

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 15, #2 February 2022
563-355-2310
BookRackQC@Gmail.com

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

"You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."

— Dr. Seuss

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

— Mahatma Gandhi

Trivia for February 2022

Psychologist William Moulton Marston, inventor of the polygraph, or lie detector, also created a famous comic book heroine.

Who was she?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!

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

The names are selected from all our registered customers who have registered or had a trade, Request List addition or purchase in the past 2-years (Since February 1, 2020).

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

The February 2022 winner #1 is:

Chris Gibney

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 28 February, 2022 to claim your prize:

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

February 2022 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

American Heart Month
Black History Month
Creative Romance Month
National Bird Feeding Month
National Children's Dental Health Month

Day:

1 – Chinese New Year
1 – No Politics Day (If only!)
2 – Ground Hog Day
11 – Make a Friend Day
12 – Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
13 – Super Bowl Sunday
14 – Valentine's Day
15 – National Gum Drop Day
17 – Random Acts of Kindness Day
21 – President's Day

22 – George Washington’s Birthday
26 – Carpe Diem Day
28 - Oscar Night

A Flashback Recognition

In our January 2022 Newsletter we included a wonderfully written article about the various ways we handle books we don’t need. The credit for that article goes directly to Nicole Steinbaugh, a long-time, talented, and appreciated member of our staff. Nikki wrote the article on her own suggestion and we gladly added it to the newsletter without any meaningful alteration. She did a terrific job and is a very skilled writer.

Thank you, Nikki!!

Book Reviews

Review by Claudia:

Kayak Morning – reflections on love, grief and small boats, is a memoir by Roger Rosenblatt,



which continues his journey through the grief he describes in *Making Toast*, reviewed in an earlier Book Rack Newsletter. Two and a half years after his 38-year-old daughter’s death, Rosenblatt, takes out his kayak. Quietly rowing and drifting produces memories, observations and insights, including exploring his “years as a journalist, the comforts of literature, and the value of solitude, poignantly reminding us that grief is not apart from life, but encompasses it.” Recommended.

Book Reviews by Bob

Revenger by Alastair Reynolds – Sci Fi/Space Opera (2016)



A superb science fiction adventure set in the rubble of a ruined universe, this is a deep space heist story of kidnap, betrayal, alien artifacts and revenge. The galaxy has seen great empires rise and fall. Planets have shattered and been remade. Amongst the ruins of alien civilizations, building our own from the rubble, humanity still thrives. And there are vast fortunes to be had, if you know where to find them... Captain Rackamore and his crew do. It's their business to find the tiny, enigmatic worlds which have been hidden away, booby-trapped, surrounded by layers of protection - and to crack them open for the ancient relics and barely-remembered technologies inside. But while they ply their risky trade with integrity, not everyone is so scrupulous. Adrana and Fura Ness are the newest members of Rackamore's crew, signed on to save their family from bankruptcy. Only Rackamore has enemies, and there might be more waiting for them in space than adventure and fortune: the fabled and feared Bosa Sennen in particular. *Revenger* is a science fiction adventure story set in the rubble of our solar system in the dark, distant future - a tale of space pirates, buried treasure, and phantom weapons, of unspeakable hazards and single-minded heroism... and of vengeance..

Reynolds' newest action-packed science fiction novel is a tale of sisterly devotion, heartbreaking loss, and brutal vengeance . . . Fans will enjoy the well-developed characters and detailed world building. —**Booklist**

A must-read . . . an unexpectedly personal and emotionally-driven tale of determination and retribution - with some great twists along the way and a gutsy heroine who will appeal to fans of young adult literature. – **Starburst**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Fura Ness is a heroine I want to follow through more adventures. Reynolds' creativity while creating our galaxy countless centuries in the future is awe inspiring. I give it an A- and recommend this book and this author. Both will keep you fully engaged making a fairly long book (425 pages) a quick read.

Steve Hamilton – *The Second Life of Nick Mason* (2016) – Thriller



Nick Mason is out of prison. After five years inside, he has just been given the one thing a man facing 25-to-life never gets, a second chance. But it comes at a terrible price. Nick Mason is out of prison, but he's not free. Whenever his cell phone rings, day or night, he must answer it and follow whatever order he is given. It's the deal he made with Darius Cole, a criminal kingpin serving a double-life term who still runs an empire from his prison cell. Forced to commit increasingly more dangerous crimes, hunted by the relentless detective who put him behind bars, and desperate to go straight and rebuild his life with his daughter and ex-wife, Nick will ultimately have to risk everything--his family, his sanity, and even his life--to finally break free.

"[A] heart-pounding thriller with cinematic appeal...Hamilton cleverly imbues the narrative with myriad of twists and turns, allowing the intricate plot to unfold with stunning and extraordinary skill and suspense. From the honor amongst thieves, to the honor amongst those sworn to protect us, to the loyalty among childhood friends and beloved family, multiple worlds collide as Hamilton catapults us into Nick Mason's complex psyche."--Esquire.com

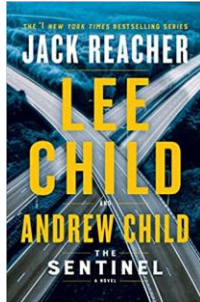
"As fertile as Chicago is for crime fiction, it isn't often that an outsider captures the underside of the local scene as memorably as Steve Hamilton does with *The Second Life of Nick Mason*, the terrific first installment in a projected series...The novel more than lives up to its hype."-- *Chicago Tribune*

"If this book were a bullet, it would blow a hole right through you. Once Steve Hamilton pulls the trigger, the action in *The Second Life of Nick Mason* never lets up. Hamilton's tale of a man released from one prison only to find himself trapped in another is told with all the style and power we expect from an Edgar Award-winning author. This is crime fiction at its finest."--William Kent Krueger (2014 Edgar Winner for Best Novel of 2013)

I thoroughly enjoyed this book for the reasons the above reviewers like it and could share their reasons so much better that I could! I give it an A. You may

have read Hamilton's Alex McKnight. I enjoyed that series as well. I think Nick Mason is better.

Lee Child and Andrew Child – The Sentinel (2020) – Thriller



As always, Reacher has no particular place to go, and all the time in the world to get there. One morning he ends up in a town near Pleasantville, Tennessee.

But there's nothing pleasant about the place.

In broad daylight Reacher spots a hapless soul walking into an ambush. "It was four against one" . . . so Reacher intervenes, with his own trademark brand of conflict resolution.

The man he saves is Rusty Rutherford, an unassuming IT manager, recently fired after a cyberattack locked up the town's data, records, information . . . and secrets. Rutherford wants to stay put, look innocent, and clear his name.

Reacher is intrigued. There's more to the story. The bad guys who jumped Rutherford are part of something serious and deadly, involving a conspiracy, a cover-up, and murder--all centered on a mousy little guy in a coffee-stained shirt who has no idea what he's up against.

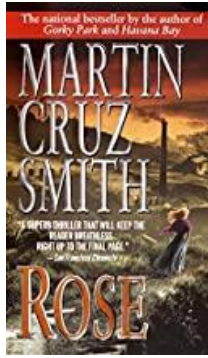
Rule one: if you don't know the trouble you're in, keep Reacher by your side.

"Much of *The Sentinel* is humorous as Reacher patiently teaches bad guys about the flaws in their tactics. While there's lots of action, the novel also feels like a procedural as Reacher interviews suspects and delves deeper toward the truth. . . . [*The Sentinel* has] one of the most inventive action sequences in recent memory. . . . It continues the series without any sense that there's now a coauthor. In a year of drastic change, fans will welcome the consistency." --

Publishers Weekly

I give *The Sentinel* a B+. A very good addition to the franchise, but with a bit less appeal. Maybe I'm just tiring of the series, but I'd like to see it spruced up. How long is Reacher going to be a vagabond?

Martin Cruz Smith – Rose – 1996 – Mystery



Jonathan Blair, a 19th-century man in the best muscular detective tradition. Until 1872, Blair was an avid explorer of Africa's Gold Coast, but now he has been exiled by his employer, Bishop Hannay, to the Lancashire mining town of Wigan. Blair's ostensible mission is to find John Rowland, the missing curate who was engaged to Hannay's daughter, but he quickly learns that he'll need all his bush survival skills just to stay alive in Wigan, where no one seems to want the curate found. Much of Blair's gritty charm lies in his hatred of all things English, just as he is hated in turn by the aristocratic Hannays, their peer relations, the Rowlands-and the miners. On the first day of his investigation, Blair steps on nearly every toe in a very touchy town, including those of Bill Jaxon, a miner skilled at a blood sport in which naked men fight with brass-studded clogs. Blair ends up on the wrong end of a clog more than once when he intuits that Jaxon's "pit girl" (a woman who sorts coal) may have lured the curate to his doom. Smith molds a spirited, sexy mystery and fires it with his characteristic love of atmosphere. But his real treat for readers is Blair, whose spicy observations imbue even this gray landscape with prismatic color, and whose verbal sparring matches with the Hannays and Rowlands are equal to Waugh in their hilarious, scathing send-up of English upper-class incivility. Smith's extravagant talent runs the spectrum here from sparkling dialogue and tantalizing mystery to grim, graphic depictions of mining life that sear both the conscience and the imagination. *Publishers Weekly*

Another really well conceived and written mystery by Martin Cruz Smith. He gives you a stark look deep into the English mining industry of the late 1800s, it's risks for the miners, their mindset when descending a mile into the earth, living conditions and the chasm between the miners and the mine owners. A wonderful book. I give it an A!

The February 2022 winner #2 is:

Nicole Sommers

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If you need a book and can't find it on our site, please try:

<https://www.ChrisLandsSearch.com>

This will search hundreds of other independent bookstores around the world to help you. If all else fails...there's always AMAZON, or better yet, pick another book! 😊

Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

Check out the prices following the title of the book. Those prices are the publisher's prices. **The Book Rack price is normally 20% lower.** When you pick it up at the store there is no shipping cost, though we can also ship it to you. Order now by calling the store or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment on all special orders.

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

Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Joanne Fluke - Caramel Pecan Roll Murder (Hannah Swensen Mystery) 27.99



Embracing a sweet escape from her usual routine at The Cookie Jar, Hannah gets asked for her help in baking pastries at the local inn for a flashy fishing competition with big prizes and even bigger names. But the fun stops when she spots a runaway boat on the water and, on board, the lifeless body of the event's renowned celebrity spokesperson... Famed TV show host Sonny Bowman wasn't humble about his ability to reel in winning catches, and no one knew that better than his tragically overworked sidekick, Joey. Did Joey finally take bloody revenge on his pompous boss--or was Sonny killed by a jealous contestant?

With goodies to bake and a mess of fresh challenges mixed into her personal life, it's either sink or swim as Hannah joins forces with her sister, Andrea, to catch a clever culprit before another unsuspecting victim goes belly up...

Features Over a Dozen Cookie and Dessert Recipes from The Cookie Jar!

John Gilstrap - Blue Fire (A Victoria Emerson Thriller) – Thriller – 26.00



They call it Hell Day--a world war that lasted less than twenty-four hours. Nations unleashed weapons that destroyed more than a century's worth of technology. Electrical grids cannot generate power. Communications and computers cannot run. And the remnants of the U. S. government cannot be depended upon. Those who survived must live as their ancestors did, off a land ruled by the whims of nature.

One-time congressional representative Victoria Emerson has become the new leader of the small town of Ortho, West Virginia. She has been struggling to provide food and shelter for the town's inhabitants, while coping with desperate refugees. An autumn morning's calm is shattered when her teenage son sounds the alarm with the cry "Blue Fire"--the code phrase for imminent danger.

A band of National Guardsmen intends to take Ortho and its resources for themselves. They have enough soldiers and firepower to eliminate anyone who dares to stop them. But Victoria swore an oath to defend and protect her people, and she isn't about to surrender. It's time to tap into the traditional American values of courage, ingenuity, and determination--and fight fire with fire.

Mark Greaney - Sierra Six (Gray Man) – Thriller – 28.00



It's been years since the Gray Man's first mission, but the trouble's just getting started in the latest entry in the #1 *New York Times* bestselling series.

Before he was the Gray Man, Court Gentry was Sierra Six, the junior member of a CIA action team.

In their first mission they took out a terrorist leader, at a terrible price. Years have passed. The Gray Man is on a simple mission when he sees a ghost: the long-dead terrorist, but he's remarkably energetic for a dead man.

A decade of time hasn't changed the Gray Man. He isn't one to leave a job unfinished or a blood debt unpaid.

Gregg Hurwitz – Dark Horse: An Orphan X Novel (Orphan X #7) – Thriller – 28.99

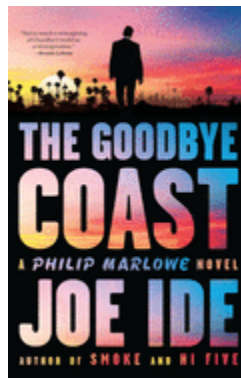


Evan Smoak is a man with many identities and a challenging past. As Orphan X, he was a government assassin for the off-the-books Orphan Program. After he broke with the Program, he adopted a new name and a new mission--The Nowhere Man, helping the most desperate in their times of trouble. Having just survived an attack on his life and the complete devastation of his base of operations, as well as his complicated (and deepening) relationship with his neighbor Mia Hall, Evan isn't interested in taking on a new mission. But one finds him anyway.

Aragon Urrea is a kingpin of a major drug-dealing operation in South Texas. He's also the patron of the local area--supplying employment in legitimate operations, providing help to the helpless, rough justice to the downtrodden, and a future to a people normally with little hope. He's complicated--a not completely good man, who does bad things for often good reasons. However, for all his money and power, he is helpless when one of the most vicious cartels kidnaps his innocent eighteen year old daughter, spiriting her away into the armored complex that is their headquarters in Mexico. With no other way to rescue his daughter, he turns to The Nowhere Man.

Now not only must Evan figure out how to get into the impregnable fortress of a heavily armed, deeply paranoid cartel leader, but he must decide if he should help a very bad man--no matter how just the cause.

Joe Ide - The Goodbye Coast: A Philip Marlowe Novel – Mystery – 28.00



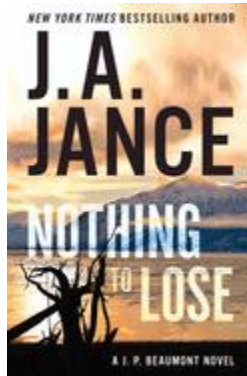
Raymond Chandler's iconic detective, Philip Marlowe, gets a dramatic and colorful reinvention at the hands of award-winning novelist Joe Ide

The seductive and relentless figure of Raymond Chandler's detective, Philip Marlowe, is vividly re-imagined in present-day Los Angeles. Here is a city of scheming Malibu actresses, ruthless gang members, virulent inequality, and washed-out police. Acclaimed and award-winning novelist Joe Ide imagines a Marlowe very much of our time: he's a quiet, lonely, and remarkably capable and confident private detective, though he lives beneath the shadow of his father, a once-decorated LAPD homicide detective, famous throughout the city, who's given in to drink after the death of Marlowe's mother.

Marlowe, against his better judgement, accepts two missing person cases, the first a daughter of a faded, tyrannical Hollywood starlet, and the second, a British child stolen from his mother by his father. At the center of *The Goodbye Coast* is Marlowe's troubled and confounding relationship with his father, a son who despises yet respects his dad, and a dad who's unable to hide his bitter disappointment with his grown boy.

Steeped in the richly detailed ethnic neighborhoods of modern LA, Ide's *The Goodbye Coast* is a bold recreation that is viciously funny, ingeniously plotted, and surprisingly tender.

J.A. Jance - Nothing to Lose: A J.P. Beaumont Novel – Mystery – 28.99

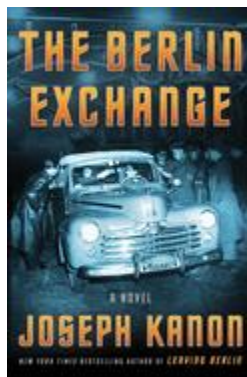


The newest thrilling Beaumont suspense novel from *New York Times* bestselling author J. A. Jance, in which Beaumont is approached by a visitor from the past and finds himself drawn into a missing person's case where danger is lurking and family secrets are exposed.

Years ago, when he was a homicide detective with the Seattle PD, J. P. Beaumont's partner, Sue Danielson, was murdered. Volatile and angry, Danielson's ex-husband came after her in her home and, with nowhere else to turn, Jared, Sue's teenage son, frantically called Beau for help. As Beau rushed to the scene, he urged Jared to grab his younger brother and flee the house. In the end, Beaumont's plea and Jared's quick action saved the two boys from their father's murderous rage.

Now, almost twenty years later, Jared reappears in Beau's life seeking his help once again--his younger brother Chris is missing. Still haunted by the events of that tragic night, Beau doesn't hesitate to take on the case. Following a lead all the way to the wilds of wintertime Alaska, he encounters a tangled web of family secrets in which a killer with nothing to lose is waiting to take another life.

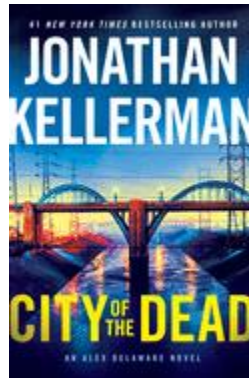
Joseph Kanon - The Berlin Exchange – Thriller – 28.00



Berlin. 1963. The height of the Cold War. An early morning spy swap, not at the familiar setting for such exchanges, or at Checkpoint Charlie, where international visitors cross into the East, but at a more discreet border crossing, usually reserved for East German VIPs. The Communists are trading two American students caught helping people to escape

over the wall and a lower level CIA operative. On the other side of the trade: Martin Keller, a physicist who once made headlines, but who then disappeared into the English prison system. Keller's most critical possession: his American passport. Keller's most ardent desire: to see his ex-wife Sabine and their young son. The exchange is made with the formality characteristic of these swaps. But Martin has other questions: who asked for him? Who negotiated the deal? The KGB? He has worked for the service long enough to know that nothing happens by chance. They want him for something. Not physics-his expertise is out of date. Something else, which he cannot learn until he arrives in East Berlin, when suddenly the game is afoot. Filled with intriguing characters, atmospheric detail, and plenty of action Kanon's latest espionage thriller is one you won't soon forget

Jonathan Kellerman - City of the Dead: An Alex Delaware Novel – Mystery – 28.99



"Alex Delaware and Detective Milo Sturgis must uncover the connection between a brutally murdered psychologist and a victim they're unable to identify in this electrifying thriller from the #1 New York Times bestselling master of suspense. Two burly movers are heading back into Los Angeles from the dusty wasteland of Ojai when they hit a man-a naked man who appears out of nowhere. Master detective Milo Sturgis is called to the scene and senses immediately that something is amiss. As the Tesla-driving denizens of this well-off neighborhood begin to congregate, shielding their children's eyes or craning to get a better view, Milo realizes there's no way to identify this body. There's no ID. The victim could be anybody. And that's when Milo calls upon psychologist Alex Delaware. Milo and Alex get their first lead from a crotchety old man who lives down the block. If the victim was naked, he could have come from her house-a woman who has men coming in and out at all hours of the day and night. But what the duo sees from outside her barred windows will make things take another complicated turn: It's a scene of incredible horror. She is lying on the kitchen floor; there is blood everywhere. And when they get a closer look, Alex realizes he knows this woman. She's a fellow psychologist. When traces of DNA found underneath her fingernails point to a man who is not the first victim, the detection really begins. . . ."—

Stephen King - Gwendy's Final Task – Horror – 28.00



When Gwendy Peterson was twelve, a mysterious stranger named Richard Farris gave her a mysterious box for safe-keeping. It offered treats and vintage coins, but it was dangerous. Pushing any of its seven colored buttons promised death and destruction.

Years later, the button box entered Gwendy's life again. A successful novelist and a rising political star, she was once again forced to deal with the temptation that box represented.

Now, evil forces seek to possess the button box and it is up to Senator Gwendy Peterson to keep it from them. At all costs. But where can you hide something from such powerful entities?

In *Gwendy's Final Task*, "horror giants" (*Publishers Weekly*) Stephen King and Richard Chizmar take us on a journey from Castle Rock to another famous cursed Maine city to the MF-1 space station, where Gwendy must execute a secret mission to save the world. And, maybe, all worlds.

Sarah J. Maas - House of Sky and Breath (Crescent City) – Fantasy – 28.00

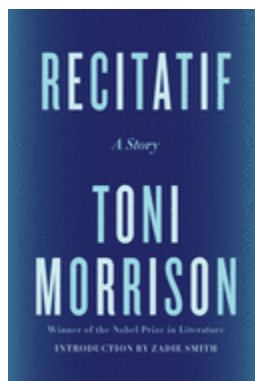


Sarah J. Maas's sexy, groundbreaking CRESCENT CITY series continues with the second installment.

Bryce Quinlan and Hunt Athalar are trying to get back to normal--they may have saved Crescent City, but with so much upheaval in their lives lately, they mostly want a chance to relax. Slow down. Figure out what the future holds. The Asteri have kept their word so far, leaving Bryce and Hunt alone. But with the rebels chipping away at the Asteri's power, the threat the rulers pose is growing. As Bryce, Hunt, and their friends get pulled into the rebels' plans, the choice becomes clear: stay silent while others are oppressed, or fight for what's right. And they've never been very good at staying silent.

In this sexy, action-packed sequel to the #1 bestseller *House of Earth and Blood*, Sarah J. Maas weaves a captivating story of a world about to explode--and the people who will do anything to save it.

Toni Morrison - Recitatif: A Story – Literary Fiction – 16.00

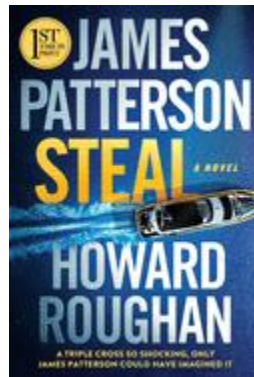


In this 1983 short story--the only short story Morrison ever wrote--we meet Twyla and Roberta, who have known each other since they were eight years old and spent four months together as roommates in St. Bonaventure shelter. Inseparable then, they lose touch as they grow older, only later to find each other again at a diner, a grocery store, and again at a protest. Seemingly at opposite ends of every problem, and at each other's throats each time they meet, the two women still cannot deny the deep bond their shared experience has forged between them.

Another work of genius by this masterly writer, *Recitatif* keeps Twyla's and Roberta's races ambiguous throughout the story. Morrison herself described *Recitatif*, a story which will keep readers thinking and discussing for years to come, as an experiment in the removal of all racial codes from a narrative about two characters of different races for whom racial identity is crucial. We know that one is white and one is Black, but which is which? And who is right about the race of the woman the girls tormented at the orphanage?

A remarkable look into what keeps us together and what keeps us apart, and how perceptions are made tangible by reality, *Recitatif* is a gift to readers in these changing times.

James Patterson & Howard Roughan – Steal – Thriller – 32.00



Art galleries and casinos, mansions and brothels, billionaires and thieves--only James Patterson could create a triple-cross this decadent and suspenseful.

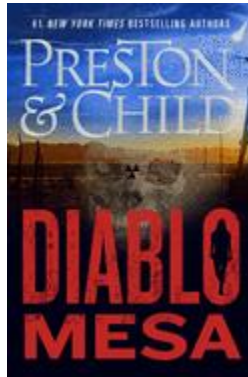
Imagine everyone's surprise when Carter von Oehson, a sophomore in Dr. Dylan Reinhart's Abnormal Psychology class, posts on Instagram that he plans to kill himself. 24 hours later and still no one has seen him.

Release the hounds. A massive search ensues. But when Carter's sailboat rolls in with the tide without him or anyone else on it, the worst seems to be confirmed. He really did it . . . Or did he?

The one person convinced he's still alive is his father, Mathias von Oehson, founder and CEO of the world's largest hedge fund. But what Mathias knows and how he knows it would ultimately reveal a secret so damaging that it would be as if he were committing suicide himself. There's no way he can go to the police. But there's still someone he can turn to.

Dylan now finds himself wrapped up in multi-million-dollar secrets and danger and it's going to take every bit of his wit, and the brilliant and headstrong NYPD Detective, Elizabeth Needham, to stay ahead of both his enemy . . . and his employer.

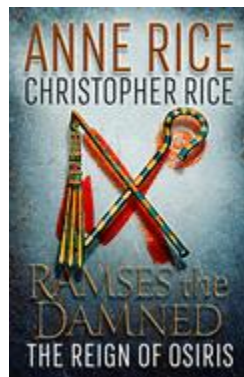
Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child - Diablo Mesa – Mystery – 29.00



Lucas Tappan, a wealthy and eccentric billionaire and founder of Icarus Space Systems, approaches the Santa Fe Archaeological Institute with an outlandish proposal--to finance a careful, scientific excavation of the Roswell Incident site, where a UFO is alleged to have crashed in 1947. A skeptical Nora Kelly, to her great annoyance, is tasked with the job.

Nora's excavation immediately uncovers two murder victims buried at the site, faces and hands obliterated with acid to erase their identities. Special Agent Corrie Swanson is assigned to the case. As Nora's excavation proceeds, uncovering things both bizarre and seemingly inexplicable, Corrie's homicide investigation throws open a Pandora's box of espionage and violence, uncovering bloody traces of a powerful force that will stop at nothing to protect its secrets--and that threatens to engulf them all in an unimaginable fate.

Ann Rice - Ramses the Damned: The Reign of Osiris (Ramses the Damned) – Horror – 17.00



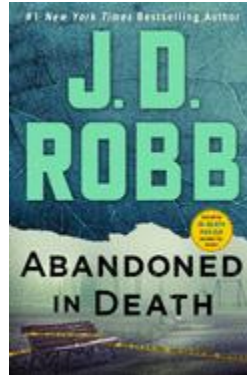
The gilded adventures of Ramses the Damned, iconic creation of the legendary bestselling author, continue in this breathtakingly suspenseful tale of a titanic supernatural power unleashed on the eve of war.

A pharaoh made immortal by a mysterious and powerful elixir, Ramses the Great became counselor and lover to some of Egypt's greatest and most powerful rulers before he was awakened from centuries of slumber to the mystifying and dazzling world of Edwardian England. Having vanquished foes both human and supernatural, he's found love with the beautiful heiress Julie Stratford, daughter of Lawrence Stratford, the slain archeologist who discovered his tomb. Now, with the outbreak of a world war looming, Ramses and those immortals brought forth from the mists of history by his resurrection will face their greatest test yet.

Russian assassins bearing weapons of immense power have assembled under one command: all those who loved Lawrence Stratford must die. From the glowing jewels at their necks comes an incredible supernatural force: the power to bring statues to life. As Ramses and his allies, including the immortal queens Cleopatra and Bektaten, gather together to battle these threats, Ramses reveals that the great weapon may have roots in an ancient Egyptian ritual designed to render pharaohs humble before Osiris, the god of the underworld. The resulting journey will take them

across storm-tossed seas and into the forests of northern Russia, where they will confront a terrifying collision of tortured political ambitions and religious fervor held in thrall to a Godlike power. But the true answers they seek will lie beyond the border between life and death, within realms that defy the imagination of even an immortal such as Ramses the Great.

J.D. Robb - Abandoned in Death (In Death #54) – 28.99 – Mystery



Homicide detective Eve Dallas must untangle a twisted family history while a hostage's life hangs in the balance--in *Abandoned in Death* by *New York Times* bestselling author J. D. Robb.

The woman's body was found in the early morning, on a bench in a New York City playground. She was clean, her hair neatly arranged, her makeup carefully applied. But other things were very wrong--like the tattoo and piercings, clearly new. The clothes, decades out of date. The fatal wound hidden beneath a ribbon around her neck. And the note: *Bad Mommy*, written in crayon as if by a child.

Eve Dallas turns to the department's top profiler, who confirms what seems obvious to Eve: They're dealing with a killer whose childhood involved some sort of trauma--a situation Eve is all too familiar with herself. Yet the clues suggest a perpetrator who'd be roughly sixty years old, and there are no records of old crimes with a similar MO. What was the trigger that apparently reopened such an old wound and sent someone over the edge?

When Eve discovers that other young women--who physically resemble the first victim--have vanished, the clock starts ticking louder. But to solve this case she will need to find her way into a hidden place of dim light and concrete, into the distant past, and into the cold depths of a shattered mind.

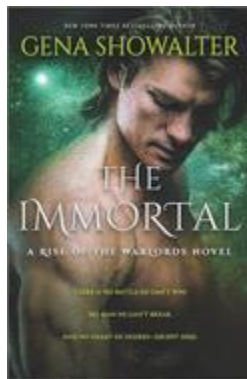
Lisa Scottoline – Eternal – Historical Fiction – 28.00



Elisabetta, Marco, and Sandro grow up as the best of friends despite their differences. Elisabetta is a feisty beauty who dreams of becoming a novelist; Marco the brash and athletic son in a family of professional cyclists; and Sandro a Jewish mathematics prodigy, kind-hearted and thoughtful, the son of a lawyer and a doctor. Their friendship blossoms to love, with both Sandro and Marco hoping to win Elisabetta's heart. But in the autumn of 1937, all of that begins to

change as Mussolini asserts his power, aligning Italy's Fascists with Hitler's Nazis and altering the very laws that govern Rome. In time, everything that the three hold dear--their families, their homes, and their connection to one another--is tested in ways they never could have imagined. As anti-Semitism takes legal root and World War II erupts, the threesome realizes that Mussolini was only the beginning. The Nazis invade Rome, and with their occupation come new atrocities against the city's Jews, culminating in a final, horrific betrayal. Against this backdrop, the intertwined fates of Elisabetta, Marco, Sandro, and their families will be decided, in a heartbreaking story of both the best and the worst that the world has to offer. Unfolding over decades, *Eternal* is a tale of loyalty and loss, family and food, love and war--all set in one of the world's most beautiful cities at its darkest moment. This moving novel will be forever etched in the hearts and minds of readers"—

Gena Showalter - The Immortal (Original) (Rise of the Warlords #2) – Romance – 25.99



Halo Phaninon, assassin of gods, is as cold and merciless as a machine. For victory, he crosses any line. When tasked to kill twelve of mythology's fiercest monsters in twenty-four hours, Halo eagerly accepts. Except, each morning he awakens to the same day, forced to relive new horrors. Only one other person retains their memory--the beauty who threatens his iron control.

Ophelia the Flunk Out hates her disaster of a life. She's the family disappointment, a harpy warrior without a kill and powerless--or is she? Nearly every night she's doomed to repeat her own murder, but each morning she arises to spar with Halo, the ruthless warlord increasingly determined to save her...and lure her to his bed.

Halo's insatiable desire for the stubborn Ophelia drives him wild...and he only craves more. If he remains in the time loop, they stay together. But if he escapes, they lose each other forever.

Donald Westlake – Call Me A Cab – Mystery – 14.95

DONALD E. WESTLAKE GOES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

In 1977, one of the world's finest crime novelists turned his pen to suspense of a very different sort - and the results have never been published, until now.

Fans of mystery fiction have often pondered whether it would be possible to write a suspense novel without any crime at all, and in *CALL ME A CAB* the masterful Donald E. Westlake answered the question in his inimitable style. You won't find any crime in these pages - but what you will find is a wonderful suspense story, about a New York City taxi driver hired to drive a beautiful woman all the way across America, from Manhattan to Los Angeles, where the biggest decision of her life is waiting to be made. From Pennsylvania to Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Arizona and Nevada on the way to California, the characters' odyssey takes them through uncharted territory - on the map and in their lives. It's Westlake at his witty, thought-provoking best, and it proves that a page-turner doesn't need to have a bomb set to go off at the end of it in order to keep sparks flying every step of the way.

The February 2022 winner #3 is:

Robert Petrie

Psychologist William Moulton Marston,
inventor of the polygraph, or lie detector,
also created a famous comic book heroine.
Who was she?

Answer:

Wonder Woman

Mass Market Paperback

Brett Cogburn – Smoke Wagon – Western – 8.99



LAST STOP ON THE TRAIN RIDE TO HELL

Welcome to Ironhead Station, Indian Territory, where the train tracks end and the real action begins. The hell-on-wheels construction camp is the final destination for hard-drinking sinners, gamblers, and outlaws. And woe to the man who tries to clean it up.

Morgan Clyde is a former New York City policeman and Union sharpshooter who lost everything in the Civil War. But he's still got his guns and his guts. Some folks say he's meaner and tougher than the Devil himself. Which is why the owners of the MK&T Railroad hired Clyde for one hell of a job. They plan to extend the rails through Indian Territory, connecting Missouri and Kansas to Texas...But the ornery citizens of Ironhead Station want to keep things just the way

they are. They've already killed the first two lawmen who tried to tame their town. Now they've put together a welcome wagon to greet Clyde, including one half-mad preacher, one hillbilly assassin, and twenty trainrobbing bushwackers. They're laying plans to stop the railroad dead in its tracks--along with their new lawman... There's just two things the folks of Ironhead Station didn't take into account: You can't stop the wheels of progress. And you can't stop a legend like Morgan Clyde...

Amanda Flower - Verse and Vengeance: A Magical Bookshop Mystery (Magical Bookshop Mystery #4) – 16.95



With the help of Walt Whitman's works, magical bookshop owner Violet Waverly puts her pedal to the metal to sleuth a bicycle-race murder that tests her mettle.

A bicycle race is not Charming Books proprietor Violet Waverly's idea of a pleasant pastime. But police chief David Rainwater wheelie wants them to enter the Tour de Cascade as a couple, so she reluctantly consents.

The Tour de Cascade is the brainchild of Violet's Grandma Daisy. The race is a fundraiser to build the Cascade Springs Underground Railroad Museum. But not everyone in this Niagara Region village supports the race. As if the bike race weren't tiring enough, pesky private investigator Joel Redding is snooping around Charming Books. It takes all of Violet's and Grandma Daisy's ingenuity to keep Redding from discovering the shop's magical essence--which communicates with Violet through books.

When Redding perishes in an accident during the race, David discovers that the brake line of the private eye's bike was cut. Worse, Violet tops his list of suspects. As Emerson the tuxedo cat and resident crow Faulkner look on, Charming Books steers Violet to the works of Walt Whitman to solve the crime. But no other names ring a bell as culprits, and as David's investigation picks up speed, Violet will have to get in gear to clear her name.

Gregg Hurwitz - Prodigal Son: An Orphan X Novel (Orphan X #6) – Thriller – 9.99



As a boy, Evan Smoak was pulled out of a foster home and trained in an off-the-books operation known as the Orphan Program. He was a government assassin known to a few insiders as Orphan X. He eventually broke with the Program and adopted a new name--The Nowhere Man--and a new mission, helping the most desperate in their times of trouble. But the highest power in the country has made him a tempting offer--in exchange for an unofficial pardon, he must stop his clandestine activities. Now Evan has to do the one thing he's least equipped to do--live a normal life. Evan gets

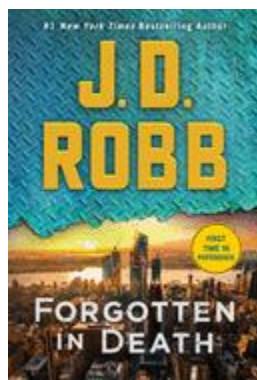
a call for help from the one person he never expected. A woman claiming to have given him up for adoption, a woman he never knew--his mother. Her unlikely request: help Andrew Duran--a man whose life has gone off the rails, who was in the wrong place at the wrong time, bringing him to the deadly attention of very powerful figures. Now a brutal brother-and-sister assassin team are after him and with no one to turn to, and no safe place to hide, Evan is Duran's only option. But when the hidden cabal catches on to what Evan is doing, everything he's fought for is on the line--including his own life

J.A. Jance - Breach of Duty: A J. P. Beaumont Novel (J. P. Beaumont Novel #14) – Mystery – 9.99



Jonas Piedmont Beaumont has had it rough all his life. Raised by his hardworking, unmarried mother and disowned as a youth by his grandparents, he learned at a very early age how cruel life can be. Two marriages, a treacherous battle with the bottle, assorted midlife and moral dilemmas, and a few decades as a homicide detective haven't convinced him otherwise. For his gruesome caseload continually reinforces those ugly childhood lessons about the awesome and terrifying cruelty of man. While the more things change, the more they stay the same, the Seattle that Beau knew as a young policeman is disappearing around him. The city is awash in the aromas emanating from a glut of gourmet coffee bars, the neighborhood outside his condo building has sprouted gallery upon gallery, and even his long-cherished diner has evolved into a trendy eatery for local Gen X-ers and hipsters. But all the glam is strictly surface, for the grit under the city's fingernails remains caked with blood...When Beau and his new partner Sue Danielson are assigned the murder of an elderly woman torched to death in her bed, Beau finds himself distracted by Sue's difficulties at home. Distraction soon turns to terror as Beau and Sue find themselves caught up in a series of events that will leave them and their carefully constructed investigation shattered. For Beau, nothing will ever be the same again.

J.D. Robb - Forgotten in Death: An Eve Dallas Novel (In Death #53) – Mystery – 9.99



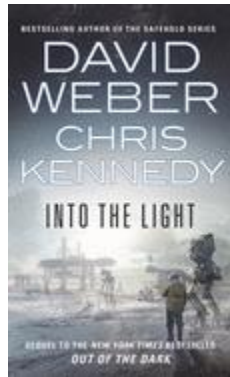
The body was left in a dumpster like so much trash, the victim a woman of no fixed address, known for offering paper flowers in return for spare change--and for keeping the cops informed of any infractions she witnessed on the street. But the notebook where she scribbled her intel on litterers and other such offenders is nowhere to be found. Then Eve is summoned away to a nearby building site to view more remains--in this case decades old, adorned with gold jewelry and fine clothing--unearthed by recent construction work. She isn't happy when she realizes that the

scene of the crime belongs to her husband, Roarke--not that it should surprise her, since the Irish billionaire owns a good chunk of New York. Now Eve must enter a complex world of real estate development, family history, shady deals, and shocking secrets to find justice for two women whose lives were thrown away...

The February 2022 winner #4 is:

Sue Paustian

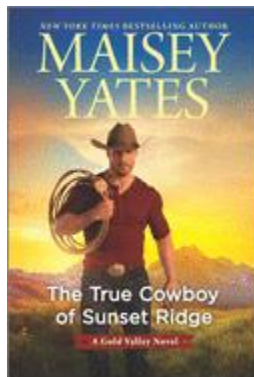
Weber, David & Kennedy, Chris - Into the Light (Out of the Dark #2) – Sci Fi – 9.99



The Shongairi conquered Earth. In mere minutes, half the human race died, and our cities lay in shattered ruins. But the Shongairi didn't expect the survivors' tenacity. And, crucially, they didn't know that Earth harbored two species of intelligent, tool-using bipeds. One of them was us. The other, long-lived and lethal, was hiding in the mountains of eastern Europe, the subject of fantasy and legend. When they emerged and made alliance with humankind, the invading aliens didn't stand a chance.

Now Earth is once again ours. Aided by the advanced tech the aliens left behind, we're rebuilding as fast as we can. Meanwhile, a select few of our blood-drinking immortals are on their way to the Shongairi homeworld, having commandeered one of the alien starships...the planet-busting kind.

Maisey Yates - The True Cowboy of Sunset Ridge (Original) (Gold Valley Novel #14) – Romance – 9.99



When a bull-riding champion is left caring for his friend's baby, could it be time to put down roots in Gold Valley?

Midwife Mallory Chance is ready for a fresh start in Gold Valley. And when she locks eyes with a handsome cowboy, it feels like fate. After too many years wasted on her cheating ex, good girl Mallory is ready to cut loose. But when the

dust settles, it turns out that her mysterious one-night cowboy is none other than her new landlord--and someone she'll be seeing *very* regularly around Gold Valley.

Bull rider Colt Daniels has a wild reputation, but after losing his friend on the rodeo circuit, he's left it all behind. If only he could walk away from his guilt as easily...or the temptation of Mallory. But he can't offer her the future she deserves. Then his friend's tiny daughter ends up on Colt's doorstep. Colt has never wanted to rely on anyone, but he needs Mallory's help caring for the baby he's beginning to love as his own. Is it all still temporary, or is it their chance at a forever family?