

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 14, #8 August 2021
563-355-2310

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

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

Trivia for August 2021

What famous writer bragged that he gave his talent to
his work and saved his genius for his life?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

New Additions to Our Inventory

Over the past month, we've added numerous books to our True Crime,
Horror and other sections. Come in and see if any are ones you'd enjoy!

\$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 August 1, 2019 this month).

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

The August 2021 winner #1 is:

Bonnie Billips

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 August 31, 2021 to claim your prize:

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

August 2021 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

Admit You're Happy Month

Family Fun Month

International Pirate Month

National Picnic Month

Romance Awareness Month

International Clown Week - always August 1-7

Week 1 National Simplify your Life Week

Week 2 National Smile Week

Week 3 Friendship Week

Week 4 Be Kind to Humankind Week

August 1

Friendship Day - First Sunday in August

August 4

National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day

U.S. Coast Guard Day

International Beer Day - First Friday in August

August 9

Book Lover's Day

August 11

Son and Daughter Day

August 14

14/15 V-J Day - which date do you celebrate as the end of WWII?

August 21

[Senior Citizen's Day](#)

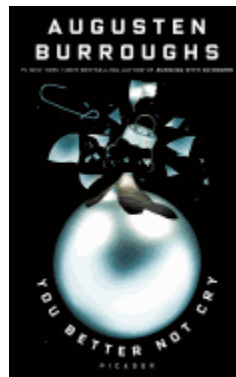
August 26

[Women's Equality Day](#)

Book Reviews

Review by Claudia:

You Better Not Cry by Augusten Burroughs



A collection of short autobiographical essays of memories of his favorite holiday. Among his childhood confusion over Santa and Jesus being the same person (ask the first persona for presents, and the second persona if you need help), getting too close and personal with a life-size wax Santa, waking next to a naked Santa in the Waldorf Astoria, dealing with a flooded lower floor in the dream home he and his partner have built, Burroughs' descriptions are both laugh-out-loud funny and cringe-worthy. Tragic, frank, alcoholic, self-deprecating all apply to the author and his stories. Burroughs invites us into his world, sharing life stories which may seem alien or all too familiar... and yet he concludes on a positive note. Elle magazine notes, "Burroughs succeeds best at evoking true holiday spirit, reminding us that whatever's left after the bulbs stop twinkling, the cookies are all eaten, and the trees lose their tinsel is what's most important." I liked it, and plan to seek out more by Augusten Burroughs.

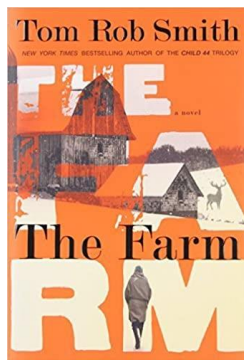
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (1931) Classic



Aldous Huxley's profoundly important classic of world literature, *Brave New World* is a searching vision of an unequal, technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order—all at the cost of our freedom, full humanity, and perhaps also our souls. "A genius [who] who spent his life decrying the onward march of the Machine" (*The New Yorker*), Huxley was a man of incomparable talents: equally an artist, a spiritual seeker, and one of history's keenest observers of human nature and civilization. *Brave New World*, his masterpiece, has enthralled and terrified millions of readers, and retains its urgent relevance to this day as both a warning to be heeded as we head into tomorrow and as thought-provoking, satisfying work of literature. Written in the shadow of the rise of fascism during the 1930s, *Brave New World* likewise speaks to a 21st-century world dominated by mass-entertainment, technology, medicine and pharmaceuticals, the arts of persuasion, and the hidden influence of elites.

I don't recall ever having read *Brave New World*, though I've often had copies and intentions to do so. This time, I cheated and listened to it while driving. It's an excellent use of my time and I enjoyed the book more than I would have otherwise. It really is a wonderful book and one you should read and ponder much earlier in your life than I did. I give it an A (How could I not!)

The Farm by Tom Rob Smith (2014) Mystery



If you refuse to believe me, I will no longer consider you my son.

Daniel believed that his parents were enjoying a peaceful retirement on a remote farm in Sweden. But with a single phone call, everything changes.

Your mother...she's not well, his father tells him. She's been imagining things - terrible, terrible things. She's had a psychotic breakdown, and been committed to a mental hospital.

Before Daniel can board a plane to Sweden, his mother calls: Everything that man has told you is a lie. I'm not mad... I need the police... Meet me at Heathrow.

Caught between his parents, and unsure of who to believe or trust, Daniel becomes his mother's unwilling judge and jury as she tells him an urgent tale of secrets, of lies, of a crime and a conspiracy that implicates his own father.

The Farm is a very slow developing book. Through the first ½ it is providing background so you know the “players.” It does pick up pace later, but doesn't attain full pace until you are near the end. I give it a B-.

Shade's Children by Garth Nix (1997) Young Adult

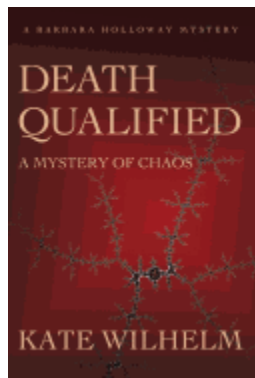


In the brutal world of the future, an unspeakable fate awaits the human children of the Dormitories when they turn fourteen. It is from this Sad Birthday that Shade's Children' Ella, Drum, Gold-Eye, and Ninde' have escaped. Hunted ceaselessly by savage mutant creatures, they join forces to form a resistance movement. Cunning, clairvoyance, and sheer desperate force of will help them. But ultimately their fate rests with the charismatic Shade, who calls himself their friend . . .

This complex, suspenseful, thoroughly absorbing tale of the future fulfills all the promise of Sabriel, Garth Nix's debut young adult novel.

I picked this book with little consideration, in part, because It's been a while since I read a YA title. Frightening and brutal, but not gory, I found myself really rooting for the "children." It presents a world where human children are raised to provide parts for gaming pieces. The only apparent hope for the future of humans is this small group. It's a thrilling and inventive story. I enjoyed it and give it an A-. It's not for the youngest teens, but most will enjoy it anyway.

Death Qualified, A Mystery of Chaos by Kate Wilhelm (1991)



Five years ago Barbara Holloway gave up practicing law, disillusioned with a profession that put politics before justice. Then she receives a phone call, with a simple message: "I need you."

Nell Kendrick's husband disappeared seven years earlier, abandoning his young family. Nell hasn't seen him since -- until the day Lucas Kendricks arrives at the edge of her property and is shot, instantly killed.

Accused of his murder, Nell turns to lawyer Frank Holloway for help. But Frank knows he cannot win this case alone. He calls upon his daughter, Barbara, who remains "death qualified" -- legally able to defend clients who face the death penalty if convicted.

Barbara is determined to stay distanced from the case, but the more she learns, the more questions she finds herself asking. Is Nell innocent, as Frank attests? Where has Lucas Kendricks been for the past seven years? Despite her vow, Barbara finds herself drawn to the case . . . and reclaims the search for truth that first led her to the law.

I don't believe I've ever read Kate Wilhelm before. That was a huge mistake on my part. I very highly recommend her to you and this book in particular. It's the first book in a 14-book Barbara Holloway series, so you'll have many more to enjoy. Wilhelm died in 2018 but left us 50+ titles to enjoy. Her phraseology is wonderful. It's never contrived, always seems to fit precisely where it is and enhances the story rather than filling it with drivel. She has among her books both mysteries and Sci Fi and some crossovers. Better give her a try. Her books will only become scarcer. I give this one an A!

The August 2021 winner #2 is:

Tim Trettin

Hard Truth, An Anna Pigeon Mystery by Nevada Barr (2005)



Just three days after her wedding to Sheriff Paul Davidson, Anna Pigeon moves from Mississippi to Colorado to assume her new post as district ranger

at Rocky Mountain National Park, where three young girls have disappeared during a religious retreat. Two of the children emerge a month later, clad only in filthy underwear and claiming to remember nothing of the intervening weeks. The girls are traumatized but forge a bond with the pair of campers who discovered them - a wheelchair-bound paraplegic and her elderly aunt.

With the reappearance of the children comes an odd and unsettling presence in the park, a sense of disembodied evil and unspeakable terror: small animals are mercilessly slaughtered and a sinister force seems to still control the girls. As Anna investigates, she finds herself caught up in the machinations of a paranoid religious sect determined to keep their secrets and the girls sequestered from law enforcement and psychiatric help.

Following the trails of the many suspects, especially that of the cult's intense youth group leader, Anna discovers the force which has destroyed the children's minds. Here in the park, evil has the eyes of a visionary and the soul of the devil. Anna will discover the truth-even if it kills her. I've read several of Nevada Barr's books and have always found them very enjoyable. Hard Truth is no different, in that respect. The Rocky Mountain Park setting is effectively developed establishing the environment. As many of you know, Nevada is one of our greatest current mystery writers. I give Hard Truth a B+. If you like C.J. Box, Tony Hillerman, J.A. Jance or Max Allen Collins, you'll like Nevada Barr.

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Did You Know?

Poet John Berryman jumped to his death from a bridge in Minneapolis in 1972.

Chinese poet, Li Po met the Grim Reaper when, on a boat one night, he reached over the edge to kiss the reflection of the moon on the water, fell in and drowned.

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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

Ben Bova – Neptune – 28.99 – Sci Fi



In the future, humanity has spread throughout the solar system, on planets and moons once visited only by robots or explored at a distance by far-voyaging spacecraft. No matter how hostile or welcoming the environment, mankind has forged a path and found a home.

In the far reaches of the solar system, the outer planets--billions of miles from Earth, unknown for millennia--are being settled. Neptune, the ice giant, is swathed in clouds of hydrogen, helium, and methane and circled by rings of rock and dust. Three years ago, Ilona Magyr's father, Miklos, disappeared while exploring the seas of Neptune. Everyone believes he is dead--crushed, frozen, or boiled alive in Neptune's turbulent seas.

With legendary space explorer Derek Humbolt piloting her ship and planetary scientist Jan Meitner guiding the search, Ilona Magyr knows she will find her father--alive--on Neptune.

Her plans are irrevocably altered when she and her team discover the wreckage of an alien ship deep in Neptune's ocean, a discovery which changes humanity's understanding of its future...and its past.

Sandra Brown – Blind Tiger – 28.00 – Thriller

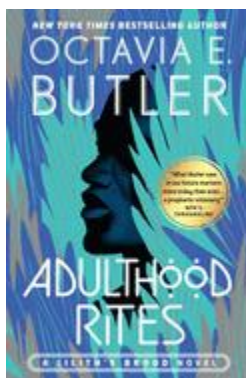
James Lee Burke – Another Kind of Eden – 27.00 – Thriller



The American West in the early 1960s appears to be a pastoral paradise: golden wheat fields, mist-filled canyons, frolicking animals. Aspiring novelist Aaron Holland Broussard has observed it from the open door of a boxcar, riding the rails for both inspiration and odd jobs.

Jumping off in Denver, he finds work on a farm and meets Joanne McDuffy, an articulate and fierce college student and gifted painter. Their soul connection is immediate, but their romance is complicated by Joanne's involvement with a shady professor who is mixed up with a drug-addled cult. When a sinister businessman and his son who wield their influence through vicious cruelty set their sights on Aaron, drawing him into an investigation of grotesque murders, it is clear that this idyllic landscape harbors tremendous power--and evil. Followed by a mysterious shrouded figure who might not be human, Aaron will have to face down all these foes to save the life of the woman he loves and his own. The latest installment in James Lee Burke's masterful Holland family saga, *Another Kind of Eden* is both riveting and one of Burke's most ambitious works to date. It dismantles the myths of both the twentieth-century American West and the peace-and-love decade, excavating the beauty and idealism of the era to show the menace and chaos that lay simmering just beneath the surface.

Octavia Butler – Adulthood Rites – 16.99 – Sci Fi



After the near-extinction of the human race, one young man with extraordinary gifts will reveal whether the human race can learn from its past and rebuild their future . . . or is doomed to self-destruction.

In the future, nuclear war has destroyed nearly all humankind. An alien race intervenes, saving the small group of survivors from certain death. But their salvation comes at a cost.

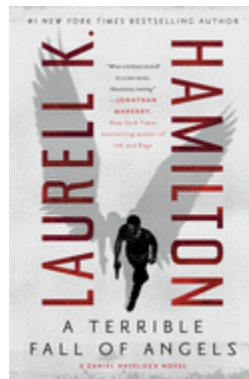
The Oankali are able to read and mutate genetic code, and they use these skills for their own survival, interbreeding with new species to constantly adapt and evolve. They value the intelligence they see in humankind but also know that the species--rigidly bound to destructive social hierarchies--is destined for failure. They are determined that the only way forward is for the two races to produce a new hybrid species--and they will not tolerate rebellion.

Akin looks like an ordinary human child. But as the first true human-alien hybrid, he is born understanding language, then starts to form sentences at two months old. He can see at a molecular level and kill with a touch. More powerful than any human or Oankali, he will be the architect of both races' future. But before he can carry this new species into the stars, Akin must reconcile with his own heritage in a world already torn in two.

Robin Cook – Viral – 27.00 – Thriller

Catherine Coulter – Vortex, an FBI Thriller – 28.99

Laurell K. Hamilton – A Terrible Fall of Angels – 28.00 – Fantasy



"Angels walk among us, but so do other unearthly beings in this brand-new series by #1 New York Times bestselling author Laurell K. Hamilton. Meet Detective Zaniel Havelock, a man with the special ability to communicate directly with angels. A former trained angel speaker, he devoted his life to serving both the celestial beings and his fellow humans with his gift, but a terrible betrayal compelled him to leave that life behind. Now he's a cop who is still working on the side of angels. But where there are angels, there are also demons. There's no question that there's evil at work when he's called in to examine the murder scene of a college student-but is it just the evil that one human being can do to another, or is it something more? When demonic possession is a possibility, even angelic protection can only go so far. The race is on to stop a killer before he finds his next victim, as Zaniel is forced to confront his own very personal demons, and the past he never truly left behind. The first in a new series from the author of the Anita Blake and Merry Gentry series"--

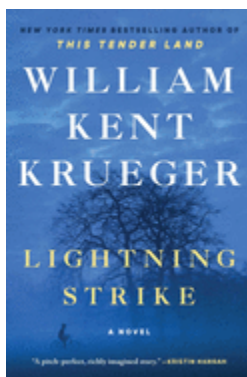
Paula Hawkins – A Slow Fire Burning – 28.00 – Thriller



When a young man is found gruesomely murdered in a London houseboat, it triggers questions about three women who knew him. Laura is the troubled one-night-stand last seen in the victim's home. Carla is his grief-stricken aunt, already mourning the recent death of yet another family member. And Miriam is the nosy neighbor clearly keeping secrets from the police. Three women with separate connections to the victim. Three women who are - for different reasons - simmering with resentment. Who are, whether they know it or not, burning to right the wrongs done to them. When it comes to revenge, even good people might be capable of terrible deeds. How far might any one of them go to find peace? How long can secrets smolder before they explode into flame?

Peter Heller – The Guide – 27.00 – General

William Kent Krueger – Lightning Strike, 18 – 27.00 – Mystery



Aurora is a small town nestled in the ancient forest alongside the shores of Minnesota's Iron Lake. In the summer of 1963, it is the whole world to twelve-year-old Cork O'Connor, its rhythms as familiar as his own heartbeat. But when Cork stumbles upon the body of a man he revered hanging from a tree in an abandoned logging camp, it is the first in a series of events that will cause him to question everything he took for granted about his hometown, his family, and himself.

Cork's father, Liam O'Connor, is Aurora's sheriff and it is his job to confirm that the man's death was the result of suicide, as all the evidence suggests. In the shadow of his father's official investigation, Cork begins to look for answers on his own. Together, father and son face the ultimate test of choosing between what their heads tell them is true and what their hearts know is right.

Bentley Little – The Store – 12.00 - Horror

Fern Michaels – 19 Yellow Moon Road – 28.95 – General



In a thrilling story of friendship, adventure, and vigilante justice from the legendary bestseller Fern Michaels, The Sisterhood reunites to investigate The Haven, a suspicious spiritual organization that's more dangerous cult than caring commune...

The Sisterhood: a group of women from all walks of life bound by friendship and years of adventure. Armed with vast resources, top-notch expertise, and a loyal network of allies around the globe, the Sisterhood will not rest until every wrong is made right.

Maggie Spritzer's nose for a story doesn't just make her a top-notch newspaper editor, it also tells her when to go the extra mile for a friend. When she gets a strange message from her journalism pal, Gabby Richardson, Maggie knows her services are needed. Gabby has become involved with The Haven, a commune that promises to guide its members toward a more spiritually fulfilling life. But Gabby's enthusiasm has turned to distrust ever since she was refused permission to leave the compound to visit her sick mother.

Maggie wants to learn more about The Haven, and the Sisterhood is eager to help. It turns out The Haven's founders

are the sons of a disgraced Chicago businessmen in prison for running a Ponzi scheme. They also have connections to a Miami billionaire with dubious sidelines. Soon, the Sisterhood gang embark on a search--and uncover a web of crime that runs deeper and higher than they ever imagined. And they'll need all their special skills to bring it down...

JoJo Moyes – Night Music – 17.00 – Literature



Isabel Delancey, a classical violinist, has always taken her comfortable life for granted. But when her husband dies suddenly, leaving her with a mountain of debt, she and her two children are forced to abandon their home and move to the Spanish House, a now-dilapidated manor Isabel inherited in the English countryside.

With the house falling down around them, and the last of her savings disappearing fast, Isabel turns to her neighbors for help, not knowing that her mere presence there has stirred up long-standing obsessions.

As she fights to make her house a home, passions and lives collide. Isabel will discover an instinct for survival she never knew she had-- and that a heart can play a new song. . . .

Marcia Muller – Ice and Stone, A Sharon McCone Mystery – 28.00

Louise Penny – The Madness of Crowds – 28.99 - Mystery

The August 2021 winner #3 is:

Susan Frydrych

Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child – Bloodless – 29.00 – Mystery

Agent Pendergast faces his most unexpected challenge yet when bloodless bodies begin to appear in Savannah, GA, in this installment of a #1 *New York Times* bestselling series.

A fabulous heist:

On the evening of November 24, 1971, D. B. Cooper hijacked Flight 305--Portland to Seattle--with a fake bomb, collected a ransom of \$200,000, and then parachuted from the rear of the plane, disappearing into the night...and into history.

A brutal crime steeped in legend and malevolence:

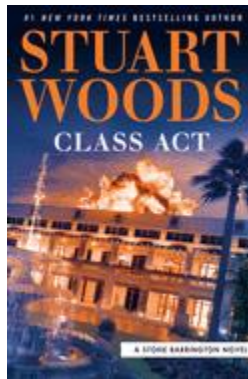
Fifty years later, Agent Pendergast takes on a bizarre and gruesome case: in the ghost-haunted city of Savannah, Georgia, bodies are found with no blood left in their veins--sowing panic and reviving whispered tales of the infamous Savannah Vampire.

A case like no other:

As the mystery rises along with the body count, Pendergast and his partner, Agent Coldmoon, race to understand how-or if--these murders are connected to the only unsolved skyjacking in American history. Together, they uncover not just the answer...but an unearthly evil beyond all imagining.

Danielle Steel – Complications – 28.99 - General

Stuart Woods – Class Act, A Stone Barrington Novel – 28.00 – General



Stone Barrington takes down old and new enemies ... After a rocky jaunt in Maine, Stone Barrington is settling back in New York City when an old client reaches out for help with a delicate matter. A feud they thought was put to rest long ago has reemerged with a vengeance, and reputations--and money--are now on the line. As Stone sets out to unravel a tangled web of crime and secrets, his mission becomes even more complicated when he makes an irresistible new acquaintance. In both the underbelly and upper echelons of New York, everyone has something to hide--and if Stone has learned anything, it's that history has a way of repeating itself

Trivia for August 2021

What famous writer bragged that he gave his talent to his work and saved his genius for his life?

Answer

Oscar Wilde

Mass Market Paperback

Taylor Anderson – Destroyermen: Winds of Wrath – 8.99 – Sci Fi



Matt Reddy and the crew of the USS *Walker* are positioned to push the line of battle to the breaking point on an alternate Earth, in the thrilling return to the *New York Times* bestselling Destroyermen series.

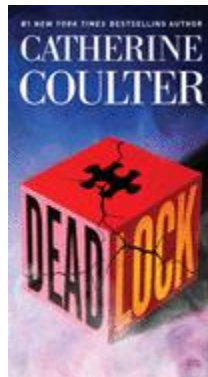
Matt Reddy and his sailors have fought, bled, and died for their Lemurian friends and other allies from across time, but their enemies are still operational. In Africa, the Grik General Esshk has escaped defeat to build a new army and new weapons, and is desperate enough to use them to destroy the world if he can't have it.

In South America, the NUS, General Shinya, and the Army of the Sisters have the evil Dominion on the ropes and are closing in on the seat of its blood-drenched power, but the twisted Don Hernan has struck a deal with the fascist League, and Victor Gravois is finally assembling the awesome fleet of modern ships he's always craved. If he's successful, the war will be lost.

Undermined by treachery on a stunning scale, Matt Reddy must still steam his battered old ship halfway around the world, scraping up what forces he can along the way, and confront the mightiest armada the world has ever seen in a fiery duel to the death.

Patricia Cornwell – Depraved Heart, A Scarpetta Novel – 9.99 - Thriller

Catherine Coulter – Deadlock – 9.99 – Thriller



A young wife is forced to confront a decades-old deadly secret when a medium connects her to her dead grandfather. A vicious psychopath wants ultimate revenge against Savich, but first, she wants to destroy what he loves most--his family.

A series of three red boxes are delivered personally to Savich at the Hoover Building, each one containing puzzle pieces of a town only FBI agent Pippa Cinelli recognizes. Savich sends in Cinelli to investigate undercover but someone knows who she is.

Savich and Sherlock are up to their eyebrows in danger, but first they figure must out the red box puzzle and the young wife's secret before it's too late

Dorthea Benton Frank – Queen Bee – 9.99 – General



Beekeeper Holly McNee Jensen quietly lives in a world of her own on Sullivans Island, tending her hives and working at the local island library. Holly calls her mother The Queen Bee because she's a demanding hulk of a woman. Her mother, a devoted hypochondriac, might be unaware that she's quite ill but that doesn't stop her from tormenting Holly. To escape the drama, Holly's sister Leslie married and moved away, wanting little to do with island life. Holly's escape is to submerge herself in the lives of the two young boys next door and their widowed father, Archie.

Her world is upended when the more flamboyant Leslie returns and both sisters, polar opposites, fixate on what's happening in their neighbor's home. Is Archie really in love with that awful ice queen of a woman? If Archie marries her, what will become of his little boys? Restless Leslie is desperate for validation after her imploded marriage, squandering her favors on any and all takers. Their mother ups her game in an uproarious and theatrical downward spiral. Scandalized Holly is talking to her honey bees a mile a minute, as though they'll give her a solution to all the chaos. Maybe they will.

Heather Graham – The Forbidden, Krewe of Hunters – 9.99 – Thriller

Susan Mallery – The Summer of Sunshine and Margot – 9.99



The Baxter sisters come from a long line of women with disastrous luck in love. But this summer, Sunshine and Margot will turn disasters into destiny...

As an etiquette coach, Margot teaches her clients to fit in. But she's never faced a client like Bianca, an aging movie star who gained fame--and notoriety--through a campaign of shock and awe. Schooling Bianca on the fine art of behaving like a proper diplomat's wife requires intensive lessons, forcing Margot to move into the monastery turned mansion owned by the actress's intensely private son. Like his incredible home, Alec's stony exterior hides secret depths Margot would love to explore. But will he trust her enough to let her in?

Sunshine has always been the good-time sister, abandoning jobs to chase after guys who used her, then threw her away. No more. She refuses to be "that girl" again. This time, she'll finish college, dedicate herself to her job as a nanny, and she 100 percent will not screw up her life again by falling for the wrong guy. Especially not the tempting single dad who

also happens to be her boss.

Kevin O'Brien – The Night She Disappeared – 9.99 – Psychological Suspense

Max O'Hara – Hell's Jaw Pass, Wolf Stockburn, Railroad Detective – 8.99 – Western



The building of the transcontinental railroad is the story of America itself. Full of great dreams--and greater dangers--it required bold vision, back-breaking work, and one brave man to stop the baddest of the bad men every step of the way. His name is Wolf Stockburn, railroad detective...

NEXT STOP, HELL. ALL ABOARD!

The killers are organized--and ruthless. One by one, they slaughter a railroad crew at Hell's Jaw Pass in Wyoming Territory. No survivors. No mercy. To ensure the rail line's completion, Wells Fargo sends their best detective, Wolf Stockburn, to the nearby mining town of Wild Horse. It's a rowdy little outpost full of miners, outlaws, and downright killers smack in the middle of two of the largest ranches in the territory. It's also as close to the pit of hell as Stockburn has ever been...

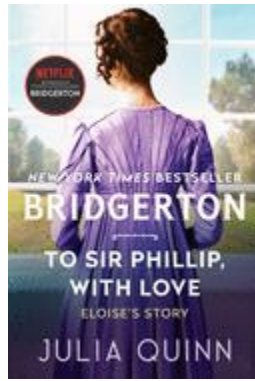
Train holdups, ranch wars, slaughter--this little boomtown's got it all. Stockburn's not sure he can trust anyone here, even the deputy's daughter. This pretty gal isn't just flirting with Wolf, she's flirting with disaster. And that disaster comes with a hail of bullets, and--before it's all over--a lot of blood on the tracks...

Nick Petrie – The Breaker – 9.99 – Thriller

The August 2021 winner #4 is:

Yvonne Long/

Julia Quinn – To Sir Phillip, with Love; Eloise's Story – 9.99 – Romance



ELOISE'S STORY

Sir Phillip knew that Eloise Bridgerton was a spinster, and so he'd proposed, figuring that she'd be homely and unassuming, and more than a little desperate for an offer of marriage. Except . . . she wasn't. The beautiful woman on his doorstep was anything but quiet, and when she stopped talking long enough to close her mouth, all he wanted to do was kiss her . . . and more.

Did he think she was mad? Eloise Bridgerton couldn't marry a man she had never met! But then she started thinking . . . and wondering . . . and before she knew it, she was in a hired carriage in the middle of the night, on her way to meet the man she hoped might be her perfect match. Except . . . he wasn't. Her perfect husband wouldn't be so moody and ill-mannered, and while Phillip was certainly handsome, he was a large brute of a man, rough and rugged, and totally unlike the London gentlemen vying for her hand. But when he smiled . . . and when he kissed her . . . the rest of the world simply fell away, and she couldn't help but wonder . . . could this imperfect man be perfect for her?

Danielle Steel – Royal – 8.99 – General



As the war rages on in the summer of 1943, causing massive destruction and widespread fear, the King and Queen choose to quietly send their youngest daughter, Princess Charlotte, to live with a trusted noble family in the country. Despite her fiery, headstrong nature, the princess's fragile health poses far too great a risk for her to remain in war-torn London.

Third in line for the throne, seventeen year-old Charlotte reluctantly uses an alias upon her arrival in Yorkshire, her two guardians the only keepers of her true identity. In time, she settles comfortably into a life out of the spotlight, befriend-ing a young evacuee and training with her cherished horse. But no one predicts that in the coming months she will fall deeply in love with her protectors' son.

She longs for a normal life. Far from her parents, a tragic turn of events leaves an infant orphaned. Alone in the world, that child will be raised in the most humble circumstances by a modest stable manager and his wife. No one, not even she, knows of her lineage. But when a stack of hidden letters comes to light, a secret kept for nearly two decades finally surfaces, and a long lost princess emerges.

A fascinating story of family and royalty, and an unforgettable portrait of an extraordinary young woman and the man who brings her home, *Royal* is an exhilarating work from America's most beloved storyteller.