

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 15, #1 January 2022  
563-355-2310

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

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Thank you for helping make our 2021 successful and we wish  
you a safe, healthy, prosperous and happy 2022.

add

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## Trivia for January 2022

Who wrote: "All animals are equal, but some  
animals are more equal than others"?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

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## \$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 January 1 2020).

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

The January 2022 winner #1 is:

Marilyn Cook

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 January 31, 2022 to claim your prize:

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

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We occasionally are asked about the books you bring in to trade that we don't need and you don't want returned. At the end of this newsletter is a detailed explanation on the various options we use and why. In brief, we rarely throw them into the garbage dumpster, but do recycle a great many. To better understand this process, please read the article and if you have any questions, please just drop me an email at [BookRackQC@Gmail.com](mailto:BookRackQC@Gmail.com).

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## January 2022 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

National **Blood** Donor Month  
National Hobby Month  
Hot Tea Month

January 1, 2022 – New Year's Day – The Book Rack will be closed  
2 - International Stop Spam Day  
5 - National Bird Day  
6 – Cuddle-Up Day  
10 - Peculiar People Day

13 - International Skeptics Day

- Make Your Dream Come True Day

17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

18 - Winnie the Pooh Day - the Birthday of Winnie's author A.A. Milne

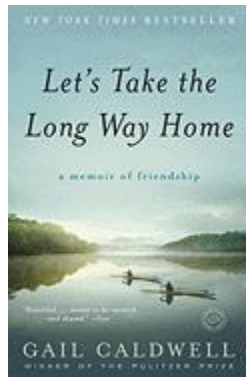
26 - Spouse's Day

29 - National Puzzle Day

## Book Reviews

***Review by Claudia:***

***Let's take the Long Way Home – a memoir of friendship, is by Gail Caldwell, 2001 Pulitzer Prize-winning author for Criticism.***



The award was for eight Boston Globe Sunday reviews and two other columns written in 2000, noted for “her insightful observations on contemporary life and literature.” *Let's take the Long Way Home* is about the friendship of Caldwell and Best friend and fellow author Caroline Knapp. During talks on long walks in the New England woods and rowing on the Charles River, their discussions range over their shared sobriety, love of rowing, dogs and the men in their lives. Knapp's cancer diagnosis shakes them both and results in a deeper caring and devoted relationship that is beautifully shared with the reader. Highly recommended.

**Book Reviews by Bob**

**A Long Walk Up the Water Slide by Don Winslow (1994) Crime Thriller**



Neal Carey has to keep the mob, the FBI, and a major television personality from killing his newest client, but he's tempted to do the job himself.

Sometime student and ever-reluctant detective Neal Carey would rather be finishing a dull doctoral thesis than staring down the nose of a loaded gun, but his new assignment doesn't sound dangerous. All he has to do is pull off the ultimate makeover: turn Polly Paget, a gum-chewing, foul-mouthed, big-haired broad, into a perfect lady in time to testify in a rape case against Jack Landis, head of the Family Cable Network and America's most beloved family man. But Polly isn't cooperating, and everyone (including a former FBI agent, an obsessive-compulsive hitman, the Mafia, a porn prince, and a slew of tabloid reporters) is on her trail, turning Neal's "simple" assignment into a deadly game of duck-duck-goose.

In a hellish and hilarious escapade that takes him from the deserts of Nevada to the bright lights of Las Vegas and finally to a hair-raising climax in a shoddily built amusement park, Neal tries to escape the mob's big guns while taking a slippery walk up the world's biggest water slide.

I'm admittedly a big Winslow fan and certainly enjoyed this book. It has all the makings of a very good mystery – crime bosses, gun fights, romance, intrigue and Las Vegas! Written in 1994, a new edition will be released in 2022. I give it a B+. Not as good as his recent novels, but well worth reading for mystery fans.

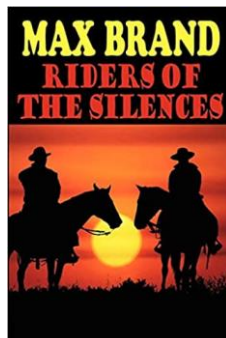
**The Sea Wolf by Jack London (1906) Classic**



A thrilling epic of a sea voyage and a complex novel of ideas, *The Sea-Wolf* is a standard-bearer of its genre. It is the vivid story of a gentleman scholar, Humphrey Van Weyden, who is rescued by a seal-hunting schooner after a ferryboat accident in San Francisco Bay. London uses Van Weyden's ordeal at the hands of a schooner's devious crew to explore powerful themes of ambition, courage, and the innate will to survive. *The Sea-Wolf* also introduces Jack London's most memorable, fully realized character, Wolf Larsen, the schooner's brutal captain, who ruthlessly crushes anyone standing in his way. As Gary Kinder states in his Introduction, "Wolf Larsen is one of the most carefully carved characters in American literature...London, himself, seems as fascinated as the reader with his own creation."

In the past couple years, I've enjoyed Jack London's books immensely. I suppose I read portions of his books when in school, but have no recollection of them. He was and still is a marvelous author. Have you ever dreamed about sailing the oceans in the days on sailing ships? *The Sea Wolf* paints the picture of one such voyage in stark and colorful prose. Reading it you become well acquainted with many in the crew and the hardship they endure. You experience the killings of the beautiful seals and grow stronger and more callus with Humphrey Van Weyden. It's a great book and one I commend to you. Even if high seas adventure is not your norm, you will be drawn into the story and love it. I give it an A+.

### **The Riders of the Silences by Max Brand (1919) Western Classic**

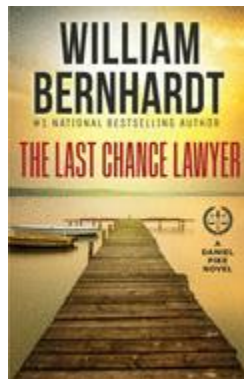


The Great West, prior to the century's turn, abounded in legend. Stories were told of fabled gunmen whose bullets always magically found their mark, of mighty stallions whose tireless gallop rivaled the speed of the wind, of glorious women whose beauty stunned mind and heart. But nowhere in the vast spread of the mountain desert country was there a greater legend told than the story of Red Pierre and the phantom gunfighter, McGurk.

These two men of the wilderness, so unlike, of widely differing backgrounds, had in common a single trait: each was unbeatable. Fate brought them clashing together, thunder to thunder, lightning to lightning. They were destined to meet at the crossroads of a long, long trail ... a trail which began in the northern wastes of Canada and led, finally, to a deadly confrontation in the mountains of the Far West.

I don't often read westerns and I don't quite know why. I seem to always really like them and this one is no different. Max Brand is one of the very best authors, along with Louis L'Amour, able to take you back to those times and seemingly to feel the wind on your face, smell the smoke from your camp fire and hear the reports of guns fired with intent to kill another man. A fine tale of the high desert, long riders, death and redemption. I give it an A.

### **The Last Chance Lawyer by William Bernhardt Legal Thriller (2019)**



**Getting his client off death row could save his career... or make him the next victim.**

Daniel Pike would rather fight for justice than follow the rules. His unique ability to "connect the dots," to observe what others do not, has made him the most notorious criminal lawyer in St. Petersburg. But when his courtroom career goes up in smoke, he fears his lifelong purpose is a lost cause. A mysterious job offer from a secretive boss gives him a second chance but lands him an impossible case with multiple lives at stake...

To protect a young orphan from a horrifying fate, Pike must save the girl's

guardian from a charge of first-degree murder. Dan uses every trick he knows in a high-stakes trial filled with unexpected revelations and breathtaking surprises as he uncovers a trail of deceit from Florida to El Salvador. When blood-soaked threats arrive, Dan realizes that winning the case might be a death sentence for him--and everyone he hoped to protect.

Can Pike protect the girl and get the charges dropped before his race for the truth proves fatal?

*The Last Chance Lawyer* is a gripping legal thriller. If you like courtroom suspense, page-turning plot twists, and rebel attorneys, then you'll love William Bernhardt's riveting drama. I'd compare Bernhardt's Daniel Pike series favorably to Scott Turow, Michael Connelly's *The Lincoln Lawyer* series and John Grisham's legal thrillers. I give it a B. It has the characters you'll definitely love and those you can hate. The plot is complex and the courtroom drama compelling. Give Bernhardt a try. He has plenty of titles in this series and others to keep you fully engaged for months to come, if we can only find them all for you!! As I write we have a dozen or more of his titles available.

**The January 2022 winner #2 is:**

**Connie Bowden**

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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! 😊

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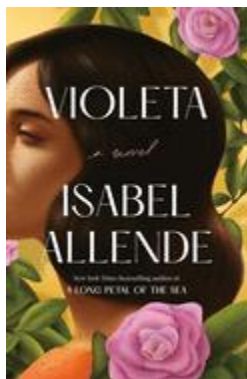
## **Recent and Upcoming New Releases:**

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.

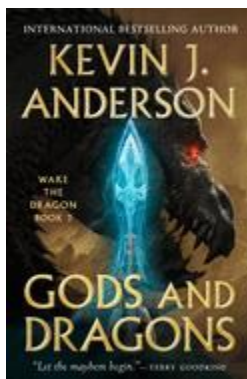
**You can also add any of these titles to your request list.** Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but many will get to you eventually.

## **Hardcover and Trade Paperback**

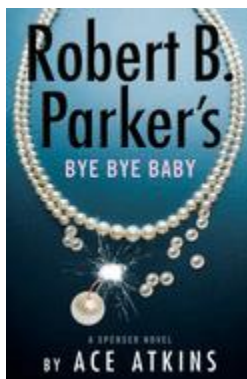
**Elizabeth Allende – Violeta – 28.00 – General**



**Kevin J. Anderson – Gods and Dragons, Wake the Dragons, Book 3 – 29.99 – Fantasy**



**Ace Atkins – Robert B. Parker's Bye Bye Baby – 28.00 – Mystery**



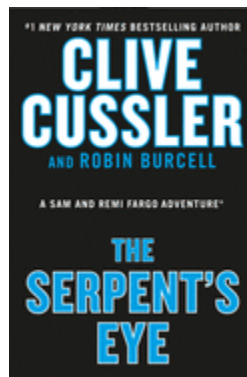
**Marie Benedict – Her Hidden Genius – 26.99 – Literature**





"Rosalind Franklin knows if she just takes one more X-ray picture-one more after thousands-she can unlock the building blocks of life. Never again will she have to listen to her colleagues complain about her, especially Maurice Wilkins who'd rather conspire about genetics with James Watson and Francis Crick than work alongside her. Then it finally happens-the double helix structure of DNA reveals itself to her with perfect clarity. But what happens next, Rosalind could have never predicted. Marie Benedict's next powerful novel shines a light on a woman who died to discover our very DNA, a woman whose contributions were suppressed by the men around her but whose relentless drive advanced our understanding of humankind"

## **Robin Burcell – Clive Cussler’s The Serpent’s Eye – 29.00 – Fiction**



## **Alifair Burke – Find Me – 26.99 – Thriller**



The disappearance of a young woman leaves her best friend reeling and an NYPD homicide detective digging into her own past in this twisty mystery about the power of female friendships. From the *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Better Sister* and *The Wife*.

*Some pasts won't stay forgotten . . .*

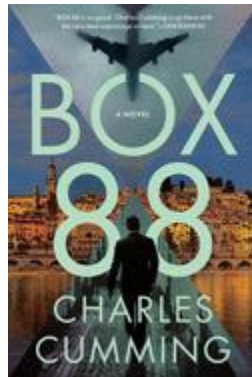
She calls herself Hope Miller, but she has no idea who she actually is. Fifteen years ago, she was found in a small New Jersey town thrown from an overturned vehicle, with no clue to her identity. Doctors assumed her amnesia was a temporary side effect of her injuries, but she never regained her memory. Hope eventually started a new life with a new name in a new town that welcomed her, yet always wondered what she may have left behind--or been running from. Now, she's leaving New Jersey to start over once again.

Manhattan defense lawyer Lindsay Kelly, Hope's best friend and the one who found her after the accident, understands why Hope wants a new beginning. But she worries how her friend will fare in her new East Hampton home, far away from everything familiar. Lindsay's worst fears are confirmed when she discovers Hope has vanished without a trace--the only lead a drop of blood found where she was last seen. Even more ominously, the blood matches a DNA sample with a connection to a notorious Kansas murderer.

With nowhere else to turn, Lindsay calls NYPD homicide detective Ellie Hatcher, the daughter of the cop who dedicated his life to hunting the Kansas killer. Ellie has always believed there was more to the story of her father's death twenty years earlier--and she now fears that Hope's recent disappearance could be related.

In pursuit of answers, the women search for the truth beneath long-buried secrets. And when their searches converge, what they find will upend everything they've ever known.

## **Charles Cummings – Box 88 – 27.95 – Espionage Thriller**



Lachlan Kite is a member of BOX 88, an elite transatlantic black ops outfit so covert that not even MI6 and the CIA are certain of its existence -- but even the best spy can't anticipate every potential threat in a world where dangerous actors lurk around every corner. At the funeral of his childhood best friend, Lachlan falls into a trap that drops him into the hands of a potentially deadly interrogation, with his pregnant wife, also abducted, being held as collateral for the information he's sworn on his own life to protect.

Thirty years earlier Lachlan, then just out of the upper class boarding school where he was reared, was BOX 88's newest recruit. In the haze of a gap year summer, in which the study of spycraft was intertwined with a journey of self-discovery, he cut his teeth on a special assignment on the coast of France, where a friendship allowed him special access to one of Iran's most dangerous men. Today, Lachlan's nostalgia for the trip is corrupted by recollection of the deceit that accompanied it but, in order to save his family, he'll be forced to revisit those painful memories one last time.

A pulse-pounding narrative that straddles two eras -- 1989 and 2020 -- *BOX 88* is a "wonderfully taut, exciting and up-to-date spy thriller" that introduces a compelling new character and a captivating international storyline (*Spectator*, Books of the Year).

## **Lisa Gardner - One Step Too Far – 27.00 – Thriller**



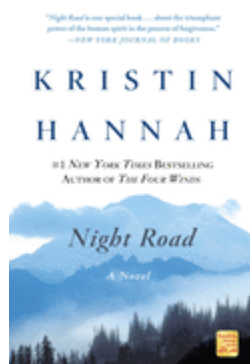
A thrilling new novel that sends missing persons expert Frankie Elkin into a national forest in Wyoming looking for a young man who disappeared without a trace. But when the search team encounters immediate threats to their survival, Frankie realizes she's up against something very dark--and she's running out of time.

## **Elizabeth George – Something to Hide, A Lynley Novel – 29.00 – Mystery**



When a police detective is taken off life support after falling into a coma, only an autopsy reveals the murderous act that precipitated her death. She'd been working on a special task force within North London's Nigerian community, and Acting Detective Superintendent Thomas Lynley is assigned to the case, which has far-reaching cultural associations that have nothing to do with life as he knows it. In his pursuit of a killer determined to remain hidden, he's assisted by Detective Sergeants Barbara Havers and Winston Nkata. They must sort through the lies and the secret lives of people whose superficial cooperation masks the damage they do to one another.

## **Kristin Hannah – Night Road – 17.99 – General**



For eighteen years, Jude Farraday has put her children's needs above her own, and it shows--her twins, Mia and Zach, are bright and happy teenagers. When Lexi Baill moves into their small, close-knit community, no one is more welcoming than Jude. Lexi, a former foster child with a dark past, quickly becomes Mia's best friend. Then Zach falls in love with Lexi and the three become inseparable.

Jude does everything to keep her kids out of harm's way. But senior year of high school tests them all. It's a dangerous, explosive season of drinking, driving, parties, and kids who want to let loose. And then on a hot summer's night, one bad decision is made. In the blink of an eye, the Farraday family will be torn apart and Lexi will lose everything. In the years that follow, each must face the consequences of that single night and find a way to forget...or the courage to forgive.

Vivid, universal, and emotionally complex, *Night Road* raises profound questions about motherhood, identity, love, and forgiveness. It is a luminous, heartbreaking novel that captures both the exquisite pain of loss and the stunning power of hope. This is Kristin Hannah at her very best, telling an unforgettable story about the longing for family, the resilience of the human heart, and the courage it takes to forgive the people we love.

## **Stephen Hunter – Targeted, A Bob Lee Swagger Novel – 28.00 – General**



After his successful takedown of a dangerous terrorist, Bob Lee Swagger learns that no good deed goes unpunished. Summoned to court by the United States Congress, Swagger is accused of reckless endangerment by a hardheaded anti-gun congresswoman. But what begins as political posturing soon turns deadly when the auditorium where the committee is being held is attacked.

Swagger, the congresswoman, and numerous bystanders and reporters are taken hostage by a group of violent operatives. Soon, the very people who had accused him are depending on him to save their lives. Trapped in the auditorium and still struggling with injuries from his last assignment, Swagger must rely on his instincts, his shooting skills, and the help of a mysterious rogue sniper on the outside in order to ensure that everyone makes it out alive.

## **Dean Koontz – Quicksilver – 28.99 – Thriller**



Quinn Quicksilver was born a mystery--abandoned at three days old on a desert highway in Arizona. Raised in an orphanage, never knowing his parents, Quinn had a happy if unexceptional life. Until the day of "strange magnetism." It compelled him to drive out to the middle of nowhere. It helped him find a coin worth a lot of money. And it practically saved his life when two government agents showed up in the diner in pursuit of him. Now Quinn is on the run from those agents and who knows what else, fleeing for his life.

During a shoot-out at a forlorn dude ranch, he finally meets his destined companions: Bridget Raining, a beauty as gifted in foresight as she is with firearms, and her grandpa Sparky, a romance novelist with an unusual past. Bridget knows what it's like to be Quinn. She's hunted, too. The only way to stay alive is to keep moving.

Barreling through the Sonoran Desert, the formidable trio is impelled by that same inexplicable magnetism toward the inevitable. With every deeply disturbing mile, something sinister is in the rearview--an enemy that is more than a match for Quinn. Even as he discovers within himself resources that are every bit as scary.

## Jayne Ann Krentz – Lightning in a Mirror – 28.00 – Romance



Olivia LeClair's experiment with speed dating is not going well. First there was the nasty encounter with the date from hell who tried to murder her and now the mysterious Harlan Rancourt--long believed dead--sits down at her table and tells her she's the only one who can help him locate the legendary Vortex lab.

This is not what Olivia had in mind when she signed up for the *Four Event Success Guaranteed* package offered by the dating agency. She doesn't have much choice, though, because her psychic investigation firm works for the mysterious Foundation and Victor Arganbright, the director, is adamant that she assist Harlan. There's just one problem--no one knows Harlan's real agenda. His father once ran the Foundation like a mob organization, and Harlan was destined to be his heir. There's a real possibility Harlan has returned to claim his inheritance.

For now, however, it's a case of *the enemy of my enemy is my friend* because others are after the secrets of the long-lost lab. Unfortunately for Olivia, the one thing friend and foe have in common is that everyone is convinced she is the key. Her unique psychic talent is required to defuse the ticking time bomb that is Vortex.

Neither trusts the other but Olivia and Harlan soon realize they must work together to survive and unlock the Bluestone Project's most dangerous secrets before more innocent people die.

## Lisa Lutz – The Accomplice – 28.00 – Suspense

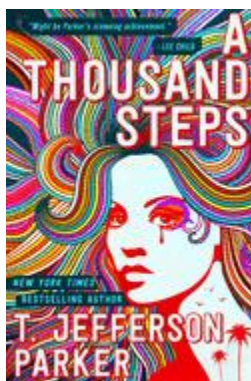


Owen's wife was murdered. His best friend, Luna, found the body. Everything and everyone is thrown into question in this riveting suspense novel from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Passenger*. Owen is rich, charming, and chronically dissatisfied. His life is forever entangled with Luna Grey, his no-nonsense best friend who is struggling to hide her dark past. From the fateful day they meet in college, the two become inextricably linked. They can't be mentioned without the other: Owen and Luna, Luna and Owen. In addition to their own trove of personal secrets, there is the deadly one they share. It forges a bond that will last decades. Years later, Owen disappears on his wife, Irene, for hours, mostly to spend time drinking with Luna. Luna is now an assistant to the eccentric and reclusive artist Leo Whitman, who also happens to be Irene's stepfather. But when Irene is found dead, the victim of a brutal crime, it unleashes a torrent of secrets from the past as well as everything they would have preferred to have kept hidden in the present. Despite their innocence, the murder causes the walls to quickly close in around them. *The Accomplice* examines the intense relationship between two very different misanthropic best friends. What happens when one of them takes a sledgehammer to their bond and the other lights that wreckage on fire? If secrets are what kept Owen and Luna together, they just might tear them apart, too. If they let them

## **Leslie Meier – Easter Bonnet Murder, A Lucy Stone Mystery – 26.00**



## **T. Jefferson Parker – A Thousand Steps – 27.99 – Thriller**



**Nick Petrie – The Runaway, A Peter Ash Novel – 27.00**

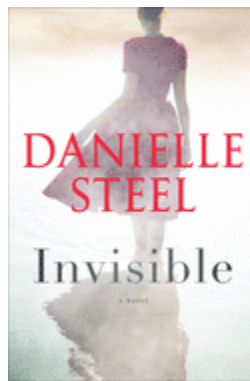


**James Rollins – The Starless Crown – 28.99 – Fantasy**



An alliance embarks on a dangerous journey to uncover the secrets of the distant past and save their world in this captivating, deeply visionary adventure from #1 New York Times bestselling thriller-master James Rollins. A gifted student foretells an apocalypse. Her reward is a sentence of death. Fleeing into the unknown she is drawn into a team of outcasts: A broken soldier, who once again takes up the weapons he's forbidden to wield and carves a trail back home. A drunken prince, who steps out from his beloved brother's shadow and claims a purpose of his own. An imprisoned thief, who escapes the crushing dark and discovers a gleaming artifact - one that will ignite a power struggle across the globe. On the run, hunted by enemies old and new, they must learn to trust each other in order to survive in a world evolved in strange, beautiful, and deadly ways, and uncover ancient secrets that hold the key to their salvation. But with each passing moment, doom draws closer. WHO WILL CLAIM THE STARLESS CROWN?

**Danielle Steel – Invisible – 28.99 – General**

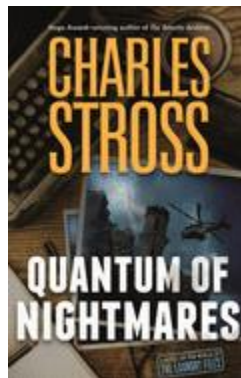


Antonia Adams is the product of a loveless marriage between a beautiful young model and an aristocrat. As a child, she is abandoned in the abyss that yawns between them, blamed by her mother, ignored by her father, and neglected by both. Unprotected and unloved, she learns that the only way to feel safe is to hide from the dangers around her, drawing as little attention as possible to herself, to be "invisible."

In her isolation, books are her refuge and movies her escape. A day spent being carried away by an unforgettable film in a dark theater is her greatest thrill. Her love of the movies turns into a dream to become a screenwriter, and a summer job at a Hollywood studio. There, a famous British filmmaker notices her, and suddenly she can remain invisible no longer. He wants to put her in a movie and make her a star. It is a dazzling opportunity but a terrifying one, as it strips her of the camouflage that made her feel safe. She is suddenly thrust into the public eye--and even more so when they fall in love.

She will never let go of her true dream of becoming a filmmaker, though, and if she wants to make that leap, she will have to expose herself in ways she never has before. When tragedy strikes, she must decide whether she will remain center stage or become invisible again, where she feels safest. Will she face her demons, or run and hide?

## **Charles Stross – Quantum of Nightmares, Laundry Files – 27.99 – Fantasy**



It's a brave new Britain under the New Management. The avuncular Prime Minister is an ancient eldritch god of unimaginable power. Crime is plummeting as almost every offense is punishable by death. And everywhere you look, there are people with strange powers, some of which they can control, and some, not so much.

Hyperorganized and formidable, Eve Starkey defeated her boss, the louche magical adept and billionaire Rupert de Montfort Bigge, in a supernatural duel to the death. Now she's in charge of the Bigge Corporation--just in time to discover the lethal trap Rupert set for her long ago.

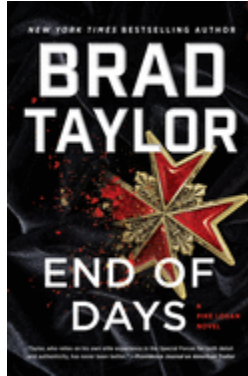
Wendy Deere's transhuman abilities have gotten her through many a scrape. Now she's gainfully employed investigating unauthorized supernatural shenanigans. She swore to herself she wouldn't again get entangled with Eve Starkey's bohemian brother Imp and his crew of transhuman misfits. Yeah, right.

Mary Macandless has powers of her own. Right now she's pretending to be a nanny in order to kidnap the children of a pair of famous, Government-authorized superheroes. These children have powers of their own, and Mary Macandless is in way over her head.



Amanda Sullivan is the HR manager of a minor grocery chain, much oppressed by her glossy blonde boss--who is cooking up an appalling, extralegal scheme literally involving human flesh. All of these stories will come together, with world-bending results...

## **Brad Taylor – End of Days – 28.99 – Thriller**



When a paragliding trip over the picturesque mountains of Switzerland results in the brutal murder of the former head of Israeli intelligence, Mossad brings in terrorist hunters Aaron and Shoshana to investigate. But they'll need help to find out who was behind the attack and what they're planning next. Luckily, Aaron and Shoshana know exactly who to call.

Taskforce operators Pike Logan and Jennifer Cahill have been trapped in Charleston, South Carolina during COVID-19, so when Aaron and Shoshana show up on their doorstep with Israeli passports and a new mission, they jump at the chance to assist their friends. Some suspect that Keta'ib Hezbollah, an Iranian-funded militia group operating in Iraq, might be responsible for the "accidental" deaths of key members of the American and Israeli governments. But something isn't adding up, and Pike, Jennifer, and the two Mossad operators are determined to find the real assassins before more people are cut down.

As they stumble upon the trail of a serial killer loose on the streets of Rome connected to the deaths and follow evidence leading to the exalted Knights of Malta, they must wade deep into the contentious religious and political fractures of Israel and the greater Middle East. It's a dangerous world where fanatics and legitimate organizations exist side by side, and it's up to the Taskforce to determine who is really pulling the strings. What they find could have disastrous consequences not only for them, but for the entire world...

**The January 2022 winner #3 is:**

**Priscilla Parsons**

**Trivia for January 2022**

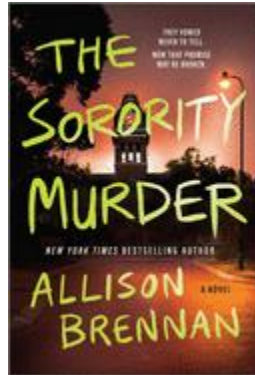
**Who wrote: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others"?**

# Answer

## George Orwell in Animal Farm

### Mass Market Paperback

#### Allison Brennan – The Sorority Murder – 9.99 – Thriller



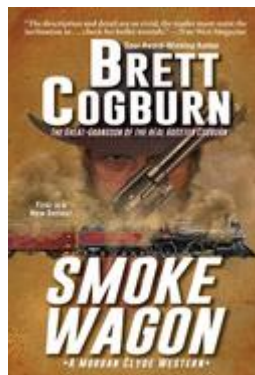
**A popular sorority girl. An unsolved murder. A campus podcast with chilling repercussions.**

Lucas Vega is obsessed with the death of Candace Swain, who left a sorority party one night and never came back. Her body was found after two weeks, but the case has grown cold. Three years later while interning at the medical examiner's, Lucas discovers new information, but the police are not interested.

Lucas knows he has several credible pieces of the puzzle. He just isn't sure how they fit together. So he creates a podcast to revisit Candace's last hours. Then he encourages listeners to crowdsource what they remember and invites guest lecturer Regan Merritt, a former US marshal, to come on and share her expertise.

New tips come in that convince Lucas and Regan they are onto something. Then shockingly one of the podcast callers turns up dead. Another hints at Candace's secret life, a much darker picture than Lucas imagined--and one that implicates other sorority sisters. Regan uses her own resources to bolster their theory and learns that Lucas is hiding his own secret. The pressure is on to solve the murder, but first Lucas must come clean about his real motives in pursuing this podcast--before the killer silences him forever.

#### Brent Cogburn – Smoke Wagon, A Morgan Clyde 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 bushwhackers. 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 – 16.99**



***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 – 9.99 – Thriller**



**Forced into retirement, Evan Smoak gets an urgent request for help from someone he didn't even suspect existed--in *Prodigal Son*, the next *New York Times* bestselling Orphan X book from Gregg Hurwitz.**

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, perhaps the best, 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 as The Nowhere Man. Now Evan has to do the one thing he's least equipped to do--live a normal life.

But then he 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 & sister assassination 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.

**Lisa Kleipas – Lady Sophia’s Lover, Bow Street – 9.99 – General**



Hoping to snare the unattainable Sir Ross Cannon, Lady Sophia Sydney will do anything--even ruin his reputation to cause a scandal in London. She insinuates herself into his life and even lives in his house. Her presence tempts him beyond all reason. She knows Ross is falling in love with her. But she never counts on falling in love with him.

**Fern Michaels – 19 Yellow Moon Road – 9.99 - General**



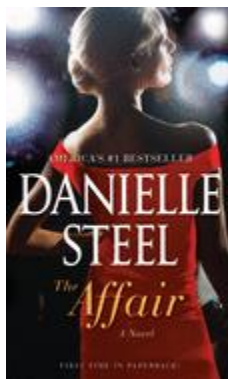
Maggie Spritzer's nose for a story doesn't just make her a top-notch newspaper editor, it also tells her when to go the extra mile for a friend. When she gets a strange message from her journalism pal, Gabby Richardson, Maggie knows her services are needed. Gabby has become involved with The Haven, a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

Maggie wants to learn more about The Haven, and the Sisterhood is eager to help. It turns out The Haven's founders are the sons of a disgraced Chicago businessman in prison for running a Ponzi scheme. They also have connections to a Miami billionaire with dubious sidelines. Soon, the Sisterhood gang embark on a search--and uncover a web of crime that runs deeper and higher than they ever imagined. And they'll need all their special skills to bring it down . . .

## The January 2022 winner #4 is:

### Linda Davis

#### Danielle Steel – The Affair – 8.99 – General



When Rose McCarthy's staff at Mode magazine pitches a cover shoot with Hollywood's hottest young actress, the actress's sizzling affair with a bestselling French author is exposed. The author happens to be Rose's son-in-law, which creates a painful dilemma for her. Her daughter Nadia, a talented interior designer, has been struggling to hold her marriage together, and conceal the truth from their young daughters, her family, and the world. But Nicolas, her straying husband, is blinded by passion for a younger woman--and not only that, she is pregnant with his child.

Nadia's three sisters close ranks around her, flying to Paris from Los Angeles and New York to lend support and offer their widely divergent advice. Athena, a jovial celebrity chef with her own TV show in Los Angeles, is leery of marriage. Olivia, a stern conservative New York superior court judge, is haunted by a shocking secret of her own. Venetia, a zany fashion designer, happily married with three kids, has the gentlest, most realistic point of view. Despite their well-meaning advice, Nadia needs to figure out what she herself thinks, and what to do next.

*The Affair* is about the painful journey to discover who you are, what you want, and how much forgiveness and compromise you are capable of in order to be loved. It's about finding yourself at the crossroads of life when everything is on the line. It's about the hard lessons we are forced to learn about others and ourselves. Right up until its final twist, this gripping novel is full of powerful insights about who we love, how much--and even how much we love ourselves.

## What happens to books we don't need?

Hi. I'm your friendly neighborhood bookseller, and I'm here to tell you that sometimes, it's okay to recycle books.

I know. It sounds pretty terrible. You're probably envisioning truckloads of perfectly good reads being chucked into a dumpster somewhere without a care for people who may need and not have access to them. But what if I told you that recycling is practiced by almost every bookstore, library, and chain thrift store that deals with large quantities of books? And what if I said that recycling is not only a necessary, but beneficial part of the book world?

"The person who is writing this article," you might be thinking, "just doesn't understand the importance of books. Anyone who has a real fondness for reading would never destroy a book!" The truth is, if you would have asked me ten or twelve years ago, I probably would have agreed with you. But that was before I became a very average representation of many bookstore and library workers around the country. The longer you spend processing, collecting, shelving, locating, recommending, mending, and, yes-- loving-- books, the more apparent it becomes that sometimes, it's time to let them go.

Over the years, bookstores and libraries have suffered backlashes from community members who learn that some books are not accepted or kept indefinitely. Throw a stone and you will hit an article about an incensed group of people who have realized the place they get their books is recycling. If I had to guess why this situation is so common, I'd say that, usually, a.) People who frequent these places value books so much that they are willing to become community activists to save them, *but* b.) there is often a lack of transparency and education coming from our end about what happens to donated books and why. Patrons and customers who have never worked in the field have little to no understanding of the factors involved in deciding to recycle books, and maybe this is because we rarely talk about it openly. Seriously, Quad Cities: How are you supposed to know what happens behind the "employees only" sign if we don't tell you?

That's why I'm here, hoping to rectify some of this confusion by clearly explaining our selection process at The Book Rack. Even if you're already on board with what I've said so far, you may be curious about what happens to your books from the time you drop them off to the time they go on the shelf to be sold. And if we decide to recycle, why?

### **Irreparable or Costly Damage**

First, I have to humble brag. On a busy day at the store, two employees can process over 550 books. Here, "processing" means scanning or manually keying in their ISBN's, pricing, tagging, sorting, cleaning, and shelving. That means we are accepting *a lot* of the books you bring

to us, and that's good: We need to have a lot of items flowing in every day to keep our inventory fresh and interesting, and these books will go to new homes.

But in a batch of up to 550 books, that means we find many items that are beyond our help. They have been stored improperly, forgotten in garages, or ravaged by the hands and mouths of excited children. It is time to lay them gently to rest.

I'm sure you're wondering why we don't just learn how to repair them. Well, that's a good question: we do mend the books that we can save! Broken spines and torn pages or covers are relatively easy and cheap to repair. But you have to remember that book binding and repair are professions of their own, and as such, require classes to which we do not have financial or physical access (or time in the day, for that matter). The proper tools for binding can be very expensive, and the cost of having a book rebound by a professional ranges from \$45-\$100 and above. Sadly, there is nowhere we know of to have this done in the Quad Cities area. If you have something special that you would like repaired or rebound, there are many bookbinders online.

### **Mold & Mildew, Pests, & Sticky Stuff**

There are some circumstances under which books cannot be recycled, but have to go straight to the dumpster. This is because substances like insects, mildew, and food residue can contaminate whole batches of recycling. Sorry to go to the gross place, but we've seen everything!

When books are exposed to moisture (say, dropped in a bathtub, or baptized by your cat knocking over a glass of water), they often develop mold or mildew. You might think a little black spot on one book can't be that big of a deal, but the spores can spread to other books...and you can imagine that mold spores aren't very healthy for us to breathe in. We don't want that for us or for you.

Another thing you do not want in your home is bedbugs. They don't often hide out in the pages, but they have been known to snuggle up into the spines. Many people who work with used books are trained to identify signs of bedbugs. You can rest easily knowing that books you take home from us are examined for pests before shelving and are as clean as possible.

### **Outdated Content**

This is often one of the hardest points to discuss when it comes to recycling books. People often claim that every book must be relevant to *someone*, or it's really about the principle of preserving information. But when a book is not being sought after or utilized, all its special, totemic qualities are stripped away and it becomes nothing more but a hunk of paper taking up room. You might be especially attached to your father's copy of *Windows XP for Dummies*, but if a bookstore actually tried to sell it or a library attempted to circulate it, chances are it would just sit on the shelf for another ten versions of Windows before finally being recycled.

Moreso than bookstores, libraries are concerned about giving you accurate and updated information. Knowledge means more power and freedom for a lot of individuals, and books are one of the ways we can gain that knowledge. Librarians do not want you to study for an SAT test that was given seven years ago, or learn about medical practice from a 1950's textbook, or care for your pet rabbit the way people did in the Victorian era. They may house historical and

memorable materials in their Special Collections department, but they do not mix them in with the regular collection.

I like to think that used bookstore employees also care about this to some extent. We don't want "used" to be synonymous with "irrelevant". Sure, we have a special fondness for collectible, antique, or vintage books, and you can buy those on our Amazon page or on our Sale cart at the front of the store. But we don't want you to be stuck with *What to Expect When You're Expecting* that is five editions old, or to stock fiction that no one is reading. In a very big way, *you* decide which books we have. You provide most of our inventory by trading books for store credit, and you also let us know what you want to read by buying and requesting titles. Those two factors essentially make The Book Rack inventory what it is.

## **Market Saturation**

Another factor that might cause a book to be recycled is that there are just too many copies and not enough homes. Let me illustrate a basic case of this. James Patterson is one of the most prolific authors of all time, having published over 200 novels. According to the New York Times, Patterson is responsible for 6% of all hardcovers sold in this country alone. When a new novel is released, publishers are printing books like mad to keep up with demand. There is generally a hardcover and mass market paperback, but because Patterson is so popular, he is often also published in trade and premium paperback.

Say your grandmother, like many people in the world and probably in the Quad Cities, has collected every book James Patterson has ever written. Sadly, she passes away. You and several other family members and friends are offered the books, but none of you read this author or have room for the collection. You don't want to just throw them away, so you take them to The Book Rack and donate or exchange them for store credit. Because your grandmother took such good care of her collection, we are able to replace our worn copies with some of hers and to fill our inventory. But now, because so many people have donated and continue to donate their copies, the community can't buy them fast enough. Help! We're drowning in James Patterson books, and we can't fit them anywhere!

We have a backup plan for situations like this. Sometimes the books can be combined into sets (i.e., all of the Alex Cross books in hardcover) and sold online. We've also donated to nursing homes, Goodwill, and we actively donate to individuals or local organizations having fundraisers. There are more things we do with unwanted books, like donating them to employees to try to sell or for craft projects. But once plans C, D, & E are exhausted, it's time to accept that there really are more of some titles than people need.

## **Make More Books!**

This doesn't mean you have to subject your books to the possibility of being recycled. If your item has any of these defects, we are always happy to return it to you, and we will always give you store credit for a book we would have accepted if we did not have too many copies.

While paper can't be recycled indefinitely, books that are accepted for recycling are made into more paper. Which means all those unwanted novels are reincarnated into something different and equally useful. They could become another book, or a journal where a book is written.



And this future book may be one that is read and enjoyed for a long time— instead of one that sits neglected because of its content or condition, gathering dust.

Sincerely,  
Bob

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“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”

<https://goodwillwa.org/donate/sustainability-resources/>

## **More Perspectives from Library, Bookstore, and Thrift Store Workers**

American Library Association

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Book Riot

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<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2016/05/02/library-weeding-without-worry/>

Librarian to Librarian

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Recyclebank

<https://livegreen.recyclebank.com/books-reduce-reuse-recycle-redefined>

Galen Leather Company

<https://www.galenleather.com/blogs/news/book-recycling>

Lifehacker

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A special “Thank you!” to Nikki Steinbaugh for her significant contribution to the preparation of this article!!