

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 14, #1 January 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 January 2021

What twentieth-century writer used the words hook, line and sinker in the titles of a 3-book espionage series?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

Our January 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 January 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 January 2021 winner #1 is:

Ruth Jessee

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 31, 2021** to claim your prize:

A \$25 gift certificate from The Book Rack!

Books we need!!

Have I ever mentioned Stephen King?

Manga/Graphic Novels

Military History

Horror

Westerns (Not Louis L'Amour)

True Crime

January 2021 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

Bring a Friend to The Book Rack Month

National Braille Literacy Month

National Hobby Month

Hot Tea Month

Week Celebrations:

1st Week – Local Author Week at The Book Rack – Stop by our Local Author Section and find a new favorite author!

2nd Week Letter Writing Week

Days:

1 – New Year's Day – **The Book Rack** will be closed

2 – The Fiesta Bowl: Oregon Ducks vs **THE Iowa State Cyclones** 3:00 PM, ESPN

5 – National Bird Day

10 – Peculiar People Day

18 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – **The Book Rack** will be open

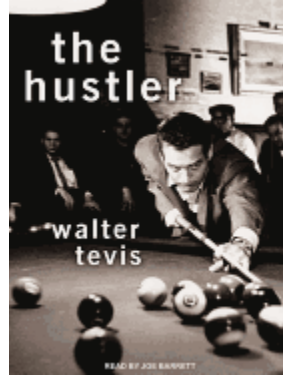
18 - Winnie The Pooh Day

26 – Spouses' Day

27 – Chocolate Cake Day - One of my favorite days.

Book Reviews

The Hustler by Walter Tevis (1959) Literary Fiction



This is the 1959 book "The Hustler" by Walter Tevis, that was made into a movie "The Hustler", a 1961 movie starring Jackie Gleason as 'Minnesota Fats' and Paul Newman as 'Fast Eddie Felson'. In the movie, they are competing in a high stakes gambling game for money to determine who is the best player of the game of straight pool in the world. In the opening scene in the movie, Fast Eddie Felson and his friend Charlie are traveling across the country. They stop in a small town at a local pool hall. They start playing pool against each other while pretending to be drunk. Fast Eddie Felson shows himself to be an average pool player, but not as good as Charlie, and misses many easy shots. Finally, the other players in the pool hall which is also a bar start to take an interest in the big money game they are betting on. A situation arises where Fast Eddie Felson sets up a difficult shot. He bets Charlie he can make this shot. Charlie says it is impossible, that he cannot do it, but he does not have enough money to bet. Then, another spectator in the pool hall says he will take that bet and bet that Fast Eddie Felson cannot make the shot. They both put their money on the table. Amazingly, Fast Eddie Felson makes the shot, picks up the money and quickly leaves the pool hall, followed by Charlie. They get in their car and speed away.

Have you watched the Netflix series "The Queen's Gambit"? Walter Tevis wrote the book upon which the series is based. I loved the series, but haven't yet read the book, but soon will. The series led me to pick up The Hustler

from our shelves and I also loved it. It's just a wonderful book. The brief time in Eddie Felson's life covered sees him grow from a brash, cocky pool prodigy into a consummate hustler and "the best there is." Tevis is a marvelous author. I give "The Hustler" an "A" and highly recommend you read it, or another of his few offerings. His books are:

Fast Eddie Felson Series

The Hustler (1959) Literary Fiction

The Color of Money (1984) Literary Fiction

Novels

The Man Who Fell to Earth (1963) Sci Fi

Mockingbird (1980) Sci Fi

The Queen's Gambit (1983) Literary Fiction

The Steps of the Sun (1983) Sci Fi

The Breaking Point by Mary Roberts Rinehart (1922) Mystery

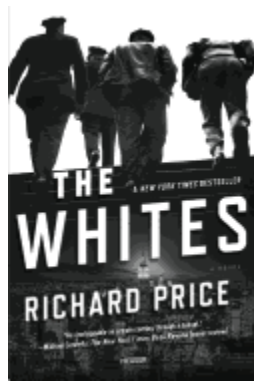


Mary Roberts Rinehart -- "America's Agatha Christie," as she used to be called -- set this story in a New York suburban town, shortly after the end of the first world war. Dick Livingstone is a young, successful doctor, who in the course of events becomes engaged to Elizabeth Wheeler. But there is a mystery about his past, and he thinks himself honor-bound to unravel it before giving himself to her in marriage. In particular, a shock of undetermined origin has wiped out his memory prior to roughly the last decade. Rinehart, who presumably had been reading, or reading about, the then popular Sigmund Freud, plays on what today is called "repressed memory," as she takes Dick into his past, and into the dangers that, unknown

to him, lurk there.

I don't think I've ever run into a book with such widely distributed and sharp opinion on its quality. Goodreads has it rated 3.68/5.00, but it looked like there are as many 1 ratings as 5s and the reviews equally pointed. I thought it a very well written and enjoyable book. Not a typical murder mystery, though that is included, but rather more a romantic mystery and character study of Dick Livingstone. I give it a B and a caution. It's set in the early 1900s, so don't pick it up if you don't like period mysteries. Give her a try. Her books are shorter than today's and you may well find a new favorite.

The Whites by Richard Price written as Harry Brandt (2015) Crime Thriller



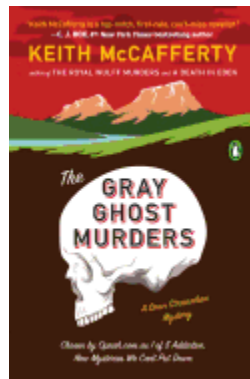
Back in the 1990s, when Billy Graves worked in the South Bronx as part of an anti-crime unit known as the Wild Geese, he made headlines by accidentally shooting a ten-year-old boy while stopping an angel-dusted berserker in the street. Branded as a cowboy, Billy spent years in one dead-end posting after another. Now in his early forties, he is a sergeant in Manhattan Night Watch, a team of detectives that responds to all felonies from Wall Street to Harlem between one a.m. and eight a.m.

Billy's work is mostly routine, but when Night Watch is called to the four-a.m. fatal slashing of a man in Penn Station, his investigation moves beyond the usual handoff to the day shift. And when he discovers that the victim was once a suspect in an unsolved murder--a brutal case with connections to the former members of the Wild Geese--the bad old days are back in Billy's life with a vengeance.

Billy is a cop you have to like, but probably not love. He's honest,

stouthearted, and a good family man. He's put through the ringer by this phase of his life. I give *The Whites* a B+. It's more a literary work than a Michael Connelly book. I liked it and would commend Richard Price aka Harry Brandt to you for reading consideration.

The Gray Ghost Murders by Keith McCafferty (2013) Mystery

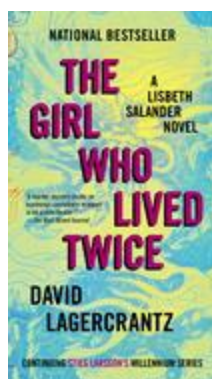


The Gray Ghost Murders is the second novel in the acclaimed Sean Stranahan mystery series.

Fourteen months after moving to Montana, fly fisherman, painter, and sometime private detective Sean Stranahan is still sleeping in his office-cum-art-studio, but he's no longer a newcomer. He now knows the rivers and has a new sweetheart, Martinique. And when the bear-ravaged remains of two men are found on Sphinx Mountain, Sheriff Martha Ettinger once more turns to Stranahan for help in solving what smells like murder. Meanwhile, he's also been hired by a group of eccentric fishermen to find their valuable, and possibly stolen, Gray Ghost fly. Could the theft be connected to the gray ghosts haunting the mountain? To find out, Stranahan will cross paths, and arms, with some of the most powerful people in the Madison Valley.

I've not read McCafferty before picking this book up. At first, I thought it might not make my cut. However, the pace picked up and I came to appreciate the woodsy discussions and Montana setting. If you like hunting and/or fly fishing you'll enjoy this series. I give this book a B+. If you like Craig Johnson, William Kent Krueger or C.J. Box give McCafferty a look.

The Girl Who Lived Twice by David Lagercrantz (2019) Mystery



When Mikael Blomkvist needs to identify a man, who died with his phone number in his pocket and whose last words spelled danger for important people, there's only one person who can help: Lisbeth Salander--the fierce, unstoppable girl with the dragon tattoo. But Lisbeth has vanished. She's sold her apartment in Stockholm. She's gone dark. No one knows where she is, and no one is aware that at long last she's got her primal enemy, her twin sister Camilla, squarely in her sights. In the end, it will be Blomkvist--in a moment of unimaginable self-sacrifice--who will make it possible for Lisbeth to face the most important battle of her life and, finally, to put her past to rest.

Having loved the original Millennium Trilogy by Stieg Larsson, and finding the first of the series written by Lagercrantz a good continuation, I eagerly picked up this, the sixth in the series. It launched more slowly than I prefer and took quite a few chapters to get up to speed. Eventually, it did gain momentum and I finished it with a burst of speed reading. I enjoyed it very much, but place it a rung below the originals and give it a B+. Just not as gripping and less believable than the originals. If you like a good mystery and have read the prior volumes, by all means, add this book to your "Have Read" list. If you've not read the originals, I plead with you to get started. They are exceptional.

The January 2021 winner #2 is:

Sarah Inman

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Did You Know?

Truman Capote said” That’s not writing, it’s just typing,” when commenting on Jack Kerouac’s ‘On the Road’, which became a classic text in American literary counterculture.

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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, or better yet, pick another book! 😊

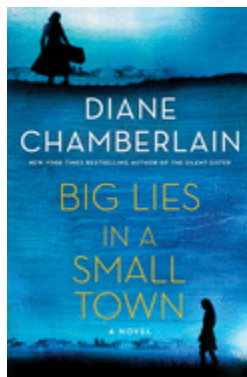
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

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

Diane Chamberlain – Big Lies in a Small Town – 16.99 – General Fiction



Eoin Colfer – Highfire – 16.99 – Fantasy



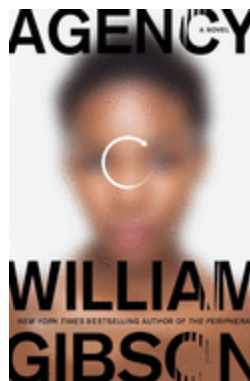
Patricia Cornwell – Spin, A Captain Chase Novel – 28.99 – Espionage Thriller

Vince Flynn & Kyle Mills – Total Power, A Mitch Rapp Novel – 38.95 – Espionage Thriller



Lisa Gardner – Before She Disappeared – 27.00 – Espionage Thriller

William Gibson – Agency – 17.00 – Science Fiction



Elizabeth Green – Confessions of a Curious Bookseller – 14.95 – General Fiction



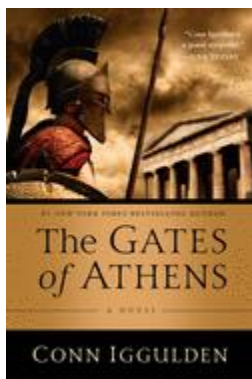
James Grippando – Twenty - 27.99 – Thriller

Kristin Hannah – Firefly Lane – 17.99 – General Fiction



Gregg Hurwitz – Prodigal Son, An Orphan X Novel – 27.99 – Espionage Thriller

Conn Iggulden – The Gates of Athens – 25.95 – Historical Fiction



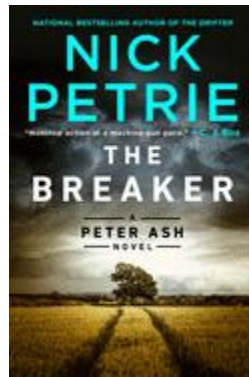
Faye Kellerman – The Lost Boys – 27.99 – Mystery

Leslie Meier – Irish Parade Murder, A Lucy Stone Mystery – 26.00



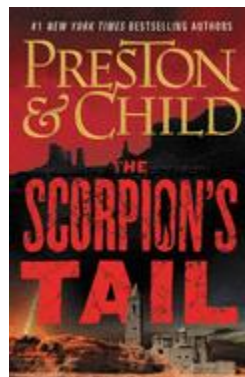
James Patterson & James O. Born – Blindsight – 16.99 – Detective Mystery

Nick Petrie – The Breaker, A Peter Ash Novel – 27.00 – Espionage Thriller



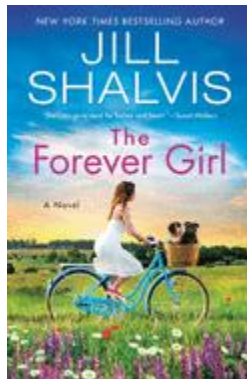
Jason Pinter – A Stranger at the Door – 15.95 – Espionage Thriller

Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child – The Scorpion's Tail – 30.00 – Espionage Thriller



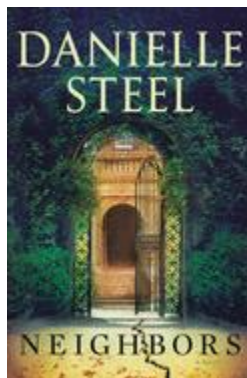
Anders Roslund – Knock Knock – 27.00 – Espionage Thriller

Jill Shalvis – The Forever Girl – 16.99 – General Fiction



Alexander McCall Smith – Pianos and Flowers – 25.95 – General Fiction

Danielle Steel – Neighbors – 28.99 - General Fiction



Brad Taylor – American Traitor, A Pike Logan Novel – 28.99 – Espionage Thriller

P.J. Tracy – Deep into the Dark – 26.99 – Mystery



David Weber – The Apocalypse Troll – 16.00 – Science Fiction



The January 2021 winner #3 is:

Maxine Baker

Trivia for January 2021

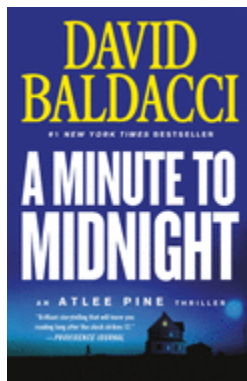
What twentieth-century writer used the words hook, line and sinker in the titles of a 3-book espionage series?

Answer

Len Deighton. The books were Spy Hook; Spy Line and Spy Sinker.

Mass Market Paperback

David Baldacci – A Minute to Midnight – 9.99 – Espionage Thriller



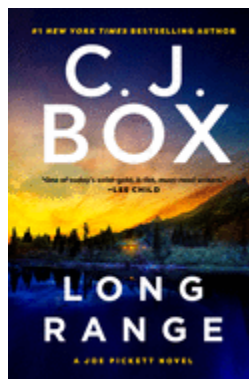
Steve Berry – The Warsaw Protocol – 9.99 – Espionage Thriller

Allison Brennan – The Third to Die – 9.99 – Espionage Thriller



C.J. Box – Back of Beyond – 9.99 – Detective Mystery

C.J. Box – Long Range, A Joe Pickett Novel – 9.99 – Detective Mystery



Neil Gaiman – Trigger Warning, Short Fictions and Disturbances – 7.99 – General Fiction



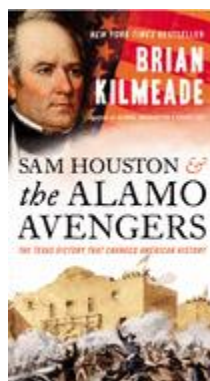
Karen Harper – Under the Alaskan Ice, An Alaska Wild Novel – 9.99

Iris Johansen – The Persuasion – 9.99 – Mystery



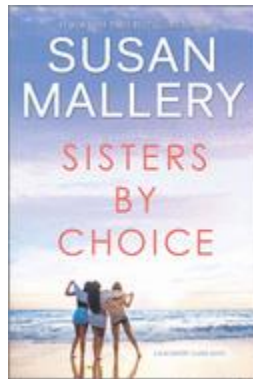
Craig Johnson – The Dark Horse, A Walt Longmire Novel – 9.99 – Mystery

Brian Kilmeade – Sam Houston and the Alamo Avengers, The Texas Victory that Changed American History – 9.99 – American History



Debbie Macomber – Finally You – 9.99 - Romance

Susan Mallery – Sisters by Choice, A Blackberry Island Novel – 9.99 – General Fiction



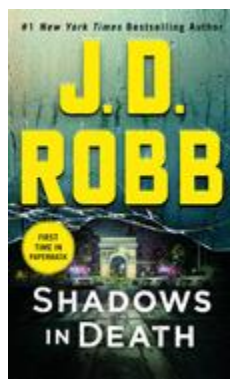
Kat Martin – The Ultimate Betrayal – 9.99 - Romance

Fern Michaels – Bitter Pill – 9.99 – Detective Mystery



L.E. Modesitt, Jr – The Mage-Fire War – 9.99 – Fantasy

J.D. Robb – Shadows in Death – 8.99 – Mystery



Nora Roberts – An Irish Wish – 9.99 – Romance

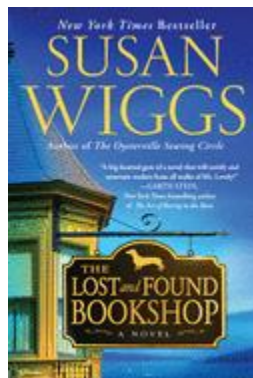
Tim Washburn – The Devil's Rope, A Rocking R Ranch Western –

8.99



Jennifer Weiner – Mrs. Everything – 9.99 – General Fiction

Susan Wiggs – The Lost and Found Bookshop – 9.99 – General Fiction



The January 2021 winner #4 is:

Betsy Hawkinson