

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 14, #7 July 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/>

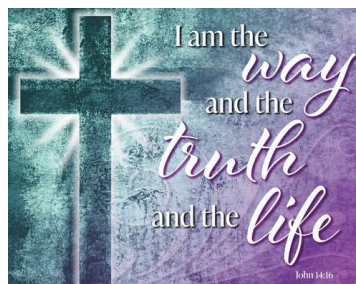
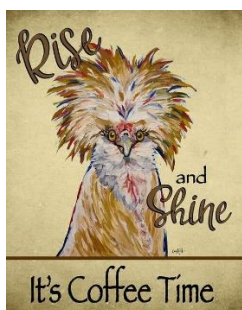
Trivia for July 2021

How many times did Ernest Hemingway revise the last page of *A Farewell to Arms*?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

New Metal Signs

We refreshed our metal sign inventory and added some new ones, including:



You can apply up to \$3.00 of your store credit toward your purchase.

Our July 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 in the past 2-years (Since July 1, 2019 this month).

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 July 2021 winner #1 is:

Beth Baustian

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 **July 30, 2021** to claim your prize:

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

July 2021 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

Cell Phone Courtesy Month

Dog Days of Summer - July 3 - August 11

National Blueberry Month

National Grilling Month

July 1 – Claudia & Bob Applegate assumed ownership of **The Book Rack** July 1, 2008. BOOM!

1 – National Postal Workers Day

2 – UFO Day – Yes, we have books on UFOs!

4 – Independence Day – **The Book Rack will be closed!**

7 – Chocolate Day – One of my favorites.

10 – Local Author David Dorris will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00

13 – Fool's Paradise Day

14 – National Macaroni and Cheese Day

18 – National Ice Cream Day

23 – The Olympics Opening Ceremonies Day

24 – National Day of the Cowboy

25 – Local Author Ellen Tsagaris will be at The Book Rack 12-2:00 for a book signing and Collectible Doll Appraisal event.

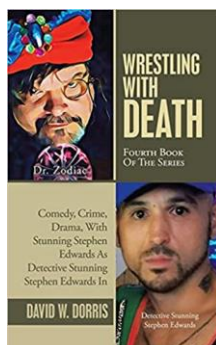
25 – Parent's Day

30 – International Day of Friendship

Featured Local Authors

David W. Dorris

David Dorris will be at The Book Rack July 10 with copies of his books, including his newest: **Wrestling with Death: Fourth Book of the Series.**



"Wrestling with Death" is a murder mystery with an abundance of humor. There seems to be a serial killer in Davenport. He cannot be identified because so many people have different motives. Of course, Scooter is needed to perform heroic actions to eventually solve the mysterious killings. Is it for business, revenge or pleasure? Is death coming too close? There are many twists in the story including the identity of assistants to Michael, The Magnificent, also known as Dr. Nejino. Who is threatening the city of Davenport of a lockdown? From hypnotism, criminal plots and spook adventures, the action is constantly moving to having the readers not knowing who the real killer is. How does Detective Murphy play into the criminal plot? Can collaboration of timeless enemy, Jerry Dickerson and his gang and the Davenport detectives with the Stunning Stephen Edwards solve the murder mystery? Find out how the confusing and difficult investigation leads to the identity of the killer. Author, David Dorris has placed comedy into a murder mystery.

Ellen Tsagaris

Ellen will be at The Book Rack, Sunday, July 25 12 – 2:00.

Ellen Tsagaris was born in Europe and has lived in the Midwest and California. She has published a chapbook, *Sappho, I should have Listened*, edited and contributed to *The Legend of Tugfest*, published by 918 Studio, and contributed to various other books and eBooks. She enjoys writing novels, poetry, and creative nonfiction. She collects antiques, appraises dolls and published *A Bibliography of Doll and Toy Sources* last year. She has written over sixty articles for periodicals, and published two study guides/texts for legal assistants. She holds a law degree, and degrees in English and Spanish.

Ellen's latest book is **Thinking Outside the Doll House**



Dolls are everywhere. Turn on any TV show or play a movie in your DVD player and you will find dolls as props. Articles about dolls pop up everywhere. The internet is bulging with studies of Barbie, articles on Cabbage Patch Kids, advertisements on dolls, sites that sell dolls, doll blogs, doll videos, etc. There are even phobias connected with dolls and their cousins, automatons and robots. Mystery writers weave novel stories about dolls; poets pay them attention in verse. There is no house without a doll! Even those who claim they have no dolls or don't like them have had a doll or a doll-related object in their lives. Doll-related objects that fit the doll theme or what Lea Baten calls "The Doll Motif" are basically anything figural, portrait-related, loved as a doll or toy, a paper doll, or a stuffed animal. Dolls rock! Read on!

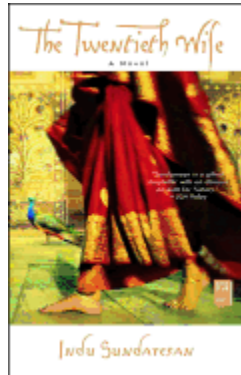
FREE Doll Appraisal by Ellen during her event!

Do you have an old doll you think might be valuable? Bring it to Ellen and receive a free estimate of the value of your collectible doll. This is NOT a formal appraisal, but you will receive Ellen's estimate of the value if you chose to sell it. Limit of one (1) appraisal per family, please. If you buy one of Ellen's books, you can receive an appraisal on a second doll. We may have to limit the number of appraisals if too many dolls visit us!

Book Reviews

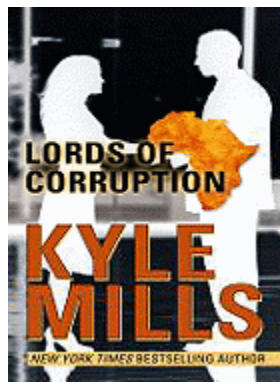
Review by Claudia:

The Twentieth Wife by Indu Sundaresan (2003) is the author's debut novel, and the first of her *Taj Mahal Trilogy*.



A fictionalized account of an historical empress in the Mughal empire, *The Twentieth Wife* begins in 1577 with the birth of a daughter to starving Persian refugees. Abandoned on the roadside, she is discovered by Masud, a kind merchant, who soon discovers who the baby belongs to and reunites the family. He befriends them and introduces her father to the court of Emperor Akbar, who is so taken with the child (named Mehrunnisa, the Sun of Women), that he agrees that she can stay at court and his first wife, Ruqayya, will raise her. A beautiful, intelligent child, she grows up on the fringes of the palace grounds. When she is eight years old, she sees the young future emperor, Salim, during celebrations for his first marriage and decides she, too, will one day become his wife. The story follows Mehrunnisa through a disastrous arranged marriage; childbirth; violence; political intrigue and power struggles in the male-dominated government, as well as, behind the veil in the harem; all while Salim is consumed by his desire for Mehrunnisa and conspires to have her for his own. Much of the story is based in history, which contributes to understanding of the strength and ambition needed to pursue what would otherwise be an unattainable love. Good book for young adults and up. Led me to read more of the historical basis for the book, which is really fascinating.

Lords of Corruption by Kyle Mills (2009) Thriller



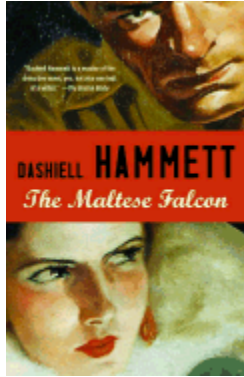
When Josh Hagarty is recruited by the charitable organization NewAfrica to manage a farming project in an underdeveloped African country, he signs on, figuring that he can put his newly acquired graduate degree in engineering to good use. However, when Josh gets situated in Africa, he finds that NewAfrica may not be the philanthropic charity it purports itself to be.

As Josh delves deeper into his work, secrets begin to unravel, throwing him into a world of violence, turmoil, and political corruption. He soon learns that Gideon, the man responsible for heading the local organization, is not only a relative of the African country's president, but also a strong-arm thug with a tendency towards aggression and dishonesty. In his hunt for both truth and justice, Josh also discovers that his predecessor may have been murdered to cover up something he had discovered about the project, something that should have remained buried. And why has Gideon uprooted the very people that Josh thought he was supposed to be helping? Is NewAfrica merely a scam?

With the help of Annika Gritdal, a beautiful Scandinavian aid worker, and journalist J.B. Flannary, Josh must fight to uncover the truth behind NewAfrica. In doing so, the trio must struggle to survive by evading those who are trying to prevent them from uncovering a dangerous secret - a secret that might just get them killed.

I give this book a B. It's well written and the characters well-conceived, but I just didn't see it as reaching the A standard. It painted all of Black Africa as corrupt and manipulated by foreigners. While there are and have been such places on the continent, my experience has been most Africans struggle with poverty, but are not under the thumb of foreigners – NGOs or other players.

The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett (1930) Mystery

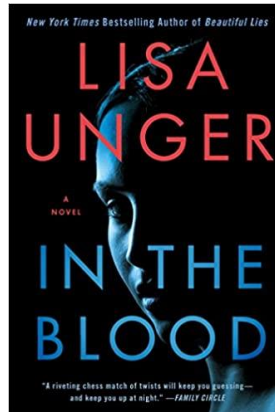


Published in 1930, **The Maltese Falcon** was Dashiell Hammett's third novel in two years. Here he creates a new detective, Sam Spade. When the intriguing Miss Wonderly appears in his office and asks him to tail a fellow named Floyd Thursby, Spade puts his partner, Miles Archer, on the case. In short order, Thursby and Archer turn up dead, and the beautiful woman is back in his office, this time telling him her real name, Brigid O'Shaughnessy, and imploring him, in a dramatic plea, to help her. Spade replies, "You won't need much of anybody's help. You're good. You're very good. It's chiefly your eyes, I think, and that throb you get into your voice when you say things like 'Be generous, Mr. Spade'" [p. 35]. Spade relents, though not before extracting a hefty retainer—almost all her money. Then a "small-boned man" named Joel Cairo calls on Spade. He has his own special interest in Thursby, and to Thursby's relationship to a missing statuette of a black bird. Cairo makes the mistake of pulling a gun on Spade, who easily knocks him out. The encounter leads the detective, all the while clumsily trailed by the young gungel Wilmer, to the third main character, Casper Gutman. The fat man reveals the value of the Maltese falcon, and the treasure hunt is on.

This greedy and ruthless trio of characters bent on finding the statuette meet their match in Sam Spade. The plot, characters, and dialogue in **The Maltese Falcon** are perfectly controlled by Hammett, incorporating a vigor and style that became the paradigm for hard-boiled crime fiction.

What a great book! If you love Raymond Chandler, Michael Connelly, Ross Macdonald, Ed McBain and similar authors, you have to read Hammett. I give it a well-deserved A. You may have seen the Humphrey Bogart movie, but you still must read the book.

In the Blood by Lisa Unger (2014) Mystery



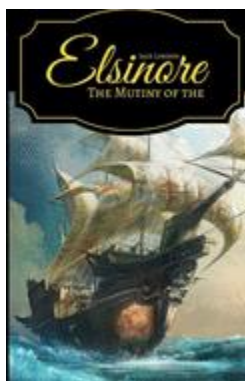
Lana Granger lives a life of lies. She has told so many lies about where she comes from and who she is that the truth is like a cloudy nightmare she can't quite recall. About to graduate from college and with her trust fund almost tapped out, she takes a job babysitting a troubled boy named Luke. Expelled from schools all over the country, the manipulative young Luke is accustomed to controlling the people in his life. But, in Lana, he may have met his match. Or has Lana met hers?

When Lana's closest friend, Beck, mysteriously disappears, Lana resumes her lying ways--to friends, to the police, to herself. The police have a lot of questions for Lana when the story about her whereabouts the night Beck disappeared doesn't jibe with eyewitness accounts. Lana will do anything to hide the truth, but it might not be enough to keep her ominous secrets buried: someone else knows about Lana's lies. And he's dying to tell.

Lisa Unger's writing has been hailed as "sensational" (*Publishers Weekly*) and "sophisticated" (*New York Daily News*), with "gripping narrative and evocative, muscular prose" (Associated Press). Masterfully suspenseful, finely crafted, and written with a no-holds-barred raw power, *In the Blood* is Unger at her best.

I give this book a B. The ending would be an A-, but much of the book was a bit of a slog to read.

Mutiny of the Elsinore by Jack London (1914) Adventure Classic



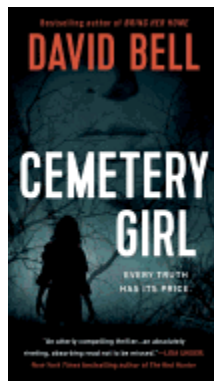
Told in the form of a narrative by the author and protagonist, Mr. Pathurst. Life has lost its savor for Pathurst. New York, fame, women, the arts, have all become tedious. Searching for excitement, he books passage on a cargo vessel sailing from Baltimore to Seattle on a route that travels around the treacherous Cape Horn. Pathurst encounters more than he ever expected in rough seas, turbulent storms, and a mutinous crew. His epic struggles aboard the sailing ship *Elsinore* have given him a new love for life, but will he survive in time to profit from it? The crew of the *Elsinore* mutiny after the death of their captain. Taking advantage of his own sailing experiences, London portrays the conflict between the two sides of the crew, each side backing one of the ship's mates. He includes some strong philosophic viewpoints and a bit of romance to create an engaging tale. The book was even made into three movies.

I must admit, I had never heard of this book until I listened to it while driving. It's a very well-done adventure novel – Jack London – it had to be good! I give it an A. You can feel for the crew as they brave the harsh sea, spartan conditions and the strong hand of the First Mate. The *Elsinore* is one of the last sailing ships carrying coal from the East Coast to the West and the book gives a frightening look into what it took to sail in the violent waters off the Horn. If you like a good sea adventure tale you should not miss this one.

The July 2021 winner #2 is:

Joy Harris

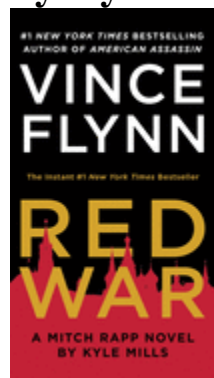
Cemetery Girl by David Bell (2011) Mystery



Tom and Abby Stuart had everything: a perfect marriage, successful careers, and a beautiful twelve-year-old daughter, Caitlin. Then one day Caitlin vanished without a trace. For a while they grasped at every false hope and followed every empty lead, but the tragedy ended up changing their lives, overwhelming them with guilt and dread, and shattering their marriage. Four years later, Caitlin is found alive--dirty and disheveled yet preternaturally calm. She won't discuss where she was or what happened. Then the police arrest a suspect connected to the disappearance, but Caitlin refuses to testify, leaving the Stuarts with a choice: Let the man who may be responsible for destroying their lives walk away, or take matters into their own hands. And when Tom decides to try to uncover the truth for himself, he finds that nothing that has happened yet can prepare him for what he is about to discover.

What a troubling book! It's well written and keeps you wondering how it will end, though you "know" it will be badly! It's not for parents who worry about your children going missing. I give it a B+. It may deserve higher, but I kept asking myself if I really wanted to keep reading. I'm glad I did, but it still left me conflicted.

Red War, A Mitch Rapp Novel by Kyle Mills (2018) Thriller



When Russian president Maxim Krupin discovers that he has inoperable brain cancer, he's determined to cling to power. His first task is to kill or imprison any of his countrymen who can threaten him. Soon, though, his illness becomes serious enough to require a more dramatic diversion - war with the West.

Upon learning of Krupin's condition, CIA director Irene Kennedy understands that the US is facing an opponent who has nothing to lose. The only way to avoid a confrontation that could leave millions dead is to send Mitch Rapp to Russia under impossibly dangerous orders. With the Kremlin's entire security apparatus hunting him, he must find and kill a man many have deemed the most powerful in the world.

Success means averting a war that could consume all of Europe. But if his mission is discovered, Rapp will plunge Russia and America into a conflict that neither will survive.

Another classic in the Mitch Rapp series begun by Vince Flynn and continuing by Kyle Mills. Mills initially found inspiration from his father, the former director of Interpol, and still draws on his contacts in the intelligence community to give his books such realism. I award yet another A for the creativity and operational details in this novel.

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Did You Know?

Poet John Berryman jumped to his death from a bridge in Minneapolis in 1972.

Chinese poet, Li Po met the Grim Reaper when, on a boat one night, he reached over the edge to kiss the reflection of the moon on the water, fell in and drowned.

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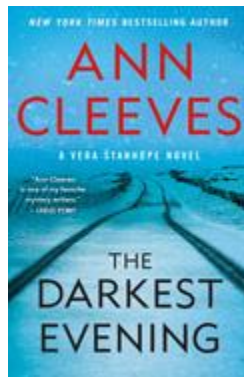
You can also add any of these titles to your request list. Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but many will get to you eventually.

Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Jennifer Chiaverini – The Women’s March – 28.99 – Historical Fiction



Ann Cleeves – The Darkest Evening, A Vera Stanhope Novel – 16.99 – Mystery



On the first snowy night of winter, Detective Inspector Vera Stanhope sets off for her home in the hills. Though the road is familiar, she misses a turning and soon becomes lost and disorientated. A car has skidded off the narrow road in front of her, its door left open, and she stops to help. There is no driver to be seen, so Vera assumes that the owner has gone to find help. But a cry calls her back: a toddler is strapped in the back seat.

Vera takes the child and, driving on, she arrives at a place she knows well. Brockburn is a large, grand house in the wilds of Northumberland, now a little shabby and run down. It's also where her father, Hector, grew up. Inside, there's a party in full swing: music, Christmas lights and laughter. Outside, unbeknownst to the revelers, a woman lies dead in the snow.

As the blizzard traps the group deep in the freezing Northumberland countryside, Brockburn begins to give up its secrets, and as Vera digs deeper into her investigation, she also begins to uncover her family's complicated past.

David Drake – The Serpent – 25.00 – Sci Fi



Jon of Dun Add has created a civilization where before there had only been isolated pockets of humanity in a shattered cosmos.

Young knight Pal is one of the most respected members of Lord Jon's Hall of Champions. But Pal's greatest talent lies not on the field of battle, though he's no slouch there. He is also a Maker, one who can repair the tools the Ancients had left--sometimes. Moreover, he has learned to use his warrior dog's ability to predict motion better than any human could, an ability that has saved his skin and won the day more than once.

Now, Pal will need all his talent--as a fighter, as a Maker, as a Champion--to deal with the monsters the Waste throws at him--and to deal with his fellow humans. For there are those who would destroy Dun Add, and Lord Jon's vision of a humanity united in peace, from within....

Joy Fielding – Cul-de-Sac – 28.00 – Mystery



Someone on this quiet, unassuming cul-de-sac will be shot dead in the middle of a sultry July night.

Will it be Maggie, the perfectionist wife, or Craig, the husband who can't quite live up to her expectations? They've packed up their two children and fled their life in California, hoping for a fresh start in Florida, only to find the demons of the past hovering on their doorstep.

Maybe it will be Nick, a highly respected oncologist, or his wife, Dani, a successful dentist, both with well-kept secrets of their own.

Or Julia, an elderly widow, whose troubled grandson has recently moved in with her, introducing unsavory habits and even more unsavory acquaintances into her formerly quiet existence.

Then there's Olivia and her husband, Sean. Having lost his job at a prestigious advertising agency, Sean is depressed, resentful of his working wife, and drinking heavily. He is also prone to increasingly violent fantasies.

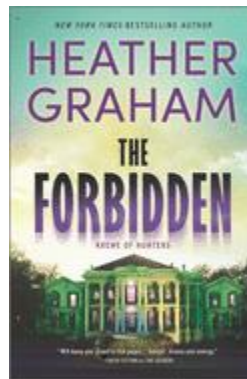
And what of the newlyweds, Aiden and Heidi, whose marriage is already on the rocks, due to Aiden's reluctance to stand up to his intrusive mother? Matters aren't helped when Heidi befriends Julia's grandson, setting the stage for a major blowup.

A diverse group of neighbors, to be sure. Yet all harbor secrets. All bear scars. And all have access to guns.

Not all will survive the night.

Tess Gerritsen & Gary Braver – Choose Me – 24.95 – Mystery

Heather Graham – The Forbidden, A Krew of Hunters Novel – 28.99 – Thriller



She is someone's darkest desire

Playing the victim of a vampire king on an island off New Orleans is actress Avalon Morgan's creepiest role to date. It's also scary good fun--until the victim of a real killer is discovered on set, laid out for all to see. With production shut down, Avalon can't stop thinking about the chilling crime scene, or Grayson Avery, the investigator working the case. With a rising body count and zero leads, Gray can't help but be impressed by Avalon's amateur sleuthing, which takes her to the darkest corners of the internet, where killers confess their crimes. One such account is a dead ringer for the murders, but when the evidence vanishes, nobody believes Avalon--except for Gray. With no one they can trust, Avalon and Gray are determined to unbury the truth at any cost, but a return to the deadly island could be the last thing they do.

Arnaldur Indridason – The Darkness Knows – 27.99 – Mystery



Retired detective Konrad returns to a haunting cold case in *The Darkness Knows* by Arnaldur Indridason, the undisputed King of the Icelandic thriller. --*The Guardian* (UK)

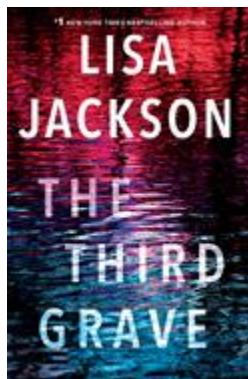
A frozen body is discovered in the icy depths of Langjökull glacier, apparently that of a businessman who disappeared thirty years before. At the time, an extensive search and police investigation yielded no results--one of the missing man's business associates was briefly held in custody, but there wasn't enough evidence to charge him.

Now the associate is arrested again and Konrad, the retired policeman who originally investigated the disappearance, is called back to reopen the case that has weighed on his mind for decades.

When a woman approaches him with new information that she obtained from her deceased brother, progress can finally be made in solving this long-cold case.

In *The Darkness Knows*, the master of Icelandic crime writing reunites readers with Konrad, the unforgettable retired detective from *The Shadow District*. This is a powerful and haunting story about the poisonous secrets and cruel truths that time eventually uncovers.

Lisa Jackson – *The Third Grave* – 27.00 – Thriller



Return to the dark side of Savanna, Georgia where a crime writer and her detective husband are working a cold case, and hot on the trail of a killer who's work isn't done.

The old Beaumont mansion is a rotting shell of its once-grand self, especially after a disastrous hurricane sweeps through Georgia. The storm does more than dislodge shutters and shingles. It leads to a grisly find in the cellar. Three graves. But only two skeletons...

For Nikki, the discovery is a gift, the perfect subject for her next crime book--though Reed has made her promise not to keep involving herself in dangerous police business. But despite the increasing tension between them, Nikki can't stay away from this story. Rumors are widespread that the burial site is the resting place of the Duval sisters--three young girls who went to the movies with their older brother, Owen, twenty years ago, and never returned. Forensics confirms that the remains belong to Holly and Poppy Duval. But where is the youngest sister, Rose?

Owen Duval was, and remains, the prime suspect, alibi or no. But as Nikki and Reed delve deep into the mystery, fractures in the case begin to show. There is more to the sisters' disappearance than anyone ever guessed. Far from an isolated act, those deaths were just the beginning. And there will be no rest, and no relenting, until the killer has buried the twisted truth along with his victims...

Lisa Kleypas – *Devil in Disguise, The Ravenals* – 27.99 – Historical Romance



The devil never tries to make people do the wrong thing by scaring them. He does it by tempting them."

Lady Merritt Sterling, a strong-willed young widow who's running her late husband's shipping company, knows London society is dying to catch her in a scandal. So far, she's been too smart to provide them with one. But then she meets Keir MacRae, a rough-and-rugged Scottish whisky distiller, and all her sensible plans vanish like smoke. They couldn't be more different, but their attraction is powerful, raw and irresistible.

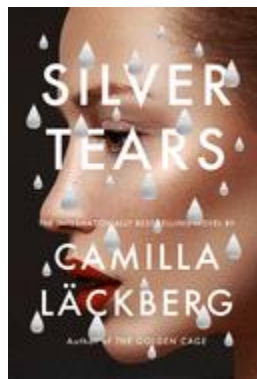
From the moment Keir MacRae arrives in London, he has two goals. One: don't fall in love with the dazzling Lady Merritt Sterling. Two: avoid being killed.

So far, neither of those is going well.

Keir doesn't know why someone wants him dead until fate reveals the secret of his mysterious past. His world is thrown into upheaval, and the only one he trusts is Merritt.

Their passion blazes with an intensity Merritt has never known before, making her long for the one thing she can't have from Keir MacRae: forever. As danger draws closer, she'll do whatever it takes to save the man she loves . . . even knowing he might be the devil in disguise.

Camilla Lackberg – Silver Tears – 27.00 – Thriller



In this bold, mesmerizing story of seduction, deceit, and female power, a woman's secret cannot stay buried forever.

Faye Adelheim is living a delicious lie. She is wealthy beyond imagination, she is the Chairman of her self-made global cosmetics brand, and her ex-husband, the monster who killed her beloved daughter Julianne, is living out the remainder of his days behind bars.

But unbeknownst to journalists, police officers, and investors, and even the lovers she occasionally invites to her bed, Faye has a secret: her daughter is, in fact, alive and well and so is her mother, the woman Faye's father was sentenced for allegedly killing years ago.

Together, three generations of women have survived in hiding from the men who sought to destroy them. But unfortunately for Faye, cages are meant to be opened, pillow talk can lead to betrayal, and secrets always end in tears.

George R.R. Martin – Joker Moon – 29.99 – Sci Fi



In *Joker Moon*, the next Wild Cards adventure from series editor George R. R. Martin, we follow Aarti, the Moon Maid, who can astrally project herself onto the surface of the moon and paint projections across the lunarscape.

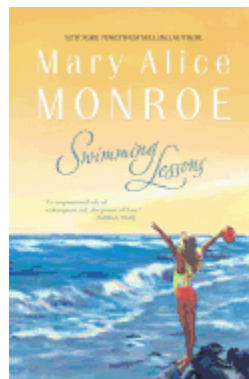
Theodorus was a dreamer.

As a child, he dreamt of airplanes, rockets, and outer space. When the wild card virus touched him and transformed him into a monstrous snail centaur weighing several tons, his boyhood dreams seemed out of reach, but a Witherspoon is not so easily defeated. Years and decades passed, and Theodorus grew to maturity and came into his fortune . . . but still his dream endured.

But now when he looked upward into the night sky, he saw more than just the moon . . . he saw a joker homeland, a refuge where the outcast children of the wild card could make a place of their own, safe from hate and harm. An impossible dream, some said. Others, alarmed by the prospect, brought all their power to bear to oppose him. Theodorus persisted . . .

. . . never dreaming that the Moon was already inhabited. And the Moon Maid did not want company.

Mary Alice Monroe – Swimming Lessons – 15.99



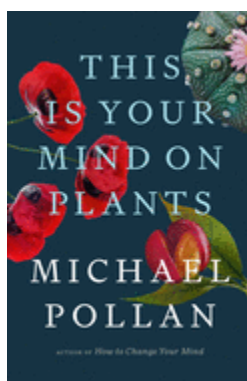
Toy Sooner has dealt with enough rough waves in her troubled past. It's only been through the enduring love of a close-knit group of women on this tiny island that she's finally started to find her footing. But as new challenges in her career arise for this young single mother, the choices and demons of her past will catch up to her. Soon Toy will learn that, like the steadfast sea turtles she cares for, a mother must find the strength within herself to make it safely to shore.

Jo Nesbo – The Kingdom – 17.00 – Thriller



Roy and Carl, brothers from a small mountain town, have spent their whole lives hiding from the darkness in their pasts--Roy by staying put and staying quiet, and Carl by running far away. Roy believed his little brother was gone for good. But Carl has big plans for his hometown. And when he returns with a mysterious new wife and a business opportunity that seems too good to be true, simmering tensions begin to surface and unexplained deaths in the town's past come under new scrutiny. Soon powerful players set their sights on taking the brothers down by exposing their role in the town's sordid history. But Roy and Carl are survivors, and no strangers to violence. As the town's long-buried past begins to surface, Roy will be forced to choose between his own flesh and blood and a future he had never dared to believe possible.

Michael Pollan – This Is Your Mind on Plants – 28.00 – Parapsychology



Of all the things humans rely on plants for--sustenance, beauty, medicine, fragrance, flavor, fiber--surely the most curious is our use of them to change consciousness: to stimulate or calm, fiddle with or completely alter, the qualities of our mental experience. Take coffee and tea: People around the world rely on caffeine to sharpen their minds. But we do not usually think of caffeine as a drug, or our daily use as an addiction, because it is legal and socially acceptable. So, then, what is a "drug"? And why, for example, is making tea from the leaves of a tea plant acceptable, but making tea from a seed head of an opium poppy a federal crime?

In *This Is Your Mind on Plants*, Michael Pollan dives deep into three plant drugs--opium, caffeine, and mescaline--and throws the fundamental strangeness, and arbitrariness, of our thinking about them into sharp relief. Exploring and participating in the cultures that have grown up around these drugs while consuming (or, in the case of caffeine, trying *not* to consume) them, Pollan reckons with the powerful human attraction to psychoactive plants. Why do we go to such great lengths to seek these shifts in consciousness, and then why do we fence that universal desire with laws and customs and fraught feelings?

In this unique blend of history, science, and memoir, as well as participatory journalism, Pollan examines and experiences these plants from several very different angles and contexts, and shines a fresh light on a subject that is all too often treated reductively--as a drug, whether licit or illicit. But that is one of the least interesting things you can say about these plants, Pollan shows, for when we take them into our bodies and let them change our minds, we are engaging with nature in one of the most profound ways we can. Based in part on an essay published almost twenty-five years ago, this groundbreaking and singular consideration of psychoactive plants, and our attraction to them

through time, holds up a mirror to our fundamental human needs and aspirations, the operations of our minds, and our entanglement with the natural world.

The July 2021 winner #3 is:

Barbara Sullivan

Jeff Shaara – The Eagle’s Claw, A Novel of the Battle of Midway – 28.99



"Spring 1942. The United States is reeling from the blow the Japanese inflicted at Pearl Harbor. But the Americans are determined to turn the tide. The key comes from Commander Joe Rochefort, a little known 'code breaker' who cracks the Japanese military encryption. With Rochefort's astonishing discovery, Admiral Chester Nimitz will know precisely what the Japanese are planning. But the battle to counter those plans must still be fought. From the American side, the shocking conflict is seen through the eyes of Rochefort and Admiral Nimitz, as well as fighter pilot Lieutenant Percy 'Perk' Baker and Marine Gunnery Sergeant Doug Ackroyd. On the Japanese side, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto is the mastermind. His key subordinates are Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, aging and infirm, and Admiral Tamon Yamaguchi, a firebrand who has no patience for Nagumo's hesitation. Together, these two men must play out the chess game designed by Yamamoto, without any idea that the Americans are anticipating their every move on the sea and in the air

Daniel Silva – The Cellist – 28.99 – Thriller



Viktor Orlov had a longstanding appointment with death. Once Russia's richest man, he now resides in splendid exile in London, where he has waged a tireless crusade against the authoritarian kleptocrats who have seized control of the Kremlin. His mansion in Chelsea's exclusive Cheyne Walk is one of the most heavily protected private dwellings in London. Yet somehow, on a rainy summer evening, in the midst of a global pandemic, Russia's vengeful president finally manages to cross Orlov's name off his kill list.

Before him was the receiver from his landline telephone, a half-drunk glass of red wine, and a stack of documents....

The documents are contaminated with a deadly nerve agent. The Metropolitan Police determine that they were delivered to Orlov's home by one of his employees, a prominent investigative reporter from the anti-Kremlin *Moskovskaya Gazeta*. And when the reporter slips from London hours after the killing, MI6 concludes she is a Moscow Center assassin who has cunningly penetrated Orlov's formidable defenses.

But Gabriel Allon, who owes his very life to Viktor Orlov, believes his friends in British intelligence are dangerously mistaken. His desperate search for the truth will take him from London to Amsterdam and eventually to Geneva, where a private intelligence service controlled by a childhood friend of the Russian president is using KGB-style "active measures" to undermine the West from within. Known as the Haydn Group, the unit is plotting an unspeakable act of violence that will plunge an already divided America into chaos and leave Russia unchallenged. Only Gabriel Allon, with the help of a brilliant young woman employed by the world's dirtiest bank, can stop it.

Elegant and sophisticated, provocative and daring, *The Cellist* explores one of the preeminent threats facing the West today--the corrupting influence of dirty money wielded by a revanchist and reckless Russia. It is at once a novel of hope and a stark warning about the fragile state of democracy. And it proves once again why Daniel Silva is regarded as his generation's finest writer of suspense and international intrigue.

Karin Slaughter – False Witness – 28.99



AN ORDINARY LIFE...

Leigh Collier has worked hard to build what looks like a normal life. She's an up-and-coming defense attorney at a prestigious law firm in Atlanta, would do anything for her sixteen-year-old daughter Maddy, and is managing to successfully coparent through a pandemic after an amicable separation from her husband Walter.

HIDES A DEVASTATING PAST...

But Leigh's ordinary life masks a childhood no one should have to endure ... a childhood tarnished by secrets, broken by betrayal, and ultimately destroyed by a brutal act of violence.

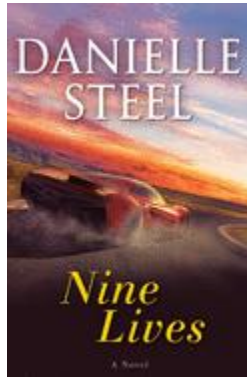
BUT NOW THE PAST IS CATCHING UP...

On a Sunday night at her daughter's school play, she gets a call from one of the firm's partners who wants Leigh to come on board to defend a wealthy man accused of multiple counts of rape. Though wary of the case, it becomes apparent she doesn't have much choice if she wants to keep her job. They're scheduled to go to trial in one week. When she meets the accused face-to-face, she realizes that it's no coincidence that he's specifically asked for her to represent him. She knows him. And he knows her. More to the point, he may know what happened over twenty years ago, and why Leigh has spent two decades avoiding her past.

AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

Suddenly she has a lot more to lose than this case. The only person who can help is her younger, estranged sister Callie--the last person Leigh would ever want to drag into this after all they've been through. But with the life-shattering truth in danger of being revealed, she has no choice...

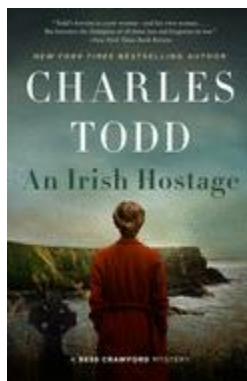
Danielle Steel – Nine Lives – 28.99 – Contemporary Romance



A woman who longs to avoid risk at all cost learns that men who love danger are the most exciting in this moving novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Danielle Steel.

After a carefree childhood, Mary Margaret Kelly came of age in the shadow of grief. Her father, a dashing daredevil Air Force pilot, died when she was nine. Maggie saw her mother struggle to put their lives back together. As the family moved from one city to the next, her mother warned her to beware of daredevil men and avoid risk at all cost. Following her mother's advice, and forgoing the magic of first love with a high school boyfriend who was too wild to feel safe, Maggie instead sought out all the things her mother had lost--a predictable partner, a stable home, and a regular paycheck. She chose to marry a dependable, kind man who was a reliable husband and successful accountant. Together they had a son and found happiness in a conventional suburban life. Until tragedy struck again. Now on her own, feeling a sense of adventure for the first time, Maggie decides to face her fears, setting off on a whirlwind trip from San Francisco to Rome, Paris, and Monaco. But when her travels reconnect her with the very same irresistible, thrill-seeking man she's spent thirty years trying to forget, Maggie becomes terrified that rushing into love and sharing his life may very well end in disaster. But ultimately, while Maggie tries to outrun her fears and painful memories of her past, fate will surprise her in the most astounding of ways, as she walks the tightrope between danger and courage, and between wisdom and love.

Charles Todd – An Irish Hostage – 27.99 – Mystery



The Great War is over, but in Ireland, in the wake of the bloody 1916 Easter Rising, anyone who served in France is now considered a traitor, including nurse Eileen Flynn and former soldier Michael Sullivan, who only want to be married in

the small, isolated village where she grew up. Even her grandmother is against it, and Eileen's only protection is her cousin Terrence who was a hero of the Rising and is still being hunted by the British. Bess Crawford had promised to be there for the wedding. And in spite of the danger to her, she keeps that promise--only to be met with the shocking news that the groom has vanished

Trivia for July 2021

How many times did Ernest Hemingway revise the last page of *A Farewell to Arms*?

Answer

39 times

Mass Market Paperback

Ace Atkins – The Revelators, A Quinn Colson Novel – 9.99 – General

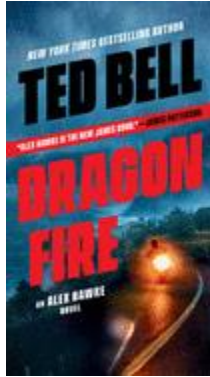


In this gripping new crime novel from the *New York Times*-bestselling author, Quinn Colson returns to take down a criminal syndicate that has ravaged his community, threatened his family, and tried to have him killed.

Shot up and left for dead, Sheriff Quinn Colson has revenge on his mind. With the help of his new wife, Maggie; rehabilitation; and sheer force of will, he's walking again, eager to resume his work as a southern lawman and track down those responsible for his attempted murder. But someone is standing in his way: an interim sheriff, appointed by the newly elected Governor Vardaman, the man who Quinn knows ordered his murder. Vardaman sits at the top of the state's power structure--both legal and criminal--and little does he know, Quinn is still working to take him down. Quinn will enlist the help of his most trusted friends, including federal agent Jon Holliday, U.S. Marshal Lillie Virgil, and Nat Wilikins, an undercover agent now working for crime queen Fannie Hathcock. Since Quinn's been gone, the criminal element in North Mississippi has flourished, with Hathcock enjoying unbridled freedom. Now as a bustling factory shuts down, a labor leader ends up dead, and Quinn's own nephew goes missing, everything looks to be unraveling. Even an old friend from Quinn's past, Donnie Varner, is out of jail and up to his own ways.

Quinn Colson and company have been planning for years, and now they're finally ready to bust apart a criminal empire running on a rigged system for far too long. This is the Battle of Jericho, the epic showdown that's been years in the making. Eventually, the war will end--for better or worse.

Ted Bell – Dragonfire, An Alex Hawke Novel – 9.99 – Thriller



Alex Hawke, British lord and gentleman spy, is looking for the Queen's missing grandson, whose disappearance may be the culmination of a century-old plot in this breathtaking new adventure from *New York Times* bestselling novelist Ted Bell.

December 8, 1941, Washington, D.C.

The new Chinese ambassador to the United States, Tiger Tang, meets with President Roosevelt one day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. For the next four years, China and the U.S. will be wartime allies, but the charming, sophisticated ambassador may be playing his own treacherous game.

Today, the Bahamas

Alex Hawke is recovering from serious injuries incurred during a battle with a malevolent enemy. His recuperation is interrupted by a desperate call from the Queen. Her favorite grandson has disappeared in the Bahamas. Lord Hawke is the only man she trusts with a mission this sensitive. All she knows is that the young prince was last seen at the exclusive resort the Dragonfire Club, owned by the nefarious Tang brothers, grandsons of Ambassador Tiger Tang.

Heather Graham – The Unforgiven, Krewe of Hunters – 9.99 – Thriller



"Graham weaves history, ghosts and danger into a gripping story like no other." --*Fresh Fiction* on *The Summoning*

A tragic past. An uncertain future.

Twelve years after the grisly murder of her parents, Kaitlyn Delaney has finally found peace. She has friends, a good job, a place to call home and a new life to live. But then a shadow creeps in from Katie's past, reminding her that she will never completely escape its terrifying grip.

When private investigator Dan Oliver is called to the scene of a gruesome crime in New Orleans, he can't help but hear echoes of the Delaney case, the unsolved murder that made him leave law enforcement. As he digs deeper, he unearths more chilling similarities--including mysterious letters connecting the killer to a string of murders that terrorized the Big

Now reunited after all this time, Dan and Katie scour the streets together, desperate to find answers before more lives are lost. But the otherworldly roots of this evil run far deeper than they ever imagined...and only the most precious of sacrifices will bring its twisted reign to an end.

Erin Hunter – Bravelands #6: Oathkeeper – 7.99 – Children’s



Erin Hunter's bestselling Bravelands series continues with the sixth and final book of the first Bravelands arc!

At long last, the Great Herd is united against Titan--now so powerful that even Fearless, who vowed to avenge his father's death, cannot defeat the rogue lion alone. Thorn may have a plan to bring about Titan's downfall, but the animals of Bravelands must decide how much they are willing to risk--and who they are willing to lose.

Full of epic adventure and thrilling intrigue, Bravelands will thrill readers who love the Spirit Animals and Wings of Fire series, as well as the legion of dedicated fans who've made Erin Hunter a bestselling phenomenon.

Iris Johansen – Chaos – 9.99 – Thriller



In this high-stakes thriller, a #1 New York Times bestselling author introduces CIA agent Alisa Flynn, who is willing to go rogue if it means catching the most heartless band of criminals she's ever encountered.

When CIA agent Alisa Flynn flaunts the rules by breaking into a mansion in the middle of the night, she skillfully circumvents alarms and outwits guards only to find herself standing in billionaire Gabe Korgan's study . . . busted by Korgan himself. This could cost her her job unless, in a split second, she can turn the tables and try to convince him to join her on the most important mission of her life.

In a ripped-from-the-headlines plot, schoolgirls in Africa have been kidnapped, and Alisa knows that Korgan has the courage, financial means, and high-tech weaponry to help rescue them. With so many innocent lives hanging in the balance, what she doesn't reveal is that one of those schoolgirls is like a little sister to her. But when the truth gets out, the stakes grow even higher.

Calling in additional assistance from renowned horse whisperer Margaret Douglas, Alisa and Gabe lay their plans, only to see them descend into chaos as the line between right and wrong wavers before them like a mirage. Every path is strewn with pitfalls, each likely to get them--or the hostages--killed. But with the help of a brave team and a horse with

the heart of a warrior, they might just get out of this alive.

Mercedes Lackey – Spy, Spy Again: A Valdemar Novel – 7.99 – Fantasy



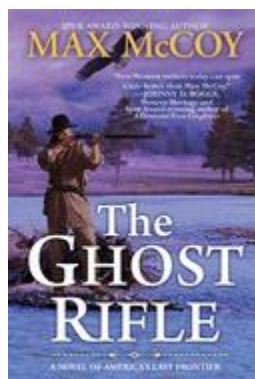
Thirteen year old Prince Kyril and Mags and Amily's fourteen-year-old son Tory share the Gift of Farsight--although neither of them are Chosen. They are self-trained, though currently, their shared Gift only allows them to see what is happening with their immediate family members.

After much debate, the Herald's Collegium has decided to test and train them anyway. That's when the surprises start. They do not share a single Gift; they have two complementary Gifts working together in a way that the Heralds have never seen before. Tory is the Farseer--Kee's Gift is to extend his range beyond a few dozen feet.

Their Gifts become crucial when Mags gets a desperate message from his cousin Bey, the head of the enigmatic assassin-tribe, the Sleepgivers. Bey's eldest daughter has been kidnapped, but he doesn't know why or by whom. He's calling in the debt Mags owes him to find his daughter before it's too late.

Tory is certain that if anyone can find her, he can. But that will mean traveling out of Valdemar into an unknown, dangerous country. And it will mean taking a Royal Prince with him.

Max McCoy – The Ghost Rifle, A Novel of America's Last Frontier – 8.99 – Western



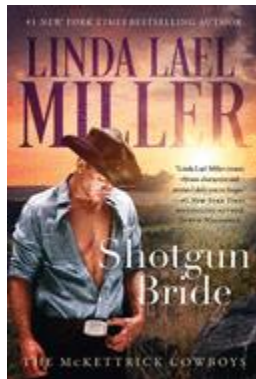
Descended from a long line of ramblers and rogues, Jack Picaro came to America to seek his fortune. But after killing his best friend in a drunken duel, the apprentice gunsmith flees westward, behind children he does not know, Gus and April. As Jack ventures up the Missouri River, he finds an unspoiled land where a man can live free--and also be attacked by an Arikara war party. His rifle stolen in the bloody skirmish, Jack sets out alone to reclaim it. His wild escapade ends in a fight to the death with a legendary Crow warrior named Standing Wolf. So begins a fateful epic search across the last frontiers of the untamed West. From the muddy banks of the Mississippi to the shining peaks of the Rockies, Jack Picaro will leave a trail of clues for an abandoned son, Gus, to find him: a famous gunsmith who will make history with a weapon of his own design--and forged a legend that would be passed down for generations. This is the story of the Ghost rifle

Fern Michaels – Fearless – 9.99 – General

Anna Campbell is ready to take her first tentative steps back into the world after widowhood. On a singles cruise, she meets divorced professor Ryan Robertson, and the sparks between them are undeniable. Back home in West Texas, Anna and Ryan continue their romance, and Anna decides it's time for their families to meet. Anna is delighted when her daughter, Christina, hits it off with Ryan's daughter, Renée. The two girls are close in age and have lots in common. Ryan's son, Patrick, is college-bound and somewhat aloof, but Anna feels sure they'll grow closer in time. She happily accepts Ryan's proposal, confident in the bond they've formed.

But the idyllic relationships Anna is hoping for are quickly thrown into doubt. Ryan and his children may not be all she thinks they are. And as the situation grows more desperate, Anna must reach deep within and draw on all her courage and self-reliance to fight for the family and home she deserves...

Linda Lael Miller – Shotgun Bride, The McKettrick Cowboys – 9.99 – General



Kade McKettrick's got five mail order brides-to-be at the local hotel, and they're all more than eager to brave the frontier and provide the heir that will win Kade the Triple M ranch. The newly appointed marshal already has his hands full with a troublesome outlaw gang, yet he can't seem to think of much else besides "Sister Mandy" who is obviously not the nun she claims to be. On the run from her outlaw stepfather, Mandy Sperrin is hiding a wild, passionate nature beneath her solemn disguise, and when Kade makes it clear he wants her, she finds she cannot resist her own heated desires. But are her ties to a shadowed past more threatening--and closer--than Kade realizes?

The July 2021 winner #4 is:

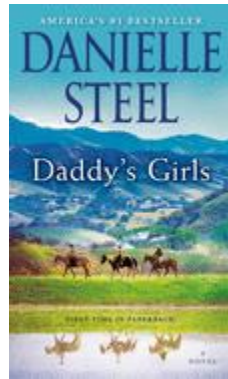
Lily Porter

Daniel Silva – The Order – 9.99 Thriller



Gabriel Allon has slipped quietly into Venice for a much needed holiday with his wife and two young children. But when Pope Paul VII dies suddenly, Gabriel is summoned to Rome by the Holy Father's loyal private secretary, Archbishop Luigi Donati. A billion Catholic faithful have been told that the pope died of a heart attack. Donati, however, has two good reasons to suspect his master was murdered. The Swiss Guard who was standing watch outside the papal apartments the night of the pope's death is missing. So, too, is the letter the Holy Father was writing during the final hours of his life. A letter that was addressed to Gabriel.

Danielle Steel – Daddy's Girls – 8.99 - Contemporary Romance



Decades ago, after the death of his wife, Texas ranch hand JT Tucker took his three small daughters to California to start a new life. With almost no money, a will of iron, and hard work, he eventually built the biggest ranch in California. But when he dies suddenly at the age of sixty-four, the ranch is inherited by his three daughters--each of them finding it impossible to believe that this larger-than-life figure is gone from their lives.

JT's relationship with each daughter was entirely different. Caroline, the youngest and most reserved, was overlooked by her father for her entire life and fled to become a wife, mother, and writer in Marin County. Gemma, his declared favorite, sought out Hollywood glamour and success and became a major television star. Kate, the eldest, stayed at home with her father to do his bidding as a ranch hand, without thanks or praise, forsaking marriage and a family of her own for the love of him.

Now, upon JT's death, the paper trail he leaves behind begins to reveal much more than the three sisters ever guessed about who he really was. It will turn their world upside down, and each of them must grapple with a new reality, strengthening their relationships with one another, and discovering who they are now as grown women, in spite of him.

Set against the magnificent backdrop of the West and the drama of a family in turmoil, *Daddy's Girls* is the story of three remarkable women and their unique bond to each other--the daughters of a complex, many-faceted, domineering father who left his mark on each of them.