

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 13, #9
September 2020
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/>

BookRackQC@Gmail.com

Hey Book Lovers, the 2020 **Locals Love Us** voting is underway.



If you are a fan of **The Book Rack**, please go to:
<https://localsloveus.com/vote/80576/>

and vote now! Don't wait. Pass it on! The voting ends September 30. Ask your friends and family to vote, too. **The Book Rack** has been Quad Cities' favorite Local bookstore every year there's been a vote. Help us claim the mantle as the Quad Cities' favorite Bookstore, period.

Trivia for September

What famous American poet was a West Point cadet for two weeks, but was forced to leave after failing arithmetic and grammar?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

Our September 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 or had a trade or purchase since September 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 September 2020 winner #1 is:

Steve Wilson

See the other 4 winning names elsewhere in the newsletter, below. Find your name and just call or stop at the store on or before **October 1, 2020 to claim your prize:**

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

Books We Really Need

Any/All Stephen King

Horror - Any

Longarm Adult Western Series

Star Wars Series

September 2020 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

- Hispanic Heritage Month
- National Blueberry Popsicle Month
- National Courtesy Month
- Self-Improvement Month

Day:

September 6 - Fight Procrastination Day

Read a Book Day

September 7 - Labor Day) First Monday of month)

September 8 - International Literacy Day

September 12 - Chocolate Milk Shake Day – Let's all raise a milkshake and toast our friends at Dairy Queen!!

September 16 - Working Parents Day

September 21 - International Peace Day

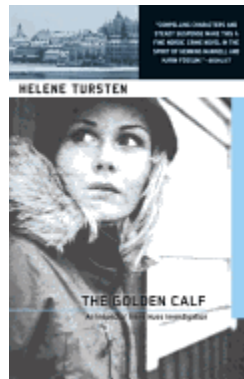
September 22 - Autumn Equinox - Fall begins!

Book Reviews

Book Reviews by Claudia



***Winter World, The Ingenuity of Animal Survival*, by Bernd Heinrich**, is a nonfiction account of the survival of animals during the winter months. Heinrich describes how animals, among them flying squirrels, grizzly bears, turtles, birds and insects, survive harsh conditions through examining their food sources, the environments in which they live, and the chemical makeup of the animals themselves. A fascinating read for folks who like that kind of stuff, and I do.



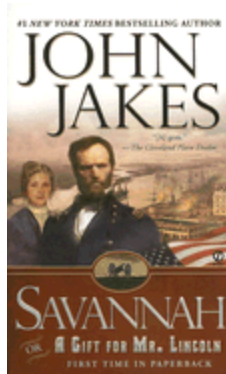
***The Golden Calf* by Helene Tursten** follows Swedish Inspector Irene Huss as she follows the money to solve the murders of three men. All these victims (and more as the book progresses) are tied to Sanna Kaegler-Ceder, a glamorous woman who, along with the victims, made a lot of money with their early .com enterprise. Huss is a wife and mother of twin girls, as well as, a jiu-jitsu champion who has no qualms about using her skills on persons who shoot at her. From Sweden to Paris, London, and even involvement of an FBI special agent, Tursten's descriptions of people, places, and weather provides a clear picture of the personalities and locations with which she must contend. Decent read.

The September 2020 winner #2 is:

Irene Ann Leeper

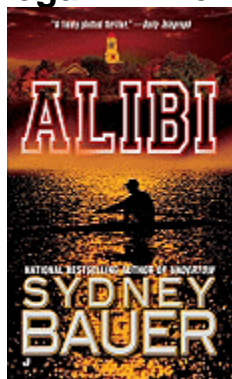
Book Reviews by Bob

Savannah: Or a Gift for Mr. Lincoln by John Jakes (2005) Historical Fiction/Young Adult



Georgia 1864: Sherman's army marches inexorably from Atlanta to the sea. In its path: the charming old city of Savannah, where the Lester ladies-attractive widow Sara and her feisty twelve-year-old daughter Hattie-struggle to save the family rice plantation. When Sherman offers the conquered city to President Lincoln as "a Christmas gift," Hattie and the feared general find themselves on a collision course that will astonish both of them. In this rousing tale, Jakes tells a story of battlefield danger, wartime romance, and indomitable courage. The rich cast of characters includes a corrupt judge who positively exudes Dickensian wickedness; a fast-talking, piano-playing reporter from New York; a pair of thwarted lovers; a raffish Indiana Infantryman; a valiant former slave and a whole bagful of rascals, rebels, and real soldiers who marched with Sherman. An easy read I'd place in the young adult category, though one to be enjoyed by young and old alike. The primary characters are young and feisty. The language and settings are at time harsh, but not obscene or gruesome. I give it a B.

Alibi by Sydney Bauer (2009) Legal Thriller



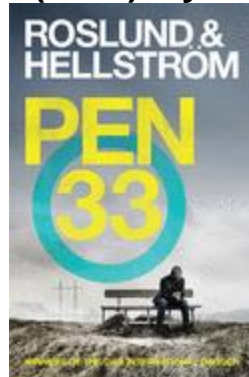
Everyone has a story...but not all of them are true. In the hallowed halls of Deane University, America's privileged youth allow nothing-and no one- to jeopardize their ambitions. Until a wealthy heiress is brutally murdered, and Boston defense attorney David Cavanaugh is forced into the case. His client, a Deane law student, has been accused of the crime. David soon realizes that the odds are against him, as he is led down a road where

every ally is an enemy in disguise-and where privilege means anyone can get away with murder.

A real cliff hanger. The third in the David Cavanaugh series is one of the best legal thrillers I have ever read. On par with those of John Grisham, if not better. I give it an A+. My first Bauer book most definitely won't be my last.

Sydney Bauer is the author of the crime series featuring Boston based criminal attorney David Cavanaugh. Her debut novel *Undertow*, also the first novel in the series, was published in 2006 and won the Sisters in Crime Davitt Award for the best crime novel by an Australian Woman.

Pen 33 by Roslund & Hellstrom (2004) Mystery



Bernt Lund harbors a sickness. He is a monster, an unrepentant child molester and serial killer. In the mind of society, in the minds of his nine-year-old victims' parents, and in the minds of his fellow inmates, he is a waking nightmare. And now he has escaped from custody--the worst scenario imaginable for Aspsås Prison's Department for Sexual Crimes.

Detective Superintendent Ewert Grens is about to encounter the most profoundly appalling case in his career, and perhaps in Stockholm's history. During the course of one long, hot summer, Sweden will face an explosive series of events that spread across the country like wildfire, events that call into question the very nature of humanity, duty, forgiveness, and self-defense. And justice.

This is one of the most gruesome novels I have ever read. The descriptions of children's murders by the police when describing the scenes is appalling. That's not to say the book isn't well written, just know what you'll be getting into before you start.

Award-winning journalist Anders Roslund and ex-con Börge Hellström are Sweden's most acclaimed crime-fiction duo. Their unique ability to combine inside knowledge of the brutal reality of criminal life with searing social criticism in complex, intelligent plots has put them at the forefront of modern Scandinavian crime writing.

Of all the books in the series, this is arguably the most important and controversial one . . . Roslund and Hellström's brutal collaboration provides stark

and unforgettable imagery, and raises questions that aren't easily answered to anyone's satisfaction."

-- Joe Hartlaub, *The Bookreporter*

"Provocative . . . The masterful writing and cleverly constructed layers make a handsome reward for those who can bear the graphic, first-person descriptions of murders."-- *Booklist (Starred Review)*

As troubling the story, I still give it an A. It's very well written and has a strong message. Just be advised, it's a hard read because of the subject.

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!

The September 2020 winner #3 is:

Shirlene Hoots

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

Sandra Brown – Thick as Thieves – 28.00 – Mystery

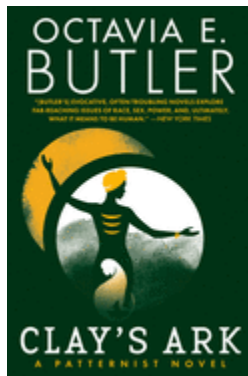


Jim Butcher – Battle Ground, A Novel of the Dresden Files – 28.00 – Fantasy



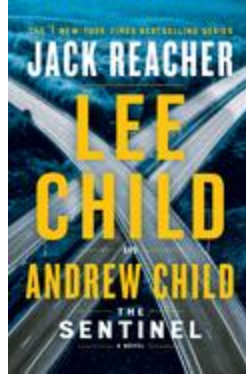
Octavia Butler – Clay's Ark – 16.99 – Science Fiction

In an alternate America marked by volatile class warfare, Blake Maslin is traveling with his teenage twin daughters when their car is ambushed. Their attackers appear sickly yet possess inhuman strength, and they transport Blake's family to an isolated compound. There, the three captives discover that the compound's residents have a highly contagious alien disease that has mutated their DNA to make them powerful, dangerous, and compelled to infect others. If Blake and his daughters do not escape, they will be infected with a virus that will either kill them outright or transform them into outcasts whose very existence is a threat to the world around them.



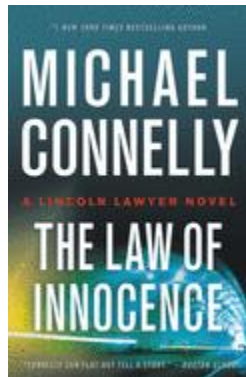
Lee Child and Andrew Child – The Sentinel, A Jack Reacher Novel – 28.99 – Mystery - Jack Reacher is back! The "utterly addictive" (*The New York Times*)

series continues as the acclaimed #1 bestselling author Lee Child teams up with his brother, Andrew Child, fellow thriller writer extraordinaire.



Mary Higgins Clark with Alafair Burke – Piece of My Heart – 26.99

Michael Connelly – The Law of Innocence – 29.00 – Mystery



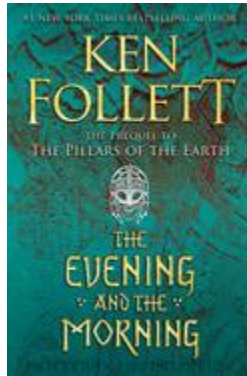
Janet Evanovich – Fortune and Glory, A Stephanie Plum Novel #27 – 28.99 – Mystery



Christine Feehan – Dark Song, A Carpathian Novel – 28.00 - Romance

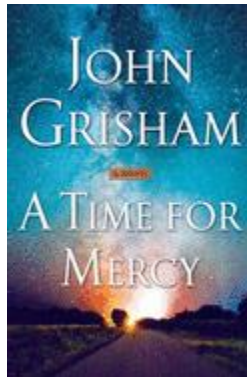
Joanne Fluke – Christmas Cupcake Murder – 22.95 - Mystery

Ken Follett – The Evening and the Morning, The Prequel to The Pillars of the Earth – 36.00 - Historical Fiction



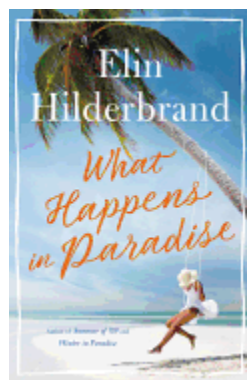
Robert Gailbraith (J.K. Rowling) – Troubled Blood – 29.00

John Grisham – A Time for Mercy – 29.95 – Thriller



Alice Henderson – A Solitude of Wolverines – 27.99 – Suspense

Elin Hilderbrand – What Happens in Paradise – 16.99 – General



Anthony Horowitz – Moonflower Murders – 28.99

Iris Johansen – Chaos – 28.00 – Mystery

Craig Johnson – Next to Last Stand, A Longmire Mystery – 28.00



Cixin Liu – Supernova Era – 18.99 – Science Fiction - From the *New York Times*-bestselling and Hugo Award-winning author of *The Three Body Problem* comes a new science fiction masterpiece. Eight light years away, a star has died, creating a supernova event that showers Earth in deadly levels of radiation. Within a year, everyone over the age of 13 will die. And so the countdown begins.



Susan Mallery – Happily this Christmas, Happily Inc. – 28.99 - Romance

Stephanie Meyer – Midnight Sun – 27.99 – Children’s Ages 9-12 -

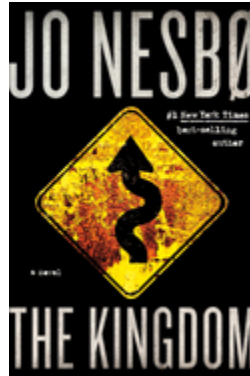
It's here! #1 bestselling author Stephenie Meyer makes a triumphant return to the world of Twilight with this highly-anticipated companion: the iconic love story of Bella and Edward told from the vampire's point of view.



Fern Michaels – The Brightest Star – 26.00 - Romance

Kyle Mills – Total Power, A Mitch Rapp Novel – 28.99

Jo Nesbo – The Kingdom – 28.95 – Mystery



Christopher Paolini – To Sleep in a Sea of Stars – 29.99 – Science Fiction

During a routine survey mission on an uncolonized planet, Kira finds an alien relic. At first, she's delighted, but elation turns to terror when the ancient dust around her begins to *move*.

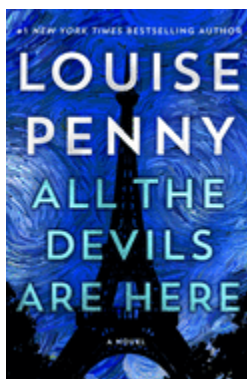
As war erupts among the stars, Kira is launched into a galaxy-spanning odyssey of discovery and transformation. First contact isn't at all what she imagined, and events push her to the very limits of what it means to be human.

While Kira faces her own horrors, Earth and its colonies stand upon the brink of annihilation. Now, Kira might be humanity's greatest and final hope . . .

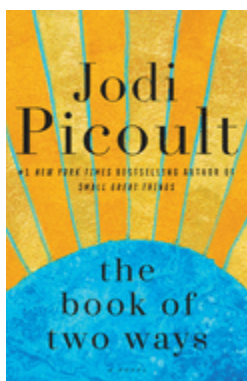


Louise Penny – All the Devils Are Here – 28.99 – Mystery - The 16th

novel ... finds Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the S uret e du Quebec investigating a sinister plot in the City of Light. On their first night in Paris, the Gamaches gather as a family for a bistro dinner with Armand's godfather, the billionaire Stephen Horowitz. Walking home together after the meal, they watch in horror as Stephen is knocked down and critically injured in what Gamache knows is no accident, but a deliberate attempt on the elderly man's life. When a strange key is found in Stephen's possession it sends Armand, his wife Reine-Marie, and his former second-in-command at the S uret e, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, from the top of the Tour d'Eiffel, to the bowels of the Paris Archives, from luxury hotels to odd, coded, works of art. It sends them deep into the secrets Armand's godfather has kept for decades. A gruesome discovery in Stephen's Paris apartment makes it clear the secrets are more rancid, the danger far greater and more imminent, than they realized. Soon the whole family is caught up in a web of lies and deceit. In order to find the truth, Gamache will have to decide whether he can trust his friends, his colleagues, his instincts, his own past. His own family. For even the City of Light casts long shadows. And in that darkness devils hide



Jodie Picoult – The Book of Two Ways – 28.99 – General



Ian Rankin – A Song for the Dark Times – 27.00 – Mystery

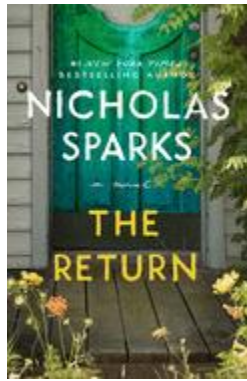
Christopher Reich – The Palace, A Simon Riske Novel – 28.00 – Suspense

J.D. Robb – Shadows in Death – 28.99 – Mystery



Karen Slaughter – The Silent Wife – 28.99 – Mystery

Nicholas Sparks – The Return – 28.00 – Romance - The story of an injured army doctor connecting with a beautiful deputy and a mysterious teenage girl, both whose secrets will change the course of his life.



Trivia for September

What Famous American poet was a West Point cadet for two weeks, but was forced to leave after failing arithmetic and grammar?

Answer:

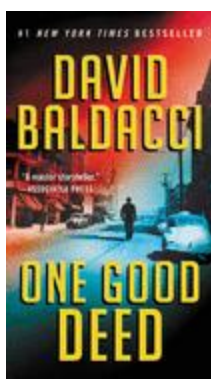
Carl Sandburg, in 1899. One of his classmates was general-to-be Douglas MacArthur.

The September 2020 winner #4 is:

Tara Young

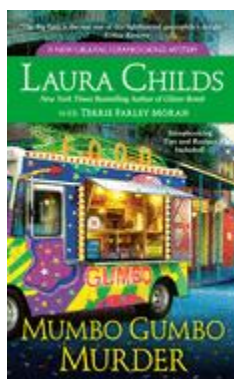
Mass Market Paperback

David Baldacci – One Good Deed – 9.99 – Thriller



Mary Balough – Someone to Romance, A Westcott Novel – 7.99 - Romance

Laura Childs – Mumbo Gumbo Murder, A New Orleans Scrapbooking Mystery – 7.99 – Mystery



Elin Hilderbrand – Winter in Paradise – 9.99 – General

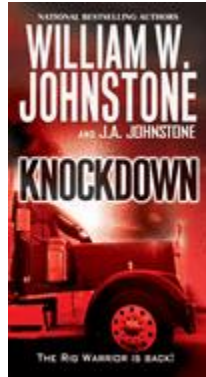
Iris Johansen – Smokescreen – 8.99 – Thriller



William W. Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone – Bullet for A Stranger – 7.99 - Western

William W. Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone – Knockdown – 8.99 –

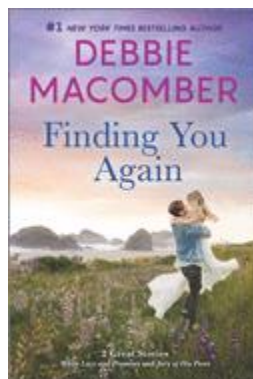
Thriller - No one saw the first attack coming--a perfectly orchestrated assault on a mass-transit railroad line that left countless Americans dead. Intelligence experts are convinced this is no ordinary terrorist attack. To pull off something like this, it would take a ... traitor with dark foreign connections. And to stop them, it will take someone who isn't afraid to shed blood ... Enter Barry Rivers, the Rig Warrior. An urban legend in the intelligence community, Rivers has been living off the radar for years. But when he sees his country under attack, he reaches out to his nephew Jake, an FBI agent, to track down the enemies in our own government



Jane Ann Krentz – Flash – 8.99 - Romance

David Lagercrantz – The Girl Who Lived Twice, A Lisbeth Salander Novel – 9.99 – Mystery

Debbis Macomber – Finding You Again – 9.99 – Romance



Tochi Onyebuchi – War Girls – 11.99 – Young Adult - Two sisters are torn apart by war and must fight their way back to each other in a futuristic, Black Panther-inspired Nigeria.

The year is 2172. Climate change and nuclear disasters have rendered much of earth unlivable. Only the lucky ones have escaped to space colonies in the sky.

In a war-torn Nigeria, battles are fought using flying, deadly mechs and soldiers are outfitted with bionic limbs and artificial organs meant to protect them from the harsh, radiation-heavy climate. Across the nation, as the years-long civil war wages on, survival becomes the only way of life.

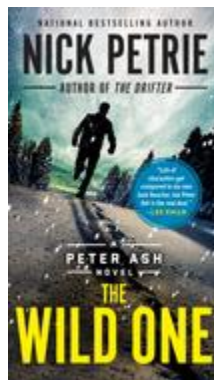
Two sisters, Onyii and Ify, dream of more. Their lives have been marked by violence and political unrest. Still, they dream of peace, of hope, of a future together.

And they're willing to fight an entire war to get there.



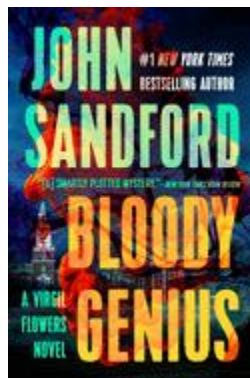
James Patterson – The Family Lawyer – 9.99 – Thriller

Nick Petrie – The Wild One, A Peter Ash Novel – 9.99 – Thriller



Jeff Rovin – Death Valley Drifter, A Ralph Compton Western – 7.99

John Sandford – Bloody Genius, A Virgil Flowers Novel – 9.99



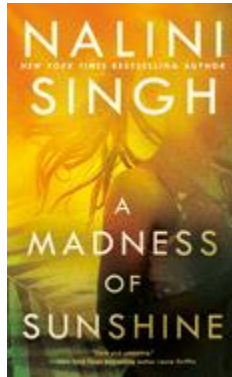
Nalini Singh – A Madness of Sunshine – 9.99 – Thriller - author Nalini Singh welcomes you to a remote town on the edge of the world where even the blinding brightness of the sun can't mask the darkness that lies deep within a killer....

On the rugged West Coast of New Zealand, Golden Cove is more than just a town where people live. The adults are more than neighbors; the children, more than schoolmates.

That is until one fateful summer--and several vanished bodies--shatters the trust holding Golden Cove together. All that's left are whispers behind closed doors, broken friendships, and a silent agreement to not look back. But they can't run from the past forever.

Eight years later, a beautiful young woman disappears without a trace, and the residents of Golden Cove wonder if their home shelters something far more dangerous than an unforgiving landscape.

It's not long before the dark past collides with the haunting present and deadly secrets come to light.



Danielle Steel – Child's Play – 8.99 - General

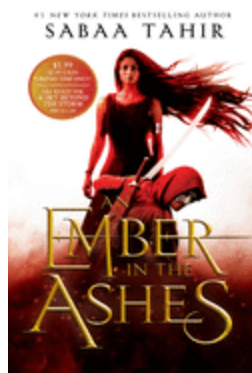
Sabaa Tahir – An Ember in the Ashes – 5.99 – Young Adult - Laia is a slave. Elias is a soldier. Neither is free.

Under the Martial Empire, defiance is met with death. Those who do not vow their blood and bodies to the Emperor risk the execution of their loved ones and the destruction of all they hold dear.

It is in this brutal world, inspired by ancient Rome, that Laia lives with her grandparents and older brother. The family ekes out an existence in the Empire's impoverished backstreets. They do not challenge the Empire. They've seen what happens to those who do.

But when Laia's brother is arrested for treason, Laia is forced to make a decision. In exchange for help from rebels who promise to rescue her brother, she will risk her life to spy for them from within the Empire's greatest military academy.

There, Laia meets Elias, the school's finest soldier--and secretly, its most unwilling. Elias wants only to be free of the tyranny he's being trained to enforce. He and Laia will soon realize that their destinies are intertwined--and that their choices will change the fate of the Empire itself.



Lisa Unger – The Stranger Inside – 17.99 - Suspense - Even good people

are drawn to do evil things... Twelve-year-old Rain Winter narrowly escaped an abduction while walking to a friend's house. Her two best friends, Tess and Hank, were not as lucky. Tess never came home, and Hank was held in captivity before managing to escape. Their abductor was sent to prison but years later was released. Then someone delivered real justice--and killed him in cold blood.

Now Rain is living the perfect suburban life, her dark childhood buried deep. She spends her days as a stay-at-home mom, having put aside her career as a hard-hitting journalist to care for her infant daughter. But when another brutal murderer who

escaped justice is found dead, Rain is unexpectedly drawn into the case. Eerie similarities to the murder of her friends' abductor force Rain to revisit memories she's worked hard to leave behind. Is there a vigilante at work? Who is the next target? Why can't Rain just let it go?

Introducing one of the most compelling and original killers in crime fiction today, Lisa Unger takes readers deep inside the minds of both perpetrator and victim, blurring the lines between right and wrong, crime and justice, and showing that sometimes people deserve what comes to them.

