

THE BOOK RACK NEWSLETTER

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

Vol 16, #4, April 2023
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)*

Trivia for April 2023

What famous writer fought to ban Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* from the public library, claiming it was inappropriate for "our pure-minded lads and lassies"??

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

April \$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, 2021).

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 2023 winner #1 is:

Kathleen Perrine

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 31, 2023** to claim your prize:

A \$25 gift certificate from The Book Rack!

Sci Fi Stash

The books from our recently acquired collection of Science Fiction have started to flow into the store. We won't be able to keep them all on our store shelves (there is not enough room), but we'll add as many as possible to our on-line inventory and store them in our storage unit. They'll be available to you through our web site. See one you want? Just select it and we'll let you know when it can be picked up. Or, you can choose to have it shipped. If you come in to browse and can't find what you want, you should always ask one of our staff to check our inventory. If we don't have it, make sure and add it to your Request list. With several thousand books to go through, it will be many weeks before we can process them all. As I sort them to begin the process, I marvel at the selection we'll have when we're done. It really is an amazing collection!

April 2023 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

April Holidays - Monthly Celebrations

Global Astronomy Month

Lawn and Garden Month

National Humor Month

National Kite Month

National Poetry Month
Stress Awareness Month

April Weekly Events

Week 1 Library Week
Week 2 Garden Week
Week 4 Administrative Assistants Week

April Daily Holidays, Special and Wacky Days:

April 1

April Fool's Day – **The Book Rack will be Open! No Fooling!**

April 2

Children's Book Day
Palm Sunday – date

April 4

School Librarian Day

April 7

Good Friday – date varies

April 9

Easter Sunday – **The Book Rack will be CLOSED**

April 11

National Library Workers Day – Tuesday of Library week in April

April 15

Income Taxes Due (most years, it's on the 15th)
Husband Appreciation Day – third Saturday in April

April 16

National Librarian Day

April 17

Blah, Blah, Blah Day
International Haiku Poetry Day

April 21

Kindergarten Day

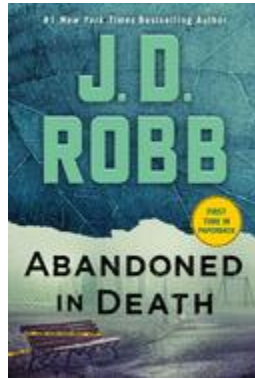
April 28

Great Poetry Reading Day

Book Reviews

Review by Claudia:

Abandoned in Death by J.D. Robb(2012) - Mystery



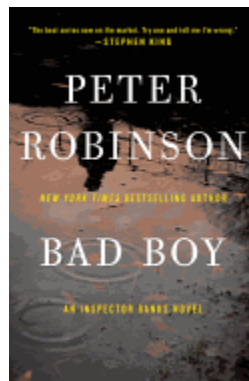
Lieutenant Eve Dallas is immersed in another series of murders, this time young women – all with similar builds and features – who display very recent piercings and a tattoo, and are dressed in clothing and makeup from decades past. A sign with “BAD MOMMY” written in crayon is with each body that is found in a location frequented by children. In this 54th book of the *in Death* series, characters continue to form a cohesive and mostly believable workforce and group of friends. While the descriptions of the latter’s home building can pull one away from the murder investigation, I’d argue that life is like that. Regardless, I tend to think of J.D. Robb books as escapist reading to relieve my mind (mental floss) between more cerebral books. If you’ve never read these futuristic murder mysteries, I recommend starting at the first of the series with *Naked in Death*. If you like it, there are currently 54 more books in the series to read.... the 56th book is set to be published in February 2023.

The April 2023 winner #2 is:

Brittany Kyles

Reviews by Bob

Bad Boy by Peter Robinson (2010) Mystery



Banks is on holiday, headed for Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. His daughter, Tracy, home in Leeds and angry with her father, is headed for some very deep trouble. Robinson's nineteenth Inspector Banks novel is a stunner.

Handguns are illegal in the U.K., and whenever one is reported, the police swing into high gear. But things go very wrong when the police swoop down on a home in Eastvale to seize a reported handgun. In the confusion, Patrick Doyle, a former neighbor of Banks, is shot. Doyle's daughter, Erin, is to blame for the gun being in the house, and while she's in police custody, her housemate in Leeds, Tracy Banks, decides to let Erin's boyfriend know that the police have been around their place. Bad decision. When Banks returns home from holiday, Tracy is missing. And that's not the worst of it.

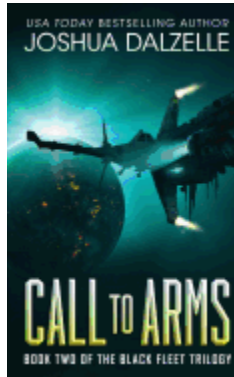
Robinson's latest Inspector Banks novel is a powerful story of how the volatile emotions of love and resentment can turn deadly when fear comes creeping in.

"Robinson once again achieves the high bar he's set in all his previous Inspector Banks books: gut-wrenching plotting alongside heart-wrenching portraits of the characters who populate his world, not to mention the top-notch police procedure. This one will stay with you for a long time." -- **Jeffery Deaver, New York Times bestselling author of Roadside Crosses**

"A murderous psychopath presents Alan Banks with the most intensely personal challenge of the maverick detective's storied career. Superbly cinematic from the beginning to the explosive finale, this would be a thrilling movie." -- **Joseph Wambaugh, New York Times bestselling author of Hollywood Moon**

A British police procedural that developed at a pace that I struggled to stay with, until Banks became fully involved, right about half-way through the book. It's a good book and I'd encourage you to give Robinson and his Inspector Banks series a read. There are around 30 books in the series so you'll have many to enjoy if you like his style. I give "Bad Boy" a B.

Warship, Call to Arms and Counterstrike (Black Fleet Trilogy) by Joshua Dalzelle (2015) – Science Fiction/Space Opera



Warship: In the 25th century humans have conquered space. The advent of faster-than-light travel has opened up hundreds of habitable planets for colonization, and humans have exploited the virtually limitless space and resources for hundreds of years with impunity.

So complacent have they become with the overabundance that armed conflict is a thing of the past, and their machines of war are obsolete and decrepit. What would happen if they were suddenly threatened by a terrifying new enemy? Would humanity fold and surrender, or would they return to their evolutionary roots and meet force with force? One ship—and one captain—will soon be faced with this very choice. Against incredible odds, Jackson Wolfe is determined to save humanity—and in the process, might end up saving himself.

Call to Arms: Captain Jackson Wolfe survived the initial incursion of a vicious alien species into human space ... barely.

He had assumed the juggernaut that had devastated three Terran systems was the herald for a full invasion, but for the last few years it has been eerily quiet along the Frontier.

Jackson now struggles to convince the Confederate leadership the threat is still imminent and needs to be taken seriously. While powerful factions make backroom deals, he is desperate to find irrefutable proof that the invaders are coming and that if humanity expects to survive, they must marshal their forces and make a stand. Now.

Counterstrike: Captain Jackson Wolfe never thought he'd see the end of the Phage War in his lifetime. The enemy was too powerful, too numerous, and utterly determined to exterminate humanity.

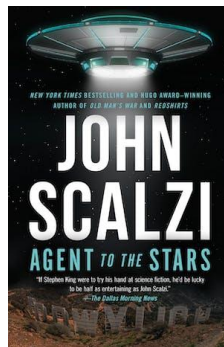
But the appearance of a new ally in the fight has changed all of that. For the first time since the original incursion Wolfe thinks that maybe there's a chance to

stop their implacable enemy before they have the chance to wipe out any more human planets. That opportunity comes at great cost, however, and even as he makes plans for their first offensive move on the Phage, Jackson is all too aware that most of them will not survive.

(Space opera is a [subgenre](#) of [science fiction](#) that emphasizes [space warfare](#), with use of [melodramatic](#), risk-taking space adventures, relationships, and [chivalric romance](#). Set mainly or entirely in [outer space](#), it features technological and social advancements (or lack thereof) in [faster-than-light travel](#), [futuristic weapons](#), and sophisticated technology, on a backdrop of [galactic empires](#) and [interstellar wars](#) with [fictional aliens](#), often in fictional galaxies.)

I loved this trilogy. In fact, The Space Opera is one of my favorite genre to read. I listened to these 3 books in sequence simply because the first one left me wanting (lots) more. If you love adventure and haven't tried a space opera you may be missing out on a new favorite and vast selection of great books. I give these books a collective A+. By the way, even though was introduced as a trilogy in 2015, there are now 9-books in this saga and Dalzelle has 17 other books in 2 additional space opera, so you won't run out of his books for a while.

Agent to the Stars by John Scalzi (2010) – Science Fiction



A gleeful mash-up of science fiction and Hollywood satire

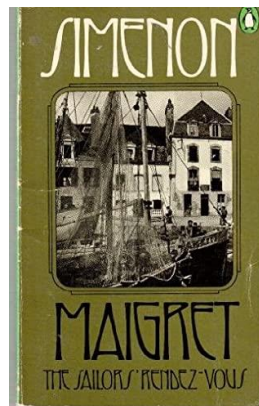
The space-faring Yherajk have come to Earth to meet us and to begin humanity's first interstellar friendship. There's just one problem: They're hideously ugly and they smell like rotting fish.

So getting humanity's trust is a challenge. The Yherajk need someone who can help them close the deal.

Enter Thomas Stein, who knows something about closing deals. He's one of Hollywood's hottest young agents. But although Stein may have just concluded the biggest deal of his career, it's quite another thing to negotiate for an entire alien race. To earn his percentage this time, he's going to need all the smarts, skills, and wits he can muster.

This is a laugh-out-loud book! When was the last time you laughed while reading a Sci Fi book? Well, I don't recall a last time, but found myself smiling, chuckling and laughing countless times as I read "Agent to the Stars." The dialog is splendid. It makes sense and at the right spots is hilarious. This is not going to be an easy book to find used, but it is well worth the search. Read it and love it. I give it an A+!

The Sailors' Rendezvous, An Inspector Maigret Mystery by Georges Simenon(1931)



It was indeed a photo, a picture of a woman. But the face was completely hidden, scribbled all over in red ink. Someone had tried to obliterate the head, someone very angry. The pen had bitten into the paper. There were so many criss-crossed lines that not a single square millimetre had been left visible. On the other hand, below the head, the torso had not been touched. A pair of large breasts. A light-coloured silk dress, very tight and very low cut.

Sailors don't talk much to other men, especially not to policemen. But after Captain Fallut's body is found floating near his trawler, they all mention the Evil Eye when they speak of the Ocean's voyage. The victim is Captain Fallut. The suspect is Pierre LeClinche, the boat's young radio operator, engaged to a girl who passionately believes he is innocent.

An entertaining mystery set in France. While only 127 pages, it packs in much excitement. You don't get nearly as much back story and character development as in more recent books, and not nearly as much violence. You are presented a complex puzzle and you follow the inspector as he solves it. A well-done book. If you like Raymond Chandler, Agatha Christie, Rex Stout or Ross MacDonald, you'll like Simenon. I give it a B+.

Inspector Maigret in the New York Underworld by George Simenon (1931)



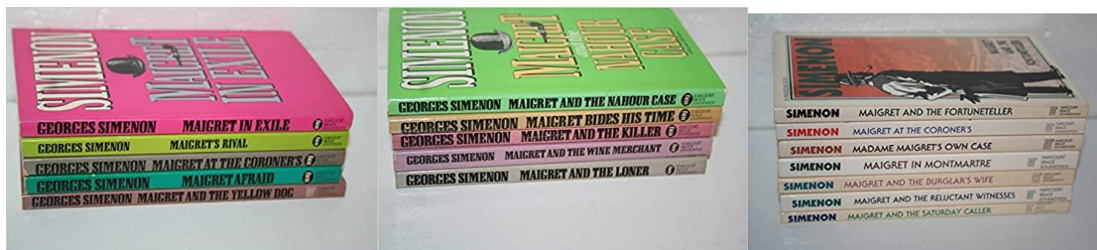
Inspector Maigret pursues the solution to a crime that began over thirty years ago in a small French town...and ended with terror, blackmail, and murder on the streets of New York.

What was it about him that had struck Maigret so forcefully? Little John had cold eyes! Four or five times in his life, he had met people with cold eyes, those eyes that can stare at you without establishing any human contact.

Persuaded to sail to New York by a fearful young law student, Maigret finds himself drawn into the city's underworld and a wealthy businessman's closely guarded past. Here is one of the most baffling of the Maigret series, another mystery classic by the writer whom Andre' Gide has called "perhaps the greatest novelist" in French literature today. (1931) (**André Paul Guillaume Gide** was a French author and winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature (in 1947).)

Georges Simenon was born in Liège, Belgium. At sixteen he began work as a journalist on the Gazette de Liège. He moved to Paris in 1922 and became a prolific writer of popular fiction, working under a number of pseudonyms. In 1931 he published the first of the novels featuring Maigret, his most famous and enduring creation. He wrote 75 Maigret mysteries.

While Simenon's books may often be difficult to find, we do have several singles and small sets available on our website, such as these:



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! 😊

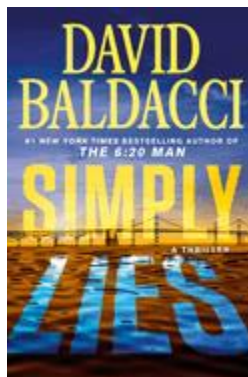
Recent and Upcoming New Releases

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

David Baldacci - Simply Lies: A Psychological Thriller – 30.00



A new psychological thriller in which two women--one a former detective, the other a dangerous con artist--go head-to-head in an electrifying game of cat and mouse.

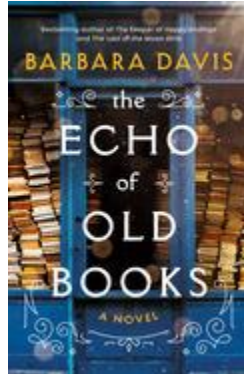
Mickey Gibson, single mother and former detective, leads a hectic life similar to that of many moms: juggling the demands of her two small children with the tasks of her job working remotely for ProEye, a global investigation company that hunts down wealthy tax and credit cheats.

When Mickey gets a call from a colleague named Arlene Robinson, she thinks nothing of Arlene's unusual request for her to go inventory the vacant home of an arms dealer who cheated ProEye's clients and fled. That is, until she arrives at the mansion to discover a dead body in a secret room--and that nothing is as it seems.

Not only does the arms dealer not exist but the murder victim turns out to be Harry Langhorne, a man with mob ties who used to be in Witness Protection. What's more, no one named Arlene Robinson works at ProEye.

In the blink of an eye, Gibson has become a prime suspect in a murder investigation--and now her job is also on the line until she proves that she was set up. Before long, Gibson is locked in a battle of wits with a brilliant woman with no name, a hidden past, and unknown motives--whose end game is as mysterious as it is deadly.

Barbara Davis - The Echo of Old Books – Historical Fiction – 16.99



A novel about the magical lure of books and summoning the courage to rewrite our stories by the Amazon Charts bestselling author of *The Keeper of Happy Endings* and *The Last of the Moon Girls*.

Rare-book dealer Ashlyn Greer's affinity for books extends beyond the intoxicating scent of old paper, ink, and leather. She can feel the echoes of the books' previous owners--an emotional fingerprint only she can read. When Ashlyn discovers a pair of beautifully bound volumes that appear to have never been published, her gift quickly becomes an obsession. Not only is each inscribed with a startling incrimination, but the authors, Hemi and Belle, tell conflicting sides of a tragic romance.

With no trace of how these mysterious books came into the world, Ashlyn is caught up in a decades-old literary mystery, beckoned by two hearts in ruins, whoever they were, wherever they are. Determined to learn the truth behind the doomed lovers' tale, she reads on, following a trail of broken promises and seemingly unforgivable betrayals. The more Ashlyn learns about Hemi and Belle, the nearer she comes to bringing closure to their love story--and to the unfinished chapters of her own life.

Jude Deveraux - My Heart Will Find You – Romance – 30.00



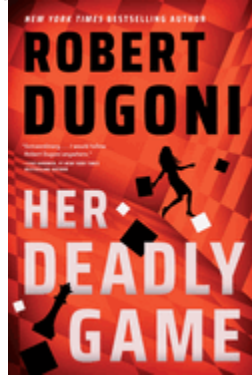
Their love refused to stay quiet, echoing across time...

When the world is brought to a standstill in the early days of a global pandemic, Etta Wilmont finds herself suddenly stranded in Kansas City. Desperate to secure a roof over her head, Etta crosses paths with Henry Logan, a lonely older man in need of a caretaker. His invitation for Etta to stay with him seems to be the solution to both their problems--and maybe the spontaneous adventure Etta's life has been missing.

As Etta and Henry settle into a companionable living arrangement, Etta indulges in Henry's library. The compelling historical accounts of life in the Midwest soon inspire vivid dreams of Kansas City in the 1870s, dreams in which she's a mail-order bride, married to a handsome but guarded rancher named Maxwell Lawton.

Haunted by the story unfolding in her mind, Etta realizes her dreams of the past and the familiar faces featured within are starting to have an impact on the present, altering her current reality. Perhaps these dreams are Etta's chance to finally claim something for herself after so much time spent caring for others. More than anything, Etta wonders if the captivating man she's falling for while she sleeps might be real, might be out there--true love waiting to be found and which would change both their lives forever.

Robert Dugoni - Her Deadly Game – Thriller – 28.99



A defense attorney is prepared to play. But is she a pawn in a master's deadly match? A twisting novel of suspense by *New York Times* bestselling author Robert Dugoni.

Keera Duggan was building a solid reputation as a Seattle prosecutor, until her romantic relationship with a senior colleague ended badly. For the competitive former chess prodigy, returning to her family's failing criminal defense law firm to work for her father is the best shot she has. With the right moves, she hopes to restore the family's reputation, her relationship with her father, and her career.

Keera's chance to play in the big leagues comes when she's retained by Vince LaRussa, an investment adviser accused of murdering his wealthy wife. There's little hard evidence against him, but considering the couple's impending and potentially nasty divorce, LaRussa faces life in prison. The prosecutor is equally challenging: Miller Ambrose, Keera's former lover, who's eager to destroy her in court on her first homicide defense.

As Keera and her team follow the evidence, they uncover a complicated and deadly game that's more than Keera bargained for. When shocking information turns the case upside down, Keera must decide between her duty to her client, her family's legacy, and her own future.

Heather Graham - Shadow of Death: A Suspense Novel - 30.00

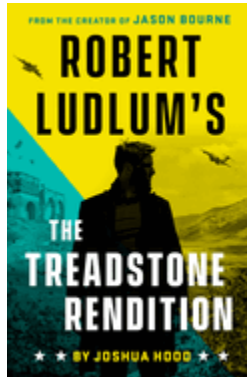


You can cut off the head of the snake, but another will emerge.

When two hikers go missing within a series of daunting caves outside of Denver, Colorado, FDLE special agent Amy Larson and her partner, FBI special agent Hunter Forrest, have good reason to suspect foul play. The pair of hikers are only the latest to vanish after a rash of disappearances that's left local law enforcement stumped. But in searching the dank caverns near the Arkansas River, the agents aren't prepared for the horror they uncover: a muddy pit littered with corpses. Covered in bite marks. Made by human teeth.

When a tiny toy horse is found on the scene, Amy and Hunter recognize the calling card. They'll have to move quickly before the already sizable body count grows. Their investigation soon draws them down the rabbit hole of a dangerous cult with a sinister mandate--one that involves human sacrifices. Anything to further their twisted cause. But when more people go missing, it becomes clear the cult's reach extends beyond state lines, leading Amy and Hunter deep into the Florida Everglades to set a perilous trap, one that stands to risk everything they hold dear, including their lives.

Joshua Hood - Robert Ludlum's the Treadstone Rendition (A Treadstone Novel) – Thriller – 29.00



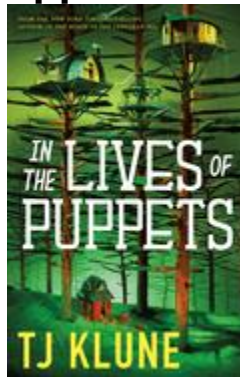
The final days of the American presence in Afghanistan bring Adam Hayes a summons he can't ignore in the latest electrifying thriller from the world of Robert Ludlum.

Adam Hayes has stepped away from the field for the last time. He's promised his wife that he won't put his life on the line any more, and there's nothing that will make him break a promise to his wife.

Well...almost nothing. With America withdrawing from Afghanistan and the Taliban closing in, Abdul Nassir reached out to his old friend. Ten years ago, he saved the American's life, and the time has come for repayment. The Afghan is desperate to flee his homeland. Like most of his countrymen, he is petrified by the Taliban takeover, but he also can't trust the Americans. He's the only eyewitness to a massacre committed by a rogue team of CIA contractors. Not only can he identify the butcher who directed the bloodbath, he also has photographic proof. He'll only be safe when those pictures are made public.

Now, there's just one man he can trust to get him to safety--Adam Hayes.

TJ Klune - In the Lives of Puppets - Fantasy – 28.99



In a strange little home built into the branches of a grove of trees, live three robots--fatherly inventor android Giovanni Lawson, a pleasantly sadistic nurse machine, and a small vacuum desperate for love and attention. Victor Lawson, a human, lives there too. They're a family, hidden and safe.

The day Vic salvages and repairs an unfamiliar android labelled "HAP," he learns of a shared dark past between Hap and Gio--a past spent hunting humans.

When Hap unwittingly alerts robots from Gio's former life to their whereabouts, the family is no longer hidden and safe. Gio is captured and taken back to his old laboratory in the City of Electric Dreams. So together, the rest of Vic's assembled family must journey across an unforgiving and otherworldly country to rescue Gio from decommission, or worse, reprogramming. Along the way to save Gio, amid conflicted feelings of betrayal and affection for Hap, Vic must decide for himself: Can he accept love with strings attached?

The April 2023 winner #3 is:

Barb Spear

Leslie Meier - Mother of the Bride Murder (Lucy Stone Mystery) - Mystery – 27.00

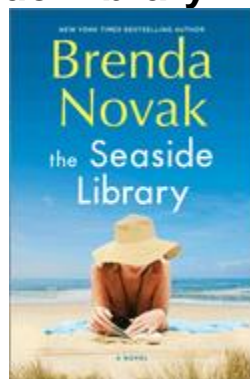


As part-time Tinker's Cove, Maine reporter Lucy Stone says "oui" to her daughter's surprise wedding invitation in France, she must also make a different kind of vow--to catch a killer!

When Lucy Stone arrives at a sprawling French chateau with the whole family, it should be the trip of a lifetime--especially because she's about to watch her oldest daughter, Elizabeth, marry the handsome, successful man of her dreams. But while navigating the vast countryside estate owned by her impenetrably wealthy in-laws-to-be, the jet-lagged mother of the bride has a creeping feeling that Elizabeth's fairytale nuptials to Jean-Luc Schoen-Rene are destined to become a nightmare . . . Maternal instincts are validated the moment a body is pulled from a centuries-old moat on the property. A young woman has dropped dead under mysterious circumstances--possibly at the hands of someone at the chateau--and unflattering rumors about the Schoen-Rene line and their inner circle flow like champagne. Then there's the matter of Elizabeth's hunky ex beau showing up on the scene as she prepares to walk down the aisle . . .

With tensions building, personalities clashing, and real dangers emerging at the chateau, Lucy is determined to protect her family, together for the first time in years, and expose the one responsible. She'll have to locate the culprit among a list of worldly jilted lovers and potential criminal masterminds, or Elizabeth's trip down the aisle could end in tragedy . . .

Brenda Novak – The Seaside Library – Romance – 30.00



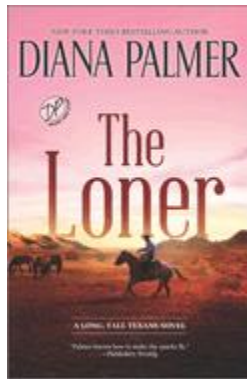
There are secrets that bring friends together, and others that drive them apart...

Mariners Island is barely ten miles long, but when Ivy, Ariana and Cam were teenagers, it was their whole world. Beyond the pristine beaches and iconic lighthouse lies the beautiful old library that belongs to Ivy's family. While that bound Ivy to the island as an adult, Ariana could not leave Mariners behind fast enough. The town holds too many... *memories*. Not only her unrequited feelings for Cam, but the tragedy that left a scar on the community.

When a young girl went missing, a teenage Cam was unthinkable the prime suspect. Ariana and Ivy knew he couldn't have hurt anyone, and they promised to protect him--even if it meant lying on his behalf.

Now, twenty years later, Ariana returns to Mariners just as new evidence emerges on the case, calling into question everything the three friends thought they knew--and everyone they thought they could trust. What really happened that night? Over the course of one eventful summer, Ariana, Ivy and Cam will learn the truth--about their pasts, their futures and the ties that still bind them as closely as the pages of a book...

Diana Palmer - The Loner (Long, Tall Texans #53) – Romance – 27.99



Dubbed the Queen of Western Romance, *New York Times* bestselling author Diana Palmer writes about passion & heartache, revenge & justice all set within a small-town community.

Tanner Everett spends most of his time jet-setting around the world. But that hasn't stopped innocent Stasia Bolton, the daughter of a neighboring rancher, from falling head-over-heels for the jet-setting playboy. So Stasia is secretly thrilled when both her father proposes linking the properties in matrimony...which means Tanner will be hers, for good.

Despite his globetrotting ways, Tanner can't help but be enthralled by the quiet girl next door. But as the embers between the two are fanned into flames, Tanner wonders if he's found forever in the last place he ever expected.

Anne Perry - The Fourth Enemy: A Daniel Pitt Novel (Daniel Pitt) – Mystery – 28.99



Daniel Pitt is under pressure to prosecute a beloved philanthropist whose good deeds may hide dark--and dangerous--secrets, in this gripping mystery from *New York Times* bestselling author Anne Perry.

Working his way up at the London law firm fford Croft and Gibson, Daniel Pitt is named junior counsel on a fraud case with the potential to make or break his--and the firm's--reputation. The trouble is, Malcolm Vayne, the man on trial, has deep pockets, and even deeper connections. Vayne's philanthropic efforts paint him a hero in the eyes of the public, but Daniel's friend Ian, a police officer, has evidence to suggest otherwise. Nervously working alongside Gideon Hunter, the new head of his firm, Daniel must find a way to prove that Vayne is guilty.

Meanwhile, Daniel's new bride, forensic scientist Miriam fford Croft, befriends Rose Hunter, Gideon's wife, and the two become engrossed in the women's suffrage movement. Miriam finds herself among women who are brave and determined enough to undergo hunger strikes and prison sentences. Vayne's image is improved by his support of their cause, but Miriam is not deceived.

Vayne's trial reveals his deep political ambitions, and it heats up further when a crucial witness is found dead. When another witness is kidnapped, Daniel must set out on a rescue mission that puts his life--and the case against Vayne--in peril.

Anne Perry delivers another pulse-pounding mystery in her latest stand-alone Daniel Pitt novel.

Brandon Sanderson - Tress of the Emerald Sea – Fantasy – 29.99



Brandon Sanderson brings us deeper into the Cosmere universe with a rollicking, riveting tale that will appeal to fans of *The Princess Bride*. The only life Tress has known on her island home in an emerald-green ocean has been a simple one, with the simple pleasures of collecting cups brought by sailors from faraway lands and listening to stories told by her friend Charlie. But when his father takes him on a voyage to find a bride and disaster strikes, Tress must stow away on a ship and seek the Sorceress of the deadly Midnight Sea. Amid the spore oceans where pirates abound, can Tress leave her simple life behind and make her own place sailing a sea where a single drop of water can mean instant death?

John Sandford – Dark Angel – Thriller - 29.95



Letty Davenport, the tough-as-nails adopted daughter of Lucas Davenport, takes on an undercover assignment that brings her across the country and into the crosshairs of a dangerous group of hackers.

Letty Davenport's days working a desk job are behind her. Her previous actions at a gunfight in Texas--and her incredible skills with firearms--draw the attention of several branches of the US government, and make her a perfect fit for even more dangerous work. The Department of Homeland Security and the NSA have tasked her with infiltrating a hacker group, known only as Ordinary People, that is intent on wreaking havoc. Letty and her reluctant partner from the NSA pose as free-spirited programmers for hire and embark on a cross country road trip to the group's California headquarters.

While the two work to make inroads with Ordinary People and uncover their plans, they begin to suspect that the hackers are not their only enemy. Someone within their own circle may have betrayed them, and has ulterior motives that place their mission--and their lives--in grave danger.

Don Winslow - City of Dreams – Thriller – 30.00



Hollywood.

The city where dreams are made.

On the losing side of a bloody East Coast crime war, Danny Ryan is now on the run. The Mafia, the cops, the FBI all want him dead or in prison. With his little boy, his elderly father and the tattered remnants of his loyal crew of soldiers, he makes the classic American migration to California to start a new life.

A quiet, peaceful existence.

But the Feds track him down and want Danny to do them a favor that could make him a fortune or kill him.

And when Hollywood starts shooting a film based on his former life, Danny demands a piece of the action and begins to rebuild his criminal empire.

Then he falls in love.

With a beautiful movie star who has a dark past of her own.

As their worlds collide in an explosion that could destroy them both, Danny Ryan has to fight for his life in a city where dreams are born.

Or where they go to die.

From the shores of Rhode Island to the deserts of California where bodies disappear, from the power corridors of Washington where the real criminals operate to the fabled movie studios of Hollywood where the real money is made, *City of Dreams* is a sweeping saga of family, love, revenge, survival and the fierce reality behind the dream.

Trivia for April 2023

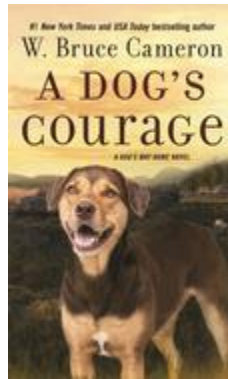
What famous writer fought to ban Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* from the public library, claiming it was inappropriate for "our pure-minded lads and lassies"??

Answer:

Little Women author Louisa May Alcott.

Mass Market Paperback

Bruce Cameron - A Dog's Courage: A Dog's Way Home Novel – General Fiction – 9.99



Bella was once a lost dog, but now she lives happily with her people, Lucas and Olivia, only occasionally recalling the hardships in her past. Then a weekend camping trip turns into a harrowing struggle for survival when the Rocky Mountains are engulfed by the biggest wildfire in American history. The raging inferno separates Bella from her people and she is lost once more.

Alone in the wilderness, Bella unexpectedly finds herself responsible for the safety of two defenseless mountain lion cubs. Now she's torn between two equally urgent goals. More than anything, she wants to find her way home to Lucas and Olivia, but not if it means abandoning her new family to danger. And danger abounds, from predators hunting them to the flames threatening at every turn.

Can Bella ever get back to where she truly belongs?

A Dog's Courage is more than a fast-paced adventure, more than a devoted dog's struggle to survive, it's a story asking that we believe in our dogs as much as they believe in us.

Marc Cameron – Cold Snap – Thriller - 9.99



In Kincaid Park, a man is arrested for attacking a female jogger. Investigators believe they have finally have their suspect. But one deputy is sure they have the wrong man.

In the remote northern town of Deadhorse, Alaska, Supervisory Deputy US Marshal Arliss Cutter escorts four very dangerous handcuffed prisoners onto a small bush plane en route to Fairbanks. Cutter's expecting a routine mission and a nonstop flight--or so he thinks. When the plane goes down in the wilderness, all hell breaks loose. The prisoners murder the pilot and a

guard and torch the plane. But their nightmare's just beginning. Back in Anchorage, deputy Lola Teariki has traced the dismembered foot to a missing girl--and the serial psychopath who slaughtered her. It's one of the prisoners on Cutter's flight...

Now it's a deadly game of survival. With no means of communication, few supplies, and ravenous grizzly bears and wolves lurking in the shadows, Cutter has to battle the unforgiving elements while the killer wants his head on a stick. Here in Alaska, nature can be cruel--but this time, human nature is crueler...

Heather Graham – Crimson Summer – 9.99



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.

The April 2023 winner #4 is:

Sally Gluesing

Kristin Higgins – Out of the Clear Blue Sky – General Fiction - 8.99



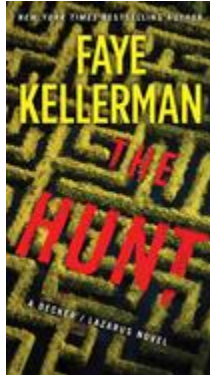
Lillie Silva knew life as an empty nester would be hard after her only child left for college, but when her husband abruptly dumps her for another woman just as her son leaves, her world comes crashing down. Besides the fact that this announcement is a complete surprise (to say the least), what shocks Lillie most is that she isn't heartbroken. She's furious.

Lillie has loved her life on Cape Cod, but as a mother, wife, and nurse-midwife, she's used to caring for other people . . . not taking care of herself. Now, alone for the first time in her life, she finds herself going a little rogue. Is it over the top to crash her ex-husband's wedding dressed like the angel of death? Sure! Should she release a skunk into his perfect new home? Probably not! But it beats staying home and moping.

She finds an unexpected ally in her glamorous sister, with whom she's had a tense relationship all these years. And an unexpected babysitter in, of all people, Ben Hallowell, the driver in a car accident that nearly killed Lillie twenty years ago. And then there's Ophelia, her ex-husband's oddly lost niece, who could really use a friend.

It's the end of Lillie's life as she knew it. But sometimes the perfect next chapter surprises you . . . out of the clear blue sky.

Faye Kellerman - The Hunt: A Decker/Lazarus Novel - Mystery – 10.99



Detective Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus return to Los Angeles when a kidnapping hits close to home--in this breathtaking conclusion to the beloved series from *New York Times* bestselling author Faye Kellerman.

Peter and his partner, Detective Tyler McAdams, are thrown into an unsolved case and propelled into action when a body is found in the very woods where a man previously went missing in upstate New York.

But that's not the only crisis that Peter has to deal with.

Teresa McLaughlin, the biological mother of Peter and his wife Rina's foster son, Gabe, has fled to Los Angeles with her two children in tow, hoping to avoid a court injunction amid a messy divorce. But LA is no escape from her problems--she is found by ruthless men and beaten mercilessly. When she wakes, barely conscious, Teresa discovers that both of her children are gone and frantically calls Gabe for help.

With his mother on the verge of death, Gabe contacts Peter and Rina, as well as his biological father, the notorious Christopher Donatti, a former hit man from a known criminal family who's now a millionaire in Nevada. By bringing Donatti into the fray, Gabe, Peter, and Rina know they have made a deal with the devil--but they may not be able to recover the kids without him.

As these unlikely allies rally to find the kidnappers before things end tragically, they race headlong toward an explosive confrontation from which no one will emerge unscathed...

Stephen King – Christine (Reissue) Horror – 11.99



It's love at first sight for high school student Arnie Cunningham when he and his best friend Dennis Guilder spot the dilapidated 1958 red-and-white Plymouth Fury for sale--dubbed "Christine" by its original cantankerous owner--rusting away on a front lawn of their suburban Pennsylvania neighborhood. Dennis knows that Arnie's never had much luck in the popularity department, or really taken an interest in owning a car...but Christine quickly changes all that. Arnie suddenly has the new-found confidence to stick up for himself, going as far as dating the most beautiful girl at Libertyville High--transfer student Leigh Cabot -- even as a mysteriously restored Christine systematically and terrifyingly consumes every aspect of Arnie's life. Dennis and Leigh soon realize that they must uncover the awful truth behind a car with a horrifying and murderous history. Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, and heaven help anyone who gets in Christine's way..

Terrance McCauley - The Revengers (A Jeremiah Halstead Western) 8.99



No sooner has Montana become a state than Zimmerman launches a diabolical campaign to turn a remote swath of land into an outlaw kingdom. Some of the richest mines in the West are in Zimmerman's sights, and he's rallied allies on both sides of the law to stake his claim.

The corpses are piled high in Halstead's war with the vicious outlaw, but now Zimmerman proves himself as cunning with a pen as he is deadly with a six-gun. When news of his plot reaches the state capital of Helena, U.S. Marshal Aaron Mackey and Deputy Billy Sunday step into the fray.

Halstead is taking no prisoners to prevent Zimmerman from getting filthy rich off land bought with dollars . . . and soaked in blood . . .

The Russian – James Patterson and James O. Born – Mystery – 9.99

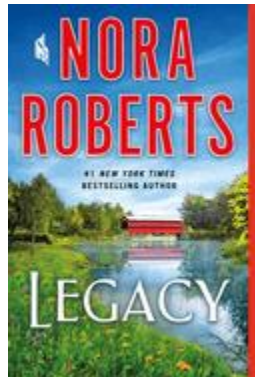


Weeks before NYPD Detective Michael Bennett is to marry his longtime love, Mary Catherine, an assassin announces his presence in the city with a string of grisly murders. Each victim is a young woman. And each has been killed in a manner as precise as it was gruesome.

Tasked with working alongside the FBI, Bennett and his gung-ho new partner uncover multiple cold-case homicides across the country that fit the same distinctive pattern--proving the perpetrator they seek is as experienced at ending lives as he is at evading detection.

Bennett promises Mary Catherine that the case won't affect their upcoming wedding. But as Bennett prepares to make a lifetime commitment, the killer has a lethal vow of his own to fulfill.

Nora Roberts – Legacy – Romance – 9.99



Adrian Rizzo was seven when she met her father for the first time. That was the day he nearly killed her--before her mother, Lina, stepped in.

Soon after, Adrian was dropped off at her grandparents' house in Maryland, where she spent a long summer drinking lemonade, playing with dogs, making a new best friend--and developing the stirrings of a crush on her friend's ten-year-old brother. Lina, meanwhile, traveled the country promoting her fitness brand and turning it into a billion-dollar business. There was no point in dwelling on the past.

A decade later, Adrian has created her own line of yoga and workout videos, following in Lina's footsteps but intent on maintaining creative control. And she's just as cool-headed and ambitious as her mother. They aren't close, but they're cordial--as long as neither crosses the other.

But while Lina dismisses the death threats that Adrian starts getting as a routine part of her daughter's growing celebrity, Adrian can't help but find the vicious rhymes unsettling. Year after year, they keep arriving--the postmarks changing, but the menacing tone the same. They continue after she returns to Maryland and becomes reacquainted with Raylan, her childhood crush, all grown up and as gorgeously green-eyed as ever. Sometimes it even seems like the terrifying messages are indeed routine, like nothing will come of them. Until the murders start, and the escalation begins...

Paige Shelton - The Burning Pages: A Scottish Bookshop Mystery Mystery – 9.99



One winter's night, bookseller Delaney Nichols and her coworker Hamlet are invited to a Burns Night dinner, a traditional Scottish celebration of the poet Robert Burns. She's perplexed by the invitation, but intrigued. The dinner takes place at Burns House itself, a tiny cottage not far from the Cracked Spine bookshop but well hidden. There, it becomes clear that Delaney and Hamlet were summoned in an attempt to make amends between Edwin, Delaney's boss, and one of the other invitees, who suspected Edwin for burning down his own bookshop twenty years ago after a professional disagreement.

But after the dinner, there's another fire. The Burns House itself is burned to the ground, and this time there's a body among the ruins. When Hamlet is accused of the crime, Delaney rushes to prove his innocence, only to discover that he might actually have a plausible motive...