

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 13, #2
March 2020
563-355-2310

*Store Hours: 10:00 - 6:00 Daily (except New Years Day, Easter, July 4,
Thanksgiving and Christmas)*
<http://www.thebookrackqc.com/>

BookRackQC@Gmail.com

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.

Trivia for March

How many exclamation points did author Tom Wolfe use
in his blockbuster bestseller “The Bonfire of the
Vanies?”

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

(a Hunger Games Novel)

By Suzanne Collins



**Ambition will fuel him.
Competition will drive him.
But power has its price.**

It is the morning of the reaping that will kick off the tenth annual Hunger Games. In the Capitol, eighteen-year-old Coriolanus Snow is preparing for his one shot at glory as a mentor in the Games. The once-mighty house of Snow has fallen on hard times, its fate hanging on the slender chance that Coriolanus will be able to outcharm, outwit, and outmaneuver his fellow students to mentor the winning tribute.

The odds are against him. He's been given the humiliating assignment of mentoring the female tribute from District 12, the lowest of the low. Their fates are now completely intertwined — every choice Coriolanus makes could lead to favor or failure, triumph or ruin. Inside the arena, it will be a fight to the death. Outside the arena, Coriolanus starts to feel for his doomed tribute . . . and must weigh his need to follow the rules against his desire to survive no matter what it takes.

About the Author

Suzanne Collins is the author of the bestselling Underland Chronicles series, which started with *Gregor the Overlander*. Her groundbreaking young adult novels, *The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Mockingjay*, were *New York Times* bestsellers, received wide praise, and were the basis for four popular films. *Year of the Jungle*, her picture book based on the year her father was deployed in Vietnam, was published in 2013 to great critical acclaim. To date, her books have been published in fifty-three languages around the world.

Available May 19, 2020

Cover Price: \$27.99+tx

Book Rack Price: \$22.40+tx

You save \$5.99 when tax is included.

Order early and pick up your copy May 19

Our March 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 1 March, 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 March 2020 winner #1 is:

Dana Sharpe

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 April 1, 2020 to claim your prize:

A \$25 gift certificate from [The Book Rack](#)!

Did You Know?

The Rivalry between George Bernard Shaw and Oscar

Wild was at constant simmer. Wilde once said, 'Shaw hasn't an enemy in the world, and none of his friends like him.'

Books We Need

**Jana DeLeon - Miss Fortune Mysteries – all
Lauren Tarshis - I Survived Series – all
Lynsay Sands - Argeneau Novels
Mary-Rose MacColl - In Falling Snow: A Novel
Danielle Steel - In His Father's Footsteps: A Novel
Christopher Paolini - The Inheritance Cycle
Stephen King - It: A Novel
Douglas Preston – Jennie
David Grann - Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI
Sarah J. Maas - Kingdom of Ash (Throne of Glass)
Victoria Aveyard - King's Cage (Red Queen)
Katie J. Davis - Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption
P. N. ELROD - Lady Crymsyn
Santa Montefiore - Last Voyage of the Valentina**

March 2020 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month of March:

- **National Craft Month**
- **National Irish American Heritage Month- designated by Congress in 1995.**
- **National Nutrition Month**
- **National Women's History Month**
- **Red Cross Month**

February 29 – Local Author Tom McKay will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00

March 1 – World Compliment Day

4 – Hug a GI Day

6 – World Day of Prayer

8 – Daylight Saving Time begins

13 – Friday the Thirteenth

14 – Local Author Dr. Burl Randolph Jr. will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00

14 – Learn About Butterflies Day

14 – National Pi Day

17 – Saint Patrick's Day

19 – Spring Equinox

20 – International Earth Day

25 – World Agriculture Day

28 – Local Author Amelia Kibbie will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00

The March 2020 winner #2 is:

Amy Olson

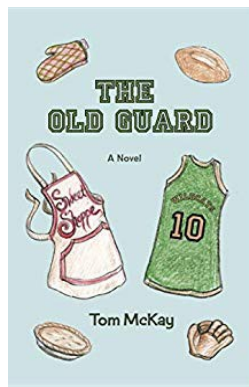
Featured Authors:

Local Author Tom McKay

Will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00, February 29



Tom McKay is an historian and museum consultant who lives in his hometown of Hampton, Illinois. He worked for more than two decades as Coordinator of the Office of Local History at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. In 2007, he received a national award from the American Association for State and Local History for an outstanding career of dedicated service to local museums in Iowa and Wisconsin. Tom has been writing fiction for fifteen years. His short stories have appeared in the *Wapsipinicon Almanac*, *Vermont Ink*, *Downstate Story*, the *Wisconsin River Valley Journal*, and the *Out Loud Anthology* series of the Midwest Writing Center in Davenport, Iowa. Small town life has taken him to more pancake breakfasts, household auctions, and softball tournaments than he can count.

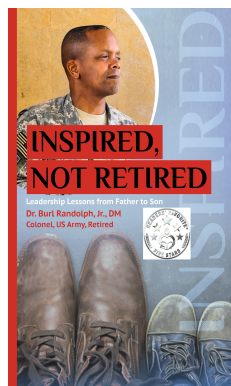


Tom's latest book is "The Old Guard"
 Patty knows sports. Timothy doesn't. So why does Patty need Timothy's help
 with her sports blog, The Old Guard.

Dr. Burl Randolph, Jr., DM

Colonel, US Army, Retired

Will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00, March 14



Leaders are developed over time and with great care. Family, friends, faith, and even finances (careers) require solid relationships but can only inspire us so far. Leaders can inspire us to make the difference between success and failure. Inspired, Not Retired examines the bond between a father and a son, a profound relationship that evolved into a mentoring experience that provided leadership lessons used throughout the son's successful 32-year military career. Drawing on those lessons, this book provides tools and insights for everyone from the emerging leader seeking to embark on a leadership journey, to the retired person who wants to remain a vital asset to corporations, communities, and society. Mentorship throughout one's life and career can ease the transition into civilian life and inspire continued service. Although relationships fuel lives, leadership drives the car that inspires us to keep moving forward.

About COL Burl W. Randolph Jr

Dr. Burl Randolph, Jr., DM, Colonel, US Army, Retired, served nearly 32 years and is a

decorated combat veteran with three tours in Iraq. He served in assignments throughout the United States, Germany, Russia, and the Middle East and led at every leadership level. He is currently the Founder, President, and Chief Consultant at MyWingman, LLC, a Business Leadership and Management Consulting company.

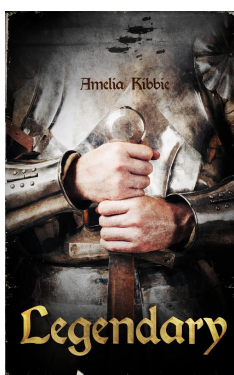
He holds a Doctor of Management in Organizational Leadership (DM) from the University of Phoenix, a Master of Strategic Studies (MSS) from the US Army War College, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Troy University. Often referred to as Dr. Burl, he has a passion for mentoring and has been affiliated with over 25 mentoring organizations and written over 20 blogs on mentoring. His academic works include his master's thesis on Mentoring: A Joint Perspective from a Deployed Environment. His doctoral dissertation was on Mentoring and African American Army Captain Success: A Case Study. Dr. Burl published a Featured Article on mentoring in the May/June 2019 Global Business and Organizational Excellence (GBOE) entitled Mentoring Leaders Across Race and Gender Lines: Insight from US Army Officers.

As Dr. Randolph's current book, Inspired, Not Retired is a reflective work, it aligns with his article Changing Steps: A Reflective Journey in Transition published in The Journal of Global Health Care Systems. Dr. Randolph is also no stranger to self-publishing as he co-authored Can God Trust You with Trouble? in 2015.

Dr. Randolph was recently nominated for the Davenport, Iowa 2020 Small Businessperson of the Year. Although the results are not in, it is an honor just to be nominated. Dr. Randolph was selected by UnityPoint Health - Trinity for the January 2020 Quad Cities Hometown Hero honor. Hometown Hero is a spotlight program on a military veteran who exhibits the qualities of a hero within the local community as an extension of their military service.

Amelia Kibbie

Will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00 on March 28



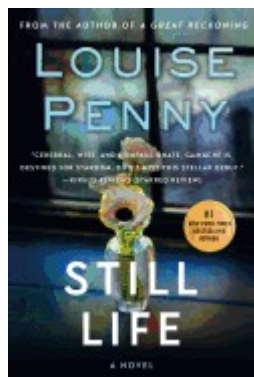
LEGENDARY is the story of two young men who meet and fall in love during Operation Pied Piper in WWII, where children were evacuated from London to avoid the Nazi Blitz. The bulk of the novel takes place ten years later as James and Arthur set off on a near-mythic quest to find the answers behind a loved one's mysterious last words. On the way, their legendary love, always so meant to be, is tested as they navigate England in 1953, where homosexuality is illegal and punished by prison time or worse.

The goal of this novel is to reach young LGBT people so they can read a story where nobody "buries the gays", where a destined love like King Arthur and Guinevere happens for a same sex couple, and everyone lives happily ever after. There is still a hole on the library shelf for books like this, though it is thankfully getting smaller each day.

Amelia Kibbie grew up in a small town in Iowa with friends, family, and teachers that planted the seeds of her creativity and lovingly nurtured them. After the creative writing unit in Mrs. Stoll's third grade class, she never stopped writing, producing everything from short stories to novels to adorably cringey fan fiction. Her work has appeared in the literary journals *Saw Palm*, *Quantum Fairy Tales*, *Intellectual Refuge*, and *Wizards in Space*. Her short stories can be found in the anthologies *Humans Wanted* and *My American Nightmare: Women in Horror*, as well as the *Running Wild Press's Anthology of Stories Vol. 2*. Amelia spends her days as an instructional coach in a small-town secondary school and works with students experiencing barriers to success in the classroom. This is her 13th year in education. She lives in Iowa City with her husband, young daughter, three spoiled cats, and a shy ghost.

Book Reviews

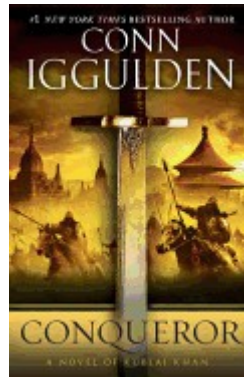
***Still Life*, by Louise Penny (2006, Mystery)**, is first in a series.



Set in the small Quebec village of Three Pines, Inspector Armand Gamache and his team arrive to investigate the death of a well-loved retired schoolteacher, Miss Jane Neal. We meet residents of the quiet village: Artists Clara Morrow and her husband Peter; acerbic elderly poet Ruth Zardo; Olivier Brulé and Gabri Dubeau, the gay couple who own the village Bistro; and bookseller Myrna Landers, all of whom appear in Penny's subsequent books. Surprisingly, Jane's folk art painting, *Fair Day*, has been accepted for the local exhibition. Painted the final day of the county fair, they all remember it was the day Peter and Clara had to tell a childhood friend that his mother had died while he was out of town. Despite that sad recollection, Jane invites the village friends to have drinks after the opening of the exhibition...in her living room. As long as the friends have known Jane, none has been beyond her kitchen, so this is a significant and intriguing invitation. As Jane's death moves toward a murder investigation, we find out more about the characters and Jane's painting, as well as what Jane has been protecting beyond her kitchen. While I don't believe this is the best book of the series, I recommend reading this one first. If you like it as much as I did, read

the series in order; character development and their circumstances help understanding in later books. (Reviewed by Claudia)

Conqueror: A Novel of Kublai Khan (The Khan Dynasty) by Conn Iggulden (2011) Historical Fiction



A succession of ruthless men has seized power in the wake of Genghis Khan's death—all descendants of the great leader, but none with his indomitable character. One grandson, Guyuk, strains the loyalties of the tribes to the breaking point, and another, Mongke, brutally eliminates the opposition and dispatches his younger brothers Kublai and Hulegu to far-flung territories.

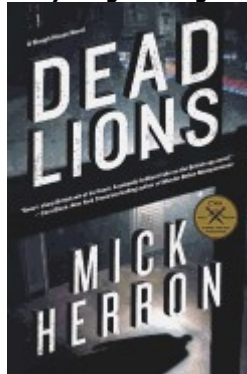
Hulegu displays his barbarity with the savage destruction of Baghdad and his clash with the Khan's age-old enemies, the cult of assassins. But it is Kublai—refined and scholarly, always considered too thoughtful to take power—who will devise new ways of warfare and conquest as he builds the dream city of Xanadu and pursues the ultimate prize: the ancient empire of Sung China. His gifts will serve him well when an epic civil war breaks out among brothers, the outcome of which will literally change the world.

"Readers who enjoy well-researched tales of historical adventure with an emphasis on political intrigue, exotic settings, and military conflict will enjoy the ride."-- Library Journal

"This is epic historical fiction at its finest: exciting, suspenseful, colorful and well-grounded in fact."-- Publishers Weekly (starred review)

I would echo these reviews, though not so eloquently. I give it an A. Even if historical fiction is not your genre of choice, give Iggulden a chance. I don't think you'll be at all disappointed.

Dead Lions by Mick Herron (2013) Mystery



The disgruntled agents of Slough House, the MI5 branch where washed-up spies are sent to finish their failed careers on desk duty, are called into action to protect a visiting Russian oligarch whom MI5 hopes to recruit to British intelligence. While two agents are dispatched on that babysitting job, though, an old Cold War-era spy named Dickie Bow is found dead, ostensibly of a heart attack, on a bus outside of Oxford, far from his usual haunts.

But the head of Slough House, the irascible Jackson Lamb, is convinced Dickie Bow was murdered. As the agents dig into their fallen comrade's circumstances, they uncover a shadowy tangle of ancient Cold War secrets that seem to lead back to a man named Alexander Popov, who is either a Soviet bogeyman or the most dangerous man in the world. How many more people will have to die to keep those secrets buried?

"A surreal, cynical, yet amusing look at the world of British intelligence . . . a looking-glass world that features KGB undercover agents, a Russian oligarch, a text message on a mobile phone and the ghost of a fabled Soviet spymaster who may not be real . . . an amusing, serpentine plot that takes readers as far from the glamorous world of Ian Fleming's tuxedo-wearing spy as could be imagined."

—***January Magazine*, Best Books of 2013**

[A] masterful thriller . . . The intricate plot, coupled with Herron's breezy writing style, results in superior entertainment that makes most other novels of suspense appear dull and slow-witted by comparison."

—***Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review**

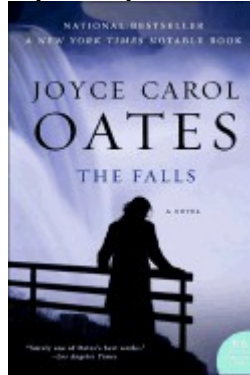
Dead Lions was a real winner in 2013 garnering these awards:

WINNER OF THE 2013 CWA GOLD DAGGER FOR BEST CRIME NOVEL OF THE YEAR

A BBC *FRONT ROW* BEST CRIME NOVEL OF 2013
A *TIMES* CRIME AND THRILLER BOOK OF THE YEAR

It is a very entertaining series and book, but I'd give it a B+. I struggled a bit to follow the twists and turns, which caused my mind to wander and reading to slow and head to nod. If you like mysteries and haven't read Herron, you owe it to yourself to give him a try. I think you'll come back to him at every opportunity.

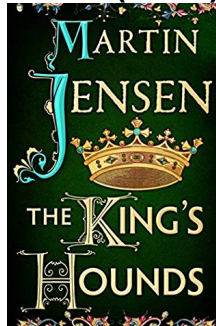
The Falls by Joyce Carol Oates (2005) General Fiction



A man climbs over the railing and plunges into Niagara Falls. A newlywed, he leaves behind his wife, Arianh Erskine, in the honeymoon suite the morning after their wedding. “The Widow of the Falls,” as Arianh comes to be known, begins a relentless, seven-day vigil in the mist, waiting for his body to be found. At her side throughout, confirmed bachelor and pillar of the community Dirk Burnaby is unexpectedly transfixed by the strange, otherworldly gaze of this plain, strange woman, falling in love with her through they barely exchange a word. What follows is their passionate love affair, marriage, and children – a seemingly perfect existence. But the tragedy by which their life together began shadows them, damaging their idyll with distrust, greed, and even murder. What unfurls is a drama of parents and their children; of secrets and sins; of lawsuits, murder and eventually redemption. Set against the mythic historic backdrop of Niagara Falls, Oates explores the American family in crisis, but also America itself in the mid-twentieth century, *The Falls* is a love story gone wrong and righted and it alone places Joyce Carol Oates definitely in the company of the great American Novelists. ***From the book cover.***

A wonderfully conceived and written book by one of America's great authors. I, too, give it high praise and an A. If you like Anna Quindlen, Alice Hoffman or Wally Lamb, you will likely enjoy Oates.

The King's Hounds by Martin Jensen (2010) Mystery



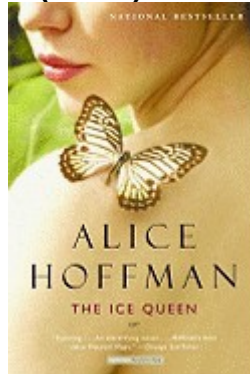
The newly crowned King Cnut of Denmark has conquered England and rules his new empire from Oxford. The year is 1018 and the war is finally over, but the unified kingdom is far from peaceful.

Halfdan's mixed lineage--half Danish, half Saxon--has made him a pauper in the new kingdom. His father, his brother, and the land he should have inherited were all taken by the new king's men. He lost everything to the war but his sense of humor. Once a proud nobleman, Halfdan now wanders the country aimlessly, powered only by his considerable charm and some petty theft. When he finds an unlikely ally in Winston, a former monk, he sees no reason not to accept his strange invitation to travel together to Oxford. Winston has been commissioned to paint a portrait of the king at the invitation of his new wife, and the protection of a clever man like Halfdan is well worth its price in wine and bread.

But when the pair's arrival in court coincides with news of a murder, the king has a brilliant idea: Why not enlist the newly arrived womanizing half-Dane and the Saxon intellectual to defuse a politically explosive situation? The pair represents both sides of the conflict and seem to have crime-solving skills to boot. In their search for the killer, Halfdan and Winston find seduction, adventure, and scandal in the wild early days of Cnut's rule.

I thoroughly enjoyed this, my first, Danish mystery. A period tale set in 1018 with lords, Vikings, wenches, ladies and sword fights, it's a long way from CJ Box, Michael Connelly and my more common fare, but a much appreciated diversion. A well-crafted story with characters you will enjoy I give it a B+. The first in the bestselling Danish series of historical mysteries, Jensen has 2 additional King's Hounds books in English, and 25+ more novels if you read Danish!!

The Ice Queen by Alice Hoffman(2005) General Fiction



A miraculous, enthralling tale of a woman who is struck by lightning, and finds her frozen heart is suddenly burning. Be careful what you wish for. A small-town librarian lives a quiet life without much excitement. One day, she mutters an idle wish and, while standing in her house, is struck by lightning. But instead of ending her life, this cataclysmic event sparks it into a new beginning. She goes in search of Lazarus Jones, a fellow survivor who was struck dead, then simply got up and walked away. Perhaps this stranger who has seen death face to face can teach her to live without fear. When she finds him, he is her opposite, a burning man whose breath can boil water and whose touch scorches. As an obsessive love affair begins between them, both are forced to hide their most dangerous secrets--what turned one to ice and the other to fire. A magical story of passion, loss, and renewal.

Alice Hoffman is a very creative and skilled writer. Her talent is featured in this book. It's not thrilling, bloody, adventuresome, but it is an enjoyable diversion from my more normal fare. I give it a B. If you like Anna Quindlen, Chris Bohjalian or Wally Lamb you may very well like Hoffman and this title.

The March 2020 winner #3 is:

Monica Preus

Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

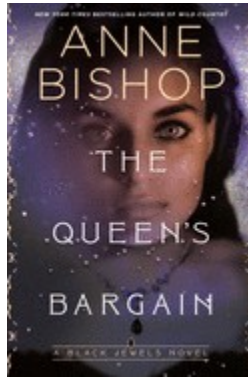
Check out the prices following the title of the book. Those prices are the publisher's prices. **The Book Rack price is normally 20% lower.** When you pick it up at the store there is no shipping cost, though we can also ship it to

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.

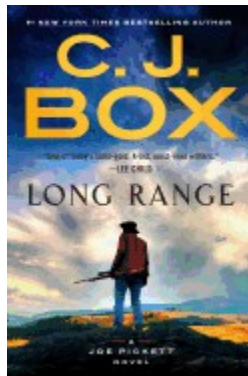
Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Anne Bishop – The Queen's Bargain, A Black Jewels Novel – 27.00 – Fantasy



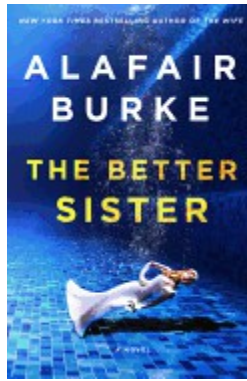
Chris Bohjalian – The Red Lotus – 27.95 – Mystery

C.J. Box – Long Range, A Joe Pickett Novel – 28.00 – Mystery



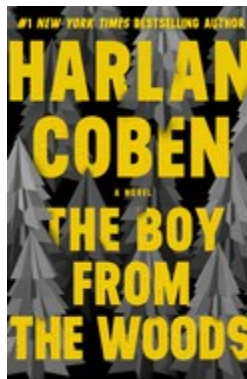
Patricia Briggs – Smoke Bitten – 28.00 – Urban Fantasy

Alafair Burke – The Better Sister – 16.99 – Mystery



Robin Carr – The Country Guesthouse – 26.99 – Romance

Harlan Coben – The Boy from the Woods – 29.00 – Mystery



Max Allan Collins – Do No Harm, A Nathan Heller Thriller – 27.99

Christine Feehan – Lethal Game, A GhostWalker Novel – 28.00 – Paranormal Romance



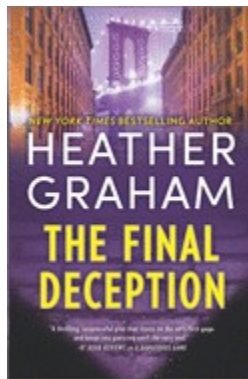
Joanne Fluke – Coconut Layer Cake Murder – 27.00 - Mystery

**Meg Gardiner – The Dark Corners of the Night – 26.99 – Mystery
and O'Hare Novel – 9.99 – Mystery**



Kathleen O'Neal Gear – Cries from the Lost Island – 26.00 – Fantasy

Heather Graham – The Final Deception – 26.99 – Romance



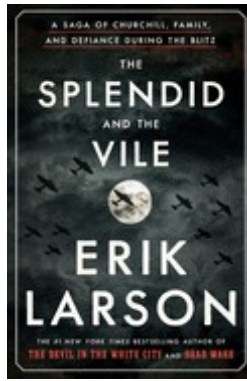
Iris Johansen – The Persuasion – 28.00 – Suspense

J.A. Jance – Credible Threat, An Ali Reynolds Mystery – 27.99



Dean Koontz – Devoted – 28.99 - Horror

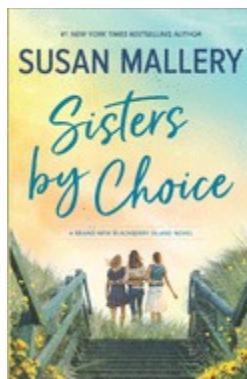
Erik Larson – The Splendid and the Vile – 32.00 – History



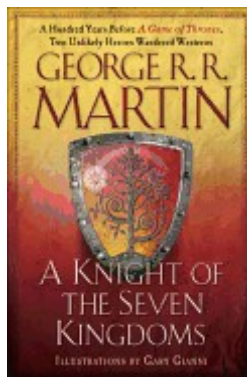
In this "portrait of Winston Churchill and London during the Blitz, ... Larson shows ... how Churchill taught the British people 'the art of being fearless.' It is a story of political brinkmanship, but it's also an intimate domestic drama

Donna Leon – Trace Elements, A Commissario Guido Brunetti Mystery – 27.00

Susan Mallery – Sisters by Choice – 27.99 – Romance

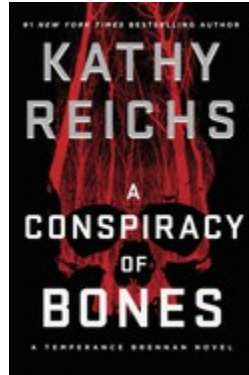


George R.R. Martin – A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms, Song of Fire and Ice – 18.00 – Fantasy



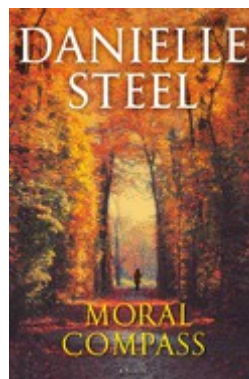
Amanda Quick – Close Up – 27.00 – Romance

Kathy Reichs – A Conspiracy of Bones, A Temperance Brennan Novel – 27.00 – Mystery



James Rollins – The Last Odyssey – 28.99 - Thriller

Danielle Steel – Moral Compass – 28.99 – Romance



Trivia for March

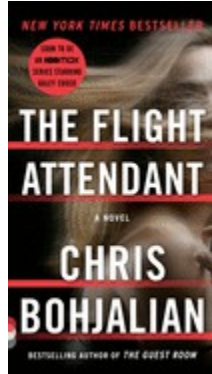
How many exclamation points did author Tom Wolfe use in his blockbuster bestseller "The Bonfire of the Vanities?"

Answer:

2,343

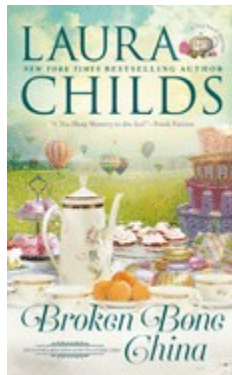
Mass Market Paperback

Chris Bohjalian – The Flight Attendant – 9.99 – Mystery



Mark Cameron – Open Carry, An Arliss Cutter Novel – 9.99 – Mystery

Laura Childs – Broken Bone China, A Tea Shop Mystery – 7.99



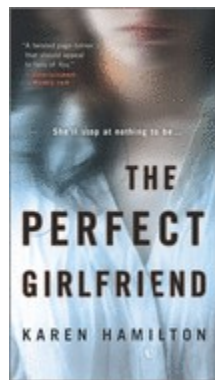
J.C. Eaton – Dressed Up 4 Murder, A Sophie Kimball Mystery – 7.99

Janet Evanovich – The Big Kahuna, A Fox and O'Hare Novel – 9.99 – Mystery



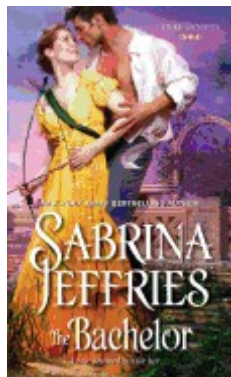
Delores Fossen – Tangled Up in Texas, A Lone Star Ridge Novel – 7.99 - Romance

Karen Hamilton – The Perfect Girlfriend – 9.99 – Psychological Suspense



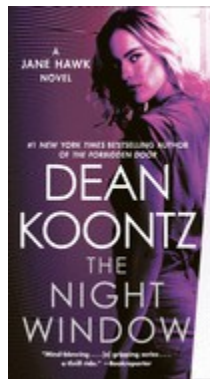
Lancaster Hill – Bad Apple, A Novel of the Alamo – 7.99 - Western

Sabrina Jeffries – The Bachelor, Duke Dynasty – 7.99 – Romance



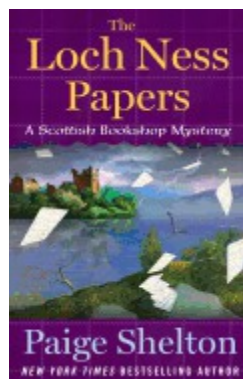
William W. Johnstone – The Backstabbers, A Red Ryan Western – 7.99 - Western

Dean Koontz – The Night Window, A Jane Hawk Novel – 9.99 – Horror

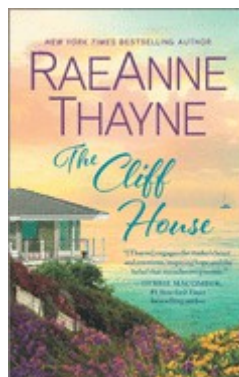


Julia London – The Billionaire in Boots, A Princess of Texas Romance – 7.99

Paige Shelton – The Loch Ness Papers, A Scottish Bookshop Mystery – 7.99



RaeAnne Thayne – The Cliff House – 8.99 - Romance



The March 2020 winner #4 is:

Leslie Tooley