

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 12, #12
December 2019
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 December

What Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist worked as a hod carrier, wheeling 100-pound barrows of concrete along scaffolding, during construction of New York's Madison Square Garden in the 1920s?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

Christmas Books are on Display

Our selection of Christmas themed books are at the front of the store on the shelves facing the doors. Make a point of stopping by the display and pick up a book or 6 to help you get into the holiday spirit. Your favorite authors are represented.

New Items Added

We will/should have a display of very nice Bookmarks up near the front counter. Many of you have asked for bookmarks and

they are now available for you and/or for the reader on your gift list.

Our December

\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!

We try to give away four (4) \$25.00 Gift Certificates to **The Book Rack** account holders each month.

The names are selected from all our registered customers who have registered and/or had a trade or purchase since **1 December 2017**.

All a winner has to 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 December 2019 winner #1 is:

Chloe Gaylord

See the other 3 winning names elsewhere in the newsletter, below. Find your name and just call or stop at the store on or before **January 2, 2020** to claim your prize:

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

Did You Know?

George Bernard Shaw said the main reason he became a writer was because an author need not dress respectably, 'since he's never seen by his clients, as is the case with other professions'.

Books We Need

Victoria Aveyard - Broken Throne: A Red Queen Collection

J.D. Robb – Brotherhood In Death
Louise Penny – Bury Your Dead (and all her other books!)
Gena Showalter – Can't Get Enough
Dav Pilkey - Captain Underpants
Rainbow Rowell – Carry On
Greg Iles – Cemetery Road
Madeline Miller – Circe
Elizabeth Gilbert – City of Girls
Marissa Meyer – Cress
Sarah J Maas – Crown of Midnight
Jim Aronsky – Crinkleroot's Guide (Any)
Taylor Jenkins Reid – Daisy Jones and the Six
J.R. Ward – Dark Lover
Pat Gipple, Matthew Clemens – Dead Water, The Klindt Affair
William Bass – Death's Acre
Heather Graham – Deep Midnight
Dean Koontz – Deeply Odd
Craig Johnson - Depth of Winter: A Longmire Mystery

December Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

December is:
Bingo Month

Write a Friend Month

Day:

December – 3 – Advent Begins

5 – Repeal Day - 21st Amendment repeals Prohibition

7 – Pearl Harbor Day

7 - Local Authors Marrk McLaughlin, Mike McCarty & Daniel Charles Wild
will be at **The Book Rack** 2:00 – 4:00

8 – Take It in the Ear Day

9 – Christmas Card Day

10 – Human Rights Day

13 – Ice Cream Day & Violin Day

14 – Local Author Crystal Joy will be at **The Book Rack** 10 – 12:00

14 – Local Author Sean Leary will be at **The Book Rack** 12 – 2:00

15 – Bill of Rights Day & National Lemon Cupcake Day

16 – National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

19 – Look for an Evergreen Day
21 – Local Author David Dorris will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00
22 – Hanukkah & Winter Solstice
23 – Festivus
24 – Christmas Eve – The Book Rack will close at 4:00 PM
25 – Christmas Day – The Book Rack will be Closed
26 – Kwanzaa
27 – National Fruitcake Day
31 – New Year's Eve - The Book Rack will close at 4:00 PM
January 1, 2020 - The Book Rack will be Closed

(Can you believe it's 2020?!?! Where have the years gone?)

Featured Authors

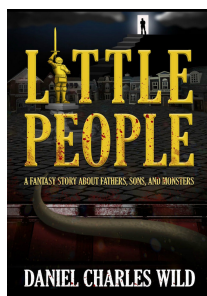
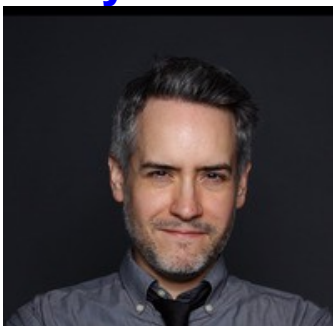
Mark McLaughlin, Michael McCarty, Daniel
Charles Wild, David Dorris & Sean Leary

Featured Authors #1 – 3: Mark McLaughlin, Michael
McCarty, Daniel Charles Wild will host

Nightmare Before Christmas

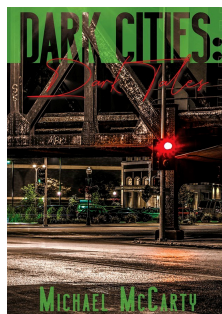
at The Book Rack 2-5:00 PM Dec 7 to meet fans & sign copies of their
books.

**LITTLE PEOPLE: A Fantasy Story About Fathers, Sons,
And Monsters by Daniel Charles Wild**



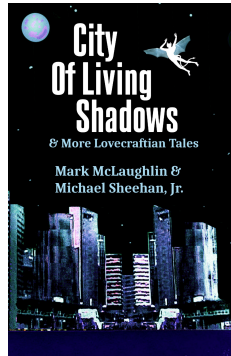
Five days after his estranged father's funeral, a young man is visited in his apartment by two tiny figurines from the father's basement model train diorama. The figurines are desperate for help and claim that their world is in terrible danger. Their sun has been out for a week, the train has stopped running, and an unstoppable monster from the outside world has gotten into the basement.

DARK CITIES: Dark Tales by Michael McCarty:



DARK CITIES: Dark Tales is the realm of Michael McCarty's three novellas and four short stories. Inside you will find out why zombies stumble across the state of Illinois in the snow; what happens when an aspiring novelist has an affair with a sexy vampire from Florida; who will win -- four teenagers from Texas or giant spiders trying to rule the world in a prequel to Ed Wood's Plan Nine From Outer Space; the truth about alien sludge creatures that live in the New York sewers; why trolls dwell beneath a stone bridge in a small Midwestern town; and why an Iowa truck driver is delivering a demon south.

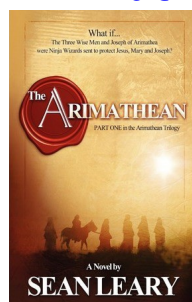
CITY OF LIVING SHADOWS & More Lovecraftian Tales by Mark McLaughlin and Michael Sheehan. Jr.



presents unearthly fantasy and horror tales in the tradition of H.P. Lovecraft. If you like monster stories, you'll find plenty of creatures to enthrall you. Most of these adventures have only been available so far on Kindle. This paperback collection is a companion volume to HORRORS & ABOMINATIONS: 24 Tales Of The Cthulhu Mythos and THE HOUSE OF THE OCELOT & More Lovecraftian Nightmares

Mark and Michael will also be selling **GHOST TALES OF THE QUAD CITIES**, as well as other recent books.

Featured Author #4: Sean Leary Author of *The Arimathean*



What if the three Magi were NINJA WIZARDS sent to save Mary and Joseph on

the way to Bethlehem? That's the fantastic premise behind award-winning author Sean Leary's action-fantasy novel THE ARIMATHEAN, which offers a very different and more explosive take on the Christmas story! THE ARIMATHEAN follows the parents of Christ on the road to his birth as King Herod, in league with Satan, are attempting to destroy them before Jesus can be born. The only thing standing in the way of hordes of demons and deadly assassins are the three Magi as well as their former fourth warrior, THE ARIMATHEAN! Critics have praised the novel as "an action-packed thrill ride" and "Lord of the Rings meets the Bible!" It's a fun, wild and pulse-pounding take on the familiar tale just in time for Christmas!



The Author

Sean Leary is an author, director, artist, musician, producer and entrepreneur who has been writing professionally since debuting at age 11 in the pages of the Comics Buyers Guide. An honors graduate of the University of Southern California masters program, he has written over 50 books including the best-sellers *The Arimathean*, *Every Number is Lucky to Someone* and *We Are All Characters*.

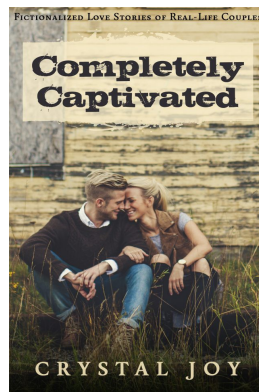
Sean will be at **The Book Rack** December 14 from 12 – 2:00. Don't miss this opportunity to stop in and visit with one of the QCA's most successful authors.

Featured Author #5: Crystal Joy Author of Completely Captivated and Completely Yours



The idea for the Love Story Collection series began years ago at a festival when I met a writer who wrote poems for people. As festival-goers walked by his stand, he would ask if they wanted a poem, but not just any poem—a poem written just for them. After having a brief conversation and getting to know the people, he would write a poem, and then give it to them as a keepsake. I thought it was a fantastic idea! What a great way to connect with readers by creating something special for them.

Keeping that idea in mind, I started writing true love stories for couples and posting them on my website. In the last two years, I've met many wonderful people with such captivating stories, and I wanted to give them more than just a published story on my website. I wanted to give them something they could put on their bookshelves and read to their children and grandchildren.



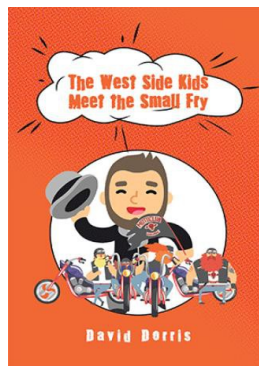
From sweet proposals to tragic circumstances to comical wedding vows, this fresh collection of heartfelt stories captures all of it. Each story is based on real couples and events that will make you laugh and make you cry. With compelling people and surprising twists, you'll be cheering on each relationship as they experience the ups and downs of love.



Love is not a fairy tale. There is always risk involved ... A broken heart. Unrequited love. Painstaking good-byes. Is it worth it? This unforgettable collection explores the beauty of falling in love, the anguish of loss, and the doubts that plague us as we decide if love is worth the risk. These short stories truly capture the messy complications of real-life relationships. Get a glimpse of the raw thoughts and emotions as these couples weigh the consequences of unrequited love, long-distance heartaches, broken marriages, and agreeing to marry a man with a dangerous occupation. Who will end up brokenhearted? Who will find the love of a lifetime?

Crystal Joy will be at The Book Rack 10-12:00 on December 14

Featured Author #6: David Dorris
Author of
The Westside Kids Meet The Small Fry



There is Danger, Excitement, Adventure, in “The Westside Kids Meet The Small Fry.” This is the story of Rex Tarillo, a chemistry instructor at the University of Davenport. The West Side Kids Motorcycle Gang are in one of his classes, and due to chemicals getting mixed up, Rex becomes a dwarf. There is Hannibal, the gang’s leader, who, through his communication, destroys the English language with misspelled and misused words. Then there is Scooter, who has a passion to work with chemicals and is Hannibal’s lifelong friend. T. J. Columbo appears on the scene as a police officer and Hannibal’s uncle. Margret Mason is

Rex Tarillo's girlfriend, who goes on a crime spree with Rex and helps him rob and shrink people with Rex's chemicals, putting terror in Davenport, Iowa. The West Side Kids team up with Hannibal's uncle Columbo to try to stop and catch the small fry. Read and find out what the little fellows' plans are to do something big in The West Side Kids Meet the Small Fry.

The Author

David retired after working thirty-five years at Ralston Purina. He coached Dad's Softball for thirty years. He always taught the kids that played for him that life is like a sport, which encouraged him to write his other three books, "Life Is Too Short", "Life Is Too Short: Choices In Life" and "Life Is Too Short: Life Is What We Make It". David would joke around once in a while about writing a short story about a Dwarf going around robbing and killing people. This Dwarf was caught by the police and was sentenced to the electric chair by a judge. David was going to call this short story, Small Fry. A friend of his suggested he write a book about Small Fry. After thinking about it, David came up with a more detailed version of Small Fry and The Westside Kids Meet The Small Fry is the result.

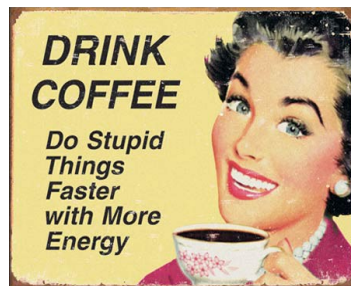
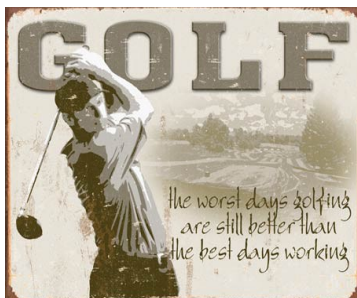
David will be at The Book Rack December 21, 11-1:00.

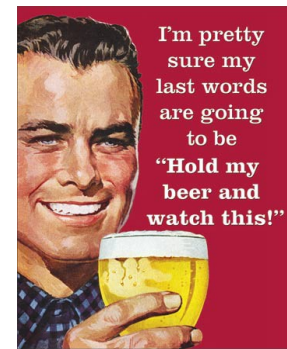
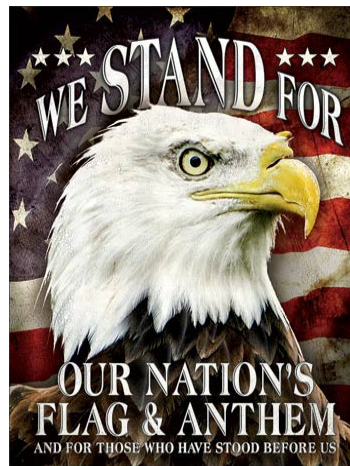
Christmas is Coming!!

In addition to books, The Book Rack offers a few other great gifts.

Metal Signs: each cost \$12.00, are 16"x12.5" and you can apply up to \$3.00 of your store credit. We have a wide assortment at the store and a catalog with 100's more.

Here's a sampling:





**Gift Certificates in any denomination. AND,
until December 25, they are 20% off!**

\$25 for \$20; \$100.00 for \$80.00;

\$1,000 for \$800.00 and \$10 for \$8.00, for example. They NEVER expire. Gift certificates make wonderful, appreciated gifts for your children's teachers. Paired with our Teachers' Credit program they can add books to their classroom libraries at no cost to themselves. Combine a gift certificate with some

of your store credit and make it an even bigger gift at no additional cost to you. Give \$25.00 Gift Certificate and \$25.00 of your store credit for a \$50.00 gift with only \$20.00 out of your pocket.

WOW!

AND

Bookbones

Bookbones make great stocking stuffers!

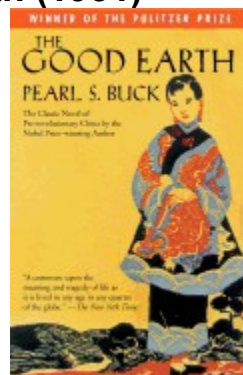


The December 2019 Winner #2 is:

Susan Parks

Book Reviews

Pearl S. Buck – The Good Earth (1931)

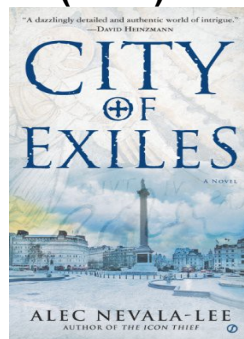


Nobel Laureate Pearl S. Buck's epic Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and Oprah Book Club selection about a vanished China and one family's shifting fortunes.

Though more than seventy years have passed since this remarkable novel won the Pulitzer Prize, it has retained its popularity and become one of the great modern classics. In *The Good Earth* Pearl S. Buck paints an indelible portrait of China in the 1920s, when the last emperor reigned and the vast political and social upheavals of the twentieth century were but distant rumblings. This moving, classic story of the honest farmer Wang Lung and his selfless wife O-Lan is must reading for those who would fully appreciate the sweeping changes that have occurred in the lives of the Chinese people during the last century. Nobel Prize winner Pearl S. Buck traces the whole cycle of life: its terrors, its passions, its ambitions and rewards. Her brilliant novel--beloved by millions of readers--is a universal tale of an ordinary family caught in the tide of history.

Truly a wonderful book acknowledged by all who have read it. I had not previously done so, but picked up an audiobook at a thrift store and Claudia & I listened to it while traveling. The miles flew past as the years did in the book. The characters are beautifully developed. Their lives are easily related to even though the culture is distinctly different the ours. I give it an A+, of course. How could I do anything else. Read it if you've not. Read it again, if you have before.

City of Exiles by Alec Nevala-Lee (2012) Thriller



In this lightning-paced thriller Europe's turbulent past and terrifying future are set to collide in the streets and prisons of London--and beyond. Rachel Wolfe, a gifted FBI agent assigned to a major investigation overseas, discovers that a notorious gun runner has been murdered at his home in London, his body set on fire. When a second victim is found under identical circumstances, the ensuing chase plunges Wolfe and her colleagues into a breathless race across Europe, a secret war between two ruthless intelligence factions, and a hunt for a

remorseless killer with a deadly appointment in Helsinki. At the heart of the mystery lies one of the strangest unsolved incidents in the history of Russia--the unexplained death of nine mountaineers in the Dyatlov Pass five decades before. And at the center of it all stands a figure from Wolfe's past: the Russian thief and former assassin known in another life as the Scythian.

"Alec Nevala-Lee creates a dazzlingly detailed and authentic world of intrigue, weaving a harrowing tale that will enthrall readers with an undercurrent of political ambiguity that evokes le Carre and an intricate, continent-crossing plot reminiscent of "The Day of the Jackal". Delivering a complex mix of espionage, European politics, Old Testament riddles and Cold War mysteries, Nevala-Lee is clearly emerging as one of the most elegant new voices in suspense literature."
--David Heinzmann, author of "Throwaway Girl"

This is a good book, but I wouldn't compare it to "The Day of the Jackal", a truly great novel. I give it a B-. It finished strong, but wandered in the middle.

Isle of Joy by Don Winslow (1996) Thriller



New York: Late 1958

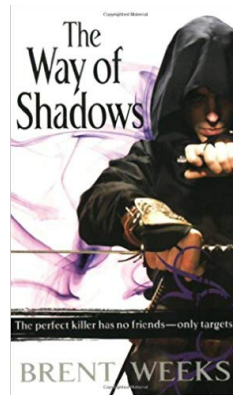
Walter Withers had given the best years of his life to the CIA, setting honeytraps and reeling in the victims of his plots. But Withers has returned to his hometown for an easier, safer life as a Private Investigator.

Manhattan in the late Fifties is alive with new possibilities, new sounds and new faces, including young presidential hopeful Senator Joe Keneally. Withers is assigned to bodyguard Keneally's girlfriend at a society gathering: a simple enough job. But next morning, she's dead - and Withers is the prime suspect. To clear his name, Withers must take on his old masters from the CIA, as well as J. Edgar Hoover's FBI, all of them determined to set Keneally up. And Withers, expert hunter, becomes another disposable victim of the trap closing in on the Senator.

I've occasionally reviewed other Winslow books, notably The Power of the Dog, The Cartel & The Company series, all of which are exceptional, in my opinion.

Isle of Joy is an earlier book, unrelated to any of his others and just as worthy of praise. Fast moving, compelling characters, great writing and surprises galore. I give it an A. Just be aware, most of Winslow's early books are hard to find and a bit pricey.

The Way of Shadows, Book 1 of the Night Angel Trilogy by Brent Weeks (2008) Fantasy



From *NYT* bestselling author Brent Weeks comes the first novel in his breakout fantasy trilogy in which a young boy trains under the city's most legendary and feared assassin, Durzo Blint.

For Durzo Blint, assassination is an art--and he is the city's most accomplished artist.

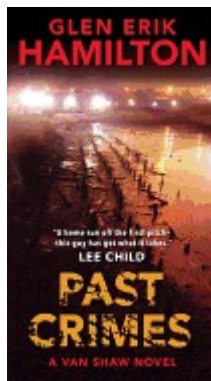
For Azoth, survival is precarious. Something you never take for granted. As a guild rat, he's grown up in the slums, and learned to judge people quickly--and to take risks. Risks like apprenticing himself to Durzo Blint.

But to be accepted, Azoth must turn his back on his old life and embrace a new identity and name. As Kylar Stern, he must learn to navigate the assassins' world of dangerous politics and strange magics--and cultivate a flair for death.

Devour this blockbuster tale of assassination and magic.

The Way of the Shadows comes as close as any book I've read to comparing favorably to "The Game of Thrones". Granted, it's just one book, but it offers the fantasy reader an exciting, complex world with heroes you can like and reasonable prospects the next book in the series will be well worth the time and expense. I give it an A-. This is a full-bodied (many of bodies become dead) fantasy.

Past Crimes by Glen Erik Hamilton (2015) Suspense

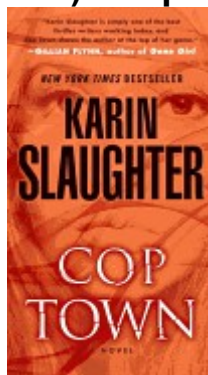


Van Shaw was raised by his Irish immigrant grandfather Donovan to be a thief--to boost cars, beat security alarms, and crack safes. But at eighteen, Van broke all ties to that life and joined the military, serving as an Army Ranger in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, after ten years of silence, Dono has asked his grandson to come home to Seattle.

Van is curious and a little unnerved by his grandfather's request. But when he arrives at Dono's house, Van discovers his grandfather bleeding out on the floor from a gunshot wound to the head. With a lifetime of tough history between him and the old man, the battle-tested Ranger knows he'll be the first suspect. To clear his name and avenge his grandfather, Van plunges back into a violent, high-stakes world where right and wrong aren't defined by the law . . . and where the secrets held by those closest to him are the deadliest of all.

Past Crimes is Hamilton's debut novel. PAST CRIMES won the Anthony, Macavity, and Strand Magazine Critics awards for Best First Novel, and was also nominated for the Edgar, Barry, and Nero awards. It's an excellent book and beginning and holds out hope for another very enjoyable author to read for years to come. I give it a B+. Give Hamilton a try. Hamilton now offers 4 Van Shaw books for your enjoyment.

Cop Town by Karin Slaughter (2014) Suspense – Police Procedural



An epic story of a city in the midst of seismic upheaval, a serial killer targeting cops, and a divided police force tasked with bringing a madman to justice.

Atlanta, 1974: As a brutal murder and a furious manhunt rock the city's police department, Kate Murphy wonders if her first day on the job will also be her last. She's determined to defy her privileged background by making her own way--

wearing a badge and carrying a gun. But for a beautiful young woman, life will be anything but easy in the macho world of the Atlanta PD, where even the female cops have little mercy for rookies. It's also the worst day possible to start given that a beloved cop has been gunned down, his brothers in blue are out for blood, and the city is on the edge of war.

Kate isn't the only woman on the force who's feeling the heat. Maggie Lawson followed her uncle and brother into the ranks to prove her worth in their cynical eyes. When she and Kate, her new partner, are pushed out of the citywide search for a cop killer, their fury, pain, and pride finally reach the boiling point. With a killer poised to strike again, they will pursue their own line of investigation, risking everything as they venture into the city's darkest heart.

Relentlessly paced, acutely observed, wickedly funny, and often heartbreaking, *Cop Town* is Karin Slaughter's most powerful novel yet--a tour de force of storytelling from our foremost master of character, atmosphere, and suspense.

It's been a long time since I last read a Karin Slaughter book. I'm now asking myself "Why!" Kate Murphy & Maggy Lawson are as tough a pair of cops as you'll find. The story is gripping. The ending surprising and the writing is superb. I give it an A-. Got it or another of Slaughter's books. If you like Brian Freeman, Tess Gerritsen, Jeffrey Deaver or Kathy Reichs, you have to try Slaughter, if you haven't.

The December 2019 Winner #3 is:

Jill DeWulf

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

Simon Brett – Blotto, Twinks and the Great Road Race – 26.99

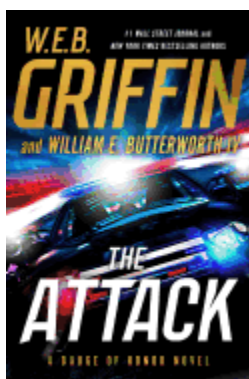


Once again, the plumbing at Tawcester Towers is causing consternation for the Dowager Duchess, so - unusually for her - she gives her blessing for Blotto to take part in the 'Great Road Race' in his beloved Lagonda ... so long as he wins. The first prize of 10,000 pre-War sovereigns will help towards repairing the leaky ancestral home.

Blotto elects to take chauffeur Corky Froggett as his spare mechanic, while Twinks is despatched by her mother to the Highlands, to paint water colours and bag herself a wealthy husband. But, on the morning of the race's start, enfeebled by food poisoning, Blotto and Corky are forced to employ an extra mechanic on their team - a slender, blonde and rather attractive young American... named Ronald.

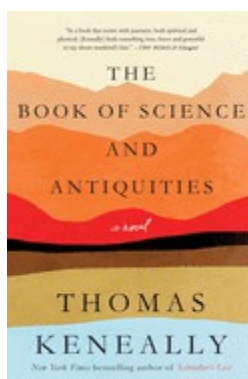
Robin Cook – Genesis – 27.99

W.E.B. Griffin – The Attack – 28.00



Wendy Heard – The Kill Club – 15.99

Thomas Keneally – The Book of Science and Antiquities – 28.00



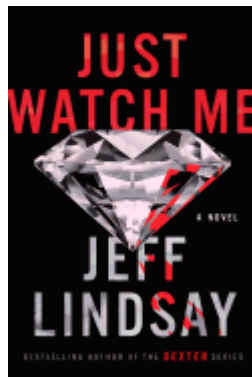
An award-winning documentary filmmaker, Shelby Apple is obsessed with reimagining the full story of the Learned Man--a prehistoric man whose remains are believed to be the link between Africa and ancient Australia. From Vietnam to northern Africa and the Australian Outback, Shelby searches for understanding of this enigmatic man from the ancient past, unaware that the two men share a great deal in common.

Some 40,000 years in the past, the Learned Man has made his home alongside other members of his tribe. Complex and deeply introspective, he reveres tradition, loyalty, and respect for his ancestors. Willing to sacrifice himself for the greater good, the Learned Man cannot conceive that a man millennia later could relate to him in heart and feeling.

In this "meditation on last things, but still electric with life, passion and appetite" (*The Australian*), Thomas Keneally weaves an extraordinary dual narrative that effortlessly transports you around the world and across time, offering "a hymn to idealism and to human development" (*Sydney Morning Herald*).

Kathleen Kent – The Dime – 15.99

Jeff Lindsay – Just Watch Me – 26.00



Brian McClellan – Blood of Empire – 29.00

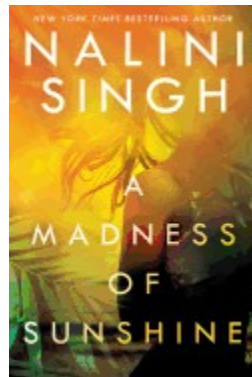
Val McDermid – How the Dead Speak – 26.00

Anne Perry – A Christmas Gathering – 20.00

Dav Pilkey – Dog Man: Fetch-22 – 12.99



Nalini Singh – A Madness of Sunshine – 27.00



On the rugged West Coast of New Zealand, Golden Cove is more than just a town where people live. The adults are more than neighbors; the children, more than schoolmates.

That is until one fateful summer--and several vanished bodies--shatters the trust holding Golden Cove together. All that's left are whispers behind closed doors, broken friendships, and a silent agreement to not look back. But they can't run from the past forever.

Eight years later, a beautiful young woman disappears without a trace, and the residents of Golden Cove wonder if their home shelters something far more dangerous than an unforgiving landscape.

It's not long before the dark past collides with the haunting present and deadly secrets come to light.

Trivia for December

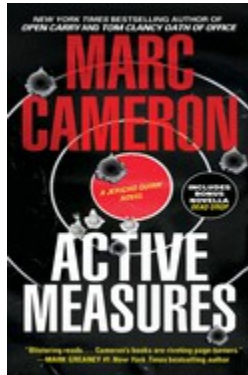
What Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist worked as a hod carrier, wheeling 100-pound barrows of concrete along scaffolding, during construction of New York's Madison Square Garden in the 1920s?

Answer:

John Steinbeck

Mass Market Paperback

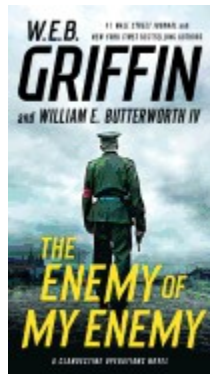
Mark Cameron – Active Measures, A Jericho Quinn Novel – 9.99



Lori Foster – All Fired Up, A Road to Love Novel – 7.99

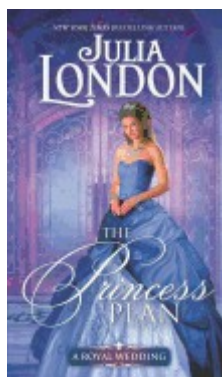
W. Michael Gear – Abandoned, Donovan, Book Two – 7.99

W.E.B. Griffin – The Enemy of My Enemy, A Clandestine Operations Novel – 9.99



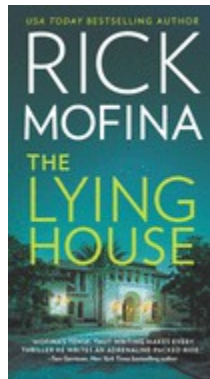
Gregg Hurwitz – Out of the Dark, An Orphan X Novel – 9.99

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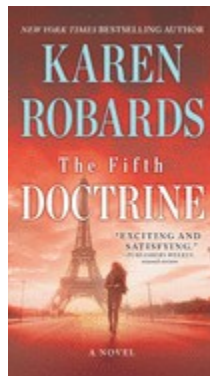
Debbie Macomber – Their Prefect Match – 8.99

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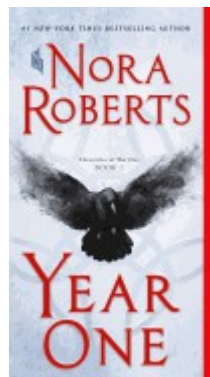


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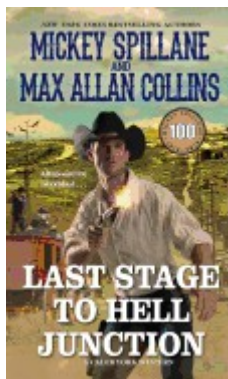


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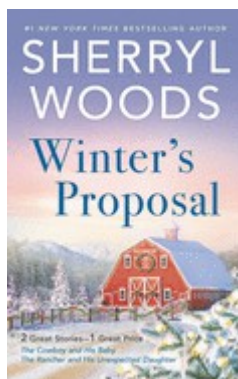


Mickey Spillane and Max Allan Collins – Last Stage to Hell Junction, A Caleb York Western – 7.99



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Sherryl Woods – Winter's Proposal (Adams Dynasty #3) – 8.99



The December 2019 Winner #4 is:

Kevin West