

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 14, #5 May 2021  
563-355-2310

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

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

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## Trivia for May 2021

What famous author wrote under the pen names Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass, Sergeant Fathom and W. Apaminondas Adrastus Blab before switching to the name with which he gained fame?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

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## Our May 2021

### \$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 or purchase in the past 2-years (Since May 1, 2019 this month).

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 May 2021 winner #1 is:**

**Jenny Molineaux**

**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 **May 30, 2021** to claim your prize:**

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

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**Books We Need**

**Charles Bukowski (author)**

**Sailor Moon (Manga)**

**Naoko Takeuchi Manga (Author)**

**Louise Penny**

**Horror**

**Westerns**

**True Crime**

**May 2021 Holidays and Events at  
The Book Rack:**

**Month:**

- **Asian American**
- **Mystery Month**
- **National Barbecue Month**
- **National Photograph Month**
- **Older Americans Month**

**Weekly Celebrations:**

- **Nurse's Week - first full week of month**
- **Wildflower Week - week two**
- **National Bike Week - third week**
- **National Police Week - third week of month**
- **Emergency Medical Services Week - fourth week of month**

**May 1:**

**May Day**

**Mother Goose Day**

**National Fitness Day - first Saturday in May**

**May 2: Brothers and Sisters Day**

**May 3: World Press Freedom Day**

**May 5: Cinco de Mayo**

**May 6: National Nurses Day**

**May 8: Military Spouse's Day**

**May 9: Mother's Day**

**May 15: Armed Forces Day**

**May 21: Cops and Books** – **The Book Rack** is a Presenting Sponsor of this initiative

**May 31: Memorial Day** – **The Book Rack** will be OPEN

## **Cops and Books**

**May 21, 10-6:00**



**The Book Rack** is a Presenting Sponsor of this initiative, supporting the Davenport Police Department, The Lincoln Center and KWQC in collecting new and “like new” children’s books. These new and used books will be distributed by police to children in their service areas who face obstacles in accessing and reading books.

Starting May 1 you can donate books at The Book Rack. We’ll have a display of children’s books by Local Authors, plus our regular selection of over 8,000 children’s books from board books to young adult from which you can choose. You can also bring in books from your home library or from any other source. Please be generous.

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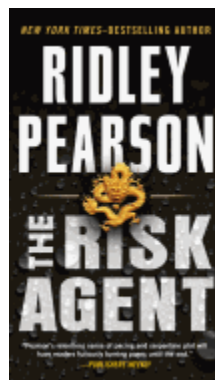
## **Book Reviews**

**Review by Claudia:**

***Lara's Gift*** by Annemarie O'Brien is a novel set in 1910 Russia. The title character is the firstborn child of the kennel steward of the Woronzova Kennels. The kennels are on the estate of Count Vorontzov, and breed borzoi dogs, intended for the Tsar and his friends. Lara has a special gift in understanding the borzois, and while the Count has given her the honor of naming the pups in each litter, as a girl, she is unlikely to achieve her dream of inheriting the duties and title of kennel steward from her father. When her little brother is born, her fate is all but sealed, but a pack of marauding wolves pitted against Lara's skill and faith in her favorite dog, Zar, may change that. The Imperial Russia setting and details are well-researched, and the Author's Note provides insight into why she wrote the book. The Afterword is written by Alexander WoronzoffDashkoff, the 3<sup>rd</sup> great nephew of Artemi Vorontsov (Woronzoff), who included Vorontsova the family estate, in his daughter's (Praskovia's) dowry. "Praskovia gave the estate to her daughter Elizabeth, and it was Elizabeth's son, Artemi Boldyrev (named for his great-grandfather Artemi Vorontsov) who bred at Vorontsova the famous line of magnificent white borzoi." ***Lara's Gift*** is advertised for children 10 – up. I think this is a great book for kids and parents interested in history, dogs, feminism, friendship, and coming of age.



### **The Risk Agent by Ridley Pearson (2012) Thriller**



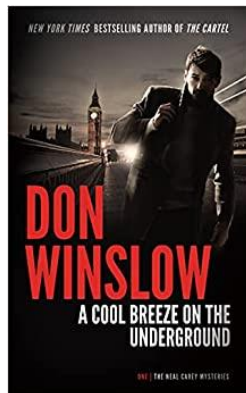
After a Chinese national working for an American-owned construction company is kidnapped in Shanghai, Rutherford Risk - a hostage rescue firm - is called in. But in China, private investigation is illegal, and operating within its borders will

be difficult.

For the job, the company recruits two outsiders: Grace Chu, a refined forensic expert, to follow the money - and John Knox, a hard charger who is experienced in both combat and the street culture of Shanghai. But following the money leads to more complex and hazardous consequences than either anticipated. Who is behind the kidnapping? What are their true motives? And more important, can Knox and Grace save the hostages before the deadline?

This is the first book of what's now a 4-book series called, not surprisingly, "The Risk Agent." I enjoyed it and would characterize it as Jason Bourne lite. International intrigue, action, deceit, a "man's man" and a smart, beautiful, tough "man's woman" side kick. Timely with the events in China in 2021 and kept me engaged. I give it a B. If you like Robert Tanenbaum, Scott Turow or Richard North Patterson, you will likely enjoy Pearson.

### **A Cool Breeze on the Underground by Don Winslow (1996) Mystery**

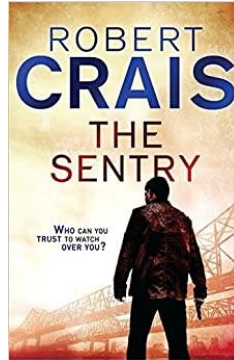


Neal Carey is not your usual private eye. A graduate student at Columbia University, he grew up on the streets of New York, usually on the wrong side of the law. Then he met Joe Graham, a one-armed P.I. who introduced him to the Bank, an exclusive New England institution with a sideline in keeping its wealthy clients happy and out of trouble. They pay Neal's college tuition, and Neal gets an education that can't be found in any textbook-- from learning how to trail a suspect to mastering the proper way to search a room.

Now it's payback time. The Bank wants Neal to put his skills to work in finding Allie Chase, the rebellious teenage daughter of a prominent senator. The problem: Allie has gone underground in London, and to get her back, Neal has to follow her into the punk scene, a violent netherworld where drugs run rampant and rage is the name of the game. Up against punk junkies, antique book

thieves, and murderous betrayal, Neal has his work cut out for him to save Allie-  
- and get back above ground for good. B+

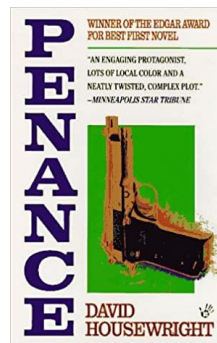
### **The Sentry by Robert Crais (2011) Mystery**



Dru Rayne and her uncle fled to L.A. after Hurricane Katrina; but now, five years later, they face a different danger. When Joe Pike witnesses Dru's uncle beaten by a protection gang, he offers his help, but neither of them want it and neither do the federal agents mysteriously watching them.

As the level of violence escalates, and Pike himself becomes a target, he and Elvis Cole learn that Dru and her uncle are not who they seem and that everything he thought he knew about them has been a lie. A vengeful and murderous force from their past is now catching up to them and only Pike and Cole stand in the way. B+

### **Penance by David Housewright (1996) Mystery**



Winner of the 1996 Edgar Award for Best First Novel. A Saint Paul PI investigates the murder of the man who killed his wife. Holland Taylor is comfortable in interrogation rooms. For years the cold dark cells of the St. Paul Police Department homicide squad were his turf, and with the help of his partner he wrung confessions out of countless killers. But that was long ago. Tonight Taylor is on the other side of the desk. Tonight he is the suspect. Taylor's career in the department ended after his wife and daughter were killed in a drunk

driving accident. The culprit, John Brown, was sentenced to a measly six years for vehicular manslaughter, and Taylor vowed bloody vengeance in front of open court. After a few months of freedom, Brown is shot dead, and Taylor, now a private investigator, is called in as the obvious suspect. He didn't kill John Brown, but he will find out who did if-even it means tearing the Twin Cities apart from the inside out.

A-

The May 2021 winner #2 is:

Lynn M. Estes

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## Did You Know?

Norman Mailer, author of such notable books as 'The Naked and the Dead' and 'The Castle in the Forest', ran for Mayor of New York in a high-profile 1969 campaign with the slogan 'No More Bullshit'. Unfortunately, most people felt what he was peddling was just a different kind of bullshit and he came fourth out of five contenders.

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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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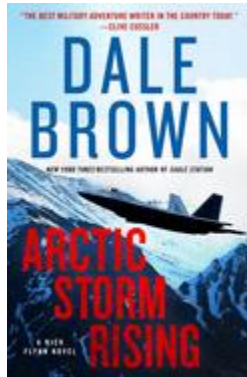
## Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

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**

**Dale Brown - Arctic Storm Rising ( Nick Flynn, 1 ) – 28.99 – Thriller**



**Jeffrey Deaver - The Final Twist ( A Colter Shaw Novel ) – 28.00 – Crime Thriller**

**Heather Graham - The Unforgiven (Original) ( Krewe of Hunters #33 ) – 28.99 - A tragic past. An uncertain future**

Twelve years after the grisly murder of her parents, Kaitlyn Delaney has finally found peace. She has friends, a good job, a place to call home and a new life to live. But then a shadow creeps in from Katie's past, reminding her that she will never completely escape its terrifying grip.

When private investigator Dan Oliver is called to the scene of a gruesome crime in New Orleans, he can't help but hear echoes of the Delaney case, the unsolved murder that made him leave law enforcement. As he digs deeper, he unearths more chilling similarities--including mysterious letters connecting the killer to a string of murders that terrorized the Big Easy in 1919.

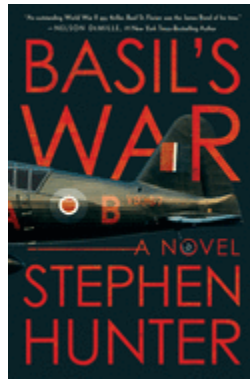
Now reunited after all this time, Dan and Katie scour the streets together, desperate to find answers before more lives are lost. But the otherworldly roots of this evil run far deeper than they ever imagined...and only the most precious of sacrifices will bring its twisted reign to an end.

**John Grisham – Sooley – 28.95 – Sports Fiction**

**David Housewright - What Doesn't Kill Us: A McKenzie Novel ( Twin Cities P.I. Mac McKenzie Novels #18 ) – 26.99 - Mystery**

**Stephen Hunter - Basil's War – 23.95 – Mystery – Historical**





## Sebastian Junger – Freedom – 25.99 – Non-Fiction



Throughout history, humans have been driven by the quest for two cherished ideals: community and freedom. The two don't coexist easily. We value individuality and self-reliance, yet are utterly dependent on community for our most basic needs. In this intricately crafted and thought-provoking book, Sebastian Junger examines the tension that lies at the heart of what it means to be human.

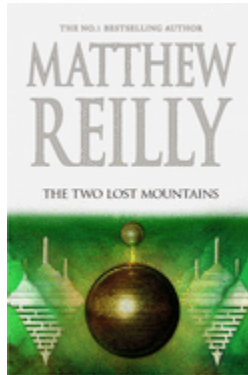
For much of a year, Junger and three friends--a conflict photographer and two Afghan War vets--walked the railroad lines of the East Coast. It was an experiment in personal autonomy, but also in interdependence. Dodging railroad cops, sleeping under bridges, cooking over fires, and drinking from creeks and rivers, the four men forged a unique reliance on one another. In *Freedom*, Junger weaves his account of this journey together with primatology and boxing strategy, the history of labor strikes and Apache raiders, the role of women in resistance movements, and the brutal reality of life on the Pennsylvania frontier. Written in exquisite, razor-sharp prose, the result is a powerful examination of the primary desire that defines us.

## James Patterson - 21st Birthday ( Women's Murder Club #21 ) – 29.00 – Crime Thriller (with Maxine Paetro)



When young wife and mother Tara Burke goes missing with her baby girl, all eyes are on her husband, Lucas. He paints her not as a missing person but a wayward wife--until a gruesome piece of evidence turns the investigation criminal. While *Chronicle* reporter Cindy Thomas pursues the story and M.E. Claire Washburn harbors theories that run counter to the SFPD's, ADA Yuki Castellano sizes Lucas up as a textbook domestic offender . . . who suddenly puts forward an unexpected suspect. If what Lucas tells law enforcement has even a grain of truth, there isn't a woman in the state of California who's safe from the reach of an unspeakable threat.

## **Matthew Reilly - The Two Lost Mountains, Volume 6 ( Jack West, Jr. ) – 24.95 – Thriller –**



### **AN INCREDIBLE VICTORY BUT AT A TERRIBLE PRICE**

Against all the odds, Jack West Jr. found the Three Secret Cities, but at a heartbreaking cost. His beloved daughter Lily, it appeared, was slaughtered by Sphinx in a cruel ancient ritual.

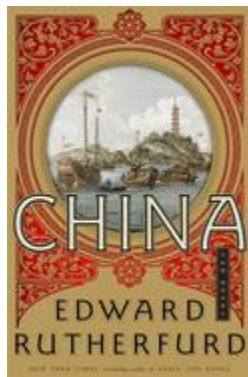
### **TO THE MOUNTAINS AND THE FALL!**

With his rivals far ahead of him, Jack must now get to one of the five iron mountains--two of which have never been found--and perform a mysterious feat known only as 'The Fall'. Although what is this object on the moon that is connected to it?

### **A NEW PLAYER ARRIVES**

Amid all this, Jack will discover that a new player has entered the race, a general so feared by the four legendary kingdoms they had him locked away in their deepest dungeon. Only now this general has escaped and he has a horrifying plan of his own.

## **Edward Rutherfurd – China: The Novel – 35.00 – Historical Fiction**



Edward Rutherfurd has enthralled millions of readers with his grand, sweeping historical sagas that tell the history of a famous place over multiple generations. Now, in *China: The Novel*, Rutherfurd takes readers into the rich and fascinating milieu of the Middle Kingdom.

The story begins in 1839, at the dawn of the First Opium War, and follows Chinese history through Mao's Cultural Revolution and up to the present day. Rutherfurd chronicles the rising and falling fortunes of members of Chinese, British, and American families, as they negotiate the tides of history. Along the way, in his signature style, Rutherfurd provides a deeply researched portrait of Chinese history and society, its ancient traditions and great upheavals, and China's emergence as a rising global power. As always, we are treated to romance and adventure, heroines and scoundrels, grinding struggle and incredible

fortunes.

*China: The Novel* brings to life the rich terrain of this vast and constantly evolving country. From Shanghai to Nanking to the Great Wall, Rutherford chronicles the turbulent rise and fall of empires as the colonial West meets the opulent and complex East in a dramatic struggle between cultures and people.

Extraordinarily researched and majestically told, Edward Rutherford paints a thrilling portrait of one of the most singular and remarkable countries in the world.

## **Andy Weir – Project Hail Mary – 28.99 – Science Fiction Thriller**

The sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission to save both humanity and the earth, Ryland Grace is hurtled into the depths of space when he must conquer an extinction-level threat to our species.



**The May 2021 winner #3 is:**

**Carol Faulhaber**

## **Trivia for May 2021**

**What famous author wrote under the pen names Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass, Sergeant Fathom and W. Apaminondas Adrastus Blab before switching to the name with which he gained fame?**

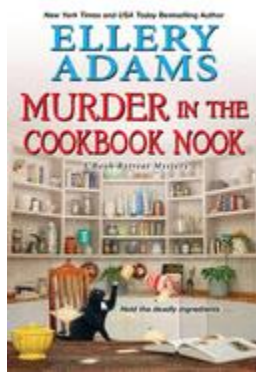
**Answer**

**Samuel Clemens, who finally settled on the name Mark Twain.**

## **Mass Market Paperback**

**Ellery Adams - Murder in the Cookbook Nook: A Southern Culinary**

## Cozy Mystery for Book Lovers ( Book Retreat Mystery #7 ) – 8.99



Virginia is for lovers--and Storyton Hall is its best vacation spot for lovers of books. The big event this summer at Jane Steward's resort is A Bookish Cook-Off. It's a blend of the literary and the culinary--but someone's headed for the mortuary...

Six chefs are preparing to compete in an outdoor tent at Storyton Hall in Virginia for prizes that will boost their careers--but is there someone who can't stand the heat? It looks that way when one of the contestants is found dead in a pantry packed with two centuries' worth of cookbooks, among other treasures and rarities.

Could there be a connection to other recent events in town, like tampering with the costume of a local mascot? Jane isn't sure, but after someone serves a second course of murder, the kitchen must be closed and the killer must be found . . .

## Cleo Coyle - The Ghost and the Haunted Portrait ( Haunted Bookshop Mystery #7 ) – 7.99

## Christine Feehan – Shadow Storm ( Shadow Riders Novel #6 ) – 8.99 - Paranormal Romance –



As the youngest member of the Ferraro family, Emmanuelle has watched each of her brothers find happiness in love while her own heart was shattered by a lover's betrayal. For two years she's stayed as far away from Valentino Saldi as possible--until she learns that he's been shot during a hostile takeover of his family's territory.

Emme's first instinct is to call her brother Stefano for help, and soon the entire Ferraro clan arrives to bring Val back from the brink of death and protect the Saldis from further attack. With one choice Emme has re-exposed herself to Val's intoxicating pull and dragged her family into the Saldis' private war.

A deadly storm is brewing, and only time will tell who survives...

## Iris Johansen - Quinn ( Eve Duncan #13 ) - 9.99 – Mystery –



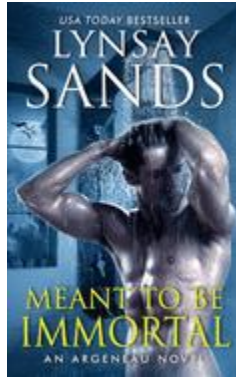
As a former Navy SEAL turned cop, Joe Quinn has seen the face of evil. When he first met Eve, he never expected to fall in love with a woman whose life would be defined by her dual desires to bring home her missing daughter and discover the truth behind her disappearance--no matter how devastating. With the help of CIA agent Catherine Ling, Quinn makes a discovery that sheds new light on young Bonnie's abduction and puts him squarely in the crosshairs of danger. Eve's first love, John Gallo, a soldier supposedly killed in the line of duty, is very much alive--and very much a threat. Now, as their search takes them deeper into a web of murder and madness, Joe and Eve must confront their most primal fears...and test their resolve to uncover the ultimate bone-chilling truth.

## **Jenn McKinlay - For Batter or Worse ( Cupcake Bakery Mystery ) – 7.99**



Life is sweet and business is booming at the Fairy Tale Cupcakes bakery--and the fact that Mel and Joe are getting married is the icing on the cake. Their reception will be held at the swanky resort where Oz works as the pastry chef. The wedding planning is all fun-fetti and games until Mel and Joe meet the head chef at the resort who has been making Oz's life miserable. When the eccentric chef insults Mel's bakery, Oz gets into a blowout argument with the culinary prima donna. Things turn extra sour when the chef is murdered, and Oz is the police's main suspect. As the countdown to the wedding day begins, Mel, Joe, and the rest of the Fairy Tale Cupcake crew must sift through clues to catch the real killer and clear Oz's name before their wedding plans are totally battered and baked.

## **Lynsay Sands - Meant to Be Immortal ( Argeneau Novel #32 ) – 7.99 – Paranormal Romance**



**In the newest Argeneau novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Lynsay Sands, an immortal barely escapes a raging fire only to kindle a sizzling passion with his potential life mate.**

Mac Argeneau knows all too well: immortals *can* be killed. Not with holy water or silver crosses, but by decapitation or being set on fire. So when Mac's house bursts into flames--with him inside--he's sure it was no accident. But who would want to kill a scientist specializing in hematology? There *is* a silver lining: a blonde investigator appears on the scene and sparks feelings in him that have been dormant for centuries.

CJ Cummings is in town on a special investigation, but she's been waylaid by the local police to deal with this arson case. The biggest mystery is how this sexy scientist with silvery blue eyes has emerged from a blazing inferno without a burn mark on him. He's clearly hiding something. Sure, she'd love to see him without his lab coat, but she's got a job to do--despite his insistence that he needs a bodyguard and...he wants *her*.

But when a second attempt on their lives puts CJ in harm's way, it's Mac who will do anything to safeguard the woman who's destined to be his life mate.

**The May 2021 winner #4 is:**

**Jeff & Marcy Williams**