

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 13, #2
February 2020
563-355-2310

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

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

BookRackQC@Gmail.com

Trivia for February

“The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles” and
“Mandy” are children's books written by what well-known
Oscar-winning actress?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

Our January 2020

\$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 and/or had a trade or purchase since 1 February, 2018.

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

The February 2020 winner #1 is:

Reba Ripley

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 **March 1, 2020 to claim your prize:**

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

Did You Know?

A 1631 edition of the Bible contained the exhortation: “Thou shalt commit adultery.” The English monarch of the time, Charles I, was horrified and recalled all 1000 copies as well as fining the printers 3000 pounds.

Books We Need

HARRY POTTER!!! - any/all

Louise Penny

Longarm Adult Western Series

William W. Johnstone

Stephen King (always)

Grisham, Baldacci & Lee Child (Hardcovers, too)

Terry Pratchett - Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch

Kristen Hannah - The Great Alone: A Novel

Kiera Cass - Happily Ever After: Companion to the Selection Series (The Selection Novella)

Robin D. Owens – Celta Series

Wanda Coven - Heidi Heckelbeck Series

Sarah J. Maas - Heir of Fire (Throne of Glass)

Caroline Kepnes - Hidden Bodies: A Novel

Elaine Viets - High Heels are Murder (Josie Marcus, Mystery Shopper)

Jana DeLeon - Hook, Line and Blinker (A Miss Fortune Mystery)

Dale Carnegie – How to Win Friends & Influence People

February 2020 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

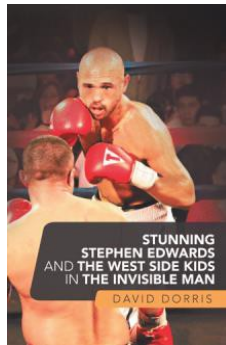
- American Heart Month
- An Affair to Remember Month
- Black History Month
- Canned Food Month
- Creative Romance Month

- 1 - Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day-first Saturday of month
 - National Freedom Day
 - No Politics Day
 - Spunky Old Broad's Day
- 2 - Ground Hog Day
 - Superbowl LIII
- 9 - Oscar Night
- 14 - Organ Donor Day
 - Valentine's Day
- 17 - President's Day
 - Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 22 - Local Author David Dorris New Book Launching Event 10 – 1:00
 - George Washington's Birthday
 - Be Humble Day
- 25 - Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday
- 29 - Leap Day

The February 2020 winner #2 is:

Gary Burkamper

Featured Author: David Dorris, Local Author
David will be at The Book Rack 10-1:00 as he launches his
latest book,
Stunning Stephen Edwards and The West Side Kids in
The Invisible Man



(The actual Stunning Stephen Edwards, pictured on the cover, is a renowned Quad Cities boxer with an outstanding record.)

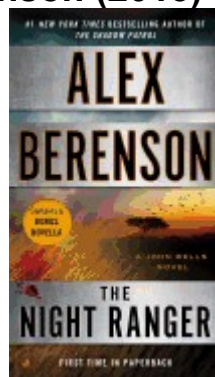
If you like to be entertained, you will really enjoy reading this book. This is an easy read for any age with a great story that will keep your attention, make you feel good and make you laugh. Oh yeah. Buy this book, go home, sit in your easy chair, put your feet up and start reading. Once you start getting involved with the story, you may say to yourself, "Impossible, can't be done. No way." And you will not want to put this book down. You may want to make yourself invisible so nobody will bother you as you read on with the laughs, plots, twists and turns with many surprises. The story centers around boxing with a boxer named Stunning Stephen Edwards as The Invisible man. The Jerry Dickerson gang is after Stephen for not taking a fall at his last boxing match. Stephen teams up with The West Side Kids Detective Agency and two Davenport Police Detectives to get out of trouble with The Jerry Dickerson Gang. Stephen is introduced a new way to fight crime. One of the Detectives gives Stephen a chemical to drink that will make him invisible. Jerry and his gang are no match for Stephen. As an invisible man, Stephen has fun pulling pranks and spying on The Jerry Dickerson Gang. After hearing what Jerry is planning, Stephen uses this information and forms his own schemes and uses The West Side Kids to fight Jerry.

David, who is the author, retired after working thirty-five years at Ralston Purina. He was a newsletter editor for The Dad's Club, his church and The Junior Chamber of Commerce over the years. He coached Dad's Softball for thirty years. He always taught the kids that played for him that life is like a sport, which encouraged him to write his other three books, "Life Is Too Short", "Life Is Too Short: Choices In Life" and "Life Is Too Short: Life Is What We Make It". David would joke around once in a while about writing a short story about a Dwarf going around robbing and killing people. He was caught by the police and this Dwarf was sentenced to the electric chair by a judge. David was going to call this short story, Small Fry. A friend of his suggested he write a book about Small Fry. After thinking about it, David came up with a more detailed version of Small Fry and all the Danger, Excitement and Adventure is in this book. In David's new book, the Danger, Excitement and Adventure continues as The West Side Kids team up with Stunning Stephen Edwards in Stunning Stephen Edwards and The West Side Kids in The Invisible Man. This story has a real live boxer mixed in the world of fiction containing The West Side Kids, two Davenport Police Detectives and The Jerry Dickerson Gang. There is no violence, but lots of laughs. The story line will make the reader want to keep on reading to find out what happens next.

Stop into [The Book Rack](#), meet and visit with David and pick up a copy.

Book Reviews

The Night Ranger by Alex Berenson (2013) Thriller



John Wells enters new territory, as he goes underground in East Africa to track four kidnapped Americans and the Somali bandits who snatched them. Four friends, recent college graduates, travel to Kenya to work at a giant refugee camp for Somalis. Two men, two women, each with their own reasons for being there. But after twelve weeks, they're ready for a break and pile into a

Land Cruiser for an adventure.

They get more than they bargained for. Bandits hijack them. They wake up in a hut, hooded, bound, no food or water. Hostages. As a personal favor, John Wells is asked to try to find them, but he does so reluctantly. East Africa isn't his usual playing field. And when he arrives, he finds that the truth behind the kidnappings is far more complex than he imagined.

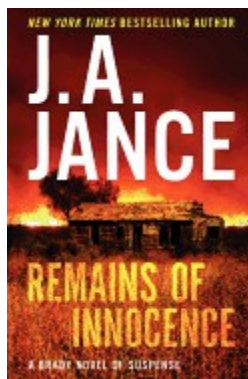
The clock is ticking. The White House is edging closer to an invasion of Somalia. Wells has a unique ability to go undercover, and to make things happen, but if he can't find the hostages soon, they'll be dead – and the U.S. may be in a war it never should have begun.

Reviewed by Mal Warwick in Goodreads. Com. In part he says: "...In The Night Ranger, the seventh novel in his John Wells series, Berenson casts a spotlight on one of the greatest tragedies on Earth, the plight of hundreds of thousands of refugees from the recurring drought and unending civil war in Somalia.

In most respects, The Night Ranger is a conventional thriller, with the doughty hero taking action against great odds to save humanity from great evil. In this case, he even gets to rescue two beautiful young damsels in distress, all the while his actions prevent another ill-considered invasion of a distant country by the US military. The action is virtually non-stop, and tension builds steadily toward a shattering climax, making the book progressively more difficult to set aside. ..."

I do agree with this general assessment. I enjoyed it, though didn't find it plausible. If you like fast paced thrillers in distant places and plenty of gun smoke, this is one to read. If you like authors Ben Coes, Larry Bond or Brad Thor, you'll probably like The Night Ranger. I give it a B

Remains of Innocence by J.A. Jance (2014) Mystery



Sheriff Joanna Brady must solve two perplexing cases that hit close to home in New York Times bestselling author J. A. Jance's thrilling tale of suspense that brings to life Arizona's Cochise County and the desert Southwest in all its beauty, mystery, and danger.

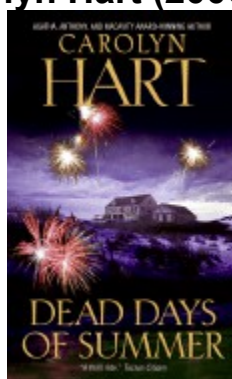
An old woman, both a hermit and a hoarder, is dying in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. While cleaning out her dilapidated house, her estranged daughter, Liza Machett, discovers a fortune in hundred-dollar bills hidden in the tall stacks of books and magazines that crowd every corner. After their father ran off with another woman, Liza and her older stepbrother grew up in this house, surviving poverty, squalor, and a mentally unstable mother. So where did all the cash come from?

For Liza, a waitress at a small local diner, the money seems like a blessing--until an elderly man she's never met appears at her mother's funeral, warning that she's in danger. Suddenly, Liza's quiet life is turned upside down. The house is torched, her apartment is broken into, and her elderly landlady is murdered. Someone very dangerous is looking for her and won't stop until she's found. Terrified, Liza sets off on a perilous cross-country journey that will lead her to Cochise County, Arizona, where Sheriff Joanna Brady is embroiled in a personal mystery of her own.

Junior Dowdle, a developmentally disabled man in his sixties, is found dead at the bottom of a hole in a limestone cavern near Bisbee. Inside the cave, the police also discover a badly injured kitten that is barely alive, as well as the remains of other mutilated pets. Joanna knows Junior's foster parents well, and she considered him a family friend. Though he'd always been kind and sweet, with the onset of dementia, he had begun having violent episodes. Could he have hurt those animals? Was his death an accident? Or is he a victim as well? Joanna and her modest staff have their hands full investigating Junior's death and the animal abuse they uncovered. Then another case rocks the department--a shocking murder involving Liza and the money. Her department stretched to the limit, the undaunted sheriff must solve these two disturbing cases fast, before more innocent blood can be shed.

I've long enjoyed Jance and this book is no different in that regard. The parallel investigations add an element of confusion enhancing the story line. I give it an A-. My experience says you'll not be disappointed by a J.A. Jance novel!

Dead Days of Summer by Carolyn Hart (2006) Mystery



Annie Darling, owner of the Death on Demand mystery bookstore, is understandably upset. It isn't like her P.I. husband Max to abruptly disappear--and homicide is definitely not his style. But when his car is found abandoned on a remote road with a brutally slain, once-beautiful young woman nearby and the murder weapon stashed in the trunk, Annie's worst fears seem justified.

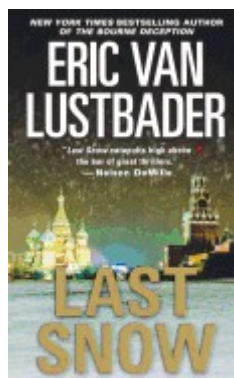
The police have Max all but tried and convicted--except for Chief Billy Cameron, whose unshakable belief in his friend's innocence prompts his removal from the case. And as a media circus descends on tiny Broward's Rock, Annie will have to place her own life in jeopardy to clear her husband's name. But time is running out--and she has only one slim chance to unmask a killer who just may have committed the perfect crime.

“Carolyn Hart's craftsmanship makes her mystery's Queen of Cs – cozy, clever, and chock-full of charm.” Mary Daheim

“Carolyn Hart has served up yet another delicious mystery that kept me guessing until the end. YUM!” Diane Mott Davidson

I agree with the above comments. This mystery did keep me guessing and is very well crafted. I enjoyed it and give it a B+. If you avoid cozy mysteries, try one of Hart's Death on Demand series and open up a whole new genre for your reading pleasure.

Last Snow by Eric Van Lustbader (2010) Thriller



Jack McClure, Special Advisor and closest friend to the new President of the United States, interprets the world very differently from the rest of us. It's his greatest liability, and his greatest asset.

An American senator, supposedly on a political trip to the Ukraine, turns up dead on the island of Capri. When the President asks him to find out how and why, Jack sets out from Moscow across Eastern Europe, following a perilous trail of diplomats, criminals, and corrupt politicians. Thrust into the midst of a global jigsaw puzzle, Jack's unique dyslexic mind allows him to put together the pieces that others can't even see.

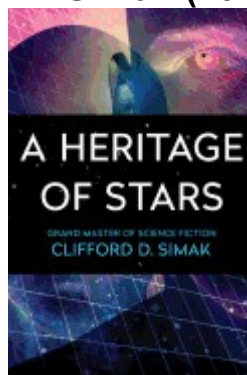
Still unreconciled to the recent death of his daughter and the dissolution of his marriage, Jack takes on a personal mission along with his official one: keeping safe from harm his two unlikely, unexpected, and incompatible companions-- Annika Dementieva, a rogue Russian FSB agent, and Alli Carson, the President's daughter. As he struggles to keep both young women safe and unearth the answers he seeks, hunted by everyone from the Russian mafia to the Ukrainian police to his own NSA, Jack learns just how far up the American and Russian political ladders corruption and treachery has reached.

In the vein of his bestselling Jason Bourne novels, Lustbader takes us on an international adventure in this powerful page-turner that will keep you reading through the night.

Last Snow is an expansive novel (lots of pages). Frequent violence will make thriller fans fully engaged. The belief you understand the many relationships and alliances will sooner or later prompt you to give up trying and let Lustbader eventually reveal the true picture. I give it a B+.

If you like Robert Ludlum, Tom Clancy and Wilbur Smith, you may well enjoy Lustbader. If you do like him, he has written enough novels in various genre to keep you satisfied for a very long time.

A Heritage of Stars by Clifford D. Simak (1977) Sci Fi



Publisher Marketing:

A man hunts for lost knowledge in a future society that's reverted to a primitive tribal state. More than a thousand years have passed since humankind intentionally destroyed its treacherous technology, choosing to return to a primitive tribal state. In this society the rusting brain cases of long-inert robots are considered trophies, and the scant knowledge that has survived is doled out to an inquisitive few in monastery-like "universities." It is at one such center of learning that young Tom Cushing first reads of the legendary "Place of Going to the Stars," rumored to exist on a high butte somewhere in the western part of the land. Driven by enthusiasm and an insatiable need to track the myth to its source, Tom sets out on an amazing trek across what was once called "America," teaming up with a witch, the world's last remaining robot, and other odd companions. But all the astonishing discoveries and dangers they encounter along the way will pale before the revelations that await them at journey's end.

Clifford D. Simak, award-winning science fiction Grand Master, offers a breathtaking vision of the future that is both dystopian and hopeful in equal measure. In *A Heritage of Stars*, he boldly displays the heart, intelligence, and awesome imaginative powers that have established him as one of the all-time greatest authors of speculative fiction.

What a fascinating book! Very creative in envisioning an America a thousand years after all technology had been destroyed and how humans would have evolved their civilization, and it isn't pretty! The story is not filled with bloodshed, but rather, with adventure and wonder. I give it an A. It's a short book of 182 pages, but that's just right for the story. It may not be an easy book to find, but well worth the effort.

The February 2020 winner #3 is:

Betsy Greenlee

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.

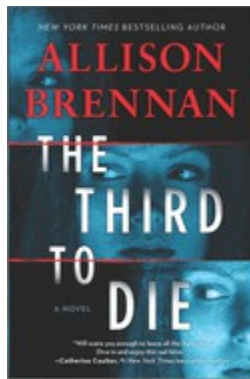
Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Greg Bear – The Unfinished Land – 26.00 – Fantasy



Steve Berry – The Warsaw Protocol – 28.99 – Espionage Thriller

Allison Brennan – The Third to Die – 26.99 – Thriller



Lois McMaster Bujold – Knife Children – 25.00 – Fantasy



Jasper Fforde – Early Riser – 17.00 - Fantasy

Joanne Fluke – Coconut Layer Cake Murder, A Hannah Swensen Mystery with Recipes – 27.00

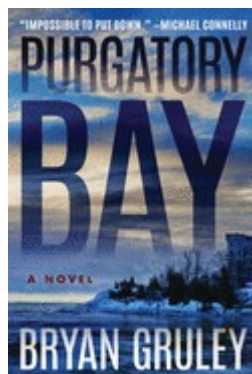


Meg Gardiner – The Dark Corners of the Night, An Unsub Novel – 26.99 – Spy Thriller

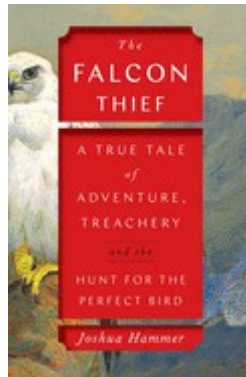


James Grippando – The Big Lie, A Jack Swyteck Novel – 27.99 – Spy Thriller

Bryan Gruley – Purgatory Bay – 24.95 – Espionage Thriller

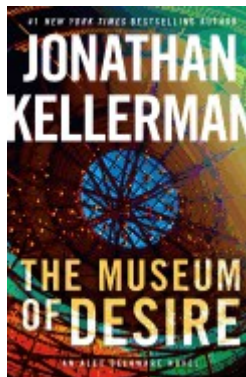


Joshua Hammer – The Falcon Thief, A True Tale of Adventure, Treachery, and the Hunt for the Perfect Bird – 26.00 – True Crime



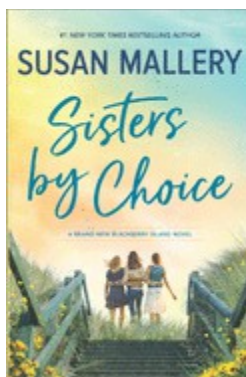
Lisa Jackson – Last Girl Standing – 28.00

Jonathan Kellerman – The Museum of Desire, An Alex Delaware Novel – 28.99 – Detective Mystery

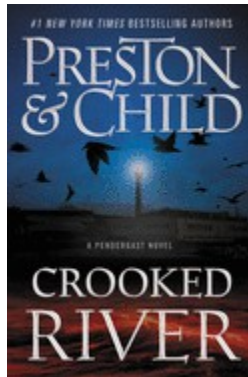


Terry McMillan – It's Not All Downhill from Here – 28.00

Susan Mallery – Sisters by Choice, A Blackberry Island Novel – 27.99

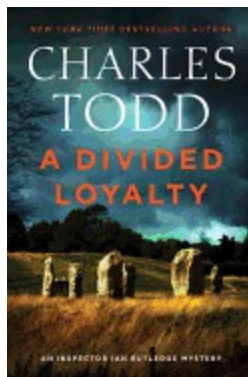


**Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child – Crooked River – 29.00 –
Detective Mystery**

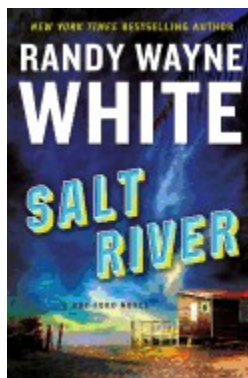


**J.D. Robb – Golden in Death, An Eve Dallas Novel – 28.99 –
Detective Mystery**

**Charles Todd – A Divided Loyalty, An Inspector Ian Rutledge
Mystery – 28.99**



**Randy Wayne White – Salt River, A Doc Ford Novel – 27.00 –
Detective Mystery**



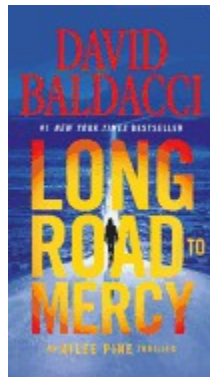
Trivia for February
“The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles” and
“Mandy” are children's books written by what well-known
Oscar-winning actress?

Answer:

Julie Andrews

Mass Market Paperback

David Baldacci – Long Road to Mercy, An Atlee Pine Thriller –
9.99

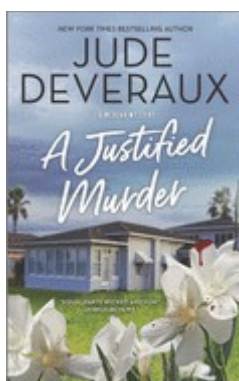


Anne Bishop – Wild Country, The World of Others – 8.99

Patricia Briggs – Storm Cursed, A Mercy Thompson Novel – 8.99

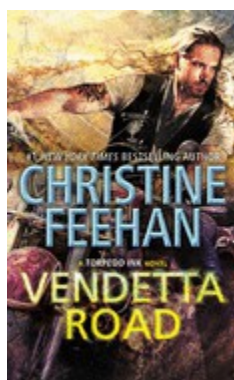


Jude Deveraux – A Justified Murder, A Medlar Mystery – 8.99

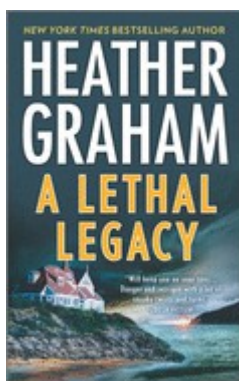


Jane Feather – Seduce Me with Sapphires – 7.99

Christine Feehan – Vendetta Road, A Torpedo Ink Novel



Heather Graham – A Lethal Legacy – 8.99



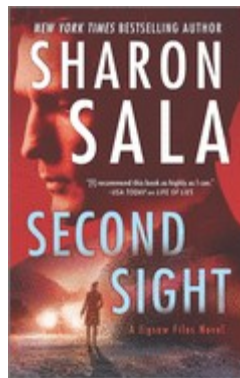
J.A. Jance – The A List, An Ali Reynolds Mystery – 9.99

Craig Johnson – Death Without Company, A Longmire Mystery – 9.99



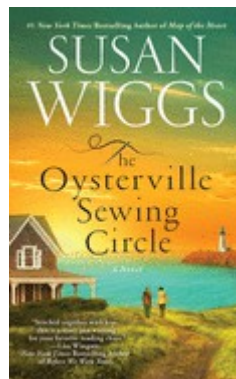
James Patterson/James O. Born – Ambush, The New Detective Michael Bennett Novel – 9.99

Sharon Sala – Second Sight, A Jigsaw Novel – 7.99



Lisa Scottoline – One Perfect Lie – 8.99

Susan Wiggs – The Oysterville Sewing Circle – 8.99



The February 2020 winner #4 is:

Paul Rozek