller**



**Sandra Brown – Outfox – 9.99 – Thriller**

**Ben Coes – The Russian – 9.99 – Thriller**



**Robert Crais – A Dangerous Man, An Elvis Cole and Joe Pike Novel – 9.99 - Mystery**

**Clive Cussler – The Titanic Secret, An Isaac Bell Adventure – 9.99 - General**

**Robin Cook – Genesis – 9.99 – Thriller**



**Christine Feehan – Dark Illusion, A Carpathian Novel – 7.99 - Romance**

**Joseph Finder – House on Fire – 9.99 – Thriller**



**Heather Graham – Deadly Touch, Krewe of Hunters – 9.99 – Thriller**

**Sherrilyn Kenyon – AT Death's Door, A Deadman's Cross Novel – 8.99 – Fantasy**

**Susan Mallery – Chasing Perfect – 9.99 – Romance**



**Carla Neggers – Rival's Break, A Sharpe & Donovan Novel – 7.99 - Romance**

**Kevin O'Brien – The Bad Sister – 9.99 – Thriller**

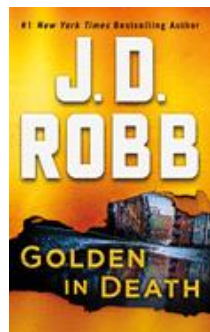


**James Patterson – The Cornwalls Vanish – 9.99 – Thriller**

**John Ringo – River of Night – 8.99 – Science Fiction**



**J.D. Robb – Golden in Death – 8.99 – Mystery**



**Sharon Sala – Blind Faith, A Jigsaw Files Novel – 7.99 – Thriller**

**Lisa Scottoline – Exposed, A Rosato & Dinunzio Novel – 8.99 – Thriller**



**Sherryl Woods – Feels Like Family, A Sweet Magnolias Novel –  
8.99 - Romance**

**The August 2020 winner #5 is:**

**Shelly Coussens**