

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 13, #1
January 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 January

What was the origin of the expression “Cowabunga!” - the war cry of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

**Christmas Books Will Only Remain on Display until
January 12**

Pick up a book or 6 to help keep you in the holiday spirit.

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.

The names are selected from all our registered customers who have registered and/or had a trade or purchase since 1 January, 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 January 2020 winner #1 is:

Jason Sullivan

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

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

Did You Know?

Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-1882), a British poet, illustrator, painter and translator, overcome with grief at the death of his wife from an overdose of laudanum, placed the only copy of his poems in her coffin when she was buried. Seven years later, however, he claimed her spirit came to him in the form of a chaffinch bird and told him to reclaim them, which he duly did after having her dug up.

Books We Need

Longarm Adult Western Series

William W. Johnstone

Stephen King (always)

Grisham, Baldacci & Lee Child (Hardcovers, too)

J.R. Ward - Devil's Cut: A Bourbon Kings Novel (The Bourbon Kings)

Zach Zombie - Diary of a Minecraft Zombie (any)

Jeff Kinney - Diary of a Wimpy Kid (any)

Paul Tremblay - Disappearance at Devil's Rock: A Novel

Dav Pilkey – Dog Man (any)

Dork Diaries - Rachel Renee Russell (any)

P.C. Cast – Dragon's Oath
Leslie Meier – Easter Bunny Murder
Tara Westover – Educated: A Memoir
Darynda Jones - Eleventh Grave in Moonlight
Sara J Maas - Empire of Storms (Throne of Glass)
Vince Flynn - Enemy of the State
Tui Sutherland - Escaping Peril
Marie Force - Fatal Threat: A Novel of Romantic Suspense (The Fatal Series)
Dave Ramsey - Financial Peace Revisited
Jeff Brown – Flat Stanley (any)
Kristin Hannah – Fly Away
Jana DeLeon - Fortune Hunter (A Miss Fortune Mystery) (Volume 8)
Cleo Coyle – French Pressed (Coffeehouse Mysteries, No. 6)
Caitlin Doughty - From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death

January 2020 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

(Can you believe it's 2020?!?! Where have the years gone?)

January is:

National Blood Donor Month (No, donor blood doesn't actually go to vampires (See Free Verse, below))

National Braille Literacy Month

National Hobby Month

Hot Tea Month

Dec 31, 2019 – New Year's Eve - The Book Rack will close at 4:00 PM

January 1, 2020 - The Book Rack will be Closed

3 - Humiliation Day - should be viewed as a time to recognize the negativity of humiliating someone, or a group of people.

6 - Cuddle-up Day

6 - Epiphany

10 - Peculiar People Day

13 - Make Your Dream Come True Day

- 18 - Winnie the Pooh Day
- 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
- 24 - Compliment Day
- 28 - Fun at Work Day

Free Verse

is an occasional feature by one of our wonderful Quad Cities area local authors. We get to enjoy writing by a variety of local talent. These articles, short stories and poems are on a wide range of topics bound to be of interest to many of our readers. Please help spread the word by forwarding the newsletter to others. Give these folks as wide an audience as possible, please. And, the next time you visit The Book Rack, go left as you enter, avoid the white board and stop at the Local Authors section.

Being Dracula's Wife

From Domestic Demons II,

by Ellen Tsagaris

My name is Drusilla, and I'm the last of the three brides of Dracula. You know us; Bram Stoker wrote all about in the book about his nibs, "Dracula." I'm the last because the other two sister wives had it. They joined a polygamist cult eons ago and travelled from a sleepy Illinois town to the far west. They didn't tell me, of course. Just left me with that old coot, and his impossible daughter, Gloria. Not mine. Her mother had enough of her, too. She was the first to think of going West. Her name was Erzebet. Her co conspirator and sister wife is Cassandra.

They left me with an aging King of the Undead; we used to pay \$150 a month to sharpen his fangs at the dentist. What a waste. He's aged badly, and is now gumming his way through Gerber baby food. I often think of going out to the sun; I'd rather just end it all. Trouble is, we're too old and tough. The sun only gives us melanoma, and we suffer with everyone else. It's hard on my eyes, and I wear dark glasses all the time, Versace, if I can get them.

Remember that baby the three of us supposedly ate, or a least that's what Bram wanted us all to believe. Well, guess what! We had to babysit it. The nitwits in the village paid Drac so much per kid, while they went out and worked the fields. They

made plenty of money, trust me. Drac made more. Squalling, dirty, wet-diapered little brats. Plus, the sainted Gloria, daughter of the Undead, and our own kids. I had one daughter, too. Sweet girl, but very plain. Not at all flamboyant. She took after my side of the family.

We were no nonsense all the way. No frills. Plenty of money and gold socked away. Stupid Drac! I should say Drek! He fooled my dad. Not that Drac was ever mean to me; there was a time, but soon, he aged, and the touristy stuff turned his head, though I must say, Frank Langella came the close to capturing his inner Drac.

Gary Oldman was OK, but he was a little too wolfy and frumpy, and he looked more like my grandma Helen than Drac when he played the old vampire. I felt like I had to throw him milk bones when he was the wolf version of Drac.

Contrary to popular belief, we didn't change into animals; we just got older than everyone else, but more slowly. Immortality isn't all what it's cracked up to be. Here I am now, like one of the daughters of Milton, encumbered with much serving to an old Vamp of a husband, who can only recite lines from his play like, "Ah, the children of the night! How they sing!" He's listening to himself after I strap him into the shower chair. Big whoop.

Daily trips to the blood bank, frequent runs for disposable underwear and baby food, applesauce, the occasional pudding. Popping reruns of Little House on the Prairie in the DVD player, that's my life. For evermore.



Ellen Tsagaris is a college professor, blogger, doll curator and a lifelong poet. She has written poetry since childhood and her poetry has appeared in several periodicals. Sappho is her first poetry collection. Ellen also teaches various

creative writing workshops for the Midwest Writing Center, and her prior publications include the book, *The Subversion of Romance in the Novels of Barbara Pym* (1998, Popular Press).

The January 2020 winner #2 is:

Lillie Harman

Book Reviews

Every Hidden Thing by Kenneth Oppel (2016) Young Adult



The hunt for a dinosaur skeleton buried in the Badlands, bitter rivalries, and a forbidden romance come together in this beautifully written new novel that's *Romeo and Juliet* meets Indiana Jones.

Somewhere in the Badlands, embedded deep in centuries-buried rock and sand, lies the skeleton of a massive dinosaur, larger than anything the late nineteenth century world has ever seen. Some legends call it the Black Beauty, with its bones as black as ebony, but to seventeen-year-old Samuel Bolt it's the "rex," the king dinosaur that could put him and his struggling, temperamental archaeologist father in the history books (and conveniently make his father forget he's been kicked out of school), if they can just quarry it out.

But Samuel and his father aren't the only ones after the rex. For Rachel Cartland this find could be her ticket to a different life, one where her loves of science and adventure aren't just relegated to books and sitting rooms. Because if she can't prove herself on this expedition with her professor father, the only adventures she may have to look forward to are marriage or spinsterhood.

As their paths cross and the rivalry between their fathers becomes more intense, Samuel and Rachel are pushed closer together. And with both eyeing the same prize, their budding romance seems destined to fail. But as danger looms on the other side of the hills, causing everyone's secrets to come to light,

Samuel and Rachel are forced to make a decision. Can they join forces to find their quarry--and with it a new life together--or will old enmities and prejudices keep them from both the rex and each other?

While considered a Young Adult book, adults who like a good book will enjoy Every Hidden Thing.

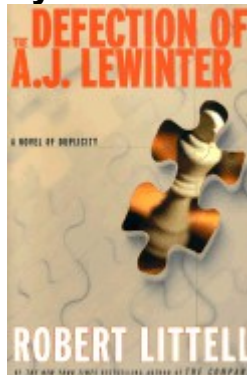
"Will intrigue those readers who love to read about dinosaurs, historical fiction, and who enjoy a good Romeo and Juliet type love story....Recommended."-- School Library Connection

"Fantastic...Opper offers an exciting and nuanced portrait of an era when great discoveries were lit by the desert sun, not the glow of a computer screen."--The New York Times Book Review "October 23, 2016

"Sam and Rachel are well-drawn characters, Rachel especially breaking with feminine stereotypes in her reluctance to enter into a relationship that isn't a true working partnership....Fascinating for readers interested in the romance, the paleontology, or the frontier history."--Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "November 2016 "

I thoroughly enjoy it and give it an A. Opper has many other titles, so you can try him out, even if this book should be unavailable.

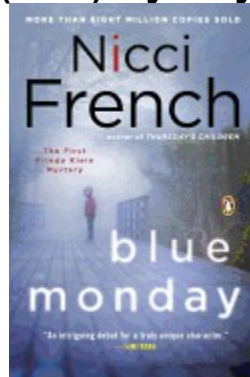
The Defection of A.J. Lewinter by Robert Littell (1973) Spy Thriller



A.J. Lewinter is an American scientist, for years an insignificant cog in America's complex defense machinery. But now he is playing both sides against the middle -- telling the Russians he wants to defect and tantalizing them with U.S. military secrets he claims to possess. But is his defection genuine? Neither the Russians nor the Americans are sure, and as each side struggles to anticipate its opponent's next move, Lewinter is swept up in a terrifying chess match of deceit and treachery that exploits friendships, destroys loyalties, and manipulates human beings as expendable pawns. A masterpiece of irony and intrigue, deft and dazzlingly plotted, this is Robert Littell's masterful debut -- the opening shot of a brilliant career.

What a fascinating and enjoyable spy novel. Unlike and I have read, it is as timely today as during the Cold War when it was written. Littell's stature has grown exponentially since he wrote this book, but this was the beginning. I highly recommend it to you for a very good, fast read. Littell has many other titles available and every one I've read has been terrific. I give this one a B+.

Blue Monday by Nicci French (2011) Mystery



The first book in the Frieda Klein Mystery series

"Complex psychological suspense at its best."--*Booklist* (starred review)

"Starts as a grim psychological thriller in the vein of Dennis Lehane's darker novels and turns into a fascinating puzzle in which character analysis holds sway. Highly recommended for fans of psychological suspense who enjoy a complex protagonist."

--*Library Journal* (starred review)

Immensely intelligent and poignantly human, Frieda Klein has captivated book critics and crime readers everywhere with her debut outing as *Blue Monday's* iconoclastic heroine. A psychotherapist and insomniac who spends her nights walking along the ancient rivers that lie beneath modern London, Frieda stars in a dazzling new crime series in which the terrors of the mind spill over into real life.

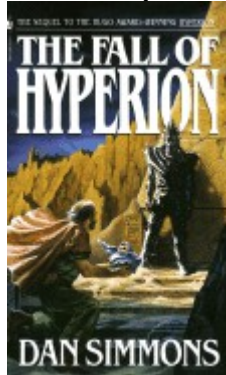
When five-year-old Matthew Farraday is abducted, Frieda cannot ignore the fact that his photograph perfectly matches the boy one of her patients describes from his fantasies. Before long, Frieda finds herself serving as the reluctant sidekick of Detective Chief Inspector Karlsson at the center of a desperate race to find the kidnapper. *Blue Monday* is an atmospheric, stunning first novel in a crime series.

Another new author to me and, fortunately, another winner! If you like Val McDermid, Max Allen Collins or Peter Robinson, you'll love Nicci French. BTW,

Nicci French is a collaboration between Nicci Gerrard and Sean French. They are also married.

A seriously suspenseful and credible crime novel and Frieda Klein is a terrific protagonist. I give it an A.

The Fall of Hyperion by Dan Simmons (1995) SciFi



"State of the art science fiction . . . a landmark novel."--Isaac Asimov's *Science Fiction Magazine*

Dan Simmons is a phenomenal talent. Since the triumphant publication of his first novel, the multiple-award-winning author of *The Hollow Man* has demonstrated equal facility for writing horror; thoughtful, literary fiction; and powerful, world-building science fiction in the best tradition of Frank Herbert, Larry Niven, and David Brin.

Now, in the stunning continuation of the epic adventure begun in *Hyperion*, Simmons returns us to a far future resplendent with drama and invention. On the world of *Hyperion*, the mysterious Time Tombs are opening. And the secrets they contain mean that nothing -- nothing anywhere in the universe -- will ever be the same.

The John Keats cybrid that was killed in the previous book, *Hyperion*, has been given a new cybrid body and taken the name Joseph Severn. Because of his special relationship with the original Keats cybrid, the consciousness of which now resides in a neural shunt on the back of Brawne Lamia's head, Severn is able to see visions in his dreams of the events unfolding to Lamia and the other pilgrims on *Hyperion*. CEO Gladstone takes Severn on as an advisor so he may keep her informed of events on the planet of *Hyperion*.

The Ouster rebellion attacks the Hegemony of man at *Hyperion*. The Hegemony fleet is certain it will be able to defend the planet but is quickly proved wrong. CEO Gladstone has already been advised by the TechnoCore that the Ousters must be fought, for any attempt at arranging a peace will end with the annihilation of the human race. Gladstone commits the fleet to *Hyperion* and the Hegemony is immediately attacked in multiple locations by Ouster ships that

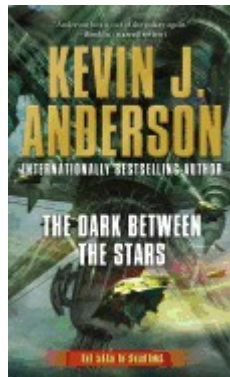
had not been detected. With the bulk of the fleet massed at Hyperion, the Hegemony defensive response is too slow, and the Ousters begin bombarding the outer worlds. It quickly becomes apparent that the Ouster attacking fleets are not what they appear.

In fact, it is the TechnoCore that is behind the war. It is attempting to wipe out humanity and make way for an AI-created Ultimate Intelligence. The TechnoCore knows it will succeed in creating the UI because it has already been contacted from the future by the UI. But the message from the future also stated that humanity will also create a new Intelligence capable of fighting the TechnoCore's UI. Part of that Intelligence has traveled back in time and is hiding itself in the current events. The TechnoCore wants to help the future TechnoCore UI to flush out the human UI and deal a crippling or fatal blow to humanity.

Inevitably, the war is settled by events at the Time Tombs on Hyperion and the actions of the Hyperion pilgrims and the mysterious creature from the future known as the Shrike.

A very innovative and interesting “space opera” set in the 29th century. So many things are going on at the same time, it was hard to get my arms around the story early on. I eventually did, but would probably be well served to read it again, after reading the first book. I still give it a B. If you enjoy wide ranging space sagas such as Dune, you will likely enjoy The Fall of Hyperion.

The Dark Between the Stars by Kevin J Anderson (2015) SciFi



It has been twenty years since the events of *The Saga of the Seven Suns*, in which an ancient war among four elemental races is reignited and nearly destroys both the human race and the alien **Ildirans**. The new Confederation has governed human civilization across its many colonized planets since the end of the Elemental War, and relations between the humans and Ildirans are harmonious. Peace and commerce have been restored, with the **Roamers** back in the business of mining and selling the valuable stardrive *ekti* fuel (required for faster-than-light travel) and the green priests of Theroc providing instantaneous trans-galactic communication via their sentient worldtrees. But the malevolent Klikiss robots are plotting their revenge from exile, and soon find an ally in the

ancient [Shana Rei](#), the destructive personification of darkness and chaos which has awakened from millennia of slumber to destroy all sentient life in the universe.

Another Space Opera of huge scope, this book was not well received by some critics who found it shallow in character development and in story. I liked it, none the less. I thought the characters were mostly ones to like and their development was sufficient to place them in the story. The battles were creative with new weapons and approaches interesting to envision and the enemies of mankind were frightening. I give it a B+.

The January 2020 winner #3 is:

Craig Winder

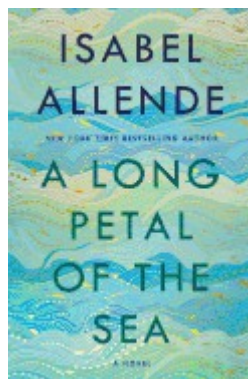
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

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

Isabel Allende – A Long Petal of the Sea – 28.00



Catherine Anderson – Huckleberry Lake, A Mystic Creek Novel –

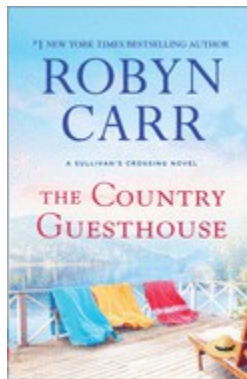
26.00

Lois McMaster Bujold – Penric's Progress – 25.00



James Lee Burke – The New Iberia Blues, A Dave Robicheaux Novel – 16.99

Robyn Carr – The Country Guesthouse, A Sullivan's Crossing Novel – 26.99



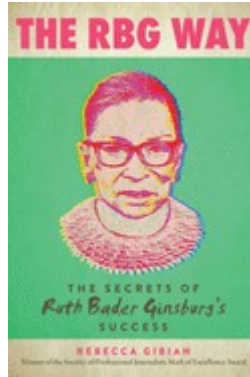
C.J. Cherryh – Resurgence, A Foreigner Novel – 26.00

Joseph Finder – House on Fire – 28.00



Lisa Gardner – When You See Me – 27.00

Rebecca Gibian – The RBG Way, The Secrets of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Success – 19.99



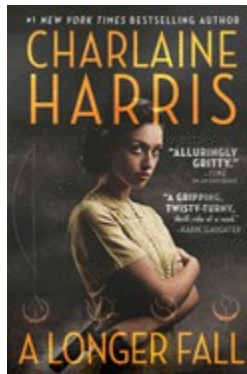
William Gibson – Agency – 28.00

Terry Goodkind – Heart of Black Ice, Sister of Darkness: The Nicci Chronicles, Vol IV – 29.99



Philippa Gregory – Tidelands – 18.00

Charlaine Harris – A Longer Fall – 26.99

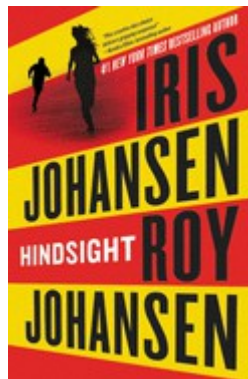


Gregg Hurwitz – Into the Fire, An Orphan X Novel – 27.99

J.A. Jance – Credible Threat – 27.99



Iris Johansen – Hindsight – 28.00

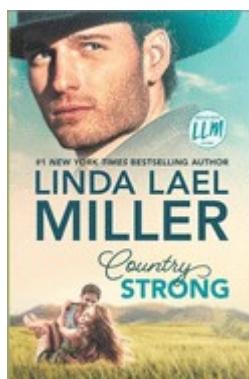


Stephen King – The Outsider – 18.99 - Soon to be an HBO limited series. Evil has many faces...maybe even yours



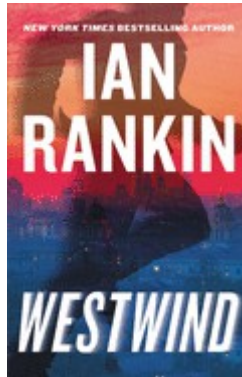
Jayne Ann Krentz – The Vanishing – 27.00

Linda Lael Miller – Country Strong – 27.99



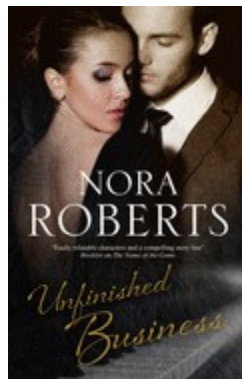
Nick Petrie – The Wild One – 26.00

Ian Rankin – Westwind – 27.00



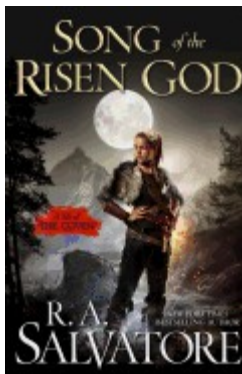
Kathy Reichs – A Conspiracy of Bones – 27.00

Nora Roberts – Unfinished Business – 28.99



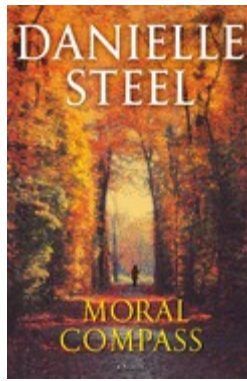
M.J. Rose – Cartier's Hope – 27.00

R.A. Salvatore – Song of a Risen God, A Tale of The Coven – 29.99



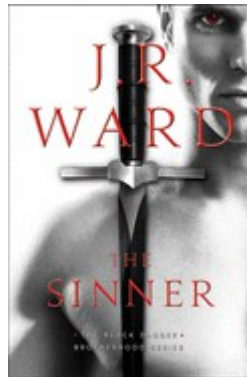
Erica Spindler – The Look-Alike – 27.99

Danielle Steel – Moral Compass – 28.99



Brad Taylor – Hunter Killer – 27.99

J.R. Ward – Sinner – 28.00



**Trivia for January
Answer:**

It was the greeting exchanged by Buffalo Bob Smith and Chief Thunderthud on the “Howdy Doody” TV show in the 1950s. Its use spread through “Gidget” surfer movies, and later the “Peanuts” comic strip.

(And I remember all of those quite clearly!)

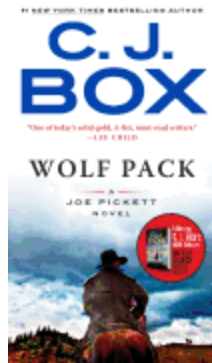
Mass Market Paperback

David Bell – The Forgotten Girl – 9.99



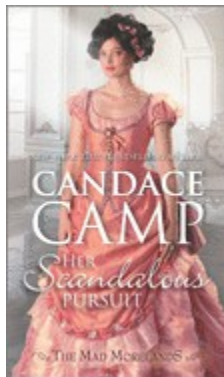
Steve Berry – The Malta Exchange – 9.99

C.J. Box – Wolf Pack, A Joe Pickett Novel – 9.99



Matt Braun – Cimarron Jordan and El Paso – 9.99

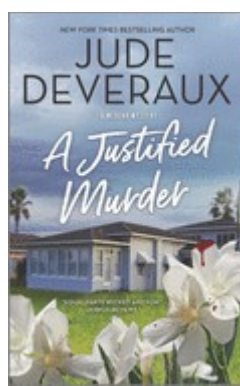
Candace Camp – Her Scandalous Pursuit – 7.99



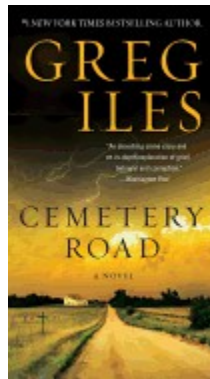
Robyn Carr – The Best of Us, A Sullivan's Crossing Novel – 8.99

Brett Coburn – Gunpowder Express, A Widower Jones Western – 7.99

Jude Deveraux – A Justified Murder – 8.99

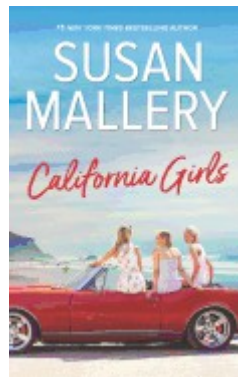


Greg Iles – Cemetery Road – 9.99



William Johnstone – Preacher's Frenzy, The First Mountain Man – 7.99

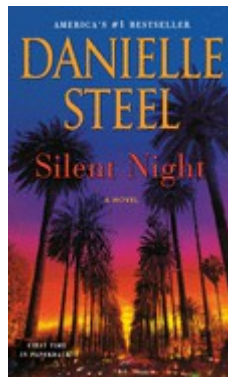
Susan Mallery – California Girls – 8.99



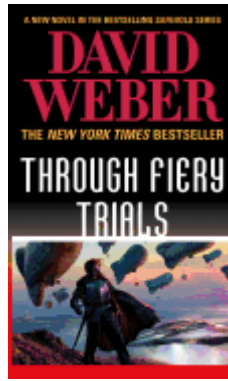
Fern Michaels – Cut and Run – 7.99

Sharon Sala – Second Sight – 7.99

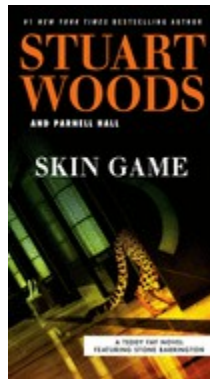
Danielle Steel – Silent Night – 8.99



David Weber – Through Firey Trials – 9.99



Stuart Woods – Skin Game – 9.99



The January 2020 winner #4 is:

Steve Ulm