

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 14, #4 April 2021
563-355-2310

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

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

Trivia for April 2021

What skill won people high office in the land of Lilliput in
Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

Our April 2021

\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!

We try to give away four (4) \$25.00 Gift Certificates to The Book Rack
account holders each month. (It's harder than you think!)

The names are selected from all our registered customers who have
registered or had a trade or purchase in the past 2-years (Since April 1,
2019 this month).

All a winner must do is read the newsletter and find your name listed
below, then come in and claim your reward. No purchase is required, and
you don't have to register separately from your initial account registration.

The April 2021 winner #1 is:

Katie Daily

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, 2021 to claim your prize:

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

Books We Need

Graphic Novels and Manga

True Crime

Harlan Coben (paperback)

J.D. Robb (paperback)

V.C. Andrews

HORROR!!!

April 2021 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

- National Humor Month
- International Guitar Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Kite Month
- National Poetry Month
- National Pecan Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Weekly Celebrations:

Week 1 Library Week

Week 1 Read a Road Map Week.

Week 2 Garden Week

Week 3 Medical Labs Week

Week 4 Administrative Assistants Week

April 1 – April Fool’s Day – There are NO fools at The Book Rack

2 – Children’s Book Day

- Good Friday

3 – Easter Sunday – **The Book Rack** will be **Closed**

11 – National Teach Children to Save Day – A wonderful day to bring your children to **The Book Rack!**

12 – **National Library Workers Day**

- Ramadan Begins

15 – Income Tax Day

16 – **National Librarian Day (Nikki's Day at The Book Rack!)**

22 – **Earth Day**

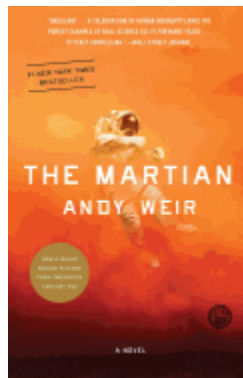
28 – **Great Poetry Reading Day – We have several very good poets in our Local Author section!**

30 – Arbor Day

Book Reviews

Review by Claudia:

The Martian by Andy Weir (2014), is a great book.



I'd seen the Ridley Scott movie with Matt Damon, which I thought good, as well, but reading the book provides details that might be eliminated or changed for a film, or pass too quickly when acted out. It's notable that this is the first novel under Weir's name and was originally self-published in 2011. From <https://www.andyweirauthor.com>: "Andy Weir built a two-decade career as a software engineer until the success of his first published novel, **The Martian**, allowed him to live out his dream of writing full-time. He is a lifelong space nerd and a devoted hobbyist of such subjects as relativistic physics, orbital mechanics, and the history of manned spaceflight." I find it pretty amazing that a self-professed "space nerd" wrote such a technical book, one that Astronaut Chris Hadfield says, "... has a very rare combination of a good, original story, interestingly real characters, and a fascinating technical accuracy. Reads like *MacGyver* meets *Mysterious Island*." Now that's not to say there aren't errors or fabrications... this is fiction, after all. **The Martian** is about American astronaut, Mark Watney, stranded alone on Mars after his crew assumes him dead, who must improvise in order to survive. Watney uses his

knowledge of hydrogeology and environmental engineering, and his Peace Corps experience in engineering sustainable agriculture and water irrigation systems, to determine and implement solutions to a variety of dilemmas no one has faced before. The book is full of space geek technical terms and explanations, and a lot of humor. So - suspend reality, and enjoy the experience.

Reviews by Bob:

Damage Control by Robert Dugoni (2007) Mystery



A rising star at her prestigious Seattle law firm, Dana Hill knows all about stress. She pours herself into her work and family with all the energy she has. But her carefully balanced life is about to be turned upside down. First a frightening medical diagnosis forces her to reassess her roles as a lawyer, mother, and wife to a man she suddenly no longer trusts. Then her life is rocked further by the shocking and brutal murder of her twin brother. With a smart, iconoclastic detective named Michael Logan as her only ally, Dana dives into the investigation, relentlessly seeking answers to who killed her brother and why. Logan cannot believe that the murder was anything more than a robbery gone terribly wrong. But when Dana uncovers a priceless handcrafted diamond earring in the debris of her twin's trashed home, the case becomes more sinister. Dana is sure the jewel is the key to her twin's secrets. And Logan becomes convinced it can help stop a string of cold-blooded murders that have followed in the wake of her brother's death. As Dana and Logan chase the faint trail of evidence from Seattle to Maui, they threaten the reputation, career, and future of a powerful man who will stop at nothing to protect what he considers his. But for Dana, for whom time has a special meaning, nothing - not even her own life - is more important than finding the truth. She has moved beyond fear and beyond anyone's attempts at damage control.

A really fine mystery. I liked the characters (that I am supposed to like)! It was timely for me as our most recent election season was ending as I read it. I ignored most live news so this fed my meager need for politics in my life. Interestingly, Amazon reviewers from the US were muted in their praise, but those from the UK were effusive in their praise. Oh well. I give it a B+. I have another of his books waiting on my "to be read" stack and look forward to getting going as soon as finish my current book by a different author. If you like Patricia Cornwell, Allison Brennan or Michael Lister, you'll like Dugoni.

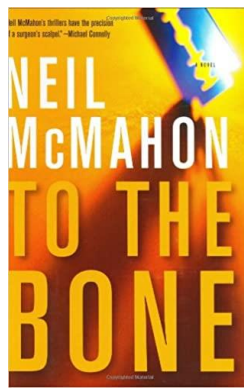
The Fire Witness by Lars Kepler (2018) Crime Mystery



Detective Joonas Linna is on leave dealing with personal and professional issues when he gets pulled into the investigation of a horrific murder at a home for wayward teenage girls. One girl is dead, and another is missing. The local police want to close the case quickly, especially after they discover a bloody hammer under the missing girl's bed. But a woman claiming to see visions of the murdered girl insists there is more going on than meets the eye, and Joonas is inclined to believe her. As he digs deeper into the case, he finds himself in dark and dangerous territory. This compelling thriller will have you turning pages long into the night.

An entertaining and enthralling mystery. Kepler (Wife & Husband literary couple Alexander Ahndoril and Alexandra Coelho Ahndoril) writes a gripping novel and one you'll want to set down. I enjoyed it and give it a B+. Kepler has several books out and should be considered high on your list of new authors to read if you like mysteries and haven't found them before.

To the Bone by Neil McMahon (2003) Mystery

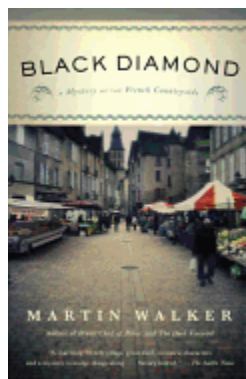


Late one hot summer night, a beautiful young actress named Eden Hale - only hours removed from breast-augmentation surgery, and writhing in pain - stumbles to the telephone and dials 911. Within minutes, an ambulance rushes her to San Francisco's Mercy Hospital. But by the time she arrives, she is dying, fast, of a mysterious, unrecognizable condition." "Dr. Carroll Monks, the ER physician on duty, races to sort through her baffling symptoms in the few minutes he has left to save her. Monks has a sudden insight and, against the advice of his peers, risks a radical treatment, which will prove to be either a brilliant maneuver or a potentially deadly mistake. It fails. Eden Hale, vibrantly healthy and barely twenty-five years old, is dead." "The fallout is immediate and intense. The plastic surgeon who operated on Eden - Dr. D. Welles D'Anton, whose reputation as a surgical guarantor of perfection and agelessness has conferred on him a guru-like status - blames Monks for her death. Criticism from Monks's hospital colleagues quickly follows and the threat of a lawsuit is not far behind. Monks's career is in jeopardy, but his own guilt and uncertainty are what haunt him worst of all." "Convinced there's a hidden cause to Eden's death, Monks starts to delve into her past. Despite roadblocks that spring up in his path, he soon learns that the former prom queen was not the all-American girl she seemed to be: she was caught up in the world of pornography, and was even, possibly, having an illicit affair with D'Anton. Then Monks uncovers a secret that is far more frightening: other young women in D'Anton's care have wound up missing, dead, or horribly disfigured." In his search for the truth, Monks is drawn into a culture of unimaginable wealth and vanity - only to discover that he is being used as a pawn in a decadent game of glamour and cruelty, one that places him in the crosshairs of a deadly psychopath.

Neil McMahon wrote 4 Carroll Monk books and a 2-title "series" with the title character Hugh Davoren. He also co-authored with James Patterson the novel, "Toys." In 2011, so he's probably pretty good. "To the Bone" is a quite good mystery, validating my assumption. Monks is a nice guy in a grueling profession making life & death decisions with no time for complex analysis and consultation. You'll like him, root for him throughout and want to read more of the series when you finish "To the Bone." I give it a solid "B. His books will likely

be rather scarce and he hasn't had a new release since 2015. He's compared favorably to Sandra Brown, Michael Connelly and Dona Leon.

Black Diamond, A Mystery of the French Countryside by Martin Walker (2010)



Something dangerous is afoot in St. Denis. In the space of a few weeks, the normally sleepy village sees attacks on Vietnamese vendors, arson at a local Asian restaurant, subpar truffles from China smuggled into outgoing shipments at a nearby market--all of it threatening the Dordogne's truffle trade, worth millions of dollars each year, and all of it spelling trouble for Benoît "Bruno" Courrèges, master chef, devoted oenophile, and, most important, beloved chief of police. When one of his hunting partners, a noted truffle expert, is murdered, Bruno's investigation into the murky events unfolding around St. Denis becomes infinitely more complicated. His friend wasn't just a connoisseur of French delicacies, he was a former high-profile intelligence agent--and someone wanted him dead.

As the strange crimes continue, Bruno's detective work takes him from sunlit markets to dim cafés, from luxurious feasts to tense negotiations--from all of the paradisiacal pleasures of the region to its shadowy underworld--and reunites him with a lost love, an ambitious policewoman also assigned to the case. Filled with an abundance of food and wine (including, *bien sûr*, many, many truffles) and a *souçon* of romance, *Black Diamond* is a deliciously entertaining concoction that delivers all the complexity and delights of the Dordogne itself.

The third installment in the delightful, internationally acclaimed series featuring Chief of Police Bruno. Do you enjoy international travel, or just reading about it? Coupled with the mystery, you will learn much about truffles – finding, growing, using, buying and selling. *Black Diamond* is a very entertaining mystery. Bruno is a wonderful protagonist, lacking the “dark side” of so many in American mysteries. You just have to like him. A great read and a pleasant departure from mysteries filled with mayhem. I give *Black Diamond* an A-. If you like Donna Leon, Camilla Trinchieri, Angela Wren or Ann Cleeves, give Martin Walker a try.

The April 2021 winner #2 is:

Michael Webb

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Did You Know?

Norman Mailer, author of such notable books as 'The Naked and the Dead' and 'The Castle in the Forest', ran for Mayor of New York in a high-profile 1969 campaign with the slogan 'No More Bullshit'. Unfortunately, most people felt what he was peddling was just a different kind of bullshit and he came fourth out of five contenders.

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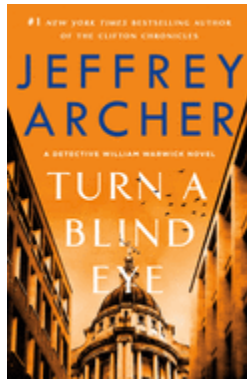
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You can also add any of these titles to your request list. Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but many will get to you eventually.

Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Jeffrey Archer – Turn A Blind Eye, A Detective William Warwick Novel – 28.99 – General Fiction

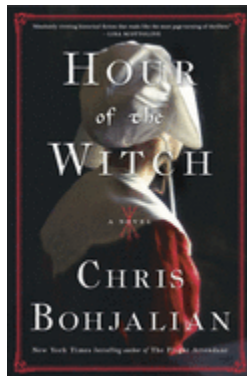


Newly promoted to Detective Inspector, William Warwick is tasked with a dangerous new line of work, to go undercover and expose crime of another kind: corruption at the heart of the Metropolitan Police Force. Along with detectives Rebecca Pankhurst and Nicky Bailey, his team is focused on following Detective Jerry Summers, a young officer whose lifestyle exceeds his income. But the investigation risks being compromised when Nicky falls for Summers. Meanwhile, notorious drug baron Assem Rashidi goes on trial, defended by Booth Watson QC, while William's father Sir Julian and sister Grace lead the prosecution case. And William's wife Beth, now a new mother to twins, makes a surprising new friend in Christina Faulkner--the ex-wife of William's former rival, criminal financier Miles - who has not only turned over a new leaf, but also has a new-found source of income when Faulkner dies suddenly of a heart attack and she stands to be sole inheritor of his estate.

As the undercover officers start to draw the threads together, William realizes that the corruption may go deeper still, and more of his colleagues than he first thought might be willing to turn a blind eye.

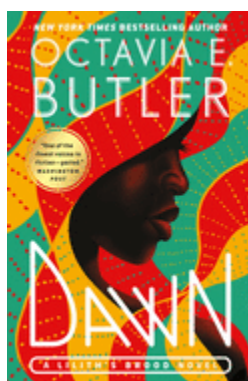
David Baldacci – A Gambling Man, An Archer Novel – 29.00 – Thriller

Chris Bohjalian – Hour of the Witch – 28.95 – Romance



A young Puritan woman--faithful, resourceful, but afraid of the demons that dog her soul--plots her escape from a violent marriage in this riveting and propulsive novel of historical suspense.

Octavia Butler – Dawn, A Lilith's Brood Novel – 16.99 – Sci Fi

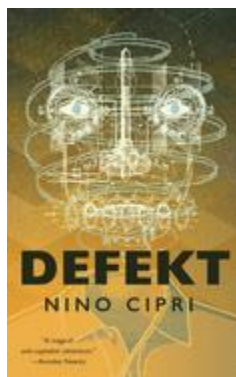


When Lilith Iyapo wakes from a centuries-long sleep, she finds herself aboard the vast spaceship of the Oankali. She discovers that the Oankali--a seemingly benevolent alien race--intervened in the fate of the humanity hundreds of years ago, saving everyone who survived a nuclear war from a dying, ruined Earth and then putting them into a deep sleep. After learning all they could about Earth and its beings, the Oankali healed the planet, cured cancer, increased human strength, and they now want Lilith to lead her people back to Earth--but salvation comes at a price.

Hopeful and thought-provoking, this post-apocalyptic narrative deftly explores gender and race through the eyes of characters struggling to adapt during a pivotal time of crisis and change.

Marc Cameron – Bone Battle, An Arliss Cutter Novel – 26.00 – Thriller

Nino Cipri – Defekt – 14.99 – Sci Fi



Derek is LitenVärld's most loyal employee. He lives and breathes the job, from the moment he wakes up in a converted shipping container at the edge of the parking lot to the second he clocks out of work 18 hours later. But after taking his first ever sick day, his manager calls that loyalty into question. An excellent employee like Derek, an employee made to work at LitenVärld, shouldn't need time off.

To test his commitment to the job, Derek is assigned to a special inventory shift, hunting through the store to find defective products. Toy chests with pincers and eye stalks, ambulatory sleeper sofas, killer mutant toilets, that kind of thing. Helping him is the inventory team -- four strangers who look and sound almost exactly like him. Are five Dereks better than one?

Paul Herron – Breakout – 28.00 - Thriller

Sebastian Junger – Freedom – 25.99



Throughout history, humans have been driven by the quest for two cherished ideals: community and freedom. The two don't coexist easily. We value individuality and self-reliance, yet are utterly dependent on community for our most basic needs. In this intricately crafted and thought-provoking book, Sebastian Junger examines the tension that lies at the heart of what it means to be human.

For much of a year, Junger and three friends--a conflict photographer and two Afghan War vets--walked the railroad lines of the East Coast. It was an experiment in personal autonomy, but also in interdependence. Dodging railroad cops, sleeping under bridges, cooking over fires, and drinking from creeks and rivers, the four men forged a unique reliance on one another.

In *Freedom*, Junger weaves his account of this journey together with primatology and boxing strategy, the history of labor strikes and Apache renegades, the role of women in resistance movements, and the brutal reality of life on the Pennsylvania frontier. Written in exquisite, razor-sharp prose, the result is a powerful examination of the primary desire that defines us.

Jhumpa Lahiri – Whereabouts – 26.00 - General

Karen Kingsbury – A Distant Shore – 26.99 – Religious Fiction

Anne Perry – Death with a Double Edge, A Daniel Pitt Novel – 28.00

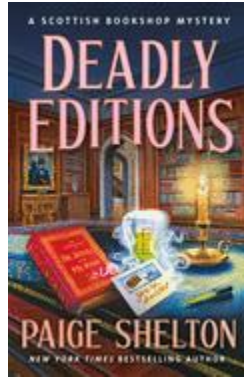


When junior barrister Daniel Pitt is summoned to the scene of a murder in the London district known as Mile End, he knows only that the victim is a senior barrister from the same firm. To Daniel's relief, it is not his close friend Toby Kitteridge, but the question remains: What was this respected colleague doing in such a rough part of the city? The firm's head, Marcus fford Croft, may know more than he admits, but fford Croft's memory is not what it used to be, and his daughter, Miriam--Daniel's friend and sometime sidekick--isn't in the country to offer her usual help. And so Daniel and Kitteridge must investigate on their own, lest the police uncover something that may cast a suspicious light on the firm.

Their inquiries in Mile End lead them to a local brothel and to an opium den, but also--unexpectedly--to a wealthy shipbuilder crucial to Britain's effort to build up its fleet, which may soon face the fearsome naval might of Germany. Daniel finds his path blocked by officials at every turn, his investigation so unwelcome that even his father, Special Branch head Thomas Pitt, receives a chilling warning from a powerful source. Suddenly, not just Daniel but his whole family--including his beloved mother, Charlotte--is in danger. Will Daniel's devotion to justice be the undoing of his entire life, and endanger Britain's defense at sea? As ever, the fates of family and history are inextricably intertwined in this spellbinder from Anne Perry.

David Rosenfelt – Animal Instinct, A K Team Novel – 27.99 – General Fiction

Paige Shelton – Deadly Editions, A Scottish Bookshop Mystery – 26.99



A treasure hunt through Edinburgh gives way to a search for a villain terrorizing the city in the sixth Scottish Bookshop Mystery.

It's a quiet, snowy morning at The Cracked Spine bookshop, when bookseller Delaney Nichols receives a mysterious visitor, a messenger. He presents her with a perplexing note: an invitation to a meeting with eccentric socialite Shelagh O'Conner, who requests Delaney's participation in an exclusive treasure hunt. Delaney is intrigued, but also cautious: Shelagh, while charming in person, has a reputation for her hijinks as a wealthy young woman in the '70s. She was even once suspected for the murder of a former boyfriend, though ultimately cleared of all charges.

But Delaney is enticed by the grand prize at the end of the treasure hunt: a highly valuable first edition copy of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, by Robert Louis Stevenson. The winner is also to receive the contents of Shelagh's vast library, and all participants will earn a large sum of cash.

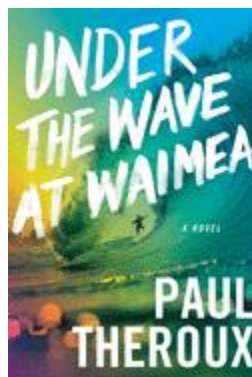
The night after the first meeting of the treasure hunters, however, several homes in Edinburgh are robbed in a manner reminiscent of Shelagh's old tricks. And when a man connected to Shelagh is killed, suspicion builds. Except Shelagh herself has disappeared from her home, seemingly kidnapped by the villain.

Terror mounts throughout the city as Delaney attempts to solve the mystery, while trying to evade the killer's clutches. But it's hard to know who to trust when around every corner, a new monster could be lurking.

Danielle Steel – Finding Ashley – 28.99 – General Fiction

K.M. Szpara – First, Become Ashes – 27.99 - Fantasy

Paul Theroux – Under the Wave at Waimea – 28.00 – General Fiction

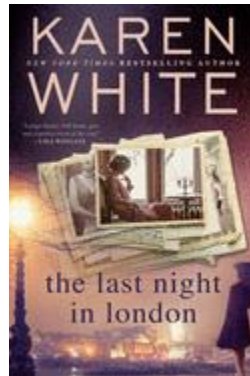


Now in his sixties, big-wave surfer Joe Sharkey has passed his prime and is losing his "stoke." The younger surfers around the breaks on the north shore of Oahu still idolize the Shark, but his sponsors are looking elsewhere. One night, while driving home from a bar after one too many, Joe accidentally kills a stranger near Waimea, a tragedy that sends his life out of control. As the repercussions of the accident spiral ever wider, Joe's devoted girlfriend, Olive, throws herself into uncovering the dead man's identity and helping Joe find vitality and refuge in the waves again. Set in the lush, gritty underside of an island paradise readers rarely see, UNDER THE WAVE AT WAIMEA offers a dramatic, affecting commentary on privilege, mortality, and the lives we choose to remember. It is a masterpiece by one of the greatest writers of our time.

Martin Walker – The Shooting at Chateau Rock, A Bruno, Chief of Police Novel – 16.95

J.R. Ward – Lover Unveiled, Vol.19 – The Black Dagger Brotherhood Series – 28.00

Karen White – The Last Night in London – 27.00 – General Fiction



London, 1939. Beautiful and ambitious Eva Harlow and her American best friend, Precious Dubose, are trying to make their way as fashion models. When Eva falls in love with Graham St. John, an aristocrat and Royal Air Force pilot, she can't believe her luck--she's getting everything she ever wanted. Then the Blitz devastates her world, and Eva finds herself slipping into a web of intrigue, spies, and secrets. As Eva struggles to protect her friendship with Precious and everything she holds dear, all it takes is one unwary moment to change their lives forever...

London, 2019. American journalist Maddie Warner, whose life has been marked by the tragic loss of her mother, travels to London to interview Precious about her life in pre-WWII London. Maddie has been careful to close herself off to others, but in Precious she recognizes someone whose grief rivals her own--but unlike Maddie, Precious hasn't allowed it to crush her. Maddie finds herself drawn to both Precious and to Colin, her enigmatic surrogate nephew. As Maddie gets closer to her, she begins to unravel Precious's haunting past--a story of friendship, betrayal, and the unremembered acts of kindness and of love.

The April 2021 winner #3 is:

Jim & Charlene Swanson

Trivia for April 2021

What skill won people high office in the land of Lilliput in Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels?

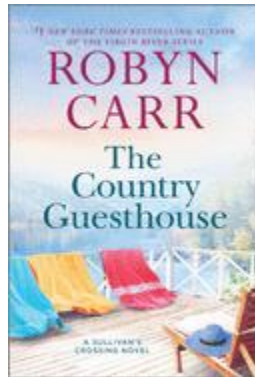
Answer

Rope Dancing

Mass Market Paperback

Jeffrey Archer – Hidden in Plain Sight, A Detective William Warwick Novel – 9.99 - General

Robyn Carr – The Country Guesthouse, A Sullivan's Crossing Novel – 9.99 – General



Patricia Cornwell – Flesh and Blood, A Scarpetta Novel – 9.99 – Thriller

Jeffery Deaver – The Goodbye Man, A Colter Shaw Novel – 9.99 – Thriller



Kathleen O'Neal Gear – Cries from the Lost Island – 7.77 – Fantasy



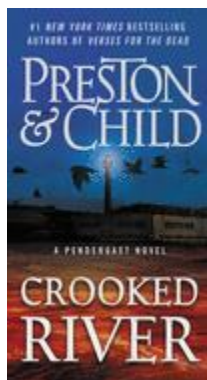
Laura Griffin – Flight, The Texas Murder Files – 7.99 - Thriller
Stacey Lee – The Downstairs Girl – 10.99 – Young Adult



1890, Atlanta. By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel Caroline Payne, the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for "the genteel Southern lady"

Mike Lupica – Robert B. Parker's Grudge Match, A Sunny Randall Novel – Mystery

Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child – Crooked River, A Pendergast Novel – 9.99 – Mystery



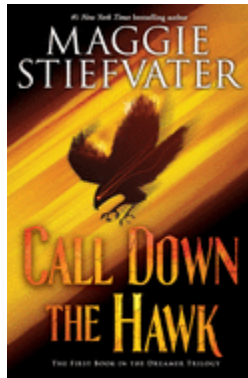
Nora Roberts – Under Currents – 8.99 – General

John Sandford – Masked Prey, A Lucas Davenport Novel – 9.99 – Mystery

John Scalzi – The Last Emperox – 7.99 – SciFi



Maggie Stiefvater – Call Down the Hawk, The First Book of the Dreamer Trilogy – 12.99 – Young Adult



The April 2021 winner #4 is:

Rita Watson