

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 13, #12 December 2020  
563-355-2310

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Trivia for December

Before settling on the name Tiny Tim for Bob Cratchit's crippled son in his book "A Christmas Carol," what three alliterative names did Charles Dickens consider?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

---

## Gift Certificates on Sale through December 31!!

20% off all Book Rack QC Gift Certificates

\$10.00 for \$8.00

\$25.00 for \$20

\$50.00 for \$40.00

\$1,000 for only \$800.00!!

**How great is that!**

Don't forget to buy one for your own stocking!

## Our December 2020

### \$25 Gift Certificate Winners!

We try to give away four (4) \$25.00 Gift Certificates to **The Book Rack** account holders each month. (It's harder than you think!)

The names are selected from all our registered customers who have registered or had a trade or purchase since **November 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 December 2020 winner #1 is:

**Jeannette Dawson**

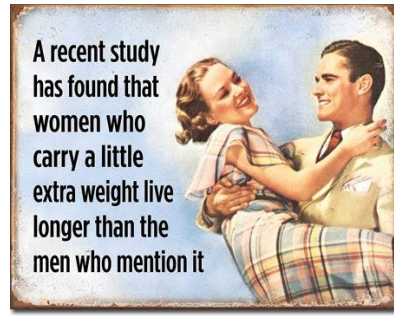
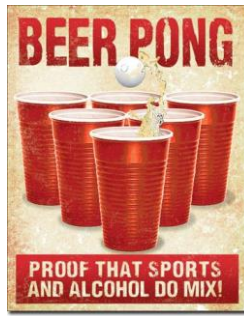
See the other 3 winning names elsewhere in the newsletter, below. Find your name and just call or stop at the store on or before **January 1, 2021** to claim your prize:

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

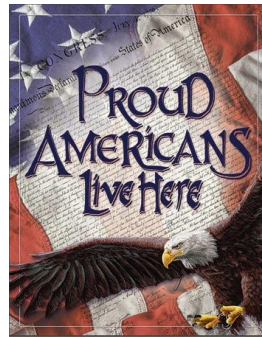
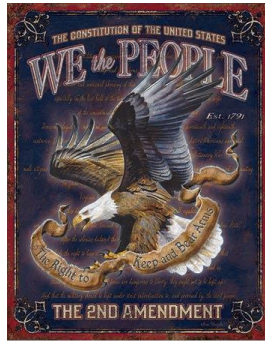
---

**Metal Signs Make Great Christmas Gifts!!**

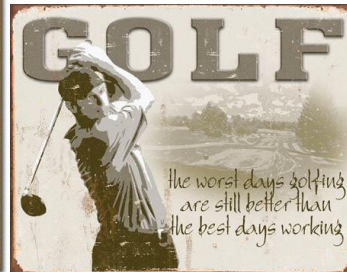
We added new signs and restocked old favorites just in time for the Holidays. Whether it's a funny message,



A more serious one,



Or, a bit of both,



We have the right sign for everyone on your list. All are either 12.5" x 16" or 16" x 12.5", made of sturdy metal and **Made in America**. They are priced at \$12.00 each, but if you have store credit you can apply up to \$3.00 of your credit to each sign, reducing your cost to just \$9.00!

Stop in while the selection is best! We have over 60 different signs from which to choose.

---

**Books we need!!**

**True Crime, please.  
Stephen King (Always)  
Military History**

Horror  
Westerns (Not Louis L'Amour)

## December 2020 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

December 1 – Eat A Red Apple Day  
7 – Pearl Harbor Day  
8 – National Brownie Day  
10 – Human Rights Day  
12 – National Ding-a-Ling Day  
13 – International Children's Day  
15 – Bill of Rights Day  
16 – National Chocolate Covered Anything Day  
21 – Winter Solstice Day – Shortest day of the year  
23 – Festivus  
25 – Merry Christmas! – The Book Rack will be **CLOSED**  
30 – Bacon Day  
31 – New Year's Eve – The Book Rack will close at 4:00  
January 1, 2020 - New Year's Day – The Book Rack will be **CLOSED**

**Santa** made a special trip to **The Book Rack** and  
delivered a **sleigh-load** of **Christmas Books**

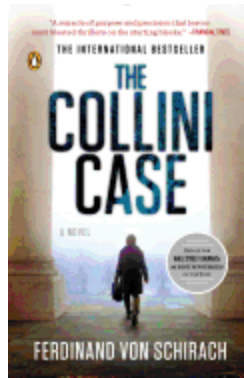
We've been shelving our collection of hundreds of Christmas books for your holiday season. However, they keep coming in so check them early and often as they will change daily.

### **Military History Section**

Well, you rather quickly depleted our stock of Military History after the November Newsletter announcement of our expansion. So... we've restocked it, again!! We still covet your books on the subject that you're willing to let go. Help us keep it dynamic and growing.

## **Book Reviews**

The Collini Case by Ferdinand Von Schirach (2011) Mystery



From one of Europe's bestselling writers comes a spellbinding and utterly compelling court room drama, which will stay with you for a long time.

A murder. A murderer. No motif.

For thirty-four years Fabrizio Collini has worked diligently for Mercedes Benz. He is a quiet and respectable person until the day he visits one of Berlin's most luxurious hotels and kills an innocent man.

Young attorney Caspar Leinen takes the case. Getting Collini a not-guilty verdict would make his name. But too late he discovers that Collini's victim — an industrialist of some renown — is known to him.

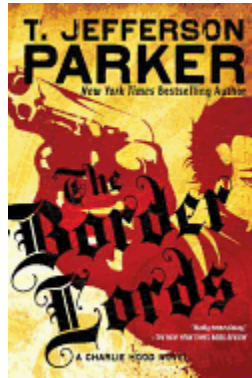
Now Leinen is caught in a professional and personal dilemma. Collini admits the murder but won't say why he did it, forcing Leinen to defend a man who won't put up a defense. And worse, a close friend and relation of the victim insists that he give up the case. His reputation, his career and this friendship are all at risk.

Then he makes a discovery that goes way beyond his own petty concerns and exposes a terrible and deadly truth at the heart of German justice . . .

A surprisingly good book. It's only 186 pages, but packed with suspense. Written by one of Germany's most prominent defense attorneys, it's filled with twists and turns as a seemingly impossible case works through the system and Leinen slowly unravels the gordian knot of the motive and its history. A very well written and interesting book. I give it an A and a nod to the author for packing so much excitement into a small package. Don't be turned away because it's set in Germany. I find reading books by foreign

authors expand my understanding of the world and my reading enjoyment.

**Border Lords, A Charlie Hood Novel by T. Jefferson Parker (Mystery)**



ATF agent Sean Osburn is deep undercover, supporting the sicarios of the North Baja Cartel, when he suddenly goes completely dark., leaving Charlie Hood and the support team from Operation Blowdown with a safe house full of bodies and no explanation. Sean’s only communication in the following days consists of a series of haunting digital videos sent to his desperately worried wife, Seliah. As he pieces together evidence of his friend’s strange quest and searches the border landscape, following faint signals to the man’s whereabouts, Charlie Hood must determine if Oz is simply chasing demons deeper undercover than anyone has ever gone, or whether his friend has suffered a permanent break with his mission and his moral compass. A crime novel of unprecedented scope and unrivaled storytelling ambition, *The Border Lords* revisits the fevered land scape of America’s southern border – and confronts the unexplored depths of humanity’s dark soul.

I do like Parker’s books and Charlie Hood is a great character. I give it an A. If you like Don Winslow, Michael Connelly and Joseph Wambaugh, and haven’t read Parker, you’re missing another writer of that caliber.

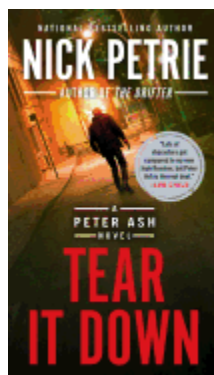
**Haven of Swans, The fourth book in the Rock Harbor series, by Colleen Coble (2007) Inspirational Thriller**



A serial killer mutilates his victims, leaving the bodies at various geocaching sites with obscure religious references. When the killer targets Eve Alexander, a woman he holds responsible for his wife's death, she barely escapes with her life. No longer trusting her police officer husband's protection, Eve flees to Rock Harbor with her niece whom she is raising as her own daughter. After nearly a year training search-and-rescue dogs in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Eve has just begun to relax when she and her team stumble on a mutilated body at a geocaching site. Eve knows the killer has found her again. Events spiral out of control when her ex-husband shows up and her long-lost sister appears. Before it's all over, Eve will need to reach inside and find the strength to fight back before the killer destroys everything she loves.

I would put the emphasis on "Thriller" when characterizing the genre. A very well-done thriller at that. My first Coble novel was an entertaining one. I give it a B+. It's exciting and fast paced with characters you'll love or loath. While it's a later book in the series I didn't find that to be problematic. Jump right in and enjoy the read.

### **Tear It Down by Nick Petrie (2019) Mystery**

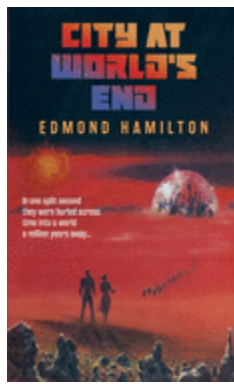


Peter Ash pursues one case—and stumbles into another—in the City of the Blues. Iraq war veteran Peter Ash is restless in the home he shares with June Cassidy in Washington State. June knows Peter needs to be on the move, so she sends him to Memphis to help her friend Wanda Wyatt, a photographer and war correspondent who's been receiving peculiar threats. When Peter arrives in Memphis, however, he finds the situation has gone downhill fast—someone has just driven a dump truck into Wanda's living room. But neither Wanda nor Peter can figure out why. At the same time, a young homeless street musician finds himself roped into a plan to rob a jewelry store. The heist doesn't go as planned, and the young man finds himself holding a sack full of Rolexes and running for his life. When his getaway car breaks down, he steals a new one at gunpoint—Peter's 1968 green Chevrolet pickup truck. Peter likes the skinny kid's smarts and attitude, but he soon discovers that the desperate musician is in far worse trouble than he knows. And Wanda's troubles are only beginning. Peter finds himself stuck between Memphis gangsters—looking for Rolexes and revenge—and a Mississippi ex-con and his hog-butcher brother looking for a valuable piece of family history that goes all the way back to the Civil War.

Nick Petrie has now written 5 Peter Ash novels with #6 due out in January. Ash is in the same category of principle characters as Jack Reacher – Tough, trained experienced, fearless, thoughtful, considerate...but Ash is also “damaged” by his military experience. I liked the book, as evidenced by the speed at which I read it. It's very fast paced with showdown of some type happening, seemingly, in every chapter. I give it an A-, mainly because the final chapter tied up all the loose ends just too fast and neatly. If you like Lee Child, David Baldacci, Vince Flynn or Ben Coes, you'll really like Nick Petrie.

**The City at World's End by Edmond Hamilton (1951) Science Fiction**





In *City at World's End*, the reader is introduced to the small city of Middletown, in Anywhere, U.S.A.; a burg of some 50,000 souls going about its business on a beautiful June morning. What the citizens of Middletown don't know, however, is that its local industrial laboratory is actually the secret working site of a group of atomic physicists, which makes the otherwise undistinguished locale a prime target in a potential war. And before the citizenry is even aware of it, a so-called "super atomic" is exploded right over their heads, knocking one and all off their feet. And that's all! As the populace dusts itself off, it is noticed that the air is now very much colder, and that the sun has changed to a gloomy-looking red ball in the heavens. The moon is now enormous, the stars are visible in the daytime sky, and the lab scientists, by analyzing those changed star patterns, soon come to realize the impossible truth: The city of Middletown has somehow been blown, via a rift in the time-space continuum, millions of years into Earth's future! Now what?

A rather fascinating premise and one Hamilton used to take us on a ride from the present through the future. As with many Sci Fi books of that generation, this is a quick read, but one that's not short on excitement and creativity. I give it a B+. If you don't read classic science fiction you are missing out on learning about many things yet to come. They just haven't been invented, though they have been envisioned. If you like Frank Herbert (*Dune*), Robert Heinlein (*Stranger in a Strange Land*) or Andre Norton (*Witch world series*) you will like Edmond Hamilton and this book.

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

**Jessica Ludwig**

#####

## Did You Know?

Gore Vidal’s house burned down when he was writing his third Edgar Box thriller. When he tried to start writing it again, he couldn’t remember who the murderer was.

#####

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, or better yet, pick another book! 😊

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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

**Kia Abdullah – Take It Back – 27.99 – Espionage/Thriller**



Take It Back is a harrowing and twisting courtroom thriller that keeps you guessing until the last page is turned. One victim. Four accused. Who is telling the truth? Zara Kaleel, one of London’s brightest legal minds, shattered the expectations placed on her by her family and forged a brilliant legal career. But her decisions came at a high cost, and now, battling her own

demons, she has exchanged her high-profile career for a job at a sexual assault center, helping victims who need her the most. Victims like Jodie Wolfe. When Jodie, a sixteen-year-old girl with facial deformities, accuses four boys in her class of an unthinkable crime, the community is torn apart. After all, these four teenage defendants are from hard-working immigrant families and they all have proven alibis. Even Jodie's best friend doesn't believe her. But Zara does-and she is determined to fight for Jodie-to find the truth in the face of public outcry. And as issues of sex, race and social justice collide, the most explosive criminal trial of the year builds to a shocking conclusion

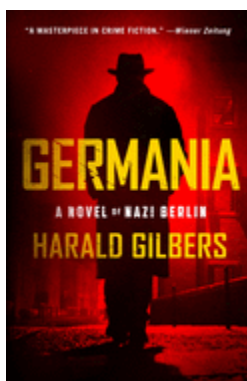
## **Max Allan Collins – Skim Deep – 10.95 – Mystery**



The onetime world-class thief Nolan - now happily gone straight with his own restaurant/nightclub - whisks his longtime lover Sherry off to Vegas for a trip to a wedding chapel and a honeymoon stay. But an eye-in-the-sky security cam at a casino spots Nolan, whose past catches up with him when he's thought to be casing the joint. An old friend sees Nolan as the perfect patsy for a scheme to heist the weekly skim haul, and when the former thief's young frequent accomplice, Jon - a musician in the casino's house band - finds the couple mysteriously, suspiciously missing, it's up to Nolan's Best Man to keep wedding bells from tolling a funeral march.

## **Clive Cussler – Marauder, A Novel of the Oregon Files – 29.00 – General Fiction**

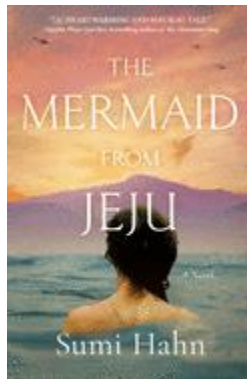
## **Harald Gilbers – Germania, A Novel of Nazi Berlin – 28.99 – Espionage/Thriller**



Berlin 1944: a serial killer stalks the bombed-out capital of the Reich, preying on women and laying their mutilated bodies in front of war memorials. All of the victims are linked to the Nazi party. But according to one eyewitness account, the perpetrator is not an opponent of Hitler's regime, but rather a loyal Nazi.

Jewish detective Richard Oppenheimer, once a successful investigator for the Berlin police, is reactivated by the Gestapo and forced onto the case. Oppenheimer is not just concerned with catching the killer and helping others survive, but also his own survival. Worst of all, solving this case is what will certainly put him in the most jeopardy. With no choice but to further his investigation, he feverishly searches for answers, and a way out of this dangerous game.

## Sumi Hahn – The Mermaid from Jeju – 26.99 – General Fiction



In the aftermath of World War II, Goh Junja is a girl just coming into her own. She is the latest successful deep sea diver in a family of strong haenyeo. Confident she is a woman now, Junja urges her mother to allow her to make the Goh family's annual trip to Mt. Halla, where they trade abalone and other sea delicacies for pork. Junja, a sea village girl, has never been to the mountains, where it smells like mushrooms and earth. While there, she falls in love with a mountain boy Yang Suwol, who rescues her after a particularly harrowing journey. But when Junja returns one day later, it is just in time to see her mother take her last breath, beaten by the waves during a dive she was taking in Junja's place.

Spiraling in grief, Junja sees her younger siblings sent to live with their estranged father. Everywhere she turns, Junja is haunted by the loss of her mother, from the meticulously tended herb garden that has now begun to sprout weeds, to the field where their bed sheets are beaten. She has only her grandmother and herself. But the world moves on without Junja.

The political climate is perilous. Still reeling from Japan's forced withdrawal from the peninsula, Korea is forced to accommodate the rapid establishment of US troops. Junja's canny grandmother, who lived through the Japanese invasion that led to Korea's occupation understands the signs of danger all too well. When Suwol is arrested for working with and harboring communists, and the perils of post-WWII overtake her homelands, Junja must learn to navigate a tumultuous world unlike anything she's ever known.

## Philip Kaplan – Night in Tehran – 26.99 – Espionage/Thriller

## Mercedes Lackey – Jolene, An Elemental Masters Novel – 28.00 – Fantasy



## Sam J. Miller – The Blade Between – 26.99 – Horror

**a frightening and uncanny ghost story about a rapidly changing city in upstate New York and the mysterious forces that threaten it.**

Ronan Szepessy promised himself he'd never return to Hudson. The sleepy upstate town was no place for a restless gay photographer. But his father is ill and New York City's distractions have become too much for him. He hopes that a quick visit will help him recharge..Ronan reconnects with two friends from high school: Dom, his first love, and Dom's wife, Attalah. The three former misfits mourn what their town has become--overrun by gentrifiers and corporate interests. With friends and

neighbors getting evicted en masse and a mayoral election coming up, Ronan and Attalah craft a plan to rattle the newcomers and expose their true motives. But in doing so, they unleash something far more mysterious and uncontrollable.

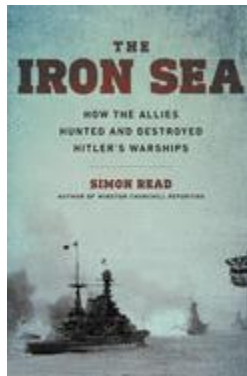
Hudson has a rich, proud history and, it turns out, the real-state developers aren't the only forces threatening its well-being: the spirits undergirding this once-thriving industrial town are enraged. Ronan's hijinks have overlapped with a bubbling up of hate and violence among friends and neighbors, and everything is spiraling out of control. Ronan must summon the very best of himself to shed his own demons and save the city he once loathed.

## **Edmond Morris – Edison – 22.00 – Biography**

## **James Patterson - The Last Days of John Lennon – 32.99 – True Crime**



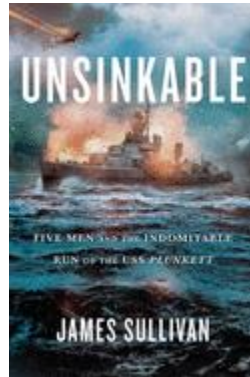
## **Simon Read – The Iron Sea, How the Allies Hunted and Destroyed Hitler’s Warships – 30.00 – Military History**



"The sea had become a mass grave by 1941 as Hitler's four capital warships--Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Tirpitz, and Bismarck, the largest warship on the ocean--roamed the wind-swept waves, threatening the Allied war effort and sending thousands of men to the icy depths of the North Atlantic. Bristling with guns and steeled in heavy armor, these reapers of the sea could outrun and outgun any battleship in the Allied arsenal. The deadly menace kept Winston Churchill awake at night he deemed them "targets of supreme consequence." The campaign against Hitler's surface fleet would continue into the dying days of World War II and involve everything from massive warships engaged in bloody, fire-drenched battle to daring commando raids in German occupied harbors. This is the fast-paced story of the Allied bomber crews, brave sailors, and bold commandos who "sunk the Bismarck" and won a hard-fought victory over Hitler's iron sea. Using official war diaries, combat reports, eyewitness accounts and personal letters, Simon Read brings the action and adventure to vivid life. The result is an enthralling and gripping story of the Allied heroes who fought on a watery battlefield

## **Paige Shelton – Cold Wind – 26.99 - Mystery**

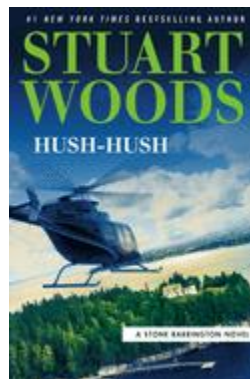
**James Sullivan – Unsinkable, Five Men and the Indomitable Run of the U.S.S. Plunkett – 30.00 – Military History**



**Michael Walsh – Last Stands, Why Men Fight When All is Lost – 28.99 – Military History**

**Bing West – The Last Platoon, A Novel of the Afghanistan War – 28.00 Thriller**

**Stuart Woods – Hush-Hush, A Stone Barrington Novel – 28.00 – General Fiction**



Stone Barrington is settling in for some downtime in New York City when an anonymous enemy makes himself known. This nameless foe's threats hit close to home, and before Stone can retaliate, the fearsome messages turn into very real consequences.

With the help of old friends--and a lovely new tech-savvy acquaintance--Stone sets out to unravel the fatal agenda. But as the web of adversaries expands, Stone realizes that no place is safe, and he'll have to flush out the mastermind before he and those closest to him are silenced for good....

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

**Jodi Tupper**

## Trivia for December

Before settling on the name Tiny Tim for Bob Cratchit's crippled son in his book "A Christmas Carol", what three alliterative names did Charles Dickens consider?

**Answer:**

*Little Larry, Puny Pete and Small Sam.*

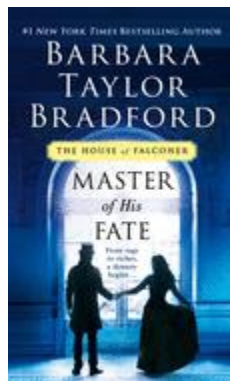
## Mass Market Paperback

**V.C. Andrews – Whispering Hearts – 16.00 – General Fiction**



**Johnny Boggs – A Thousand Texas Longhorns – 8.99 - Western**

**Barbara Taylor Bradford – Master of His Fate, A House of Falconer Novel – 8.99 – Historical Novel**



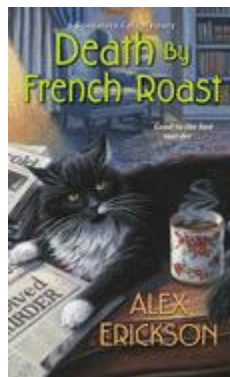
**Allison Brennan – Cold as Ice – 8.99 –Thriller**

**Lisa Childs - The Runaway – 8.99 – Romance**



**Lauren Elliott, A Page Marked for Murder, A Beyond the Page Bookstore Mystery – 8.99**

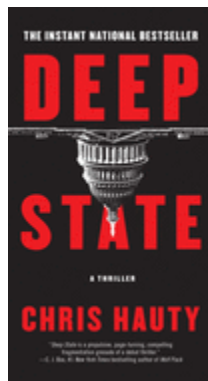
**Alex Erickson – Death by French Roast, A Bookstore Café Mystery – 8.99**



**Christine Feehan – Leopard's Rage – 7.99 – Romance**

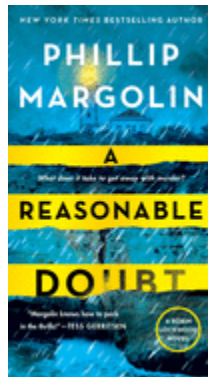
**Chris Hauty – Deep State, Vol 1, A Thriller – 9.99**





**Joshua Hood – Robert Ludlum’s The Treadstone Resurrection – 9.99 - Espionage/Thriller**

**Phillip Margolin – A Reasonable Doubt, A Robin Lockwood Novel – 9.99 – Espionage/Thriller**



**R.A. Salvatore – Song of the Risen God, A Tale of the Coven – 9.99 – Fantasy**

**Paige Shelton – Thin Ice, A Mystery – 7.99**

**Gena Showalter – The Darkest King, Lords of the Underworld: William’s Story – 9.99 – Romance**



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

**Lori Peterson**