

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 15, #4 April 2022
563-355-2310
BookRackQC@Gmail.com

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

Face Masks now **Optional**, though recommended, in The Book Rack. This can change back to "**Required**" if the conditions warrant. We have several staff and many customers in the high-risk groupings and need to be very attentive to their protection.

Trivia for April 2022

What is the name of the poem which appears on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

.....

\$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, Request List addition or purchase in the past 2-years (Since April 1, 2020).

All a winner must do is read the newsletter and find your name listed below, then call or 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 2022 winner #1 is:

Isaiah Petersen

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 30 April, 2022 to claim your prize:

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

April 2022 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

Global Astronomy Month
International Guitar Month
Keep America Beautiful Month
Lawn and Garden Month
National Humor Month
National Kite Month
National Poetry Month
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Stress Awareness Month

Weekly Celebrations:

Week 1 Library Week
Week 2 Garden Week
Week 4 National Karaoke Week

April, 2022 Daily Holidays, Special and Wacky Days:

1 - April Fool's Day

2 – Children's Book Day – A great day to bring your children to The Book Rack to restock their personal libraries.

2 – Reconciliation Day

4 – School Librarian Day – Thank your school librarian for being there for you

7 – World Health Day

10 – Golfer's Day

10 – Palm Sunday

12 – Walk on Your Wild Side Day

15 – Good Friday

15 – Tax Day

16 – Husband Appreciation Day

16 – National Librarian Day

17 – Easter Sunday – The Book Rack will be CLOSED

18 – Patriot's Day

22 – Earth Day

22 – National Jelly Bean Day

24 – Local Author Kim Feeney will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00

29 – Arbor Day

May 1 – Local Author David Dorris will return to The Book Rack with his locally Best-Selling series of books!

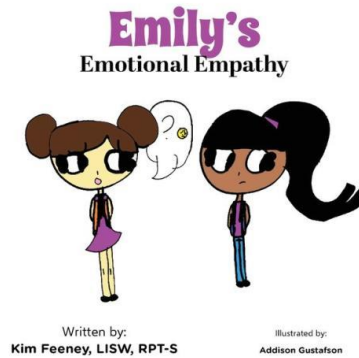
Featured Local Author

Kim Feeney

is the author of *Emily's Emotional Empathy*



Kimberly has been a Licensed Independent Social Worker since 2013 and a Registered Play Therapy Supervisor since 2014. She attended the University of Iowa and earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and Social Work in 2001. Kimberly obtained her graduate degree in Social Work at The University of Iowa in 2011. She has training in Adlerian play therapy, Theraplay, Sandtray, and Child Centered.



Emily's day was going fantastic! She was super excited to tell her best friend Amelia all about it. When Emily arrived at school, Amelia was having a bad day and Emily did not understand. Upon arriving at home, mom taught Emily about the concept of empathy. With the help of Emily's Emotional Empathy the girls made up and learned a little bit about their emotions along the way! Through this sweet, colorful book, kids will learn all about Emily's Emotional Empathy. Stop by The Book Rack April 24 between 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM and visit with Kim and learn more about her book.

""I Have a Really Old Book. How Much Is It Worth?""

An Article by The Book Rack's own
Nicole Steinbaugh

Inevitably, used bookstore employees will answer the phone to this question a few times a year, if not at least once a month: "I was cleaning out my [parents'/partner's/ grandparents'/aunt's] house, and I found this book. It's *really old*. Could I sell it to you? How much is it worth?"

When my maternal grandmother passed away, I inherited her illustrated copy of *Heidi*, which *her* grandmother had inscribed and given to her as a gift. As a child, I had read this book until the cover was in literal shreds. By the quality of the paper and the age at which my grandmother might have received it, I estimate it was published in the late 1930s or early 40s; certainly, during wartime, when resources were being conserved as much as possible. You can *feel* how different the paper was then. It's a true piece of history.

For years, the book had been sitting, held together by rubber bands, in a closet at my parents' house. Not a fitting place for something that was once so well-loved. I finally asked my mother to have it rebound for my birthday a few years ago,

and we went through the expensive process of sending it to a bindery for repair. It came back shiny and well-preserved, with a glossy new cover and

(Continue reading below at the end of this newsletter)

Book Reviews

Reviews by Claudia:

Ghosts, by Raina Telgemeier, is a Graphix Scholastic publication, set around Dias de Muertos. Catrina's family has moved to the coast of Northern California in hopes that the climate will help her younger sister, Maya, who has cystic fibrosis. Catrina has had to leave her friends behind, and her attitude is not helping make settling into the new town a happy occasion. Exploring the new area, a neighbor tells them that here are ghosts in the town. Maya is excited to meet one, but Catrina is frightened. As Dias de Muertos – the day when the ghosts of the dead reunite with their loved ones – approaches, Catrina “must figure out how to put aside her fears for her sister's sake and her own.” This is a “moving and insightful story about the power of family and friendship, and how it gives us the courage to do what we never thought possible.” This graphic novel is one of several written by Raina Telgemeier – Smile is about a sixth-grade girl with braces, and Guts is a short story of throwing up. Really. Recommended for ages 8-12.

The Gabriel Hounds, by Mary Stewart, features Christy Mansel, a young English woman traveling solo through the Middle East who unexpectedly runs into her cousin, Charles, in Damascus. The semi-romantic second cousins decide a spontaneous visit to Great-Aunt Harriet would be an excellent adventure. The family has historically forbidden unannounced visits with Aunt Harriet, but the cousins are enticed by their expectation of exploring Lady Harriet's palace, Dar Ibrahim in the High Lebanon. Rumor has it that when the palace's Gabriel hounds run howling, someone will die. Christy arrives before Charles and is soon immersed in an exotic mystery comprised of crumbling architectural wonders, a menagerie, a resident physician, and a very few Arab servants. She shortly discovers all is not as it seems, and that she is more a prisoner than a guest. As Christy, and soon Charles, attempt to escape the palace, secrets are discovered, and death visits those within its sinister walls. This is a fairly tame murder mystery, with an interesting setting and characters, loosely based on the life of real-life Lady Hester Stanhope. Mary Stewart is one of my sister's favorite authors, and while I prefer a little more action, I'm glad I read the book.

Reviews by Bob

Edgar Rice Burroughs – The Mad King – 1926 – Adventure

Life as a gentleman-farmer in the once-wild West was hardly exciting enough for an adventurer and master swordsman like Barney Custer. So, when he had the chance to make the long voyage to the land of Lutha, he took it and there encountered more adventure in a few months than most people find in a lifetime. A crumbling kingdom, a black-hearted regent and his diabolical cohorts, a beautiful princess trapped in a dark and dismal dungeon, sinister plots and harrowing escapes – this is what Barney Custer found and this is what awaits the reader when he begins this tale of romantic adventure from the pen of master storyteller Edgar Rice Burroughs — compete with swordplay and intrigue, a beautiful princess in need of rescue, a courageous American hero, a throne in danger, evil conspirators, derring-do and narrow..

I must admit I've not previously read any of Burrough's stand-alone novels. This one is quite good. It checks all the boxes an adventure must to grab and hold my attention throughout. I give it a B+.

Lisa Scottoline – Courting Trouble – 2002 – Mystery

From New York Times bestselling author Lisa Scottoline, a novel featuring the all-female ass-kicking wise-cracking Philadelphia law firm Rosato and Associates How many people get to solve their own murder? A quiet Fourth of July weekend at the beach is shattered when Anne Murphy opens her morning newspaper. Staring back at her from the front page is her own photo, under the headline LAWYER MURDERED. Once the body in the morgue is identified, the murderer will realize their mistake. In the meantime, playing dead to stay alive, Anne must find out who is trying to kill her. Unable to rely on the police, who have already allowed her stalker to slip through their hands once, she has no choice but to confide in her new colleagues at Rosato & Associates. It will take all their combined ingenuity to crack the case before it's too late.

"A fast-moving and suspenseful thriller, cheerful, charming...funny and a good read."--*Los Angeles Times*

It gets an A- from me. A fun, quick read. Scottoline compares favorably to Stuart Woods, Jante Evanovich and Susan Mallery.

David Lake – The Ring of Truth – Fantasy – 1982

Our cosmos, throughout its enormous length of galaxies, and down to its smallest molecules, obeys the same laws of physics and chemistry from one end to the other. But it is now suspected that somewhere in the vast reaches of space, there may well be other universes with completely different natural laws.

But even on these worlds, foreign beyond imagining, there may yet be great adventurers – alien Magellans and Columbuses whose thirst for exploration cannot be assuaged. Intelligent beings who would risk anything to know what lies over the horizon, beyond the parameters of the known world.

Travel now with Prince Kernin of Palur, just such an explorer in just such an alien universe, and discover wonders beyond imagining, in a world very different from our own, as he ventures to the ends of his earth and to find the elusive Ring of Truth.

Strange and wonderful people and cultures abound on the Prince's world. Go with him to discover them and their unique ways. Another fun read. I give it a B. Lake didn't write a lot of books, but if you like this one, he does have more.

Alice Hoffman – Skylight Confessions – Literature – 2007

Arlyn Singer believes in destiny and love. On the night her father dies she's sure fate will send her true love to her. But destiny seems to be playing a trick when he sends her John Moody who is dreamy Arlyn's opposite. Their marriage leads them and their children to a glass house in Connecticut built by John's father, a place of skylights and fairytales, of ghosts and regret. Their son, Sam, is a brilliant, explosive artist. Daughter Blanca is a beautiful loner who tries to protect her brother from his demons and his destiny and who lives in a world of books. Will, Arlyn and John's grandson, is left to put together the mysterious pieces of their family, a puzzle of people who don't know the first thing about love. All families make their own rules, and the Moodys are no exception.

"Alice Hoffman remains a literary sorceress par excellence. She has spun yet another haunting, fairy tale-like fiction for grown-ups. . . . In a novel that unfolds like a dream, Hoffman reminds readers that love and family create the most

potent magic of all.”

—**Martha Woodall**, *Philadelphia Inquirer*

“Hoffman’s shimmering, multigenerational melodrama bewitches with supernatural imagery while imaginatively dramatizing all-too-common heartaches.”

—**Donna Seaman**, *Booklist* starred review

This book was selected from among hundreds available to read next. Mainly because she would be a new author for me. The reviews above capture the book better than I can so let me just say, it is a very good story. Not exciting or uplifting but insightful. If you’ve not read Alice Hoffman but enjoy an occasional visit in another genre, give her a shot. I think you will find her an excellent storyteller. I give her a B+, mainly since it’s not the type of book I choose to read regularly.

The April 2022 winner #2 is:

Joyce Otting

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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, or better yet, pick another book! 😊

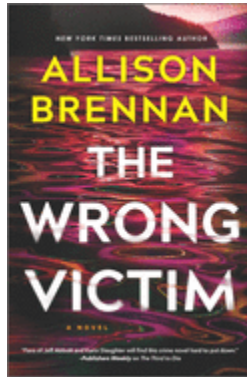
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

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

Allison Brennan - The Wrong Victim (Quinn & Costa Thriller #3) – Mystery – 26.99

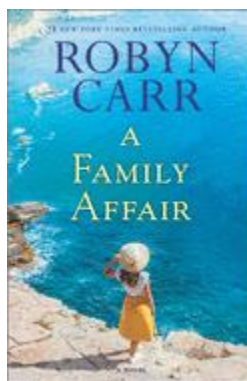


A bomb explodes on a sunset charter cruise out of Friday Harbor at the height of tourist season and kills everyone on board. Now this fishing and boating community is in shock and asking who would commit such a heinous crime--the largest act of mass murder in the history of the San Juan Islands.

Forensic profilers know there are two types of domestic terrorists: those who use violence to instill fear for political purposes but stop at murder because it detracts from the cause, and those who crave attention and are willing to maim and murder for their own agenda.

Accused of putting profits before people after leaking fuel that caused a massive fish kill, the West End Charter company may itself have been the target. But as special agent Matt Costa, detective Kara Quinn and the rest of the FBI team begin their investigation, they discover that plenty of people might have wanted someone dead on that yacht. Now they must track down who is responsible and stop them before they strike again.

Robyn Carr - A Family Affair – Romance – 28.99



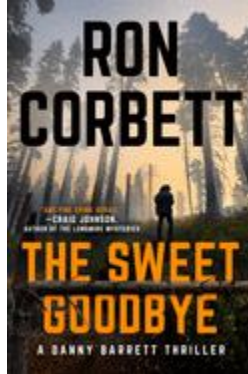
Life's biggest dilemmas can provide its sweetest rewards

Anna McNichol knows how to take charge. Raised by a single mother, she's worked to ensure her three children have every advantage she didn't. And while her marriage has its problems, she values commitment and believes in "till death do us part." Now an empty nester, she's at the peak of her career and ready to seize the opportunity to focus on her future.

But life can change in an instant, and when her husband dies suddenly, Anna's carefully constructed world falls apart. The mysterious young woman at the memorial service confirms her husband had been keeping secrets, and Anna is determined to get to the truth.

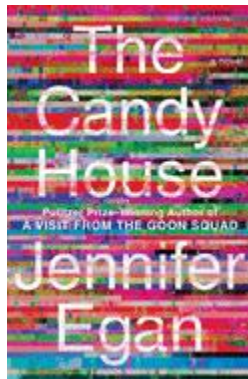
For once, she doesn't have the answers. Her kids are struggling with their grief, her mother's health is in decline and Anna needs closure. Faced with one challenge after another, she finds support from an unexpected source. And as she puts her life back together, Anna realizes the McNichols may not be perfect but they'll always be family, and family is forever.

Ron Corbett - The Sweet Goodbye (A Danny Barrett Novel) – Mystery – 27.00



In this thrilling new series from Edgar-nominated author Ron Corbett, the most dangerous predator in the Maine wilderness walks on two feet-and it is Danny Barrett's job to bring him down. Something is not right in the North Maine Woods. A small family-run lumber company should not have more than two hundred million unaccountable dollars on their books. Money like that comes from moving something other than wood across the border. The first agent the FBI sent undercover was their best man-sure to get the answers that were needed. He was dead within a month. Now, Danny Barrett is taking his place. Before he was a cop, Danny grew up in the woods of Northern Michigan. He is the only chance the feds have of getting answers, but how many more will have to die first?

Jennifer Egan – The Candy House – Literary Fiction – 28.00



Named a Most Anticipated Book of the Year by *Time*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Vogue*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Oprah Daily*, *Glamour*, *USA Today*, *Parade*, *Bustle*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Seattle Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *Tampa Bay Times*, *BuzzFeed*, *Vulture* and many more!

From one of the most celebrated writers of our time, a literary figure with cult status, a "sibling novel" to her Pulitzer Prize- and NBCC Award-winning *A Visit from the Goon Squad*--an electrifying, deeply moving novel about the quest for authenticity and meaning in a world where memories and identities are no longer private.

The Candy House opens with the staggeringly brilliant Bix Bouton, whose company, Mandala, is so successful that he is "one of those tech demi-gods with whom we're all on a first name basis." Bix is 40, with four kids, restless, desperate

for a new idea, when he stumbles into a conversation group, mostly Columbia professors, one of whom is experimenting with downloading or "externalizing" memory. It's 2010. Within a decade, Bix's new technology, "Own Your Unconscious"--that allows you access to every memory you've ever had, and to share every memory in exchange for access to the memories of others--has seduced multitudes. But not everyone.

In spellbinding interlocking narratives, Egan spins out the consequences of *Own Your Unconscious* through the lives of multiple characters whose paths intersect over several decades. Intellectually dazzling, *The Candy House* is also extraordinarily moving, a testament to the tenacity and transcendence of human longing for real connection, love, family, privacy and redemption. In the world of Egan's spectacular imagination, there are "counters" who track and exploit desires and there are "eluders," those who understand the price of taking a bite of the Candy House. Egan introduces these characters in an astonishing array of narrative styles--from omniscient to first person plural to a duet of voices, an epistolary chapter and a chapter of tweets.

If *Goon Squad* was organized like a concept album, *The Candy House* incorporates Electronic Dance Music's more disjunctive approach. The parts are titled: Build, Break, Drop. With an emphasis on gaming, portals, and alternate worlds, its structure also suggests the experience of moving among dimensions in a role-playing game.

The Candy House is a bold, brilliant imagining of a world that is moments away. Egan takes to stunning new heights her "deeply intuitive forays into the darker aspects of our technology-driven, image-saturated culture" (*Vogue*). *The Candy House* delivers an absolutely extraordinary combination of fierce, exhilarating intelligence and heart.

Heather Graham – Crimson Summer – Romance – 27.99

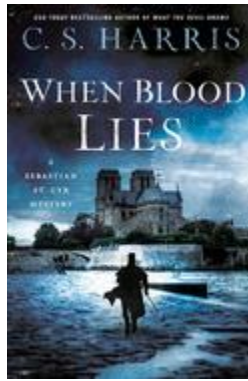


They're not going down without a fight.

When FDLE special agent Amy Larson discovers a small horse figurine amid the bloody aftermath of a gang massacre in the Everglades, she recognizes it immediately. The toy is the calling card of the apocalypse cult that Amy and her partner, FBI special agent Hunter Forrest, have been investigating, and it can only mean one thing: this wasn't an isolated skirmish--it was the beginning of a war.

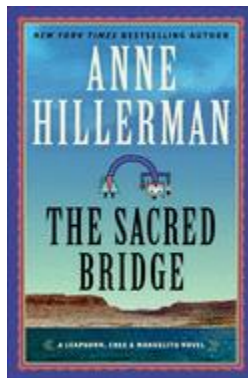
As tensions between rival gangs rise, so does the body count, and Amy and Hunter's investigation leads them to a violent, far-right extremist group who are in no hurry to quell the civil unrest. With a deadly puppet master working to silence their every lead, it's a race against the clock to figure out who's been pulling the strings and put a stop to the escalating cartel turf war before the Everglades run red.

C.S. Harris - When Blood Lies (Sebastian St. Cyr Mystery) – 26.00



Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin, has spent years unraveling his tragic past, and now what has been done in the dark will come to light in this gripping new historical mystery from the USA Today bestselling author of *What the Devil Knows*. March, 1815. The Bourbon King Louis XVIII has been restored to the throne of France, Napoleon is in exile on the isle of Elba, and Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin, has traveled to Paris in hopes of tracing his long-lost mother, Sophie, the errant Countess of Hendon. But his search ends in tragedy when he comes upon the dying Countess in the wasteland at the tip of the Île de la Cité. Stabbed—apparently with a stiletto—and thrown from the crenelated bastions of the island's ancient stone bridge, Sophie dies without naming her murderer. Sophie had been living in Paris under an assumed name as the scandalous mistress of Maréchal Alexandre McClellan, the scion of a noble Scottish Jacobite family that took refuge in France after the Forty-Five. Once one of Napoleon's most trusted and successful generals, McClellan has now sworn allegiance to King Louis XVIII and is serving in the delegation negotiating on behalf of France at the Congress of Vienna. It doesn't take Sebastian long to realize that the French authorities have no interest in involving themselves in the murder of a notorious Englishwoman at such a delicate time. And so, grieving and shattered by his mother's death, Sebastian takes it upon himself to hunt down her killer.

Anne Hillerman - The Sacred Bridge (Leaphorn, Chee & Manuelito Novel #7) – Mystery – 26.99



An ancient mystery resurfaces with ramifications for the present day in this gripping chapter in the Leaphorn, Chee & Manuelito series from *New York Times* bestselling author Anne Hillerman.

Sergeant Jim Chee's vacation to beautiful Antelope Canyon and Lake Powell has a deeper purpose. He's on a quest to unravel a sacred mystery his mentor, the Legendary Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn, stumbled across decades earlier.

Chee's journey takes a deadly turn when, after a prayerful visit to the sacred Rainbow Bridge, he spots a body floating in the lake. The dead man, a Navajo with a passion for the canyon's ancient rock art, lived a life filled with many secrets. Discovering why he died and who was responsible involves Chee in an investigation that puts his own life at risk.

Back in Shiprock, Officer Bernadette Manuelito is driving home when she witnesses an expensive sedan purposely kill a hitchhiker. The search to find the killer leads her to uncover a dangerous chain of interconnected revelations involving a Navajo Nation cannabis enterprise.

But the evil that is unleashed jeopardizes her mother and sister Darleen, and puts Bernie in the deadliest situation of her law enforcement career.

Susan Mallery – The Summer Getaway – Romance – 27.99



One woman takes the vacation of a lifetime in this poignant and heartwarming story about the threads that hold a family together ... Single mom Robyn Caldwell needs a new plan for her future. She has always put her family first. Now, with her kids grown, she yearns for a change. But what can she do when her daughter has become the most demanding bride ever, her son won't even consider college, her best friend is on the brink of marital disaster and her ex is making a monumentally bad decision that could ruin everything? Take a vacation, of course. Press reset. When her great-aunt Lillian invites her to Santa Barbara for the summer, Robyn hops on the first plane to sunny California. But it's hard to get away when you're the heart of the family. One by one, everyone she loves follows her across the country. Somehow, their baggage doesn't feel as heavy in the sun-drenched, mishmash mansion. The more time Robyn spends with free-spirited Lillian, the more possibilities she sees--for dreams, love, family. She can have everything she ever wanted, if only she can muster the courage to take a chance on herself

Fern Michaels - Fear Thy Neighbor: A Riveting Novel of Suspense – 27.00



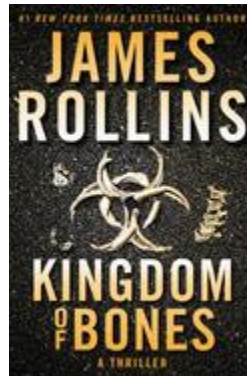
At twenty-nine, Alison Marshall is ready to find a place to call home. With no family and no ties, she's drifted from one small Florida town to another since high school, working odd jobs, saving hard, and building a nest egg. Once she finds the right place to settle down, she'll know. And when she reaches beautiful Palmetto Island, she thinks she may have found it.

The small, close-knit island community seems to have everything Alison needs. On a hunch, she contacts the island's only realtor, and learns that an old beach house is on the market. Miraculously, it's in her budget, and Alison takes it as another sign that she's in the right place.

At first, home is everything she hoped it would be. But as days turn into weeks, she uncovers a dark side to this supposedly peaceful haven. The locals have a secret, and once Alison discovers what it is, she faces a stark choice. She can stay and join them--or escape. But leaving brings its own risks, and Alison is starting to wonder if coming to Palmetto Island is the last mistake she'll ever make . . .

Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child - Bloodless (Agent Pendergast #21) – Thriller – 17.00

James Rollins - Kingdom of Bones: A Thriller (SIGMA Force Novels #22) – 28.99



It begins in Africa . . .

A United Nations relief team in a small village in the Congo makes an alarming discovery. An unknown force is leveling the evolutionary playing field. Men, women, and children have been reduced to a dull, catatonic state. The environment surrounding them--plants and animals--has grown more cunning and predatory, evolving at an exponential pace. The insidious phenomenon is spreading from a cursed site in the jungle -- known to locals as the Kingdom of Bones -- and sweeping across Africa, threatening the rest of the world.

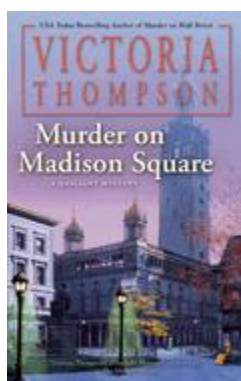
What has made the biosphere run amok? Is it a natural event? Or more terrifyingly, did someone engineer it?

Commander Gray Pierce and Sigma Force are prepared for the extraordinary and have kept the world safe, vigilance for which they have paid a tragic personal price. Yet, even these brilliant and seasoned scientific warriors do not understand what is behind this frightening development--or know how to stop it. As they race to find answers, the members of Sigma quickly realize they have become the prey.

To head off global catastrophe, Sigma Force must risk their lives to uncover the shattering secret at the heart of the African continent--a truth that will illuminate who we are as a species and where we may be headed . . . sooner than we know.

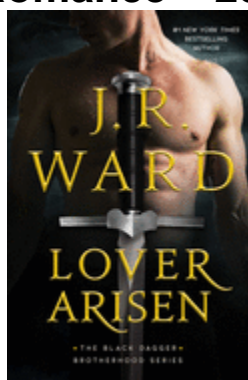
Mother Nature--red in tooth and claw--is turning against humankind, propelling the entire world into the Kingdom of Bones.

Victoria Thompson - Murder on Madison Square (Gaslight Mystery) – 27.00



Sarah and Frank Malloy must catch a scheming killer in this latest gripping installment in the USA Today bestselling Gaslight Mysteries. Former policeman Frank Malloy is frustrated when a woman requests his private detective services to implicate her wealthy husband in adultery, the only legal grounds for divorce in New York state. Although Mrs. Bing seems genuinely distressed about her marriage and desperate to end it, she refuses to tell Frank the reason she absolutely must divorce her husband and admits she has no legal grounds. Frank explains he won't manufacture evidence for her and sends her on her way. The following week, Frank and Sarah happen to be attending the first ever auto show in Madison Square Garden when they meet the woman's husband, Alfred Bing, who has invested in a company that produces one of the electric motorcars on display. A few days later, the newspapers report that millionaire Alvin Bing has been found dead, pinned beneath one of the wheels of his very own motorcar. But who was driving it? The obvious suspect is Mrs. Bing, but Frank and Sarah find that nothing is as it seems in their puzzling, dangerous search for truth.

J.R Ward - Lover Aisen: Volume 20 (Black Dagger Brotherhood) – Romance – 28.00



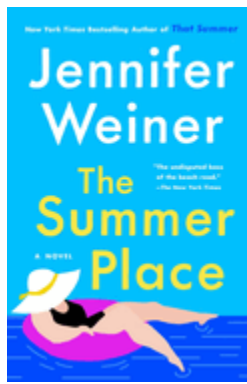
True love brings a deadly threat to the Black Dagger Brotherhood in this sizzling new novel in J.R. Ward's #1 New York Times bestselling series.

Possessed by the demon Devina, Balthazar is once again on the hunt for the Book of Spells--and fighting an undeniable attraction to a woman. As a thief, he has stolen a lot of things...but he never thought his heart would be taken by another. Especially not a human.

As a homicide detective, Erika Saunders knows there is something otherworldly going on in Caldwell, New York. Mutilated bodies that cannot be explained are all over her case list--and then there are her nightmares in which she's hunted by shadows and captivated by a mysterious man who is both a suspect and a savior.

When Devina's wish for true love is finally granted, Balthazar and Erika unwittingly become the gateway for the rebirth of an old enemy of the Brothers. Will the very thing that brings them together lead to the ultimate destruction of the Brotherhood? Or will they have to lose everything in order to save the race's most sacred defenders?

Jennifer Weiner – The Summer Place – 28.99 – 28.99

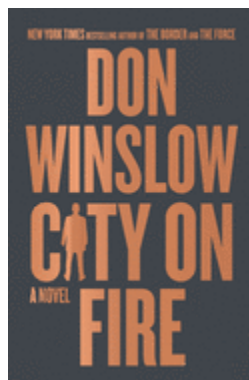


When her twenty-two-year-old stepdaughter announces her engagement to her pandemic boyfriend, Sarah Danhauser is shocked. But the wheels are in motion. Headstrong Ruby has already set a date (just three months away!) and spoken to her beloved *safta*, Sarah's mother Veronica, about having the wedding at the family's beach house in Cape Cod. Sarah might be worried, but Veronica is thrilled to be bringing the family together one last time before putting the big house on the market.

But the road to a wedding day usually comes with a few bumps. Ruby has always known exactly what she wants, but as the wedding date approaches, she finds herself grappling with the wounds left by the mother who walked out when she was a baby. Veronica ends up facing unexpected news, thanks to her meddling sister, and must revisit the choices she made long ago, when she was a bestselling novelist with a different life. Sarah's twin brother, Sam, is recovering from a terrible loss, and confronting big questions about who he is--questions he hopes to resolve during his stay on the Cape. Sarah's husband, Eli, who's been inexplicably distant during the pandemic, confronts the consequences of a long ago lapse from his typical good-guy behavior. And Sarah, frustrated by her husband, concerned about her stepdaughter, and worn out by challenges of life during quarantine, faces the alluring reappearance of someone from her past and a life that could have been.

When the wedding day arrives, lovers are revealed as their true selves, misunderstandings take on a life of their own, and secrets come to light. There are confrontations and revelations that will touch each member of the extended family, ensuring that nothing will ever be the same.

Don Winslow – City on Fire – Thriller - 28.99



Two criminal empires together control all of New England.

Until a beautiful modern-day Helen of Troy comes between the Irish and the Italians, launching a war that will see them kill each other, destroy an alliance, and set a city on fire.

Danny Ryan yearns for a more "legit" life and a place in the sun. But as the bloody conflict stacks body on body and brother turns against brother, Danny has to rise above himself. To save the friends he loves like family and the family he has sworn to protect, he becomes a leader, a ruthless strategist, and a master of a treacherous game in which the winners live and the losers die.

From the gritty streets of Providence to the glittering screens of Hollywood to the golden casinos of Las Vegas, Danny Ryan will forge a dynasty.

The April 2022 winner #3 is:

Barbara Geske

Trivia for April 2022

**What is the name of the poem which appears
on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty?**

Answer:

"The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus

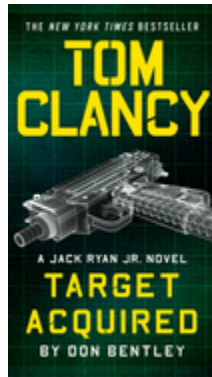
The New Colossus

Emma Lazarus - 1849-1887

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Mass Market Paperback

Don Bentley - Tom Clancy Target Acquired (Jack Ryan Jr. Novel) – Thriller – 9.99



Jack Ryan, Jr., will do anything for a friend, but this favor will be paid for in blood.

Jack Ryan, Jr., would do anything for Ding Chavez. That's why Jack is currently sitting in an open-air market in Israel, helping a CIA team with a simple job. The man running the mission, Peter Beltz, is an old friend from Ding's Army days. Ding hadn't seen his friend since Peter's transfer to the CIA eighteen months prior and intended to use the assignment to reconnect. Unfortunately, Ding had to cancel at the last minute and asked Jack to take his place. It's a cushy assignment--a trip to Israel in exchange for a couple hours of easy work, but Jack could use the downtime after his last operation.

Jack is here merely as an observer, but when he hastens to help a woman and her young son, he finds himself the target of trained killers. Alone and outgunned, Jack will have to use all his skills to protect the life of the child.

Anne Bishop - The Queen's Weapons (Black Jewels) – Fantasy - 9.99



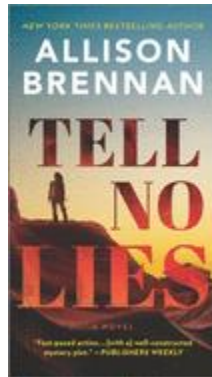
Enter the dark and sensual realms of the Black Jewels, a world where power always has a price, in this sweeping story in the *New York Times* bestselling fantasy saga.

They are Warlord Princes, men born to serve and protect. They are the Queen's Weapons, men born to destroy the Queen's enemies--no matter what face that enemy wears.

Daemonar Yaslana knows how to be bossy yet supportive--traits he shares with his father, the Demon Prince, and his uncle, the High Lord of Hell. Within his generation of the family, he assumes the role of protector, supporting his sister Titian's artistic efforts and curbing his cousin Jaenelle Saetien's more adventurous ideas. But when a young Eyrien Queen, someone Titian thought was a friend, inflicts an emotional wound, Daemonar's counterattack brings him under the tutelage of Witch, the Queen whose continued existence is known only to a select few.

As Daemonar is confronted by troubling changes within and around the family, he sees warnings that a taint in the Blood might be reappearing. Daemonar, along with his father and uncle, must uncover the source of a familiar evil--and Daemon Sadi, the High Lord of Hell, may be forced into making a terrible choice.

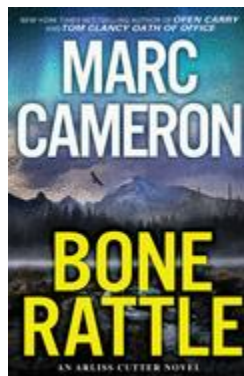
Allison Brennan - Tell No Lies (Quinn & Costa Thriller #2) – Mystery – 9.99



Something mysterious is killing the wildlife in the mountains just south of Tucson. When a college intern turned activist sets out to collect her own evidence, she, too, ends up dead. Local law enforcement is slow to get involved. That's when the mobile FBI unit goes undercover to infiltrate the town and its copper refinery in search of possible leads.

Quinn and Costa find themselves scouring the desolate landscape, which keeps revealing clues to something much darker--greed, child trafficking and more death. As the body count adds up, it's clear they have stumbled onto much more than they bargained for. Now they must figure out who is at the heart of this mayhem and stop them before more innocent lives are lost.

Marc Cameron - Bone Rattle: A Riveting Novel of Suspense (Arliss Cutter Novel #3) – Thriller 9.99

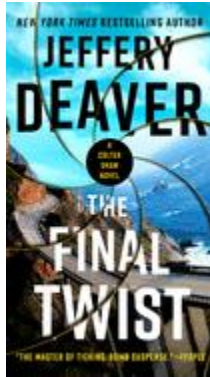


In the icy heart of Alaska, a series of gruesome murders leads Deputy US Marshal Arliss Cutter into a firestorm of searing corruption, clashing cultures, and bone-chilling fear. . . .

In Juneau, a young Native archeologist is sent to protect the ancient burial sites uncovered by an Alaskan gold mining company. He never returns. In Anchorage, a female torso is washed ashore near a jogging trail by the airport. It is not the first.

At Alaska's Fugitive Task Force, Arliss Cutter and deputy Lola Teariki are pulled from their duties and sent to a federal court in Juneau. Instead of tracking dangerous fugitives, Cutter and Lola will be keeping track of sequestered jurors in a high-profile trial. The case involves a massive drug conspiracy with ties to a mining company, a lobbyist, and two state senators. When a prosecuting attorney is murdered--and a reporter viciously attacked--Cutter realizes they're dealing with something much bigger, and darker, than a simple drug trial. The truth lies deep within the ancient sites and precious mines of this isolated land--and inside the cold hearts of those who would kill to hide its secrets. . . .

Jeffrey Deaver - The Final Twist (A Colter Shaw Novel) – Thriller – 9.99



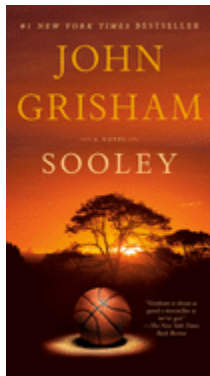
Just hours after the harrowing events of *The Never Game* and *The Goodbye Man*, Colter Shaw finds himself in San Francisco, where he has taken on the mission his father began years ago: finding a missing courier bag containing evidence that will bring down a corporate espionage firm responsible for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of deaths.

Following the enigmatic clues his father left behind, Shaw plays cat and mouse with the company's sadistic enforcers, as he speeds from one gritty neighborhood in the City by the Bay to another. Suddenly, the job takes on a frightening urgency: Only by finding the courier bag can he expose the company and stop the murder of an entire family--slated to die in forty-eight hours.

With the help of an unexpected figure from his past, and with the enforcers closing the net, Shaw narrows in on the truth--and learns that the courier bag contains something unexpected: a secret that could only be described as catastrophic.

Filled with dozens of twists and reversals, *The Final Twist* is a nonstop race against time to save the family...and to keep the devastating secret Shaw has uncovered from falling into the wrong hands.

John Grisham – Sooley – Sports/Coming of Age – 9.99



In the summer of his seventeenth year, Samuel Sooleymon gets the chance of a lifetime: a trip to the United States with his South Sudanese teammates to play in a showcase basketball tournament. He has never been away from home, nor has he ever been on an airplane. The opportunity to be scouted by dozens of college coaches is a dream come true.

Samuel is an amazing athlete, with speed, quickness, and an astonishing vertical leap. The rest of his game, though, needs work, and the American coaches are less than impressed.

During the tournament, Samuel receives devastating news from home: A civil war is raging across South Sudan, and rebel troops have ransacked his village. His father is dead, his sister is missing, and his mother and two younger brothers are in a refugee camp.

Samuel desperately wants to go home, but it's just not possible. Partly out of sympathy, the coach of North Carolina Central offers him a scholarship. Samuel moves to Durham, enrolls in classes, joins the team, and prepares to sit out his freshman season. There is plenty of more mature talent and he isn't immediately needed.

But Samuel has something no other player has: a fierce determination to succeed so he can bring his family to America. He works tirelessly on his game, shooting baskets every morning at dawn by himself in the gym, and soon he's dominating everyone in practice. With the Central team losing and suffering injury after injury, Sooley, as he is nicknamed, is called off the bench. And the legend begins.

But how far can Sooley take his team? And will success allow him to save his family?

Glen Erik Hamilton - Island of Thieves – Thriller – 8.99



When a new security gig turns into a setup, expert thief Van Shaw finds himself the prey in a cross-country pursuit--in this electrifying sixth novel in Glen Erik Hamilton's pulse-pounding and emotionally resonant thriller series.

Van Shaw is hired to evaluate the safeguards for the art collection of eccentric business magnate Sebastien Rohner. Then Rohner reveals to Van the real reason he's been recruited: to prevent another professional burglar from stealing the art. Rohner wants to set a thief to catch a thief.

While questioning the bizarre nature of the job, Van accepts the lucrative offer and arrives at the island estate during an international summit that Rohner is hosting. Shortly after beginning his surveillance of Rohner's highly secure gallery wing, Van stumbles across the murdered body of one of the honored guests along the rocky shore. Wary of Rohner's true intentions, Van knows the homicide detectives on the case--and perhaps Rohner as well--think he's the prime suspect and will turn his life upside down in their search for proof.

Van begins to hunt for the killer himself, but scrutiny only digs his hole deeper, as one of Rohner's own executives is then killed and the Seattle police find concrete evidence placing Van at the scene. With no other options, he goes on the run, alone and unaided. He's hunted by the cops, the enraged Rohner, and a pair of psychopathic hitmen who chase Van from one coast to the next. To clear his name, Van Shaw will have to uncover the hidden motive of corporate espionage at a global level, even with a band of killers on his tail who are determined to add Van to their growing list of victims.

Kristin Hannah – Pack Up the Moon – Romance – 8.99



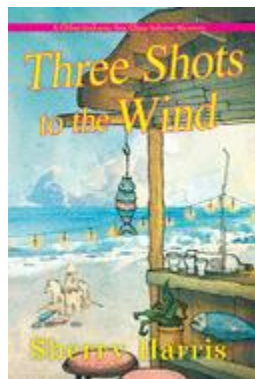
They used to joke about it. Like many brilliant scientists, Josh sometimes had trouble remembering things that needed doing in the "real" world--like buying groceries, eating regular meals, and talking to people. But he was happy to have his beloved wife, Lauren, remind him with her "honey do" lists. He just never realized how much he would need one when she was gone.

Being a widower is not something Joshua Park ever expected. Given his solitary job, small circle of friends and family, and the social awkwardness he's always suffered from, Josh has no idea how to negotiate this new, unwanted phase of life. But Lauren had a plan to keep him moving forward. A plan hidden in the letters she leaves him, giving him a task for every month in the year after her death. A plan that leads Joshua with a loving hand on a journey through grief, anger, and denial.

It's a journey that will take Joshua from his first outing as a widower to buy groceries...to an attempt at a dinner party where his lack of experience hosting creates a comic disaster...to finding a new best friend while weeping in the dressing room of a clothing store. As his grief makes room for new friendships and experiences, Joshua learns Lauren's most valuable lesson: The path to happiness doesn't follow a straight line.

Funny, sometimes heart-wrenching, and always uplifting, this novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Kristan Higgins illuminates how life's greatest joys are often hiding in plain sight.

Sherry Harris - Three Shots to the Wind (A Chloe Jackson Sea Glass Saloon Mystery) – Mystery – 8.99



DEAD EXES TELL NO TALES

Saloon owner Chloe Jackson appears to have a secret admirer. She's pouring drinks at the Sea Glass Saloon in Emerald Cove when an airplane flies by above the beach with a banner reading, I LOVE YOU CHLOE JACKSON. She immediately rules out Rip Barnett. They are in the early stages of dating and no one has said the L word. Then a bouquet of lilacs--her favorite flower--is delivered to the bar, followed by an expensive bottle of her favorite sparkling wine. It couldn't be...

Sure enough, her ex-fiancé from Chicago has flown down to Florida for an accountants' convention. But is he trying to mix business with pleasure and win her back? Unfortunately, he's not in a hotel conference room, he's floating face down in the lake next to her house, clutching a photo of Chloe. Who murders an accountant on a business trip--it just doesn't add up? When Rip becomes the prime suspect, Chloe is determined to find the secret murderer. But if she isn't careful, it may be closing time and lights out for her...

Mark Lawrence - The Girl and the Mountain (The Book of the Ice) – Fantasy – 9.99



The second novel in the thrilling and epic new fantasy series from the international bestselling author of *Red Sister* and *Prince of Thorns*.

On the planet Abeth there is only the ice. And the Black Rock.

For generations the priests of the Black Rock have reached out from their mountain to steer the fate of the ice tribes. With their Hidden God, their magic and their iron, the priests' rule has never been questioned. But when ice triber Yaz challenged their authority, she was torn away from the only life she had ever known, and forced to find a new path for herself.

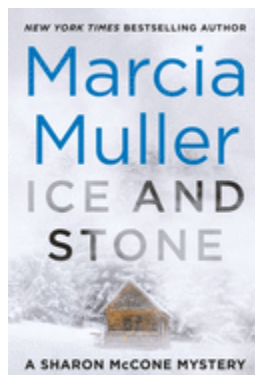
Yaz has lost her friends and found her enemies. She has a mountain to climb, and even if she can break the Hidden God's power, her dream of a green world lies impossibly far to the south, across a vast emptiness of ice. Before the journey can even start, she has to find out what happened to the ones she loves and save those that can be saved.

Abeth holds its secrets close, but the stars shine brighter for Yaz and she means to unlock the truth.

The April 2022 winner #4 is:

Amy Clement

Marcia Muller - Ice and Stone (Sharon McCone Mystery #35) – Mystery – 8.99



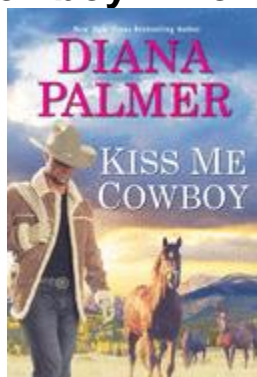
Private Investigator Sharon McCone goes undercover to investigate the murders of two Indigenous women in remote Northern California in this gripping, atmospheric mystery in the *New York Times* bestselling series.

When the bodies of two Indigenous women are found in the wilderness of northern California, it is only the latest horrific development in a string of similar crimes in the area. Despite all evidence to the contrary, officials rule the deaths isolated incidents, which soon join the ranks of countless other unsolved cases quickly dismissed by law enforcement. In a town where too many injustices are tolerated or brushed under the rug, only a few people remain who refuse to let a killer walk free. But Private Investigator Sharon McCone is one of those few. She is hired by an organization called

Crimes against Indigenous Sisters to go undercover in Meruk County--a community rife with secrets, lies, and corruption--to expose the truth.

In an isolated cabin in the freezing, treacherous woods, McCone must work quickly to unravel a mystery that is rooted in profound evil--before she becomes the killer's next target.

Diana Palmer - Kiss Me, Cowboy – Romance – 8.99



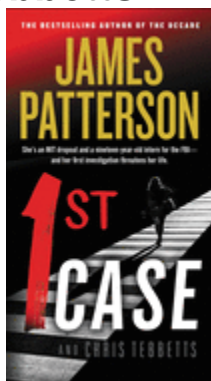
The Rancher's Wedding

When a tough Colorado rancher who's in the red meets up with a screenwriter-turned-waitress dogged by scandal, they put their talents--and their hearts--together. But will front page news put a damper on the sparks flying between them?

Colorado Cowboy

Fleeing her mother's killer, Esther Marist ends up at a rugged stranger's cabin. A wildlife rehabilitator with a menagerie that includes an elderly wolf, Matthews isn't the type to turn any creature away. As Esther heals, she realizes how much danger she's brought to his door--and how far he'll go to protect her.

James Patterson & Chris Tebbetts – 1st Case – Thriller – 9.99



Genius programmer Angela Hoot has always been at the top of her class, but now she's at the bottom of the FBI food chain--until her first case threatens everyone around her.

Angela's graduate school days at MIT come to an abrupt end when she uses her hacking skills on another student's computer. Yet her mentor, Eve Abajian, arranges a new beginning for her--as an intern in FBI's Boston field office. Her new supervisor, Assistant Special Agent in Charge William Keats, one of only two agents in the Northeast to make his rank before the age of thirty, sees in Angela a fellow prodigy. But Angela's skills come with a natural curiosity, which is also a dangerous liability.

With little training, Angela is quickly plunged into a tough case: tracking murderous brothers who go by the Poet and the Engineer. When Keats tells her to "watch and listen," Angela's mind kicks into overdrive. The obsessive thinking that earned her As on campus can prove fatal in the field.

Amanda Quick – The Lady Has A Past – Romantic Suspense – 8.99

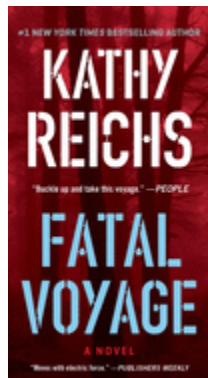


Investigative apprentice Lyra Brazier, the newest resident of Burning Cove, is unsettled when her boss suddenly disappears. Lyra knows something has happened to Raina Kirk, and tracks down her last known appearance at an exclusive hotel and health spa. The health spa is known for its luxurious offerings and prestigious clientele, and the wealthy, socialite background Lyra desperately wanted to leave behind is perfect for this undercover job. What Lyra lacks in investigative experience she makes up for in gut instinct, and her gut isn't happy that she's saddled with a partner by Luther Pell, Raina's dangerous lover, who wants to bring in someone with more experience to help.

Instead of the suave, pistol-packing private eye she expected, though, Simon Cage is a mild-mannered antiquarian book dealer with a quiet, academic air, and a cool, remote gaze. Lyra suspects that Simon is much more than what he seems, and her instincts are confirmed when they arrive at the spa and pose as a couple: Simon has a unique gift that allows him to detect secrets, a skill that is crucial in finding Raina.

The unlikely duo falls down a rabbit hole of twisted rumors and missing socialites, discovering that the health spa is a façade for something far darker than they imagined. With a murderer in their midst, Raina isn't the only one in grave danger--Lyra is next.

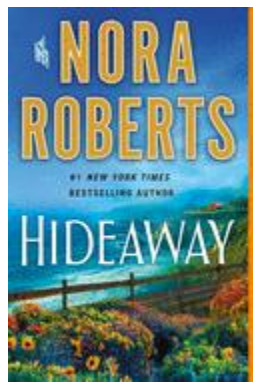
Kathy Reichs - Fatal Voyage (Temperance Brennan Novel #4) – Mystery – 9.99



The journey begins with Temperance Brennan hearing shocking news on her car radio. An Air TransSouth flight has gone down in the mountains of western North Carolina, taking with it eighty-eight passengers and crew. As a forensic anthropologist and a member of the regional DMORT team, Tempe rushes to the scene to assist in body recovery and identification.

As bomb theories abound, Tempe soon discovers a jarring piece of evidence that raises dangerous questions--and gets her thrown from the DMORT team. Relentless in her pursuit of its significance, Tempe uncovers a shocking, multi-layered tale of deceit and depravity as she probes her way into frightening territory--where someone wants her stopped in her tracks.

Nora Roberts – Hideaway – Romance – 9.99



A family ranch in Big Sur country and a legacy of Hollywood royalty set the stage for Nora Roberts' emotional new suspense novel, *Hideaway*.

Caitlyn Sullivan had come from a long line of Hollywood royalty, stretching back to her Irish immigrant great-grandfather. At nine, she was already a star--yet still an innocent child who loved to play hide and seek with her cousins at the family home in Big Sur. It was during one of those games that she disappeared.

Some may have considered her a pampered princess, but Cate was in fact a smart, scrappy fighter, and she managed to escape her abductors. Dillon Cooper was shocked to find the bloodied, exhausted girl huddled in his house--but when the teenager and his family heard her story they provided refuge, reuniting her with her loved ones.

Cate's ordeal, though, was far from over. First came the discovery of a shocking betrayal that would send someone she'd trusted to prison. Then there were years spent away in western Ireland, peaceful and protected but with restlessness growing in her soul.

Finally, she would return to Los Angeles, gathering the courage to act again and get past the trauma that had derailed her life. What she didn't yet know was that two seeds had been planted that long-ago night--one of a great love, and one of a terrible vengeance...

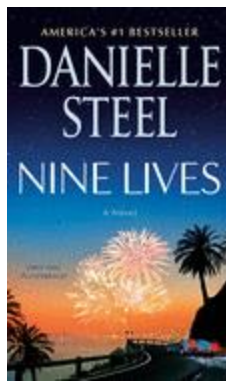
John Sandford – Ocean Prey – Thriller – 9.99



An off-duty Coast Guardsman is fishing with his family when he calls in some suspicious behavior from a nearby boat. It's a snazzy craft, slick and outfitted with extra horsepower, and is zipping along until it slows to pick up a surfaced diver...a diver who was apparently alone, without his own boat, in the middle of the ocean. None of it makes sense unless there's something hinky going on, and his hunch is proved right when all three Guardsmen who come out to investigate are shot and killed.

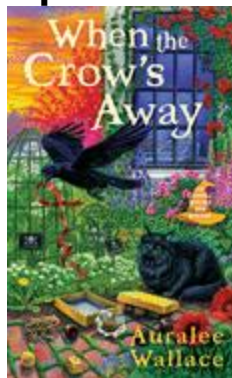
They're federal officers killed on the job, which means the case is the FBI's turf. When the FBI's investigation stalls out, they call in Lucas Davenport. And when his case turns lethal, Davenport will need to bring in every asset he can claim, including a detective with a fundamentally criminal mind: Virgil Flowers.

Danielle Steel – Nine Lives – Romance – 8.99



After a carefree childhood, Mary Margaret Kelly came of age in the shadow of grief. Her father, a dashing daredevil Air Force pilot, died when she was nine. Maggie saw her mother struggle to put their lives back together. As the family moved from one city to the next, her mother warned her to beware of daredevil men and avoid risk at all cost. Following her mother's advice, and forgoing the magic of first love with a high school boyfriend who was too wild to feel safe, Maggie instead sought out all the things her mother had lost--a predictable partner, a stable home, and a regular paycheck. She chose to marry a dependable, kind man who was a reliable husband and successful accountant. Together they had a son and found happiness in a conventional suburban life. Until tragedy struck again. Now on her own, feeling a sense of adventure for the first time, Maggie decides to face her fears, setting off on a whirlwind trip from San Francisco to Rome, Paris, and Monaco. But when her travels reconnect her with the very same irresistible, thrill-seeking man she's spent thirty years trying to forget, Maggie becomes terrified that rushing into love and sharing his life may very well end in disaster. But ultimately, while Maggie tries to outrun her fears and painful memories of her past, fate will surprise her in the most astounding of ways, as she walks the tightrope between danger and courage, and between wisdom and love.

Auralee Wallace – When the Crow's Away (An Evenfall Witches B&B Mystery) – Occult & Supernatural Mystery – 8.99



The ghost of a recently deceased chocolatier believes he was murdered, and it's up to young witch Brynn Warren to use her magical gifts and old-fashioned sleuthing skills to find out how he really met his bitter end in this enchanting new Evenfall Witches B&B Mystery.

After spending months unable to use her powers, Brynn Warren is once again using her gift and working at her family's bed-and-breakfast. Her heart is full, and although one of her aunts wonders if it might be a *little* fuller with a bit of romance in her life, Brynn is certain that finding love again is not in her future. In fact, she can't imagine anyone being more certain of anything...except for maybe, the recently deceased Mortimer Sweete. He's certain he's been murdered, and he wants Brynn's help to bring his killer to justice.

Mort is positive he knows who killed him: his business partner's wife, Cookie, who had been trying to get them to sell the candy shop for months. But Brynn doesn't share his conviction. After all, the coroner ruled his death natural causes, and Mort *did* have health problems in life. But with Cookie putting up a For Sale sign for the shop already, Brynn knows she can't just let it go.

Trying to solve a might-be murder while attempting to stop her aunt from meddling in her personal life seems like a recipe for disaster. If Brynn wants to bring Mort's spirit peace, she'll have to rely on all her skills--both magical and mundane--to uncover the truth.

Sherryl Woods - Welcome to Serenity (Reissue) (Sweet Magnolias Novel #4) – Romance – 9.99



When Jeanette Brioché helped launch The Corner Spa in Serenity, South Carolina, she found a whole lot more than professional satisfaction. She discovered the deep and loyal friendships that had been missing from her life. But even the Sweet Magnolias can't mend the terrible rift between Jeanette and her family.

Pushed into working on the town's much-loved annual Christmas festival, Jeanette teams up with the new town manager, Tom McDonald, who may be the only person in Serenity who's less enthused about family and the holidays than she is.

But with decorations going up in the town square and a bit of romance in the air, Jeanette and Tom take a fresh look at the past and a hopeful look into the future. Together they discover that this may be the season of miracles after all...

A Sweet Magnolias Novel

Book 1: *Stealing Home*

Book 2: *A Slice of Heaven*

Book 3: *Feels Like Family*

Book 4: *Welcome to Serenity*

Book 5: *Home in Carolina*

Book 6: *Sweet Tea at Sunrise*

Book 7: *Honeysuckle Summer*

Book 8: *Midnight Promises*

Book 9: *Catching Fireflies*

Book 10: *Where Azaleas Bloom*

Book 11: *Swan Point*

""I Have a Really Old Book. How Much Is It Worth?""

An Article by The Book Rack's own

Nicole Steinbaugh

(Continued from above)

To me, the book is absolutely priceless. But in strict relation to commerce, I approximate its worth to be between 5 and 10 dollars. Because it has been rebound, I might be able to sell it for 15 to a customer who is feeling spendy.

The world of books is strange. Just as, in January, I told you that there is a whole cabal of people who love books more than anything else dumping them into the recycling bin and trash on

the regular, most of the people who sell them to you will tell you that 98% of books are worth next to nothing.

But what accounts for this? Well, as with every good answer, it's multi-faceted. Besides the obvious concept of supply and demand, here are just a few factors that contribute to a book's worth:

Age

Surprisingly, much of the time, age is not a consideration when valuing books. I once read a bookseller forum post that said, in America, only books published before the 1860s are considered antiquarian. Everything after that up until 30 years ago is just vintage, a vague and often meaningless term that encompasses items manufactured during a 132-year span. Everyone has a different definition of what defines the terms "antiquarian" and "vintage, but learning this is kind of like a microcosmic version of walking through the dinosaur exhibit at the Field Museum and realizing there were millions of years and five mass extinctions before modern history even started. So when people call and say, "I have a *really old book!*," I sometimes resist the urge to ask if they have truly found a Gutenberg bible in their grandmother's attic.

Our equation of age with value is certainly understandable, though. It wasn't long ago that books were considered inaccessible to most people: before the 1820s, to be exact, when the steam press allowed for mass production of books. 200 years is not such a long time. My great, great grandmothers must have been alive in the 1820s, and I was taught that books were a privilege in my childhood during the 1990s. They were never to be written in, tossed about, or thrown away. I guess it goes to show that personal worth often has nothing to do with monetary value.

Edition

If you were a serious Nancy Drew collector, and I told you I had two nice copies of *The Secret of the Old Clock*, which of these would you buy? One is the yellow, library bound Scholastic version from 1992 that most of us are familiar with. The other is the first issue from 1930. Some people just want a copy to match all their other copies, and that's totally fine. But a lot of people would choose the original. There's something about owning a book that represents the time it first touched its readers, made them journey into that world with the characters. And, of course, Nancy Drew has a long history of that. Not to mention that such things become scarcer as time progresses, and if a book lives to be reprinted multiple, multiple times, earlier editions will become more valuable.

Condition

Okay, of course, you want the first edition. I haven't told you that I have two copies, though: one is pristine with just a little bit of shelf wear. The other is missing its dust jacket and its spine is broken. Which one would you pay more for?

You get the point, and I won't belabor it. A book's value often depreciates in equal measure to its deterioration. A primer from 1843 might indeed be antiquarian, but if it's full of the pencil

holes and doodles of bored Victorian children, it's worth much less than a copy that a slacking student never bothered to open.

Okay, But Can I Still Sell You Books?

You've read the facts. But the truth is, you need to make some fast cash. You've put a lot of money into your books, and you need to offload and get *something* back to put towards groceries or rent. All these books are just sitting around, untouched. You don't want to recycle them or throw them away, and you need to feed your family. Maybe you're considering my anecdote about *Heidi* and thinking, "Yeah, but I could *use* that five or ten bucks. I have to eat. And you're a bookstore. So why can't you just buy my books and sell them at a higher price?"

Well...we're back to square one. Remember when I told you that 98% of books are worth nothing? It was not a lie. Most people, unless they are sellers of antiquarian and rare books who have apprenticed through a previous owner, do not make a substantial living off of bookselling. It's unfortunately something you have to do because you love it. I know that sounds mushy and unrealistic, but some people really do it for the love of bound paper and ink, and of classifying and organizing.

All of this boils down to the fact that, in order to make even a little bit of money from most books, we have to be cautious when purchasing. Which is why we offer store credit that covers up to half of your purchase: because we can give you more that way, and that helps us remain worthy to the local reading community. If you've ever been to a store that offers both payouts and store credit, you've realized that you get substantially less from a cash payout than you do from the store credit, sometimes by as much as $\frac{1}{4}$. When we do buy books from people, it's generally at yard sale prices (\$0.25-\$1.00 a book). Used bookselling is an educated guessing game. You may purchase many books that are worth nothing, or will never sell, books that amount to a \$0.50 profit by the original owner and sit on a shelf for years. A book priced at \$300 that no one wants is a book that is worth nothing.

Why is Store Credit a Good Option for Most People?

There are still ways to cut down on costs using store credit. In our store, we give you (in most cases) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cover price of each book, which you can use as a 50% discount toward any used book in the store until you run out of credit. Our books are priced at half the retail price or lower, which means you are buying books for $\frac{1}{4}$ of their cover price when you have store credit.

If you're a low-income person or part of a low-income family, but you still want you and your children to read, that means you're getting a book that would cost \$16 at Barnes and Noble for \$4. A lot of the time, these books are in the same condition as when they came from the distributor. And you get to keep them. Forever. Our prices are so low for our degree of organization and inventory that some customers literally think they are renting the books, and we have difficulty explaining that they do not have to return them. Now, that's a way around value, straight into personal worth.

And if you've stumbled across some books you need to jettison, but you're not personally a reader, store credit can still be beneficial. We get people opening accounts for children, grandchildren, and dear friends who are big readers. If you don't know anyone who could use the

credit and are feeling charitable, you can donate the credit to a fund for local teachers buying for their classrooms or for active-duty military personnel. A reader in your life will be able to greatly benefit from the discount.

I Don't Want to Sell to You. How Do I Make Money from Books?

I'm not saying that making some money from books is impossible. It just takes a disproportionate amount of work compared to the profit. Sure, you can throw something on Facebook Marketplace with one blurry picture and hope it sells. It might, and the buyer might be perfectly happy with it. But small online booksellers spend hours sourcing, cleaning, mending, photographing, describing, packing, and shipping books. They deal with final value fees, fraudulent and unreasonably unhappy buyers, and a whole manner of other deterrents to the practice of their trade. There is a learning curve, and to be taken seriously, it's a serious part-to-full-time job. You have to learn the policies and fine print of the platform through which you sell and pay for subscriptions above certain item amounts. You have to know what "first thus, foxing on the spine" means. The world of bookselling can be a gatekeeping world. In some respects, I am ashamed to say, it is designed to keep people out. So if you want to sell books and you have the time, passion, dedication, ingenuity, and downright stubbornness, I'll be the first to say: Do it! But you should consider which option explained above would be the most beneficial to *you*. You do not want to spend the valuable hours of your life doing something that will not give you the reward you deserve.

Sources:

"How Books Became Cheap"

<https://www.laphamsquarterly.org/roundtable/how-books-became-cheap>

"How Much is My Book Worth?"

<https://www.biblio.com/book-value>