

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 12, #4
April 2019
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

Trivia for April

Who wrote:

“There was a little girl

Who had a little curl

Right in the middle of her forehead”?

For the answer, see below

Our April

\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!

We try to give away four (4) \$25.00 Gift Certificates to The Book Rack account holders each month.

The names are selected from all our registered customers who have registered and/or had a trade or purchase since 1 January 2017.

All a winner has to 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 April 2019 winner #1 is:

Scott Holtan

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 30** to claim your prize: a \$25 gift certificate from **The Book Rack!**

April Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Poetry Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month

April 1 – April Fools Day

2 – International Childrens Book Day - encourages reading, and promotes the love of books for children.

2 – National Peanut & Jelly Day – M-M-M-M!

4 - School Librarian Day ([Elizabeth's Day at The Book Rack](#))- honors those who serve our young students so well in the local school libraries and su.

14 – Palm Sunday

14 – National Peach Cobbler Day - The largest Peach Cobbler ever made, was baked at the Georgia Peach Festival in 2007. It measured 11' X 5' and 8" deep. Makes you hungry, doesn't it!

15 – Income Tax Day

16 – National Librarian Day

21 – Easter Sunday – [The Book Rack](#) will be **closed.**

Free Verse — An occasional feature showcasing a fine local author. Read, enjoy and pick up a copy of their book in the Local Author section at [The Book Rack](#).

This issue we're proud to include a short story by Tom McKay, "Blocks."

Blocks

She sat at their kitchen table and stared at the blank piece of paper. She sighed and stood up. The closet in the spare bedroom needed attention. She walked to the other end of the house and turned on the bedroom light.

She opened the closet door and slid a handful of hangers with old clothes along the rod. A colorful box in the back of the closet caught her eye. It held the special set of toy blocks from Germany that their kids loved when they were little. He was the one who found them in the toy store one Christmas. She retrieved the box and sat on the hardwood floor. The lid lifted off easily, but the joy the kids felt when they played with the blocks couldn't be found. She listlessly stacked a few up, then gathered them together and put everything back in the closet.

The sun shining through the bedroom windows beckoned to her. Her light jacket hung on the hall tree by the front door. It was all she needed for an autumn morning walk. She thought about how easy it was to lose themselves in the charm of the tree-lined blocks as they walked through their neighborhood. Today, she walked faster and faster, block after block, as if she could walk it all away.

Rounding the last corner as she approached home, she saw the stack of decorative concrete blocks next to their garden shed. He was going to make a raised bed for their tomato plants next spring. She walked through their backyard and picked

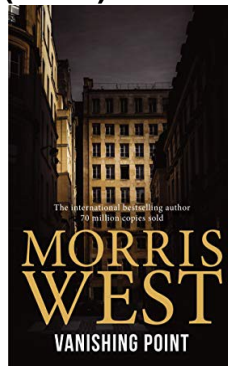
up one of the small blocks. It wasn't very heavy. She could probably make the raised bed herself. She dropped the block to the ground without worrying about stacking it back on the pile.

The back door creaked as she stepped into the kitchen. He should have oiled the hinges before he left. She went back to the table, but the pen she picked up froze in her hand again. She still had writer's block, but she needed to write the letter. She needed to tell him how angry she was at him for leaving her. How angry she was at him for dying first.

("Blocks" is one of thirty stories in the new book *Junk to Think About: Short & Shorter Stories* by Tom McKay. *Junk to Think About* can be found in the Local Author section of [The Book Rack](#).)

Book Reviews

Vanishing Point by Morris West (1997)



Carl Strassberger may have given up his role in his family's hugely successful financial business to pursue his artistic dreams, but when his brilliant brother-in-law Larry Lucas vanishes after completing the biggest deal of his career, Carl is urgently summoned to find him.

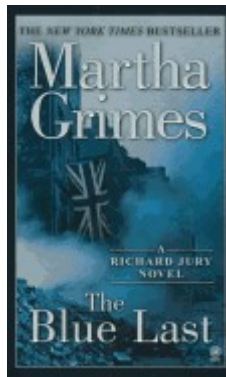
What Carl discovers is that Larry is not quite the man he seemed. In fact, he suffers from a severe mental disorder that can send his emotions on a roller-coaster ride between intense depression and manic elation. It is a condition that could have extreme consequences – a wild folly on the one hand and suicide on the other. Drawn into the search against his will, Carl must risk everything to track down the sick but cunning man he thought he knew so well, and now

suspects he never did.

Another very good Morris West suspense novel! A Kirkus Review says “Engrossing...West shows that his veins still run with the fictive silver as he returns to the problems on manic-depression he limned in his 1983 novel about Jung, *The World Is Made of Glass*... Amazing cultural grasp from a writer who seems to have been born knowing everything.”

I give it a strong B+. The rich language West employs is so descriptive it's a joy to read, even though I have to occasionally stop to check a dictionary! And, the ending is a series of surprises I didn't see coming. A very good read.

The Blue Last by Martha Grimes (2001)



In *The Blue Last*, Richard Jury finally faces the last thing in the world he wants to deal with - the war that killed his mother, his father, his childhood. Mickey Haggerty, a DCI with the London City police, has asked for Jury's help. Two skeletons have been unearthed in the City during the excavation of London's last bombsite, where once a pub stood called the The Blue Last. Mickey believes that a child who survived the bombing has been posing for over 50 years as a child who didn't. The grandchild of brewery magnet Oliver Tyndale supposedly survived that December 1940 bombing...but did she? Mickey also has a murder to solve. Simon Croft, prosperous City financial broker and son of the one-time owner of The Blue Last, is found shot to death in his Thames-side house. But the book he was writing about London during the German blitzkrieg has disappeared.

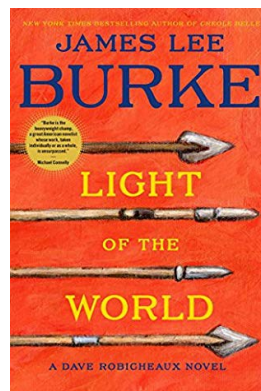
Jury wants to get eyes and ears into Tynedale Lodge, and looks to his friend, Melrose Plant, to play the role. Reluctantly, Plant plays it, accompanied on his rounds of the Lodge gardens by nine-year-old Gemma Trim, orphan and ward of Oliver Tyndale; and Benny Keagan, a resourceful 12-year-old orphaned delivery boy.

And Richard Jury may not make it out alive.

A stolen book, stolen lives, or is any of this what it seems? Identity, memory, provenance - these are all called into question in *The Blue Last*.

For much of the book it was a slog through the nitty-gritty police work – mostly interview after interview, slowly picking up bits and pieces of information and assembling them into a history of the crime. I found it rather hard to stay focused, but stuck with it. Toward the end the pace quickened and the pieces fell into place for Jury, if not so much for me! I give the book a C+. If you like English police procedurals you will likely enjoy this book.

Light of the World by James Lee Burke (2013)



Louisiana Sheriff's Detective Dave Robicheaux and his longtime friend and partner Clete Purcel are vacationing in Montana's spectacular Big Sky country when a series of suspicious events leads them to believe their lives--and the lives of their families--are in danger. In contrast to the tranquil beauty of Flathead Lake and the colorful summertime larch and fir unspooling across unblemished ranchland, a venomous presence lurks in the caves and hills, intent on destroying innocent lives. First, Alafair Robicheaux is nearly killed by an arrow while hiking alone on a trail. Then Clete's daughter, Gretchen Horowitz, whom readers met in Burke's previous bestseller *Creole Belle*, runs afoul of a local cop, with dire consequences. Next, Alafair thinks she sees a familiar face following her around town--but how could convicted sadist and serial killer Asa Surette be loose on the streets of Montana? Surette committed a string of heinous murders while capital punishment was outlawed in his home state of Kansas. Years ago, Alafair, a lawyer and novelist, interviewed Surette in prison, aiming to prove him guilty of other crimes and eligible for the death penalty. Recently, a prison transport van carrying Surette crashed and he is believed dead, but Alafair isn't so sure. Says *The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland), "Already

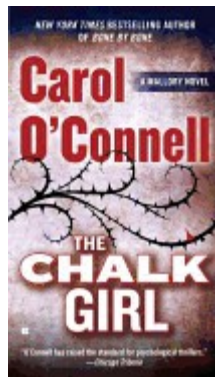
designated a Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America, Burke should get another title, say, for sustained literary brilliance in his Dave Robicheaux series." Light of the World is a harrowing novel that examines the nature of evil and pits Dave Robicheaux against the most diabolical villain he has ever faced.

Will Patton reads this audio book and as I've found in his earlier books he does an exceptional job. Claudia & I both thoroughly enjoy Burke's Dave Robicheaux novels and Patton's performance of them. The pace keeps me fully engaged and anxiously awaiting the next step in the investigation and the next violent confrontation. Mostly, I like the descriptive language Burke uses to paint a picture of the scenery in which everything is occurring. It's masterful. I give the book an A. Pick up a Burke book if you're not already a fan and you will find yourself joining those of us who are.

The April 2019 winner #2 is:

Bonnie Simmons

The Chalk Girl by Carol O'Connell (2012)



At its center is Kathleen Mallory, an extraordinary wild child turned New York City policewoman. Adopted off the streets as a little girl by a police inspector and his wife, she is still not altogether civilized now that she is a sergeant in the Special Crimes section. With her ferocious intelligence and green gunslinger eyes, Mallory (never Kathleen, never Kathy) operates by her own inner compass of right and wrong, a sense of justice that drives her in unpredictable ways. She is a thing apart.

In this book, a little girl appeared in Central Park: red-haired, blue-eyed, smiling, perfect-except for the blood on her shoulder. It fell from the sky, she said, while

she was looking for her uncle, who turned into a tree. *Poor child*, people thought. And then they found the body in the tree.

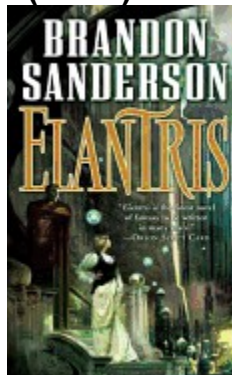
For Mallory, newly returned to the Special Crimes Unit after three months' lost time, there is something about the girl that she understands. Mallory is damaged, they say, but she can tell a kindred spirit. And this one will lead her to a story of extraordinary crimes: murders stretching back fifteen years, blackmail and complicity and a particular cruelty that only someone with Mallory's history could fully recognize. In the next few weeks, she will deal with them all . . . in her own way.

Nelson DeMille said of Mallory, "(she's) one of the most unique, interesting, and surprising heroines you've ever come across in any work of fiction."

Another author said, "Before Salander took the world by storm, there was Mallory, the most gloriously original heroine to grace crime fiction's meanest and darkest streets." --Sarah Weinman, *Confessions of an Idiosyncratic Mind* .

I would agree with both DeMille and Weinman. The first Mallory book was "Mallory's Oracle", written in 1994, long before Steig Larsson penned "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo." I would compare "The Chalk Girl" very favorably with that wonderful mystery/suspense modern classic. I give it an A+ and add O'Connell to my ever lengthening favorite author list. If you like Baldacci, Nesbo, Penny and/or Jance, you will probably love The Chalk Girl. O'Connell now has 12 Mallory novels and 2 additional stand-alone novels so you won't run out quickly, though I did find this one hard to put down. O'Connell early books may be a bit hard to find, but if we don't have them all when you've finished your first one, add them all to your Request List and be patient. The wait will be worth it.

Elantris by Brandon Sanderson (2005)



Elantris was the capital of Arelon: gigantic, beautiful, literally radiant, filled with benevolent beings who used their powerful magical abilities for the benefit of all. Yet each of these demigods was once an ordinary person until touched by the mysterious transforming power of the Shaod. Ten years ago, without warning, the magic failed. Elantrians became wizened, leper-like, powerless creatures,

and Elantris itself dark, filthy, and crumbling. Arelon's new capital, Kae, crouches in the shadow of Elantris. Princess Sarene of Teod arrives for an arranged marriage of state with Crown Prince Raoden, hoping -- based on their correspondence -- to also find love. She finds instead that Raoden has died and she is considered his widow. Both Teod and Arelon are under threat as the last remaining holdouts against the imperial ambitions of the ruthless religious fanatics of Fjordell. So Sarene decides to use her new status to counter the machinations of Hrathen, a Fjordell high priest who has come to Kae to convert Arelon and claim it for his emperor and his god. But neither Sarene nor Hrathen suspect the truth about Prince Raoden. Stricken by the same curse that ruined Elantris, Raoden was secretly exiled by his father to the dark city. His struggle to help the wretches trapped there begins a series of events that will bring hope to Arelon, and perhaps reveal the secret of Elantris itself. A rare epic fantasy that doesn't recycle the classics and that is a complete and satisfying story in one volume, Elantris is fleet and fun, full of surprises and characters to care about. It's also the wonderful debut of a welcome new star in the constellation of fantasy.

If you like Science Fiction and Fantasy, like Magic Kingdom for Sale: Sold by Terry Brooks, or The Foundation Trilogy by Isaac Asimov, or Orson Scott Card's Rama series you'll almost certainly like Elantris. Not that the stories are similar (they aren't), but rather because of the ability of these authors to create a whole new world with it's own "laws of physics." Such writers continually amaze me with their creativity. I give Elantris an A- and strongly encourage you to read it, of another of Sanderson's books. Warning: They can be hard to find! If you do find and read one, won't you please bring it to the store and trade it in so others can also enjoy it??

The April 2019 winner #3 is:

Kelly Dircks

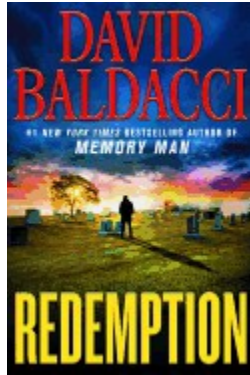
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

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 most will get to you eventually.

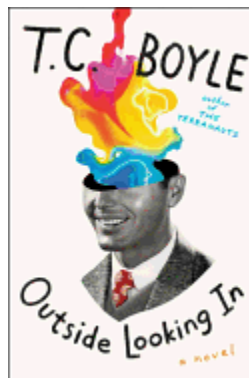
Hardcover and Trade Paperback

David Baldacci – Redemption(Memory Man #5) – 29.00



T.C. Boyle – Outside Looking In – 27.99

In this stirring and insightful novel, T.C. Boyle takes us back to the 1960s and to the early days of a drug whose effects have reverberated widely throughout our culture: LSD.



Robin Carr – The View from Alameda Island – 16.99

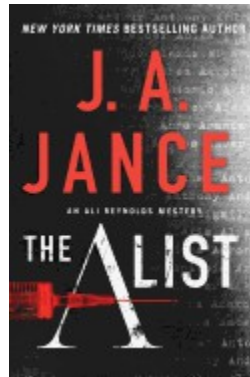
Mary Higgins Clark – Kiss the Girls and Make Them Cry – 26.99



Max Alan Collins & Mickie Spillane – Mike Hammer: Murder, My Love – 22.99

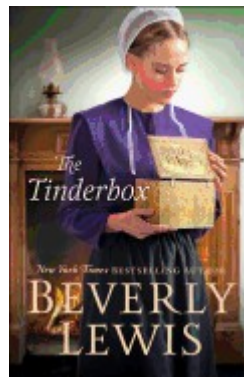
Clive Cussler – Celtic Empire, A Dirk Pitt Novel – 29.00

J.A. Jance – The A List – 27.99



Karen Kingsbury – Two Weeks – 25.00

Beverly Lewis – The Tinderbox – 15.99

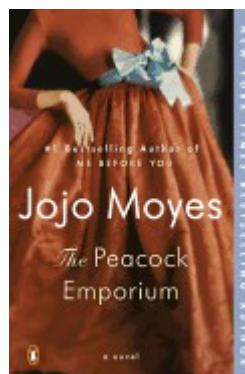


Fern Michaels – Deep Harbor – 24.95

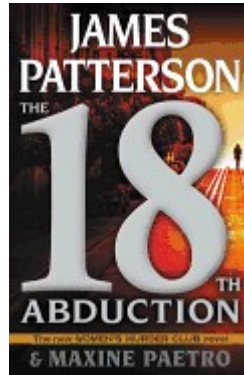
Mary Monroe – Over the Fence – 26.00

Jojo Moyes – The Peacock Emporium – 16.00

A young woman finds new meaning in life after opening an eclectic shop and coming to terms with the secrets of her past.

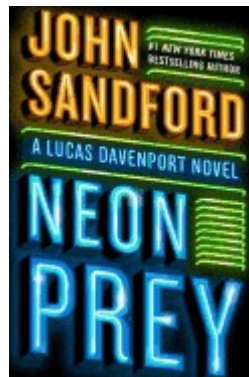


James Patterson – The 18th Abduction, The New Women's Murder Club Novel – 29.00



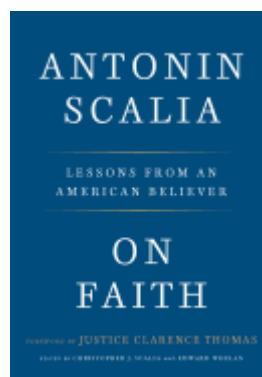
Nora Roberts – The Hollow – 17.00

John Sanford – Neon Prey – 29.00



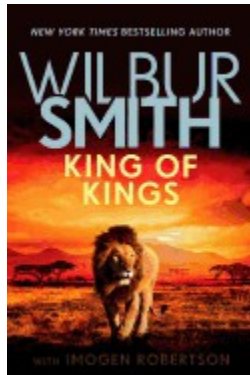
Antonin Scalia – On Faith: Lessons from an American Believer – 22.00

An inspiring collection of the late Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia's reflections on his own faith, on the challenges that religious believers face in modern America, and on the religious freedoms protected by the Constitution. Featuring a personal introduction by Justice Scalia's son Father Paul Scalia, this volume will enrich every reader's understanding of the legendary justice.



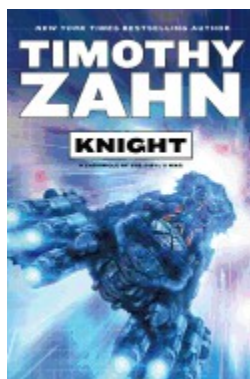
Lisa Scottoline – Someone Knows – 27.00

Wilbur Smith – King of Kings – 28.99



J.R. Ward – The Savior – 26.99

Timothy Zahn – Knight, A Chronicle of the Sibyl's War – 24.99



Trivia for April

Who wrote:

“There was a little girl

Who had a little curl

Right in the middle of her forehead”?

Answer:

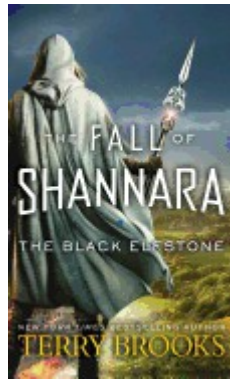
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, in his 1883 poem “There was a Little Girl.”

The April 2019 winner #4 is:

Dorothy Votroubek

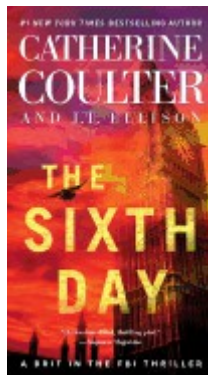
Mass Market Paperback

Terry Brooks – The Fall of Shannara: The Skaar Invasion – 8.99



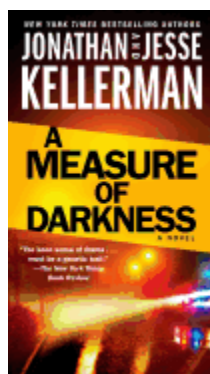
Robyn Carr – The Life She Wants – 8.99

Catherine Coulter – The Sixth Day – 9.99



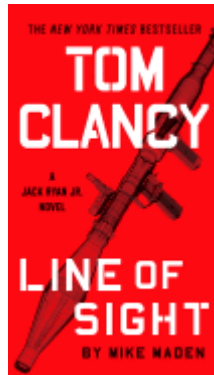
J.A. Jance – Hand of Evil – 9.99

Jonathan Kellerman – A Measure of Darkness – 9.99



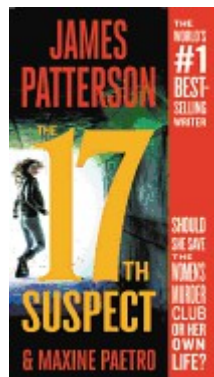
Sherrilyn Kenyon – Death Doesn't Bargain – 8.99

Mike Maden – Tom Clancy Line of Sight, A Jack Ryan Novel – 9.99



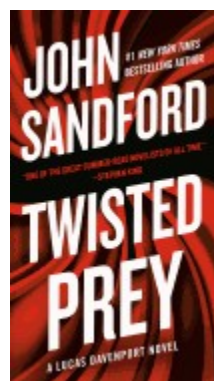
Brad Metzler – The Escape Artist – 9.99

James Patterson – The 17th Suspect, The Women's Murder Club – 9.99



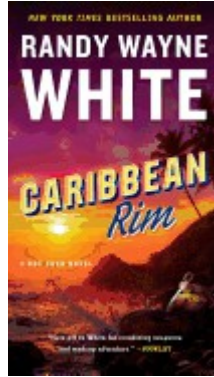
Nora Roberts – Come Sundown – 8.99

John Sanford – Twisted Prey – 9.99



Danielle Steel – The Good Fight – 8.99

Randy Wayne White – Caribbean Rim, A Doc Ford Novel – 9.99



Stuart Woods – Turbulence – 9.99

