

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 13, #6
June 2020
563-355-2310

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

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

BookRackQC@Gmail.com

The Book Rack

is

OPEN!

Starting June 1, we are OPEN for (the new) normal business. You can come in to browse our shelves and trade in your books,

But, PLEASE wear a mask in the store at all times.

Should you forget yours, we'll have a supply right inside the front door and you can buy a brand new, single use mask for just \$1.00 and take it with you when you leave. We've installed plastic shields across the front of the

checkout counter for your protection and ours. There is hand sanitizer available and we encourage you to use it upon entering and departing the store for your personal protection.

We'll still offer outside pick-up of orders and for outside drop off of books for trade, if that is your preference. Please wear your face mask and call when you arrive if we don't see you quickly. Be patient. Your books are worth the wait. Please prepay for curbside pick-up, if at all possible, via our web site or by calling with your payment information to minimize your time waiting and risk for you and us.

Of course, you can always shop for your books and jigsaw puzzles on our web site (<https://www.thebookrackqc.com/>). We've seen a very welcome surge in customers near and far using it. You can shop and order from there or call or email us your list. Tell us if you want them mailed or will pick them up. We'll pull the books, ring up the order, call you for payment, if that's your chosen payment option, and have them mailed or ready for pick up by the next day. We'll let you know when they are ready.

If dropping off books to trade, please ensure your name, phone number and email are on a note with your books. Please print clearly! Also, please don't bring a truck load all at one time. Bring them a box or bag at a time so as to not overwhelm us.

Trivia for June

As well as being a real species of scorpion, what is a 'book scorpion' as it relates to a person and books?

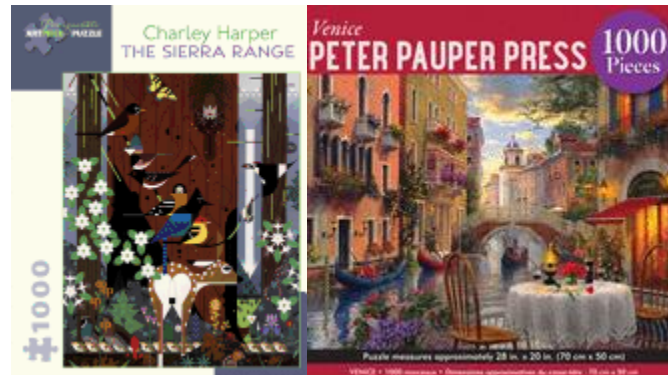
Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

Jigsaw Puzzles!!

at TheBookRackQC.com

To help you while-away the hours enjoyably and keep your mind active, we've added a selection of great jigsaw puzzles. These are only available from our web site and can be shipped directly to you. Shipping is generally \$6.00 for the first one and \$.60 for any additional puzzles in the same shipment. Most will reach you within 5-7 business days. Of course, you can order them to be picked up at the store and save the shipping cost.





Our June 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 and/or had a trade or purchase since **June 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 June 2020 winner #1 is:

Carrie Studer

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 1, 2020 to claim your prize:
A \$25 gift certificate from The Book Rack!**

June 2020 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

National Gardening Week - First full week of month

June 6 - D-Day, WWII

7 - National Chocolate Ice Cream Day

8 - Best Friends Day

14 - Flag Day

20 - Finally Summer begins / Summer Solstice

21 - Father's Day

26 - Forgiveness Day

Book Reviews

Book Reviews by Claudia

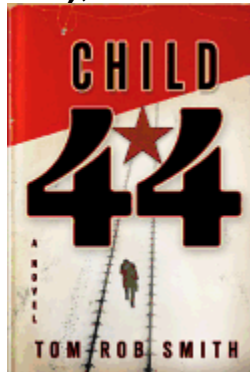
I belong to the Two Rivers Readers Book Club whose members have ranged from a second grader who led a discussion of Shel Silverstein's *Giving Tree*, to an 80+ leading a discussion of Daniel James Brown's, *The Boys in the Boat*. Our eclectic choice of books has included Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow*, Theodora Kroeber's *Ishi in Two Worlds*, Alan Bennett's *The Uncommon Reader*, David Grann's *Killers of the Flower Moon*, Madeleine Albright's *Fascism: A Warning*, and John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. My book reviews will note if it is a Two Rivers Readers choice.

***Blood Vines*, by Erica Spindler (2010),**



is a murder mystery set in California wine country. When Alexandra Carlson starts having strange visions and her secretive mother dies tragically, Alex seeks answers about a childhood she does not remember. Detective Daniel Reed not only knew Alex in childhood, but soon finds himself both attracted to and suspicious of Alex when frightening incidents and murders seem to be linked to her. The intertwining of past and present, and the discovery of long-kept secrets, combine for a good detective read. The first I've read by Erica Spindler, I found the plot twists and multiple characters in this relatively quick read kept my interest.

***Child 44*, by Tom Rob Smith (2008),**



is the first in a trilogy featuring MGB Agent Leo Demidov, who investigates a series of gruesome child murders. Set in Joseph Stalin's Soviet Union, descriptions of daily life for those who unshakingly toe the Party line and those who survive on a day to day basis are believably gut-wrenching. As Demidov comes to the realization that he has wrongly dismissed a child's murder as an accident and that the life he has been living is a fiction, he risks all. Good Reads review: "MGB officer Leo is a man who never questions the Party Line. He arrests whomever he is told to arrest. He dismisses the horrific death of a young boy because he is told to, because he believes the Party stance that there can be no murder in Communist Russia. Leo is the perfect soldier of the regime. But suddenly his confidence that everything he does serves a great good is shaken. He is forced to watch a man he knows to be innocent be brutally tortured. And then he is told to arrest his own wife. Leo understands how the State works:

Trust and check, but check particularly on those we trust. He faces a stark choice: his wife or his life. And still the killings of children continue... " A Two Rivers Readers Book Club choice.

Reviews by Bob

Bad Wolf by Nele Neuhaus (2004) Thriller/Mystery



She looked at herself in the mirror, touched her fingertips to the little red hood on her head, and laughed. The dress was a real dirndl, with a short skirt and apron. Papa had plaited her hair into two braids, and she really looked exactly like Little Red Riding Hood in her fairy-tale book.

He always brought presents--it was a secret that she and Papa shared, because he never brought anything for the others. Only for her. She was his favorite.

The door opened, and she uttered a frightened cry when she saw the wolf. But then she had to laugh. It wasn't a real wolf after all; it was only Papa, who had put on a costume. How lovely it was that she was the only one to share this secret with Papa. Too bad she could never remember anything afterward.

On a hot June day, the body of a sixteen-year-old girl washes up on a riverbank outside of Frankfurt. She has been brutally murdered and shows signs of long-term abuse, but no one comes forward with any information as to her identity. Even weeks later, the local police have not been able to find out who she is. Then a new case comes in: A popular television host is attacked, raped, and locked in the trunk of her own car. She survives, barely, and is able to supply only vague hints to the police, having to do with her recent investigations into an organization whose members are from the highest echelons of society, and the potential uncovering of a shocking history they'd prefer to keep from the public eye. As the two cases collide, Inspectors Pia Kirchhoff and Oliver von Bodenstein dig deep into the past and underneath the veneer of bourgeois society to come up against a terrible secret that is about to impact their personal lives as well. It is almost too late for a person very close to Pia before she and Oliver finally track down the big bad wolf. . . . In Nele Neuhaus's second U.S.

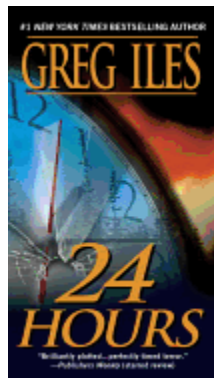
publication of her enormously popular series, tensions run high both inside and outside police headquarters, and a complex and unpredictable plot propels her characters forward at breakneck speed.

Nele Neuhaus is one of Germany's most widely read crime authors, thanks to her thrillers featuring the investigative duo of Oliver von Bodenstein and Pia Kirschhoff, which were recently launched in English with *Snow White Must Die*. A longtime resident of the Taunus Mountains, her novels have been translated into twelve languages. She lives near Frankfurt, Germany.

"The second of Nele Neuhaus's absorbing and intricately constructed German police procedurals to be published in English translation, takes place in 2010, over a century after the exposure of the anti-Dreyfus conspiracy. But the web of vile deeds that "Bad Wolf" uncovers, involving the sexual abuse of children at all levels of society, gives that shameful historical cabal a contemporary fictional rival...The pavement-pounding pays off for the reader, as well as for the cops, in an action-filled finale rife with dramatic revelations."--"Wall Street Journal"

At times a hard book to read due to the subject, but one that is well worth the effort. Another very good addition to my foreign author select list. I give it an A-. Neuhaus now has 5, or so, titles translated to English and available in the US. If you like different settings for your mysteries, this is a good one. If you like Jussi Alder-Olsen, Henning Mankell, Andreas Gruber, Jo Nesbo or Michael Gruber you will likely find a new favorite in Neuhaus.

24 Hours by Greg Iles (2000) Suspense



Joe Hickey, a kidnapper and con man, thinks he has orchestrated the perfect crime. He targets doctors and their young families and he's never been caught. He keeps getting away with it because he never hurts the kid and he never asks for more money than his victims can raise in 24 hours without raising suspicion. But he's never met Will and Karen Jennings. Hickey, with the help of his wife, Cheryl, and his "slow" giant of a cousin, Huey, kidnaps the Jennings' daughter, Abby. But Hickey has overlooked one factor: the Abby is a diabetic. While

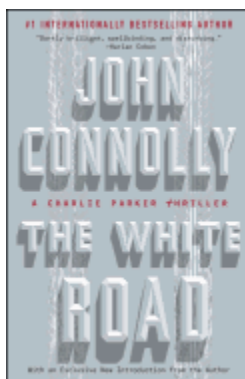
Hickey holds Karen at the family's home, Huey holds Abby at a secluded cabin and Hickey's wife holds Will at a third location. By dividing his quarry, Hickey thinks he has them, but Will and Karen are desperate and will do anything to outsmart him and save Abby. Their hair-raising night from hell pushes every mass market button in this edge-of-your-seat read.

It's been a long time since I picked up a Greg Iles book and I was rewarded with a great read. This is a page-turner. I give it a B+ and suggest that if you've not read Iles you're missing a really good author. He compares favorably to John Grisham, Lee Child and Michael Connelly.

The June 2020 winner #2 is:

Pat Cline

The White Road: A Charlie Parker Thriller (Charlie Parker #4) by John Connolly (2015)



Internationally bestselling author John Connolly takes readers into the dark world of private detective Charlie Parker, whose deadly fight against evil begins when the daughter of a South Carolina millionaire is raped and murdered. In South Carolina, a young black man faces the death penalty for the rape and murder of Marianne Larousse, daughter of one of the wealthiest men in the state. It's a case that nobody wants to touch, a case with its roots in old evil, and old evil is private detective Charlie Parker's specialty. But Parker is about to enter a living nightmare, a red dreamscape haunted by the murderous specter of a hooded woman, by a black car waiting for a passenger that never comes, and by the complicity of both friends and enemies in the events surrounding Marianne Larousse's death. This is not an investigation. This is a descent into the abyss, a confrontation with dark forces that threaten all that Parker holds dear: his lover, his unborn child, even his soul...

For in a prison cell far to the north, an old adversary is about to take his revenge on Charlie Parker, its instruments the very men that Parker is hunting, and a strange, hunched creature that keeps its own secrets buried by a riverbank: the undiscovered killer Cyrus Nairn.

Soon, all of these figures will face a final reckoning in southern swamps and northern forests, in distant locations linked by a single thread, a place where the paths of the living and the dead converge.

A place known only as the White Road.

It's been a long time since I've read Connolly and I don't know why. The White Road is a very good read. More strangeness than most books I read, but all is not what you think. Mystery Review says it best, "[Connolly] combines beautiful language with horrifying images to create gripping novels of suspense." If you like Dennis LeHane, Robert Crais or Gregg Olsen you need to be reading Connolly. I give this book an A-.

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!

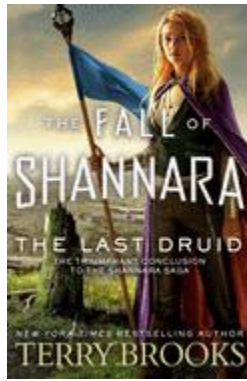
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

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.

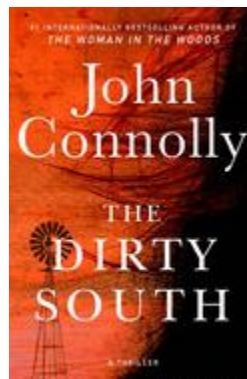
Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Terry Brooks – The Last Druid: The Fall of Shannara – 28.99 – Fantasy



Jennifer Chiaverini – Mrs. Lincoln’s Sisters – 28.99 - General Fiction

John Connolly – The Dirty South – 28.00 – Espionage/Thriller



Kathleen O’Neal and W. Michael Gear – People of the Canyons, A Novel of North American’s Forgotten Past – 27.99 - Historical Fiction

Elin Hilderbrand – 28 Summers – 28.00 – General Fiction



Kim Harrison - American Demon – 28.00 – Fantasy

John Hart – The Unwilling – 27.99 – Espionage/Thriller



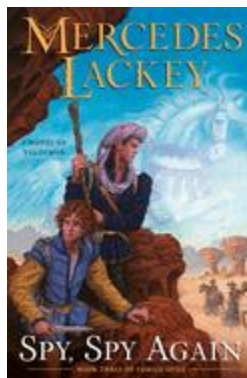
Lisa Jackson – You Betrayed Me – 27.00 – Espionage/Thriller

Iris Johansen – The Persuasion - 28.00 – Mystery/Detective



William Kent Krueger – This Tender Land – 17.00 – General Fiction

Mercedes Lackey – Spy, Spy Again: A Novel of Valdemar – 27.00



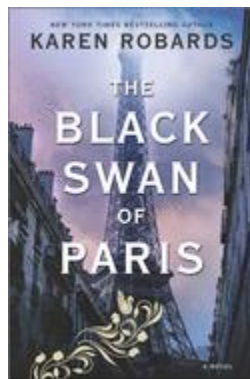
David McCullough – The Pioneers – 18.00 – History

Joyce Carol Oates – Night. Sleep. Death. The Stars – 35.00 – General Fiction



James Patterson – Hush – 29.00 – Espionage/Thriller

Karen Robards – The Black Swans of Paris – 27.99 – Historical Fiction



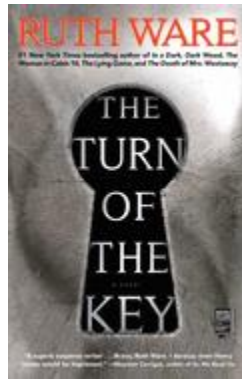
Danielle Steel – Daddy's Girls – 28.99 – General Fiction

Neal Stephenson – Fall – 21.99 – Espionage/Thriller



Brad Thor – Near Dark – 28.00 – Espionage/Thriller

Ruth Ware – The Turn of the Key – 16.99 – Psychological Suspense



Trivia for June

As well as being a real species of scorpion, what is a 'book scorpion' as it relates to a person and books? Do you know some?

Answer:

A "book scorpion" is someone who is hostile to books or learning; the phrase is first recorded in 1649 in a work by poet Andrew Marvell.

Mass Market Paperback

The June 2020 winner #3 is:

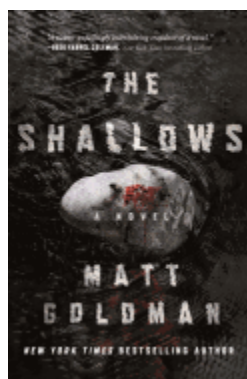
Brittany Fritch

Lee Child – Blue Moon – 9.99 - Espionage/Thriller



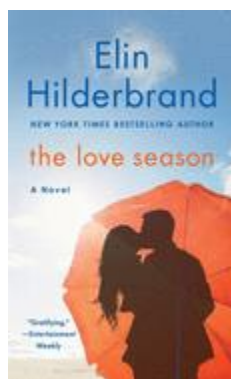
Robert J. Randisi – The Trail Drive Series: Big Jake’s Last Drive, A Ralph Compton Western – 7.99

Matt Goldman – The Shallows, A Nils Shapiro Novel – 9.99 – Mystery



Heather Graham – Seeking Darkness – 9.99 - Romance

Elin Hilderbrand – The Love Season – 8.99 – General Fiction



Lisa Jackson & Nancy Bush – Last Girl Standing – 8.99 – Mystery

William W. Johnstone & J.A. Johnstone – Pray for Death, A Will Tanner, U.S. Deputy Western – 7.99 – Western



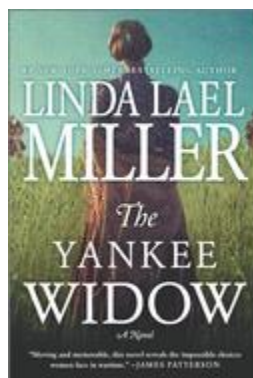
Stephen R. Lawhead – In the Land of the Everliving, Eirlandia, Bk 2 – 8.99 – Fantasy

Julia London – A Royal Kiss & Tell, A Royal Wedding – 9.99 – Romance



Eric Van Lustbader – The Sum of all Shadows, A Testament Novel – 9.99 – Espionage/Thriller

Linda Lael Miller – The Yankee Widow – 9.99 – Historical Fiction



The June 2020 winner #4 is:

Kathi Rowton

Daniel Silva – The New Girl – 9.99 – Espionage/Thriller



Sherryl Woods – Stealing Home, A Sweet Magnolias Novel – 8.99 – Romance

