

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 14, #2 February 2021
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 February 2021

The novel *Ulysses* takes place in Dublin on one day – June 16, 1904. What significance did that day have for writer James Joyce?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

Our February 2021

\$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 February 1, 2019.

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 February 2021 winner #1 is:

Matt Barger

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 February 28, 2021 to claim your prize:

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

Books we need!!

Have I ever mentioned Stephen King?

Military History
Westerns (Not Louis L'Amour)

General Fiction:

Margaret Atwood
Robyn Carr (Especially Virgin River series)
Lucy Foley
Kristin Hannah (Firefly Lane, The Great Alone)
Liane Moriarty
Chuck Palahniuk

Any Manga or Graphic Novels

Historical Fiction:

Last Kingdom series - Cornwell
Outlander series - Gabaldon
Poldark series - Winston Graham

Historical Romance:

Julia Quinn (Bridgerton series especially)

Horror:

Pretty much anything except Koontz
Stephen King
Non-Fiction Ghost Stories

Mystery:

C.J. Box
J.A. Jance
Craig Johnson
William Kent Krueger
J.D. Robb

NF:

Joe Biden (anything)
Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Kamala Harris (pictures books, Biography, anything)
A Promised Land by Barack Obama
Becoming by Michelle Obama
Too Much and Never Enough by Mary L. Trump
Any Knitting, Crochet, Quilting, Woodworking, Whittling
New Age & Wicca (Crystals, Tarot, Chakra, Zodiac, Astrology)

Sci-Fi/Fantasy:

Ready Player One - Ernest Cline
Neil Gaiman
Frank Herbert (Dune series)
Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time
Terry Pratchett
Andrzej Sapkowski (The Witcher series)
JRR Tolkien
Star Wars

Young Adult & Childrens:

The Babysitter's Club
The Boxcar Children
Fear Street
Goosebumps
Magic Tree House
House of Night - Cast
The Hunger Games series (especially the new one) - Collins
Sarah J. Maas - any
Shatter Me Series - Mafi
Vampire Academy Series - Meade
Scholastic Graphix and other children's comics
Twilight Series by Stephanie Meyer
Divergent Series - Roth
Vampire Diaries - Smith

True Crime:

I'll Be Gone in the Dark - Michelle McNamara
M. W. Phelps
The Stranger Beside Me - Ann Rule
Anything else except James Patterson

February 2021 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

- **American Heart Month**
- **An Affair to Remember Month**
- **Black History Month**

Week Celebrations:
3rd Week International Flirting Week

Days:

February 1

National Freedom Day

No Politics Day

Spunky Old Broads Day

February 2

Candlemas

Ground Hog Day

February 6

Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day

February 7

Superbowl Sunday - Superbowl LV - **The Book Rack will be OPEN!**

February 14

National Organ Donor Day

Valentine's Day

February 15

President's Day - third Monday of month – **The Book Rack will be OPEN!**

February 16

Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday

February 28

Oscar Night

Book Reviews

The Redeemers by Ace Atkins (2015) Mystery



He is only in his early thirties, but now Quinn Colson is jobless--voted out of

office as sheriff of Tibbehah County, Mississippi, thanks to the machinations of county kingpin Johnny Stagg. He has offers, in bigger and better places, but before he goes, he's got one more job to do--bring down Stagg's criminal operations for good.

At least that's the plan. But in the middle of the long, hot summer, a trio of criminals stage a bold, wall-smashing break-in at the home of a local lumber mill owner, making off with a million dollars in cash from his safe, which is curious, because the mill owner is wealthy--but not that wealthy. None of this has anything to do with Colson, but during the investigation, two men are killed, one of them the new sheriff. His friend, acting sheriff Lillie Virgil, and a dangerous former flame, Anna Lee Stevens, both ask him to step in, and reluctantly he does, only to discover that that safe contained more than just money--it held secrets. Secrets that could either save Colson--or destroy him once and for all.

The Redeemers is the fifth book in the Quinn Colson series, which I didn't find a significant problem, not having read the earlier books. Colson is an OK star, likable but damaged as is typical. I really struggled to get into the book and found Colson unremarkable when compared to many of his contemporaries. It was a decent book, which I give a B-. Pick up one of the series when you can and make your own judgement. You may find the series to be much better than I did. Let me know what you think, please.

The Starless Sea by Erin Morgenstern (2019) Fantasy



Publisher Marketing:

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Night Circus*, a timeless love story set in a secret underground world--a place of pirates, painters,

lovers, liars, and ships that sail upon a starless sea.

Zachary Ezra Rawlins is a graduate student in Vermont when he discovers a mysterious book hidden in the stacks. As he turns the pages, entranced by tales of lovelorn prisoners, key collectors, and nameless acolytes, he reads something strange: a story from his own childhood. Bewildered by this inexplicable book and desperate to make sense of how his own life came to be recorded, Zachary uncovers a series of clues--a bee, a key, and a sword--that lead him to a masquerade party in New York, to a secret club, and through a doorway to an ancient library hidden far below the surface of the earth. What Zachary finds in this curious place is more than just a buried home for books and their guardians--it is a place of lost cities and seas, lovers who pass notes under doors and across time, and of stories whispered by the dead. Zachary learns of those who have sacrificed much to protect this realm, relinquishing their sight and their tongues to preserve this archive, and also of those who are intent on its destruction. Together with Mirabel, a fierce, pink-haired protector of the place, and Dorian, a handsome, barefoot man with shifting alliances, Zachary travels the twisting tunnels, darkened stairwells, crowded ballrooms, and sweetly soaked shores of this magical world, discovering his purpose--in both the mysterious book and in his own life.

Another wonderful fantasy from Erin Morgenstern. I didn't find *The Starless Sea* quite as compelling as *The Night Circus*, but still it was fascinating. As before, her imagination, coupled with her extraordinary writing skill make for a winning book for lovers of complex fantasy. I give it an A-. Grab a copy when you have the opportunity. Read it in long settings, rather than short snippets, so you can better tie the many pieces together. Otherwise, you may become as lost as some of the characters!

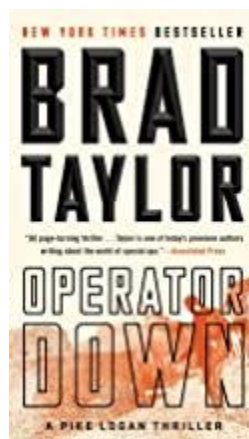
Voyage of the Star Wolf by David Gerrold (1990) SciFi



The first work in David Gerrold's Star Wolf trilogy, this tale pits the human members of the Star Wolf space vessel against the superhuman Morthan crew. Commander Jonathan Korie, hampered by the loss of most of the human fleet to the Morthans and a nearly disabled ship of his own, faces the Morthan threat driven by the need for survival and the desire for revenge. A classic of military science fiction, the Star Wolf trilogy combines rapid action with powerful studies of military character.

A very well-done space war story. Hard science fiction with much technological creativity and detail related to the ship propulsion system, but also human engineering and weapons concepts. A fast read due to the length (276 pages) and high level of action. If you like hard science fiction you will love Gerrold. He also wrote the Star Trek episode, *The Trouble With Tribbles*, so no everything he writes about is “hard”. I give it a B+.

Operator Down, A Pike Logan Thriller by Brad Taylor (2018) Thriller



A heart-pounding thriller where Pike Logan's search for a Mossad agent and ally puts him on a collision course with a ruthless military coup in Africa--and tests his loyalties to the Taskforce.

It was to be a simple mission. Nothing more than assessing whether a merchant in the fabled Israeli Diamond Exchange was involved in a scheme that could potentially embarrass the state of Israel. But nothing is ever simple in the world of intelligence, as Aaron Bergman--a former leader of an elite direct-action team under the Mossad--should have known. Executing the operation as a contractor, a cutout that gave the State of Israel plausible deniability, he disappears without a trace.

Pike Logan and his team know none of this, but he's tracking an American arms dealer in Tel Aviv who may--or may not--be attempting to sell sensitive nuclear weapons components to the highest bidder. When Pike's team breaks up an attempt at killing Shoshana, Aaron's partner, they stumble upon much more than they expected--a concerted conspiracy to topple a democratic African country.

Beginning to untangle a web that extends through both the American and Israeli intelligence community, Pike is forced to choose between his Israeli friends and his Taskforce mission, even as the execution of the coup begins to form. At the heart of it is Aaron, and his disappearance is the one mistake the plotters made. Because Shoshana is the greatest killing machine the Mossad has ever produced, and she will stop at nothing to help Aaron, even if it means killing Pike Logan.

"With his experience as an officer in the U.S. Army's Special Forces, Taylor brings firsthand military knowledge to the Nephilim 'Pike' Logan series...A believable account of elite operators working outside traditional government parameters to track international villains."

--*Kirkus Reviews*

High energy and continuous action will keep you fully engaged. A book you won't want to put down. And, it's almost believable. I give it an A-. If you like Brad Thor, Lee Child and Ben Coes you'll like this book.

The Stepford Wives by Ira Levin (1972) Sci Fi, Horror, Fantasy (depends on your perspective!)



For Joanna, her husband, Walter, and their children, the move to beautiful Stepford seems almost too good to be true. It is. For behind the town's idyllic facade lies a terrible secret—a secret so shattering that no one who encounters it will ever be the same.

At once a masterpiece of psychological suspense and a savage commentary on a media-driven society that values the pursuit of youth and beauty at all costs, *The Stepford Wives* is a novel so frightening in its final implications that the title itself has earned a place in the American lexicon.

One reviewer's view: *The Stepford Wives* is a darkly comedic and satirical modern horror story with cautionary but subtle overtones. Originally and commonly misunderstood to remark upon the growing feminist movement in the late sixties it is instead a scathing indictment on conservative attacks on women's liberation.

Another says: *The Stepford Wives* is a paranoid thriller by Ira Levin. There is also quite a bit of social satire as well. What would a community be like if all the women behaved like the stereotypical 1950's style housewife?

I'd say, just read it and draw your own conclusions. I give it a B+. It's intriguing, short (123 pp) and would be a most interesting topic for a book club.

The February 2021 winner #2 is:

Aaron Schmitt

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Writers insulting writers!

Under the clumsy paws of a harper whose plectrum is a muckrake, any tune will become a chaos of discords.

Algernon Charles Swinburne on Walt Whitman

(Which poet have you read)

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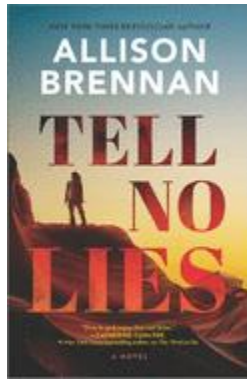
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You can also add any of these titles to your request list. Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but many will get to you eventually.

Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Anne Bishop - The Queen's Weapons (Black Jewels #11) – 28.00
– Fantasy

Allison Brennan - Tell No Lies (Quinn & Costa Thriller, 2) – 27.99



C.L. Clark - The Unbroken (Magic of the Lost, 1) – 16.99 – Fantasy

Michael Connelly - The Burning Room (Harry Bosch Novel #17) – 31.00 – Mystery



Sarah Beth Durst - The Bone Maker – 17.99 – Fantasy



J.T. Ellison - Her Dark Lies – 28.99 – Thriller

Stephen King – Later – 14.95 – Thriller



SOMETIMES GROWING UP

MEANS FACING YOUR DEMONS - The son of a struggling single mother, Jamie Conklin just wants an ordinary childhood. But Jamie is no ordinary child. Born with an unnatural ability his mom urges him to keep secret, Jamie can see what no one else can see and learn what no one else can learn. But the cost of using this ability is higher than Jamie can imagine - as he discovers when an NYPD detective draws him into the pursuit of a killer who has threatened to strike from beyond the grave. *LATER* is Stephen King at his finest, a terrifying and touching story of innocence lost and the trials that test our sense of right and wrong. With echoes of King's classic novel *It*, *LATER* is a powerful, haunting, unforgettable exploration of what it takes to stand up to evil in all the faces it wears.

Sarah J Maas - House of Earth and Blood (Crescent City) – 28.00 – Fantasy



Nadine Matheson – The Jigsaw Man – 27.99 – Thriller



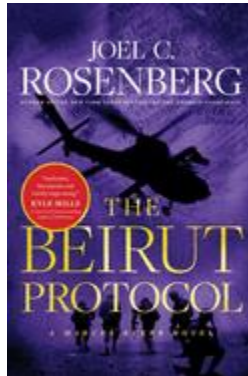
A serial killer and his copycat are locked in a violent game of cat and mouse. Can DI Anjelica Henley stop them before it's too late?

On the day she returns to active duty with the Serial Crimes Unit, Detective Inspector Anjelica Henley is called to a crime scene. Dismembered body parts from two victims have been found by the river.

The modus operandi bears a striking resemblance to Peter Olivier, the notorious Jigsaw Killer, who has spent the past two years behind bars. When he learns that someone is co-opting his grisly signature--the arrangement of victims' limbs in puzzle-piece shapes--he decides to take matters into his own hands.

As the body count rises, DI Anjelica Henley is faced with an unspeakable new threat. Can she apprehend the copycat killer before Olivier finds a way to get to him first? Or will she herself become the next victim?

Joel C. Rosenberg – The Beirut Protocol – 27.99 – Thriller



The February 2021 winner #3 is:

Andrea Redden

Trivia for February 2021

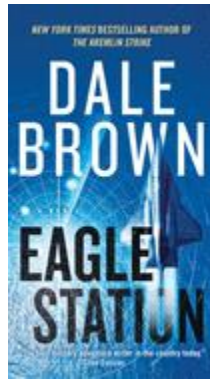
The novel *Ulysses* takes place in Dublin on one day – June 16, 1904. What significance did that day have for writer James Joyce?

Answer

It was the day of his first date with Nora Barnacle, the woman he eventually married.

Mass Market Paperback

Dale Brown – Eagle Station – 9.99 – Thriller



Brian Freeman - Robert Ludlum's the Bourne Evolution (Jason Bourne) – 9.99 – Thriller



Kay Hooper – Hidden Salem (Bishop/Special Crimes Unit)– 9.99 - Thriller

Jodi Picoult – Vanishing Acts – 9.99



Nora Roberts – Close to You – 9.99 - Romance

Sharon Sala - The Last Straw (Jigsaw Files, 4) – 9.99 - Thriller



The February 2021 winner #4 is:

Lori Steele