The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 15, #3 March 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)

Whoever undertakes to write a biography binds himself to lying, to concealment, to hypocrisy, to flummery and even to hiding his own lack of understanding.

Sigmund Freud. In Bruno Bettelheim, "Two Views of Freud" 1958

Trivia for March 2022

What popular children's book was written by Ian Fleming, creator of British secret agent James Bond?

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 March 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 March 2022 winner #1 is:

Tiffany Clark

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 31 March, 2022 to claim your prize:

A \$25 gift certificate from The Book Rack!

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March 2022 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

Month:

Music in Our Schools Month National Celery Month National Craft Month National Frozen Food Month National Irish American Heritage Month- designated by Congress in 1995. National Nutrition Month National Peanut Month National Women's History Month

Day:

1 – Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday
3 – I Want You to be Happy Day
10 – International Day of Awesomeness - No one's perfect, but everyone can be awesome.
11 – Worship of Tools Day

- 13 Daylight Savings Time Starts Today at 2:00AM
- 14 National Pi Day
- 16 Freedom of Information Day
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18 Goddess of Fertility Day

- **19 National Quilting Day**
- 20 Spring Equinox
- 20 David Dorris, local author, will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00, with his latest release.
- 21 World Poetry Day
- 26 Live Long and Prosper Day
- 28 Something on a Stick Day
- **31 National Crayon Day**

Iron Pen Contest from Midwest Writing Center



Are you an author?

The fastest writing contest in the Quad Cities is back and taking registrations now!

The Midwest Writing Center is taking registrations for its 14th annual Iron Pen Contest.

MWC will supply a prompt to all contestants at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 25th and contestants have 24 hours (entries are due Saturday, February 26th by 5 p.m.) to write and submit their best fiction, non-fiction, and/or poetry pieces. Writers are welcome to enter into as many categories as they like with a paid registration for each entry.

For all the details, please go to the end of this newsletter!

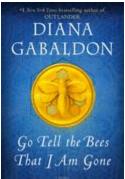
Featured Author

Local Author David Dorris has been one of the Book Rack's most successful local authors for the past couple years. Stop in on March 20 from 11-1:00 and find out why when David will join us with his books.

Book Reviews

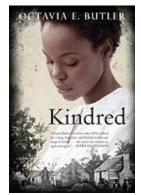
Review by Claudia:

Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone by Diana Gabaldon is the latest installment of *The Outlander* series.



After 20 years apart, it's 1779 and Jamie and Claire, Brianna and Roger and their children are together on Fraser's Ridge in North Carolina. The Ridge is currently safe, but war rages beyond and Jamie's tenants are split between loyalist and rebel leanings. Brianna and Roger have their own concerns having hopefully fled the real dangers they faced in the 20th century for the uncertainty and risks of the 1700s. Roger works toward ordination; Jamie's son, William Ransom continues to find his place and identity after discovery that his true father is Jamie; Lord John Grey has problems and reconciliations of his own; and Lord John's brother Hal, the Duke of Pardloe, is struggling with the apparent death of his son while sheltering his daughter-in-law and grandchild. Characters we know and love, or love to hate, do not disappoint, and new characters who enter the Frasers' lives are well-developed and believable. And over all, the threat of the Revolutionary War reaching Fraser's Ridge is not far away. This is not my favorite of the series, but it was comforting to be with the Fraser and MacKenzie folks again, and so nice to "hear" (in Caitríona Balfe's voice) Claire's comments. Recommended.

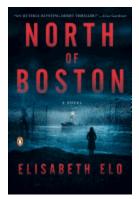
Kindred by Octavia Butler is another time travel story, but one that is closer to home and much more recent.



It's 1976 and Dana is celebrating her birthday with her husband in their new California home. Dana suffers a dizzy spell and suddenly finds herself on a pre-Civil War Maryland plantation, where the owner's son, Rufus, is drowning. Thus begins a series of travels between the present and the past, each dictated by lifethreatening danger to Rufus, who - it turns out - is one of Dana's ancestors. Octavia Butler explores racism, sexism, and white supremacy in the life of a 1970s black woman writer married to a white man and in her experiences with antebellum slavery. Octavia Butler's other science fiction may also be of interest to you. Highly recommended.

Book Reviews by Bob

Elisabeth Elo – North of Boston (2014) – Thriller



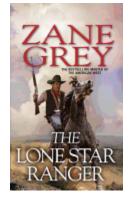
"A gripping and unorthodox thriller, packed with intriguing characters and unexpected twists." --Tom Perrotta, bestselling author of *Nine Inches*

Like *Smilla's Sense of Snow* combined with the best of Dennis Lehane, *North of Boston* is a dark and deeply atmospheric thriller with a sharp-witted, tough-talking heroine readers will be clamoring to meet again.

Boston-bred Pirio Kasparov is out on her friend Ned's fishing boat when a freighter rams into them, dumping them both into the icy waters of the North Atlantic. Somehow, she survives nearly four hours before being rescued. Ned is not so lucky. Pirio can't shake the feeling that what happened was no accident, a

suspicion seconded by her cynical Russian-immigrant father. And when Pirio teams up with the unlikeliest of partners, she begins unraveling a terrifying plot that leads to the frozen reaches of the Canadian arctic, where she confronts her ultimate challenge: to trust herself.

Unusual protagonist, settings and plot make this an entertaining read and Elo an author to follow. The parts on shipboard and in the Canadian Arctic are compelling and informative. I look forward to more of her books and give this one a B+!



Zane Grey – The Lone Star Ranger (1915) – Western

The Lone Star Ranger is a <u>Western novel</u> published by <u>Zane Grey</u> in 1915. The book takes place in <u>Texas</u>, the Lone Star State, and several main characters are <u>Texas Rangers</u>, a famous band of highly capable law enforcement officers. It follows the life of Buck Duane, a man who becomes an outlaw and then redeems himself in the eyes of the law.

The novel was dedicated to the Texas Ranger John Hughes.

Buck Duane is the son of a famous outlaw. Though an outlaw is not always a criminal, if the Rangers say he is an outlaw, it's just as bad – he's a hunted man. After killing a man in self-defense, Duane is forced to 'go on the dodge'. Duane turns up at an outlaw's hideout, still revolting at the idea of outlawry. Worse still, all the men he kills haunt him, for years. At the outlaw hideout, he meets a kidnapped, beautiful young woman and desires to see her free.

In the second part of the book, Duane joins the Rangers, who want him to help to clear the frontier of major cattle rustlers and bank robbers, in return for the governor's pardon of his illegal deeds.

Zane Grey and Louis L'Amour are the 2 most popular and famous western writes the genre offers. Both wrote many thrilling books that still attract a large following. This book is typical of Grey's books with love interests, a good man lead character and frequent gunplay. I enjoyed it and would recommend Grey to western lovers and anyone looking for an easy, exciting read. I give it a B+.

Emilie Schepp – Marked for Life – (2016) – Thriller



TO PROTECT HER OWN HORRIFIC PAST

A PROSECUTOR MUST CRACK A MURDER & TRAFFICKING RING BEFORE THE POLICE DO

When the head of the migration board is shot dead, no shortage of suspects arise, including his wife. But no one expects to find mysterious, child-size fingerprints inside his childless home.

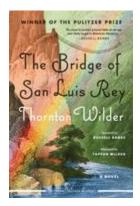
Public prosecutor Jana Berzelius steps in to lead the investigation. Young, brilliant, but emotionally cold, Jana, like her famous prosecutor father, won't be intimidated by threats. She is steely, aloof, impenetrable. That is, until the body of a boy is found dead on a deserted beach... and with him, the murder weapon that killed the official.

Berzelius is drawn deeper into the case when she recognizes something familiar on his small, scarred body. Cut deep into his flesh are familiar initials that scream child trafficking and trigger in her a flash of memory from her own dark childhood. Her connection to this boy has been carved with a deliberate malice that penetrates her soul.

Now, to protect her own horrific hidden past, she must find the real suspect behind these murders and uncover the heart of an insidious child-trafficking ring before the police do.

A well-crafted thriller. I liked it a lot and give it an A-. Looking for a new author? Give Schepp a hard look.

Thornton Wilder – The Bridge of San Luis Rey – 1927 – Classic



The Bridge of San Luis Rey, Thornton Wilder's second novel, won him the first of his three Pulitzer Prizes. The novel opens in the aftermath of an inexplicable tragedy--a tiny footbridge in Peru breaks, and five travelers hurtle to their deaths. Most townspeople think to themselves with secret joy, "Within 10 minutes myself....

But for Brother Juniper, a humble Franciscan friar who witnesses the catastrophe, the question is inescapable: Why those five? Suddenly, Brother Juniper is committed to discover what manner of lives these five disparate people led--and whether it was divine intervention that took their lives, or a capricious fate.

Wilder maintained in his works that true meaning and beauty are found in ordinary experience. This is especially true of *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. From the very beginning to the stunning conclusion, the listener is absorbed into the individual stories of the five victims, and how their destinies intertwine. A true classic.

From a review on Goodreads: Vit Babenco

The Bridge of San Luis Rey is a beautifully written book full of eternal questions.

If there were any plan in the universe at all, if there were any pattern in a human life, surely it could be discovered mysteriously latent in those lives so suddenly cut off. Either we live by accident and die by accident, or we live by plan and die by plan. And on that instant Brother Juniper made the resolve to inquire into the secret lives of those five persons, that moment falling through the air, and to surprise the reason of their taking off.

There are so many unrelated people in the world, so many different fates and then, unexpectedly, some calamity may tie certain fates together in the most tragic way... Is it a dire misfortune or God's Divine Providence?

There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning.

Crossing so many bridges during our life we inexorably approach the bridge that will collapse under our feet.

The March 2022 winner #2 is: Cindi Cullinan

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

Anne Bishop - Crowbones (World of the Others) – Dark Fantasy – 28.00



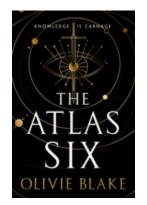
Crowbones will gitcha if you don't watch out!

Deep in the territory controlled by the Others--shape-shifters, vampires, and even deadlier paranormal beings--Vicki DeVine has made a new life for herself running The Jumble, a rustic resort. When she decides to host a gathering of friends and guests for Trickster Night, at first everything is going well between the humans and the Others.

But then someone arrives dressed as Crowbones, the Crowgard bogeyman. When the impostor is killed along with a shape-shifting Crow, and the deaths are clearly connected, everyone fears that the real Crowbones may have come to The Jumble--and that could mean serious trouble.

To "encourage" humans to help them find some answers, the Elders and Elementals close all the roads, locking in suspects and victims alike. Now Vicki, human police chief Grimshaw, vampire lawyer Ilya Sanguinati, and the rest of their friends have to figure out who is manipulating events designed to pit humans against Others--and who may have put Vicki DeVine in the crosshairs of a powerful hunter.

Olivie Blake - The Atlas Six– Fantasy – 25.99



The Alexandrian Society, caretakers of lost knowledge from the greatest civilizations of antiquity, are the foremost secret society of magical academicians in the world. Those who earn a place among the Alexandrians will secure a life of wealth, power, and prestige beyond their wildest dreams, and each decade, only the six most uniquely talented magicians are selected to be considered for initiation.

Enter the latest round of six: Libby Rhodes and Nico de Varona, unwilling halves of an unfathomable whole, who exert uncanny control over every element of physicality. Reina Mori, a naturalist, who can intuit the language of life itself. Parisa Kamali, a telepath who can traverse the depths of the subconscious, navigating worlds inside the human mind. Callum Nova, an empath easily mistaken for a manipulative illusionist, who can influence the intimate workings of a person's inner self. Finally, there is Tristan Caine, who can see through illusions to a new structure of reality--an ability so rare that neither he nor his peers can fully grasp its implications.

When the candidates are recruited by the mysterious Atlas Blakely, they are told they will have one year to qualify for initiation, during which time they will be permitted preliminary access to the Society's archives and judged based on

their contributions to various subjects of impossibility: time and space, luck and thought, life and death. Five, they are told, will be initiated. One will be eliminated. The six potential initiates will fight to survive the next year of their lives, and if they can prove themselves to be the best among their rivals, most of them will. Most of them.

Ben Bova - Sam Gunn Jr. – Sci Fi - 29.99



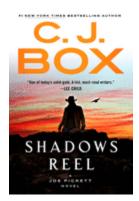
The final completed novel by Ben Bova

Intergalactic explorer, venture capitalist, and Casanova Sam Gunn may be gone, but his legacy lives on in his son, Sam Gunn Jr.

In his first-ever adventure, Sam Gunn Jr. sets off to fulfill his father's left-behind mission of interplanetary enterprising. He soon learns his father's shoes are tough to fill, but he is up for the task. Junior takes a journey through the stars, falling in love with beautiful women and leaving his unique mark everywhere he ventures. Soon, however, this trip through the universe takes a dangerous turn when Junior lands on Saturn and learns about a recent scientific discovery that will change everything, possibly forever.

Will he be able to save the universe and live up to his father's name? Take an unforgettable ride through space in master sci-fi author Ben Bova's exciting novel

C.J. Box - Shadows Reel (Joe Pickett Novel) – Mystery – 28.00



A day before the three Pickett girls come home for Thanksgiving, Joe is called out for a moose poaching incident that turns out to be something much more sinister: a local fishing guide has been brutally tortured and murdered. At the same time, Marybeth opens an unmarked package at the library where she works and finds a photo album that belonged to an infamous Nazi official. Who left it there? And why?

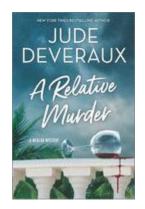
She learns that during World War II, several Wyoming soldiers were in the group that fought to Hitler's Eagles Nest retreat in the Alps--and one of them took the Fuhrer's personal photo album. Did another take this one and keep it all these years? When a close neighbor is murdered, Joe and Marybeth face new questions: Who is after the book? And how will they solve its mystery before someone hurts them...or their girls? Meanwhile, Nate Romanowski is on the hunt for the man who stole his falcons and attacked his wife. Using a network of fellow falconers, Nate tracks the man from one city to another. Even as he grasps the true threat his quarry presents, Nate swoops in for the kill--and a stunning final showdown.

Harlan Coben – The Match – Thriller – 29.00



After months away, Wilde has returned to the Ramapo Mountains in the wake of a failed bid at domesticity that confirms what he's known all along: He belongs on his own, free from the comforts and constraints of modern life. Suddenly, a DNA match on an online ancestry database brings Wilde closer to his past than he's ever dreamed, and finally gives Wilde the opening he needs to track down his father. But meeting the man brings up more questions than answers. So Wilde reaches out to his last, most desperate lead, a second cousin who disappears as quickly as he resurfaces, having experienced an epic fall from grace that can only be described as a waking nightmare. Was his cousin's downfall a long time coming? Or was he the victim of a conspiracy as cunning as it is complex? And how does it all connect to the man once known as The Stranger, a treacherous fugitive with a growing following whose mission and methods have only turned more dangerous with time?

Jude Deveraux - A Relative Murder (Original) (Medlar Mystery #4) – Mystery – 27.99



Even the closest families have secrets hidden away.

Bestselling novelist Sara Medlar is skilled at sharing stories about other people, but she hoped the truth about her own family would never surface. Her home in Lachlan, Florida, is her refuge and she loves having her niece Kate and dear friend Jack Wyatt together under her roof. The Medlar Three, as they are known around town, have sworn off getting involved in any more murder investigations.

When the sheriff unexpectedly leaves on vacation, Jack is surprised to find himself appointed as deputy. So when Kate stumbles upon a dead body while visiting a friend, the Medlar Three are back in the sleuthing game. Kate also has a charming new real estate client with a mysterious past. He seems to be followed by trouble and that makes Sara and Jack uneasy.

It doesn't take long to discover that the murder and the new man in town are somehow related--the question is how. When the stranger's true identity is revealed, Sara realizes her carefully crafted story is about to unravel and she fears she'll lose Kate and Jack forever. But she desperately hopes that love and honesty will win out over years of lies and deceit. And besides, family is family--even if you sometimes want to kill them.

Christine Feehan - Phantom Game (Ghostwalker Novel) – Romance – 28.00



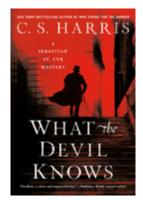
Jonas "Smoke" Harper has watched his brothers find their perfect mates, never imagining he'd actually meet someone who complements every part of him--even the monster that lurks within. But his instant connection with Camellia goes far beyond wanting the intelligent, beautiful, and lethal woman in his bed. They are two parts of a whole, linked to each other and to a larger network that exists everywhere around them.

Camellia has lived on her own for a long time, relying on her unique psychic abilities to keep her safe. She knows that Jonas was literally made for her, and that makes their addictive connection more dangerous than a thousand en-

hanced super soldiers. Once the larger threat looming over them is dealt with she's going to get far away as fast as she can. Life has taught her that the only one she can truly trust is herself.

Jonas can sense Camellia is going to run--and the hunter inside doesn't want to let go. Not when he knows how good they'll be together. So he'll just have to use all of his considerable skills to convince her to stay....

C.S. Harris – What the Devil Knows (Sebastian St. Cyr Mystery) – 17.00



It's October 1814. The war with France is finally over and Europe's diplomats are convening in Vienna for a conference that will put their world back together. With peace finally at hand, London suddenly finds itself in the grip of a series of heinous murders eerily similar to the Ratcliffe Highway murders of three years before.

In 1811, two entire families were viciously murdered in their homes. A suspect--a young seaman named John Williams-was arrested. But before he could be brought to trial, Williams hanged himself in his cell. The murders ceased, and London slowly began to breathe easier. But when the lead investigator, Sir Edwin Pym, is killed in the same brutal way three years later and others possibly connected to the original case meet violent ends, the city is paralyzed with terror once more.

Was the wrong man arrested for the murders? Bow Street magistrate Sir Henry Lovejoy turns to his friend Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin, for assistance. Pym's colleagues are convinced his manner of death is a coincidence, but Sebastian has his doubts. The more he looks into the three-year-old murders, the more certain he becomes that the hapless John Williams was not the real killer. Which begs the question--who was and why are they dead set on killing again?

Timothy David Mack - The Orchid and the Emerald: Search for the Cure – Historical Fiction - 29.99



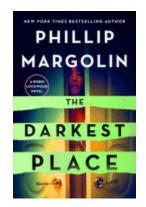
William Gunn wants nothing more than a quiet life. After returning home from the Napoleonic wars, he accepts a position on the Duke of Devonshire's idyllic estate. Destiny, however, intervenes when his young daughter Sarah falls prey to a mysterious sickness, and Gunn must strike out once more into the unknown and search for an unusual cure--the black orchid, a plant found only in the forbidding Amazon rainforest, where the last man who saw it went insane.

Across the Atlantic, American frontiersman Nathanial Yankee has left his country and his past behind to join a new revolution, fought by General Simón Bolívar to free South America from the Spanish. Nate, however, is no hero--he fights for land, and a chance at a fresh start.

Pursued by a cruel enemy in a race against time, William and Nate must survive the battlefields of the Spanish Main, cross the snow-covered peaks of the Andes, and finally reckon with the rulers of a dying Amazonian empire. For one man, the goal is a chance to save his daughter's life; for the other, a priceless treasure beckons. If they cannot learn to work together, one of a thousand enemies will kill them (that is, if they don't kill each other first).

Unbeknownst to them, both men are pawns in a far larger game, and some secrets cannot be hidden forever ...

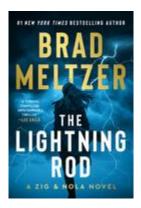
Phillip Margolin - The Darkest Place: A Robin Lockwood Novel (Robin Lockwood #5) – Mystery – 27.99



Robin Lockwood is an increasingly prominent defense attorney in the Portland community. A Yale graduate and former MMA fighter, she's becoming known for her string of innovative and successful defense strategies. As a favor to a judge, Robin takes on the pro bono defense of a reprehensible defendant charged with even more reprehensible crimes. But what she doesn't know--what she can't know--is how this one decision, this one case, will wreak complete devastation on her life and plans.

As she recovers from those consequences, Robin heads home to her small town of Elk Grove and the bosom of her family. As she tries to recuperate, a unique legal challenge presents itself--Marjorie Loman, a surrogate, is accused of kidnapping the baby she carried for another couple, and assaulting that couple in the process. There's no question that she committed these actions but that's not the same as being guilty of the crime. As Robin works to defend her client, she learns that Marjorie Loman has been hiding under a fake identity and is facing a warrant for her arrest for another, even more serious crime. And buried within the truth may once again be unexpected, deadly consequences.

Brad Metzler - The Lightning Rod: A Zig & Nola Novel (Escape Artist #2) – Thriller – 28.99



What's the one secret no one knows about you?

Archie Mint has a secret. He's led a charmed life--he's got a beautiful wife, two impressive kids, and a successful military career. But when he's killed while trying to stop a robbery in his own home, his family is shattered--and then shocked when the other shoe drops. Mint's been hiding criminal secrets none of them could have imagined.

While working on Mint's body before his funeral, mortician "Zig" Zigarowski discovers something he was never meant to see. That telling detail leads him to Mint's former top secret military unit and his connection to artist Nola Brown. Two years ago, Nola saved Zig's life--so he knows better than most that she's as volatile and dangerous as a bolt of lightning.

Following Nola's trail, he uncovers one of the U.S. government's most intensely guarded secrets--an undisclosed military facility that dates back to the Cold War and holds the key to something far more sinister: a hidden group willing to David Rosenfeldt - compromise the very safety and security of America itself.

Trouble always finds her...

She's the lightning rod.

Michael Moorcock - Stormbringer: The Elric Saga Part 2 volume 2 (Elric Saga) – Fantasy - 29.99



In one of the most well-known and well-loved fantasy epics of the 20th century, Elric is the brooding, albino emperor of the dying Kingdom of Melnibone. After defeating his nefarious cousin and gaining control over the epic sword, Stormbringer, Elric, prince of ruins, must decide what he's willing to sacrifice in a fight against Armageddon. *Stormbringer* is the second in Michael Moorcock's incredible series, which has transformed the fantasy genre for generations. Perfect for fans new and old, this book is brought to life once more with stunning illustrations from the most lauded artists in fantasy.

James Patterson and Dolly Parton - Run, Rose, Run – Thriller - 30.00



Every song tells a story.

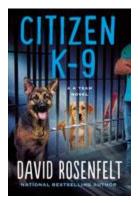
She's a star on the rise, singing about the hard life behind her.

She's also on the run. *Find a future, lose a past.*

Nashville is where she's come to claim her destiny. It's also where the darkness she's fled might find her. And destroy her.

Run, Rose, Run is a novel glittering with danger and desire

David Rosenfelt - Citizen K-9: A K Team Novel (K Team Novels #3) – Mystery - 27.99

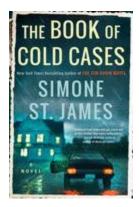


The Paterson Police Department has created a cold case division, and they want to hire the private investigators known as the K Team to look into the crimes. After all, Corey Douglas and his K-9 partner, German shepherd Simon Garfunkel, recently retired from the force. Plus, another K Team member, Laurie Collins, used to be a cop as well.

Their first cold case hits home for the K Team. A decade ago, at Laurie's tenth high school reunion, two of their friends simply... vanished. At the time Laurie had just left the force, and Corey was in a different department, so they had no choice but to watch from the sidelines. With no leads, the case went cold.

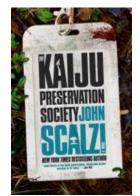
As the team starts to delve deeper into the events leading up to that night--reopening old wounds along the way--the pieces start to come together. But someone wants to stop them from uncovering the truth behind the disappearance, by any means necessary.

Simone St. James - The Book of Cold Cases– Mystery – 27.00



A true crime blogger gets more than she bargained for while interviewing the woman acquitted of two cold case slayings in this chilling new novel from the New York Times bestselling author of The Sun Down Motel. In 1977, Claire Lake, Oregon, was shaken by the Lady Killer Murders: Two men, seemingly randomly, were murdered with the same gun, with strange notes left behind. Beth Greer was the perfect suspect-a rich, eccentric twenty-three-year-old woman, seen fleeing one of the crimes. But she was acquitted, and she retreated to the isolation of her mansion. Oregon, 2017. Shea Collins is a receptionist, but by night, she runs a true crime website, the Book of Cold Cases-a passion fueled by the attempted abduction she escaped as a child. When she meets Beth by chance, Shea asks her for an interview. To Shea's surprise, Beth says yes. They meet regularly at Beth's mansion, though Shea is never comfortable there. Items move when she's not looking, and she could swear she's seen a small girl outside the window. The allure of learning the truth about the case from the smart, charming Beth is too much to resist, but even as they grow closer, Shea senses something isn't right. Is she making friends with a manipulative murderer, or are there other dangers lurking in the darkness of the Greer house?

John Scalzi - The Kaiju Preservation Society – Sci Fi – 26.99

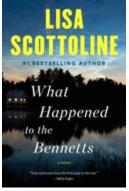


When COVID-19 sweeps through New York City, Jamie Gray is stuck as a dead-end driver for food delivery apps. That is, until Jamie makes a delivery to an old acquaintance, Tom, who works at what he calls "an animal rights organization." Tom's team needs a last-minute grunt to handle things on their next field visit. Jamie, eager to do anything, immediately signs on.

What Tom doesn't tell Jamie is that the animals his team cares for are not here on Earth. Not our Earth, at least. In an alternate dimension, massive dinosaur-like creatures named Kaiju roam a warm and human-free world. They're the universe's largest and most dangerous panda and they're in trouble.

It's not just the Kaiju Preservation Society who have found their way to the alternate world. Others have, too. And their carelessness could cause millions back on our Earth to die.

Lisa Scottoline - What Happened to the Bennetts – Thriller – 28.00



Your family has been attacked, never again to be the same.

Now you have to choose between law...and justice.

Jason Bennett is a suburban dad who owns a court-reporting business, but one night, his life takes a horrific turn. He is driving his family home after his daughter's field hockey game when a pickup truck begins tailgating them, on a dark stretch of road. Suddenly two men jump from the pickup and pull guns on Jason, demanding the car. A horrific flash of violence changes his life forever.

Later that awful night, Jason and his family receive a visit from the FBI. The agents tell them that the carjackers were members of a dangerous drug-trafficking organization - and now Jason and his family are in their crosshairs. The agents advise the Bennetts to enter the witness protection program right away, and they have no choice but to agree. But WITSEC was designed to protect criminal informants, not law-abiding families. Taken from all they know, trapped in an unfamiliar life, the Bennetts begin to fall apart at the seams. Then Jason learns a shocking truth and realizes that he has to take matters into his own hands.

Danielle Steel - High Stakes – General Fiction – 28.99



Jane Addison is an ambitious young woman with big dreams of owning her own company someday. At twenty-eight, she arrives in New York to start a job at Fletcher and Benson, a prestigious talent agency. Eager to impress her new colleagues, Jane jumps right in as an assistant to Hailey West, one of the agents in the literary department. Hailey is dedicated to the authors she represents, but her home life is chaotic and challenging. After her husband's tragic and untimely death, she was left widowed with three children to raise on her own.

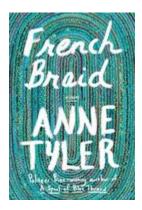
Then there's Francine Rivers, the stern and accomplished head of the literary department. Also a single mom after her husband's affair with the nanny, she has overcome the resulting financial hardships, but only with unbearable sacrifice. Compared to Hailey and Francine, drama agent Allie Moore's life seems much more carefree and uncomplicated. She relishes her success and loves working with the talented actors they represent--until a passionate relationship with one of her rising star clients threatens to derail her career.

Merriwether Jones is the CFO for the agency. She appears to have it all--beauty, success, and a perfect marriage until her husband's jealousy over her career threatens to blow everything up.

Even though she's a newcomer, Jane quickly realizes that there are damaging secrets hidden behind the doors of Fletcher and Benson. As one of the youngest employees, she has the least power, but is also the least willing to accept things as they have been for years. When she puts everything on the line to right these wrongs, the consequences will leave no one unscathed.

In this riveting novel, Danielle Steel tells the story of a group of remarkable women navigating the challenges of balancing their families, their personal lives and the high stakes of ambition at the top of their game.

Anne Tyler – French Braid – General Fiction- 27.00

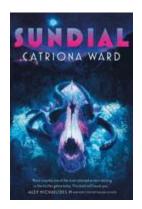


The Garretts take their first and last family vacation in the summer of 1959. They hardly ever leave home, but in some ways they have never been farther apart. Mercy has trouble resisting the siren call of her aspirations to be a painter, which means less time keeping house for her husband, Robin. Their teenage daughters, steady Alice and boy-crazy Lily, could not have less in common. Their youngest, David, is already intent on escaping his family's orbit, for reasons none of them understand. Yet, as these lives advance across decades, the Garretts' influences on one another ripple ineffably but unmistakably through each generation.

Full of heartbreak and hilarity, French Braid is classic Anne Tyler: a stirring, uncannily insightful novel of tremendous

warmth and humor that illuminates the kindnesses and cruelties of our daily lives, the impossibility of breaking free from those who love us, and how close--yet how unknowable--every family is to itself.

Catroina Ward – Sundial – Horror – 26.99



You can't escape what's in your blood...

All Rob wanted was a normal life. She almost got it, too: a husband, two kids, a nice house in the suburbs. But Rob fears for her oldest daughter, Callie, who collects tiny bones and whispers to imaginary friends. Rob sees a darkness in Callie, one that reminds her too much of the family she left behind.

She decides to take Callie back to her childhood home, to Sundial, deep in the Mojave Desert. And there she will have to make a terrible choice.

Callie is worried about her mother. Rob has begun to look at her strangely, and speaks of past secrets. And Callie fears that only one of them will leave Sundial alive...

The mother and daughter embark on a dark, desert journey to the past in the hopes of redeeming their future.

Ally Wilkes – All the White Spaces – Horror – 27.00



Something deadly and mysterious stalks the members of an isolated polar expedition in this haunting and spellbinding historical horror novel. In the wake of the First World War, Jonathan Morgan stows away on an Antarctic expedition, determined to find his rightful place in the world of men. Aboard the expeditionary ship, Jonathan may live as his true self-and true gender-and have the adventures he has always been denied. When disaster strikes in Antarctica's frozen Weddell Sea, the men must take to the land and overwinter somewhere which immediately seems both eerie and wrong; a place not marked on any of their part-drawn maps of the vast white continent. Now completely isolated, the expedition has no ability to contact the outside world. And no one is coming to rescue them. In the freezing darkness of the Polar night, where the aurora creeps across the sky, something terrible has been waiting to lure them out into its deadly landscape...As the harsh Antarctic winter descends, this supernatural force will prey on their deepest desires and deepest fears to pick them off one by one. It is up to Jonathan to overcome his own ghosts before he and the expedition are utterly destroyed

Jacqueline Winspear - A Sunlit Weapon (Maisie Dobbs #17) – Mystery – 27.99

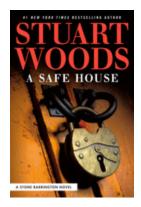


October 1942. Jo Hardy, a 22-year-old ferry pilot, is delivering a Supermarine Spitfire--the fastest fighter aircraft in the world--to Biggin Hill Aerodrome, when she realizes someone is shooting at her aircraft from the ground. Returning to the location on foot, she finds an American serviceman in a barn, bound and gagged. She rescues the man, who is handed over to the American military police; it quickly emerges that he is considered a suspect in the disappearance of a fellow soldier who is missing.

Tragedy strikes two days later, when another ferry pilot crashes in the same area where Jo's plane was attacked. At the suggestion of one of her colleagues, Jo seeks the help of psychologist and investigator Maisie Dobbs. Meanwhile, Maisie's husband, a high-ranking political attaché based at the American embassy, is in the thick of ensuring security is tight for the first lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt, during her visit to the Britain. There's already evidence that German agents have been circling: the wife of a president represents a high value target. Mrs. Roosevelt is clearly in danger, and there may well be a direct connection to the death of the woman ferry pilot and the recent activities of two American servicemen.

To guarantee the safety of the First Lady--and of the soldier being held in police custody--Maisie must uncover that connection. At the same time, she faces difficulties of an entirely different nature with her young daughter, Anna, who is experiencing wartime struggles of her own.

Stuart Woods - A Safe House (Stone Barrington Novel) – Mystery – 28.00



In this latest adrenaline-charged thriller from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Stuart Woods, Stone Barrington takes on a vengeful rival. Stone Barrington is looking forward to some quiet time in New York City, until he is asked to transport precious, topsecret cargo across the Atlantic. Taking on the challenge, Stone flies off unaware of what--or who--he is bringing with him.

But his plans to lie low are quickly spoiled when a dangerous dispatcher tracks down Stone and his tantalizing mystery guest, intent on payback--and silencing anyone who poses a threat. From the English countryside to the balmy beaches of Key West, Stone is on an international mission to hide and protect those closest to him.

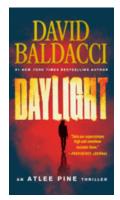
The March 2022 winner #3 is: Fred Ruedy Trivia for March 2022 What popular children's book was written by Ian Fleming, creator of British secret agent James Bond?

Answer:

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, The Magical Car

Mass Market Paperback

David Baldacci - Daylight (Atlee Pine Thriller #3) – Mystery – 9.99



For many long years, Atlee Pine was tormented by uncertainty after her twin sister, Mercy, was abducted at the age of six and never seen again. Now, just as Atlee is pressured to end her investigation into Mercy's disappearance, she finally gets her most promising breakthrough yet: the identity of her sister's kidnapper, Ito Vincenzo.

With time running out, Atlee and her assistant Carol Blum race to Vincenzo's last known location in Trenton, New Jersey--and unknowingly stumble straight into John Puller's case, blowing his arrest during a drug ring investigation involving a military installation.

Stunningly, Pine and Puller's joint investigation uncovers a connection between Vincenzo's family and a breathtaking scheme that strikes at the very heart of global democracy. Peeling back the layers of deceit, lies and cover-ups, Atlee finally discovers the truth about what happened to Mercy. And that truth will shock Pine to her very core.

Patricia Briggs - Wild Sign (Alpha and Omega) – Fantasy – 8.99

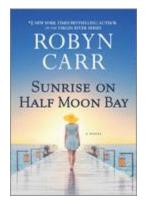


In the wilds of the Northern California mountains, all the inhabitants of a small town have gone missing. It's as if the people picked up and left their possessions behind. With a mystery on their hands and no jurisdiction on private property, the FBI dumps the whole problem in the lap of the land owner, Aspen Creek, Inc.--aka the business organization of the Marrok's pack.

Somehow, the pack of the Wolf Who Rules is connected to a group of vanished people. Werewolves Charles Cornick and Anna Latham are tasked with investigating, and soon find that a deserted town is the least of the challenges they face.

Death sings in the forest, and when it calls, Charles and Anna must answer. Something has awakened in the heart of the California mountains, something old and dangerous--and it has met werewolves before.

Robyn Carr - Sunrise on Half Moon Bay – General – 9.99



Sometimes the happiness we're looking for has been there all along...

Adele and Justine have never been close. Born twenty years apart, Justine was already an adult when Addie was born. The sisters love each other but they don't really know each other.

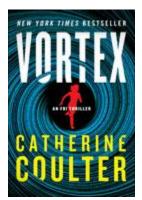
When Addie dropped out of university to care for their ailing parents, Justine, a successful lawyer, covered the expenses. It was the best arrangement at the time but now that their parents are gone, the future has changed dramatically for both women.

Addie had great plans for her life but has been worn down by the pressures of being a caregiver and doesn't know how to live for herself. And Justine's success has come at a price. Her marriage is falling apart despite her best efforts.

Neither woman knows how to start life over but both realize they can and must support each other the way only sisters can. Together they find the strength to accept their failures and overcome their challenges. Happiness is within reach, if only they have the courage to fight for it.

Set in the stunning coastal town of Half Moon Bay, California, Robyn Carr's new novel examines the joys of sisterhood and the importance of embracing change.

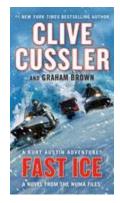
Catherine Coulter - Vortex: An FBI Thriller (FBI Thriller #25) – 9.99



Seven years ago, Mia Briscoe was at a college frat rave with her best friend, Serena, when a fire broke out. Everyone was accounted for except Serena, who was never seen nor heard from again. Now an investigative journalist covering the political scene in New York City, Mia discovers old photos taken the night of Serena's disappearance and begins to uncover a sinister string of events going all the way back to that disastrous party. Working with Sherlock, the secrets begin to unravel. But some very powerful--and very dangerous--people will do anything to keep them from learning the truth.

CIA Operative Olivia Hildebrandt is a team leader on a mission in Iran to exfiltrate a betrayed undercover operative. She's nearly killed by an exploding grenade and saved by a team member. But by the time Olivia is released from Walter Reed Hospital, that team member and a critical flash drive he was carrying have disappeared. Olivia is attacked on her first night home, a direct result of the compromised mission and the missing team member and flash drive. But what intelligence was at stake and who betrayed them?

Clive Cussler – Fast Ice (NUMA Files) – Thriller – 9.99



In the early days of World War II, the infamous German Luftwaffe embark upon an expedition to Antarctica, hoping to set up a military base to support their goal of world domination. Though the military outpost never comes to fruition, what the Nazis find on the icy continent indeed proves dangerous...and will have implications far into the future.

In the present day, Kurt Austin and his assistant Joe Zavala head to the freezing edge of the world after a former NUMA colleague disappears in Antarctica. While there, they discover a photo of the Luftwaffe expedition of 1939, and are drawn into a decades-old conspiracy. Even as they confront perilous waters and frigid temperatures, they are also up against a terrifying man-made weapon--a fast-growing ice that could usher in a new Ice Age.

Pitted against a determined madman and a monstrous storm, Kurt and the NUMA team must unravel the Nazi-era plot in order to save the globe from a freeze that would bury it once and for all.

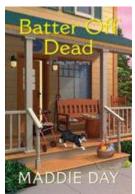
B.J. Daniels - Before Buckhorn (Original) (Buckhorn, Montana Novel) – 9.99



Small towns can house big secrets...

Former cop Jasper Cole has come home to Buckhorn to ranch--and to find some peace. But there's one part of his past he doesn't object to facing again. Darby Fulton acts like she's forgotten the searing one-night stand they shared in college, but to Jasper, she's as fascinating and tempting as ever. And when she's drawn into an unsettling local mystery, he follows, despite his misgivings. Bad things have been happening to Buckhorn residents, and Darby's sure it has something to do with a new store called Gossip. As a newspaper publisher, she can't ignore the story, any more than she can ignore her deep attraction to Jasper. And as their investigation reignites that spark, it also pulls them both into a twisted scheme of revenge, where secrets are a deadly weapon...

Maddie Day - Batter Off Dead (Country Store Mystery) – 8.99



In Agatha Award-winning author Maddie Day's tenth Country Store Mystery, Pans "N Pancakes owner and part-time sleuth Robbie Jordan must untangle the clues to find the killer of a knitting circle member...

In South Lick, Indiana, fine foods and classic cookware can be found at Robbie Jordan's Pans 'N Pancakes. Unfortunately, her country store also seems to stock up on murder...

Robbie and her new husband Abe O'Neill are enjoying a summer evening in the park with fellow townsfolk excited for some Friday night fireworks. In attendance are senior residents from Jupiter Springs Assisted Living including Roy Bird, father to South Lick's very own Police Lieutenant Buck Bird. Despite his blindness, Roy is a member of his group home's knitting circle, spending quality time with some lovely ladies.

But when the lightshow ends, one of the knitters who sat with Roy is found dead, a puncture wound in her neck. The poor woman's death echoes that of Buck's mother and Roy's wife--an unsolved homicide. To help find the killer, Robbie's going to have to untangle the knotty relationships deep in the victim's past...

Jackie Fraser - The Bookshop of Second Chances – General – 8.99



Thea Mottram is having a bad month. She's been let go from her office job with no notice--and to make matters even worse, her husband of nearly twenty years has decided to leave her for one of her friends. Bewildered and completely lost, Thea doesn't know what to do. But when she learns that a distant great uncle in Scotland has passed away, leaving her his home and a hefty antique book collection, she decides to leave Sussex for a few weeks. Escaping to a small coastal town where no one knows her seems to be exactly what she needs.

Almost instantly, Thea becomes enamored with the quaint cottage, comforted by its cozy rooms and lovely but

neglected garden. The locals in nearby Baldochrie are just as warm, quirky, and inviting. The only person she can't seem to win over is bookshop owner Edward Maltravers, to whom she hopes to sell her uncle's book collection. His gruff attitude--fueled by an infamous, long-standing feud with his brother, a local lord--tests Thea's patience. But bickering with Edward proves oddly refreshing and exciting, leading Thea to develop feelings she hasn't experienced in a long time. As she follows a thrilling yet terrifying impulse to stay in Scotland indefinitely, Thea realizes that her new life may quickly become just as complicated as the one she was running from.

Michael Mammay - The Misfit Soldier – Sci Fi – 8.99



Sergeant Gastovsky--Gas to everyone but his superior officers--never wanted to be a soldier. Far from it. But when a con goes wrong and he needs a place to lay low for a while, he finds himself wearing the power armor of the augmented infantry.

After three years on a six-year contract, Gas has found his groove running low-level cons and various illegal activities that make him good money on the side. He's the guy who can get you what you need. But he's always had his eye out for a big score--the one that might set him up for life after the military.

When one of his soldiers is left behind after a seemingly pointless battle, Gas sees his chance. He assembles a team of misfit soldiers that would push the term "ragtag" to its limits for a big con that leads them on a daring behind-the-lines mission, pitting him not only against enemy soldiers but against the top brass of his own organization.

If he pulls this off, not only will he save his squadmate, he might just become the legend he's always considered himself. He might also change the way the entire galaxy looks at this war. But for any of that to happen, he has to live through this insane plan.

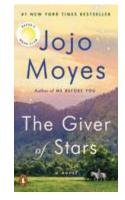
And charm rarely stops bullets.

Jason Matthews - The Kremlin's Candidate: (Red Sparrow Trilogy #3) – Thriller – 9.99



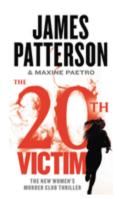
Russian counterintelligence chief Colonel Dominika Egorova has been an asset of the CIA for over seven years. She has also been in a forbidden and tumultuous love affair with her handler Nate Nash, mortally dangerous for them both, but irresistible. In Washington, a newly installed administration is selecting its cabinet members. Dominika hears whispers of a Russian operation to place a mole in a high intelligence position. If the candidate is confirmed, the Kremlin will have access to the identities of CIA assets in Moscow, including Dominika. Dominika recklessly immerses herself in the palace intrigues of the Kremlin, searching for the mole's identity and stealing secrets before her time runs out.

Jojo Moyes - The Giver of Stars – General – 9.99



Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But smalltown Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Horseback Librarians of Kentucky. What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes a classic drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. Though they face all kinds of dangers, they're committed to their job--bringing books to people who have never had any, sharing the gift of learning that will change their lives. Based on a true story rooted in America's past, The Giver of Stars is unparalleled in its scope. At times funny, at others heartbreaking, this is a richly rewarding novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond

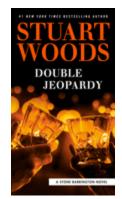
James Patterson & Maxine Paetro - The 20th Victim (Women's Murder Club #20) – Mystery – 9.99



Three victims, three bullets, three cities. The shooters' aim is as fearsomely precise as their target selection. When Lindsay realizes that the fallen men and women excel in a lucrative, criminal activity, she leads the charge in the manhunt for the killers. As the casualty list expands, fear and fascination with this suspicious shooting gallery galvanizes the country.

The victims were no angels, but are the shooters villains . . . or heroes?

Stuart Woods - Double Jeopardy (Stone Barrington Novel) – Thriller – 9.99



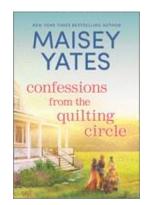
Stone Barrington is settling in for a stretch in New York when he receives news that demands immediate action. An old family matter has unexpectedly resurfaced, and Stone must decamp to the craggy shores of Maine to address the issue head-on.

There, Stone finds that a dual-pronged threat is hiding in plain sight among the stately houses and exclusive coastal clubs, and the incursion isn't easily rebuffed. These enemies have friends in high places, funds to spare, and a score to settle with Stone . . . and only the cleverest plot will draw them out into the open. From luxuriously renovated homes to the choppy ocean waters, the pursuit can only lead to an explosive end.

The March 2022 winner #4 is:

Rich & Barb Kraft

Maisey Yates - Confessions from the Quilting Circle – General - 9.99



The Ashwood women don't have much in common...except their ability to keep secrets.

When Lark Ashwood's beloved grandmother dies, she and her sisters discover an unfinished quilt. Finishing it could be the reason Lark's been looking for to stop running from the past, but is she ever going to be brave enough to share her

biggest secret with the people she ought to be closest to?

Hannah can't believe she's back in Bear Creek, the tiny town she sacrificed everything to escape from. The plan? Help her sisters renovate her grandmother's house and leave as fast as humanly possible. Until she comes face-to-face with a man from her past. But getting close to him again might mean confessing what really drove her away...

Stay-at-home mom Avery has built a perfect life, but at a cost. She'll need all her family around her, and all her strength, to decide if the price of perfection is one she can afford to keep paying.

This summer, the Ashwood women must lean on each other like never before, if they are to stitch their family back together, one truth at a time...

fourteenth annual **IRONNERN CONTEST** 24 hours to flex your writing muscles

poetry | fiction | nonfiction Feb. 25-26 | \$10

mwcqc.org/events/4089/

The fastest writing contest in the Quad Cities is back and taking registrations now!

The Midwest Writing Center is taking registrations for its 14th annual Iron Pen Contest. MWC will supply a prompt to all contestants at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 25th and contestants have 24 hours (entries are due Saturday, February 26th by 5 p.m.) to write and submit their best fiction, non-fiction, and/or poetry pieces. Writers are welcome to enter into as many categories as they like with a paid registration for each entry.

The cost to enter the Iron Pen contest is \$10 per entry, per category. Anyone can enter! Contestants do not need to be from or reside in the Quad City area. Contestant entries will be judged blind in genre categories—Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction (please note there is a 2,000 word limit for fiction and nonfiction entries). The Iron Pen contest is open to all ages.

Registration forms can be found via the link below or at the Midwest Writing Center, c/o RIPL, 401 19th St., Rock Island, IL 61201.

Iron Pen 2021 Registration Form (jpeg)

Iron Pen 2021 Registration Form (pdf)

Everyone that participates in the 2021 Iron Pen Contest will have a chance to win a paid-in-full tuition with a value of \$300 for the 2020 David R. Collins Writing Conference in June 24-26, 2021 at St. Ambrose University.

This year all winners and finalists will have the opportunity to publish their work in the MWC's annual *Writers Block* e-magazine, which will be released to MWC members in the fall of 2021. Winners and finalists will also have the opportunity to publisher their work on the MWC website.

Contest Timeline:

On Friday, February 25 at 5 p.m. contestants will receive an email from the MWC that includes: a topic, an opening line, or a specific character. The prompt will also be announced on our website <u>www.mwcqc.org</u> and on the MWC voicemail message.

On Saturday, February 26, contestants must email or bring their work to the Midwest Writing Center no later than 5 p.m. – please do not mail them.

The winners of this 24-hours contest will be announced by email and online on Wednesday, March 9. On Saturday, March 12 at 2 p.m. during a virtual event (available on Facebook Live, YouTube and Zoom), the winners and finalists will be invited to read their work. All awards and prizes will be sent by mail or can be picked up at the MWC offices.