

THE BOOK RACK NEWSLETTER

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

Vol 16, #5
May 2023
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)*

Trivia for May 2023

Shakespeare wrote that “brevity is the soul of wit.”
What did noted wit Dorothy Parker say it was?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

April \$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 May 1, 2021).

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 May 2023 winner #1 is:

Elizabeth DeHaven

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 31, 2023** to claim your prize:

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

May 2023 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

• May Holidays - Monthly Celebrations

- Mystery Month
- National Barbecue Month
- Older Americans Month
- Global Astronomy Month
- National Poetry Month

May Daily Holidays, Special and Wacky Days:

May 1

May Day

Mother Goose Day

Save the Rhino Day

May 2

Brothers and Sisters Day

May 3

World Press Freedom Day

May 4

Star Wars Day

May 5

Bob & Claudia's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Cinco de Mayo

Local Author Lois Hallmark will be at The Book Rack signing copies of her book, 11:30

- 2:00

May 6

National Tourist Appreciation Day

V-E Day

May 9

Lost Sock Memorial Day

National Teacher's Day – Tuesday of the first full week of May

May 11

Twilight Zone Day

May 12

Military Spouses Day is the Friday before Mother's Day

May 14

Mother's Day second Sunday in May

[Local Authors Mike Bayles and Mike McCarty will be at The Book Rack signing copies of their latest books, 1-3:00](#)

May 15

Police Officer's Memorial Day

May 20

Armed Forces Day – third Saturday of the month

[May 21 – Local Author Tom McKay will be at The Book Rack 1-3:00 signing copies of his new book.](#)

May 25

National Missing Children's Day

May 29

Memorial Day

May 30

International Jazz Day

Featured Authors

Lois Hallmark

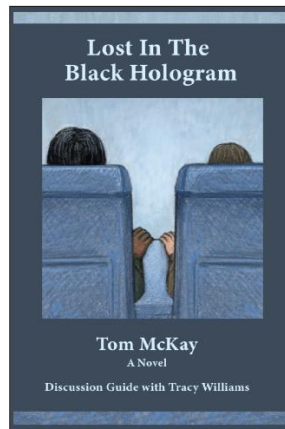
Lois Hallmark, new local author will be at The Book Rack 11:30 – 2:00, Friday May 5. Please stop by her table and visit with her and view her book.

Tom McKay

Tom will be at The Book Rack May 14, 1:00 – 3:00 visiting with fans and signing copies of his latest book



Tom McKay is a local author who lives in Hampton. *Lost In The Black Hologram* is his fourth novel. His previous novels include *West Fork*, *Another Life*, and *The Old Guard*. His collection of short stories, *Finding Their Way*, is also sold at The Book Rack.



Lost In The Black Hologram is a story of race in America. Jamila Benson, Program Director at the Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum, writes: "Tom McKay uses his knowledge of history and culture to write this intriguing and thought-provoking novel. While exploring cultural understanding, *Lost In The Black Hologram* moved me with its captivating story of an unlikely love and friendship."

Mike Bayles

Mike will be at The Book Rack May 14, 1:00 – 3:00 with his latest books



Mike Bayles, a lifelong Midwest resident, writes about human connections to nature, settings (mostly rural), and with each other. His previous books are three

poetry collections, one book-length poem, and a mixed-genre collage work of fiction. His poetry and short stories have been published in numerous literary magazines and anthologies. Poetry credits include Lyrical Iowa, The Rockford Review, Star Poets, and Plainsongs. Short story credits include, The Rockford Review, Northern Stars Magazine, and Out Loud Anthology. His writing is informed by his childhood spent in Minnesota, adult life in Iowa, and by his travels as a flagger/traffic control person for construction and utility work. He is an active member of The Iowa/Illinois Quad Cities and Rockford, Illinois writing communities. Mike has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from The University of Northern Iowa. He wrote his first story for a Creative Writing course at Iowa State University.



Second Hope, a book of fiction and poetry, is a book made of three sections. The first section, Second Hope, a multi-genre piece, is a sequel to my book, Breakfast at the Good Hope Home. In this section, the main character forms a relationship with a CNA, who cared for his Alzheimer's father. They both share the main character's journey of grief. The second section, Nets Must be Cast and Thrown Aside, is a collection of short stories of travel and discovery. The third section, All Eyes on the River, takes the reader on a poetic journey through time. It includes memories of the author's childhood and of places he's seen. The book, Second Hope, is a journey of discovery after loss.

Michael McCarty



Mike is our 2022 Local Author of the Year, leading all other authors in sales. Mike will Join Mike Bayles at The Book Rack May 14, 1:00 – 3:00.

Bloody Kisses

Can you resist

BLOODY KISSES IN THE DARK?

In this collection, you will find weird and wild, scary and sexy, funny and frightening poems by 5-Time Bram Stoker Finalist Michael McCarty (including 1 for poetry)

Including:

"The Naked & The Undead"

"Zombie Jack Spratt"

"The Slimy Monster From Outer Space"

"King Lear Rap"

"Icarus Dreams"

"Don't Laugh (Revisited)"

"Dead Comedian"

"Frankenfrog"

"Psycho Woman In My Shower"

and many more...

BLOODY KISSES IN THE DARK:

100 STRANGE POEMS

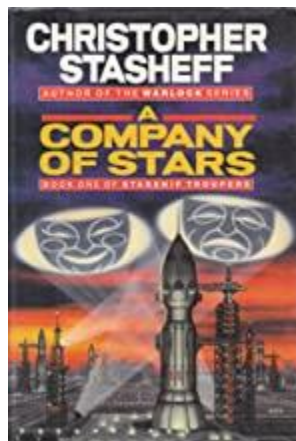
by Michael McCarty

- if these poems don't make you laugh
or scream,
check your pulse.

You're probably already dead!!!!

Book Reviews

A Company of Stars, Book One of Starship Troupers by Christopher Stasheff – (1991) Science Fiction



By the 26th century, humanity had begun its expansion to the stars, and the Interstellar Dominion Electorates reigned over a unified Terra -- but New York was still New York, Broadway was still Broadway, and live theater was bigger and better than ever.

The excited theater pioneers of the newly formed Star Company were dedicated to taking their act on the road -- and out to the stars. They were far too busy with tryouts to pay any attention to current events and the constant harangues of the reactionary LORDS party on the public wallscreens.

Then the Lords party turned its attack on theater and its "timeless repertory of immorality." Suddenly the Star Company was off on a madcap race to finish its preparations, buy a ship and hire a pilot, and lift off Terra before it was grounded forever... or worse!

This is the first of a trilogy. It is an interesting book. Not your typical extraterrestrial adventure, and not at all focused on any aliens. I found it a slow read, since it didn't grab my interest and noy let it go. I read in shorter spurts.

Every Cloak Rolled in Blood by James Lee Burke (2022) Mystery

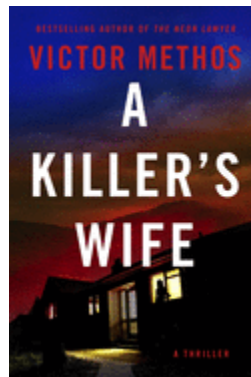


Novelist Aaron Holland Broussard is shattered when his daughter Fannie Mae dies suddenly. As he tries to honor her memory by saving two young men from a life of crime amid their opioid-ravaged community, he is drawn into a network

of villainy that includes a violent former Klansman, a far-from-holy minister, a biker club posing as evangelicals, and a murderer who has been hiding in plain sight. Aaron's only ally is state police officer Ruby Spotted Horse, a no-nonsense woman who harbors some powerful secrets in her cellar. Despite the air of mystery surrounding her, Ruby is the only one Aaron can trust. That is, until the ghost of Fannie Mae shows up, guiding her father through a tangled web of the present and past and helping him vanquish his foes from both this world and the next. Drawn from James Lee Burke's own life experiences, *Every Cloak Rolled in Blood* is a devastating exploration of the nature of good and evil and a deeply moving story about the power of love and family.

As always, James Lee Burke has spun another masterful story. You'll thoroughly enjoy it if you like well written, interesting and thrilling books. And, who doesn't! I give it an A.

A Killer's Wife by Victor Methos (2020) Mystery-thriller



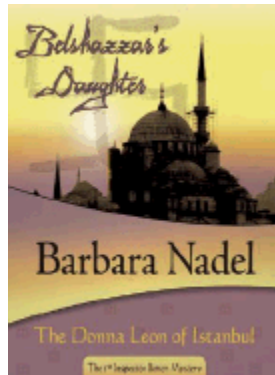
Fourteen years ago, prosecutor Jessica Yardley's husband went to prison for a series of brutal murders. She's finally created a life with her daughter and is a well-respected attorney. She's moving on. But when a new rash of homicides has her ex-husband, Eddie, written all over them--the nightmares of her past come back to life.

The FBI asks Jessica to get involved in the hunt for this copycat killer--which means visiting her ex and collaborating with the man who tore her life apart.

As the copycat's motives become clearer, the new life Jessica created for herself gets darker. She must ask herself who she can trust and if she's capable of stopping the killer--a man whose every crime is a bloody valentine from a twisted mastermind she's afraid she may never escape.

A taut, thrilling story with murder, police procedures, court room dramatics and several stunning twists. A book that will be hard for you to put down. I give it an A-. An author I don't recall reading before or even noticing. He had a lengthy list of titles to keep you reading if you like his work, and I think you will. He's favorably compared to Scott Turow, Robert Dugoni and Debra Webb.

Belshazzar's Daughter (Inspector Ikmen #1) by Barbara Nadel (1999)



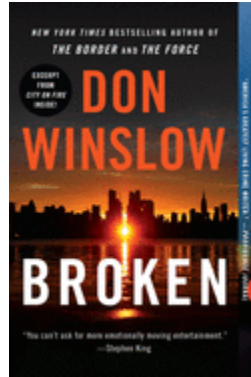
Tourist brochures present Istanbul as a glamorous, modern city, but the brochures don't make much mention of Balat, a decrepit neighborhood of narrow, twisting alleys and crumbling tenements. Until recently it was home to Leonid Meyer, a reclusive elderly Jew who, like many of his neighbors, came here long ago to escape one of Europe's various bloodbaths. But Meyer's refuge ultimately became his coffin, the carnage crowned with a gigantic swastika. Inspector Ikmen begins tracking down the few people who might have known the old man, including a faded prostitute, a shadowy family of Russian emigres, a despairing rabbi, and a high-strung young Englishman in the throes of erotic obsession.

Barbara Nadel is an English crime-writer. Many of her books are set in Turkey. Born in the East End of London, Barbara Nadel trained as an actress before becoming a writer. Now writing full-time, she has previously worked as a public relations officer for the National Schizophrenia Fellowship's Good Companion Service and as a mental health advocate for the mentally disordered in a psychiatric hospital. She has also worked with sexually abused teenagers and taught psychology in schools and colleges, and is currently the patron of a charity that cares for those in emotional and mental distress. She has been a regular visitor to Turkey for more than twenty-five years.

I can't think of a book with such a range of reviews. A few loved the book, but more had no use for it and some were scattered in the middle. A major criticism was the number of pages you must read to start getting into the "meat" of the murder investigation. A hefty amount of character and atmospheric development consumed much of the early part. I found it hard to stick with it for long in a

single sitting so it took a long while to read it to the end. I give it a B-. Keep in mind this was Nadel's first book and there are 20+ in the series so she has likely sharpened her writing and made the later ones more readable.

Broken by Don Winslow (2020) – General Fiction Anthology



Publisher Marketing:

Includes "Crime 101," "Broken," and "The Last Ride" - all soon to be major motion pictures!

"One of America's greatest storytellers." - Stephen King

"Winslow, whose work includes a dozen of the finest crime novels written in the last 20 years, displays all of his strengths, including propulsive narration, compelling characters and a tight, staccato writing style, in 'Broken,' a collection of six remarkable novellas." - Bruce De Silva, Associated Press

No matter how you come into this world, you come out broken . . .

In six intense short novels connected by the themes of crime, corruption, vengeance, justice, loss, betrayal, guilt and redemption, Broken is #1 international bestseller Don Winslow at his nerve-shattering, pulse-pounding, heartbreaking best. In Broken, he creates a world of high-level thieves and low-life crooks, obsessed cops struggling with life on and off the job, private detectives, dope dealers, bounty hunters and fugitives, the lost souls driving without headlights through the dark night on the American criminal highway.

With his trademark blend of insight, humanity, humor, action, and the highest level of literary craftsmanship, Winslow delivers a collection of tales that will become classics of crime fiction.

"With the passing of Elmore Leonard a few years back, it's now safe to proclaim Winslow America's greatest living crime writer. His consistency is matched only

by his creativity, his talent exceeded by his ability to surpass himself time and time again." - Jon Land, Providence Journal

I'm not normally a big fan on collections, such as this, but Winslow is one of my favorite authors, so I picked it up, then let it lie, unread for more than a year. Now I'm glad I did, since reading it was a pleasure I just experienced. Winslow refrains a few of his characters from previous books, such as Chon, Ben & O from Savages; Detective Lou Lubesnick; Boone Daniels from The Dawn Patrol; Frankie Machine and Bobby Z. If you get a chance to get a copy, don't miss the opportunity. It's a treat. I give it an A and strong recommendation.

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<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! 😊

The May 2023 winner #2 is:

Evan Schenck

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

Katherine Applegate – *The One and Only Ruby* – Juvenile Fiction – 19.99



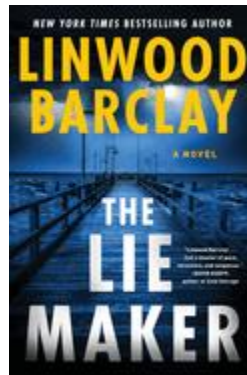
Ruby's story picks up a few months after the events of *The One and Only Bob*. Now living in a wildlife sanctuary, Ruby's caretaker from the elephant orphanage in Africa where she grew up is visiting. Seeing him again brings back a flood of memories both happy and sad of her life before the circus, and she recounts the time she spent in the African savannah to Ivan and Bob.

In the timeless way that only Katherine Applegate could craft, this highly anticipated novel in verse is the perfect mix of heartfelt and humorous, poignant and sweet. Artist Patricia Castelao returns to the world of Ivan and his friends with gorgeous black-and-white interior illustrations to complete the story.

The One and Only Ruby features first-person narrative; author's use of literary devices (personification, imagery); and story elements (plot, character development, perspective).

This middle grade novel is an excellent choice for tween readers in grades 5 to 8, for independent reading, home-schooling, and sharing in the classroom.

Lincoln Barclay – *The Lie Maker* – Thriller – 30.00



Your dad's not a good person. Your dad killed people, son.

These are some of the last words Jack Givins' father spoke to him before he was whisked away by witness protection, leaving Jack and his mother to pick up the shattered pieces of their lives as best they could.

Years later, Jack is a grown man with problems of his own. He's a talented but struggling author, barely scraping by on the royalties from his moderately successful first book. So when the U.S. Marshals approach him with a lucrative opportunity, he's in no position to turn them down. They're recruiting writers like Jack to create false histories for people in witness protection--people like Jack's father.

The coincidence is astonishing to Jack at first, but he soon realizes this may be a chance to find his dad. Only there's one problem--Jack's father hasn't made contact with his handlers recently, and they have no idea where he is. He could be in serious danger, and Jack may be the only one who can find him.

But how will he find a man he's never truly known? A man who has done terrible things in his lifetime and made some deadly enemies in the process--enemies who wouldn't think twice about using his own son against him.

Don Bentley - Tom Clancy Flash Point (Jack Ryan Jr. Novel) – 29.95



Jack Ryan Jr. is in a world of trouble. When a benign surveillance operation takes a deadly turn, Jack finds himself locked in a struggle with an unseen enemy bent on destroying the Campus. The chase leads Jack to the South China Sea where a midair collision between aircraft from rival nations threatens to serve as a flash point for the entire region. As Jack frantically tries to put the pieces of the conspiracy together, the Campus is hit with a crippling attack. When the dust settles, Jack is one of the few operators still standing and the Campus's de facto leader. But the fight is just beginning.

As tensions escalate, Jack's mysterious adversary executes a brilliant campaign to paralyze the American government even as China inches closer to invading Taiwan. With the odds stacked against him and no help in sight, Jack and his shattered team must stop the world's two remaining super powers from stumbling into war even as the noose around the Campus grows ever tighter.

Every operation has a cost. This time the bill might just be too much to pay.

Alexandra Bracken - Silver in the Bone – Young Adult – 19.99



Born without a trace of magic, Tamsin Lark is no match for the sorceresses and Hollowers who populate the magical underground of Boston. But when the only parent she's ever known disappears without so much as a goodbye, she has no choice but to join in their cutthroat pursuit of enchanted relics to keep herself--and her brother, Cabell--alive.

Ten years later, rumors are swirling that her guardian found a powerful ring from Arthurian legend just before he vanished. A run-in with her rival Emrys ignites Tamsin's hope that the ring could free Cabell from a curse that threatens both of them. But they aren't the only ones who covet the ring.

As word spreads, greedy Hollowers start circling, and many would kill to have it for themselves. While Emrys is the last person Tamsin would choose to partner with, she needs all the help she can get to edge out her competitors in the race for the ring. Together, they dive headfirst into a vipers' nest of dark magic, exposing a deadly secret with the power to awaken ghosts of the past and shatter her last hope of saving her brother. . . .

Justin Cronin – The Ferryman – Thriller – 30.00



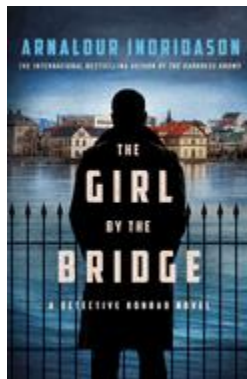
Founded by the mysterious genius known as the Designer, the archipelago of Prospera lies hidden from the horrors of a deteriorating outside world. In this island paradise, Prospera's lucky citizens enjoy long, fulfilling lives until the monitors embedded in their forearms, meant to measure their physical health and psychological well-being, fall below 10 percent. Then they retire themselves, embarking on a ferry ride to the island known as the Nursery, where their failing bodies are renewed, their memories are wiped clean, and they are readied to restart life afresh.

Proctor Bennett, of the Department of Social Contracts, has a satisfying career as a ferryman, gently shepherding people through the retirement process--and, when necessary, enforcing it. But all is not well with Proctor. For one thing, he's been dreaming--which is supposed to be impossible in Prospera. For another, his monitor percentage has begun to drop alarmingly fast. And then comes the day he is summoned to retire his own father, who gives him a disturbing and cryptic message before being wrestled onto the ferry.

Meanwhile, something is stirring. The Support Staff, ordinary men and women who provide the labor to keep Prospera running, have begun to question their place in the social order. Unrest is building, and there are rumors spreading of a resistance group--known as "Arrivalists"--who may be fomenting revolution.

Soon Proctor finds himself questioning everything he once believed, entangled with a much bigger cause than he realized--and on a desperate mission to uncover the truth.

Arnaldur Indridason - The Girl by the Bridge, A Detective Konrad Novel – Mystery – 29.00

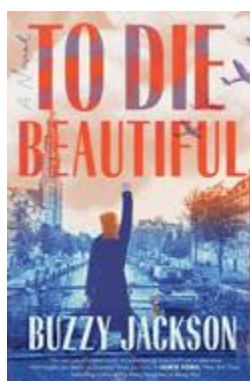


An elderly couple are worried about their granddaughter. They know she's been smuggling drugs, and now she's gone missing. Looking for help, they turn to Konrad, a former policeman whose reputation precedes him.

Always absent-minded, he constantly ruminates on the fate of his father, who was stabbed to death decades ago. But digging into the past reveals much more than anyone set out to discover, and a little girl who drowned in the Reykjavik city pond unexpectedly captures everyone's attention.

A brilliant, chilling tale of broken dreams and children who have nowhere to turn.

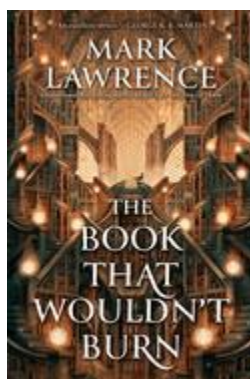
Buzzy Jackson – To Die Beautiful – Historical Novel – 28.00



A gripping and timely debut novel by award-winning nonfiction writer Buzzy Jackson based on a true story of the life of the heroic Hannie Schaft: a young Dutch woman who joined the Resistance in Holland during World War II and became one of the Nazis' most lethal adversaries. Hannie Schaft, a young woman living in Nazi-occupied Holland, never intended to be a fighter. Her dream was to finish law school in Amsterdam and join the League of Nations. But when Hannie's two Jewish best friends are in danger, and she crosses paths with Resistance recruiters while doing volunteer work with refugees, she realizes she cannot deny the urgent cause at hand and the changes happening around her.

Driven by outrage and a fierce protectiveness for her friends, Hannie quickly becomes a valued member of the Resistance movement. As the simmering menace of Nazi-occupied Holland reaches a boiling point, Hannie becomes ever more daring, assassinating powerful Nazis point blank, blowing up munitions factories, and constantly improvising with last-minute Resistance orders, even getting Hitler's notice who dubs her "the Girl with Red Hair." She also falls deeply in love with a dashing fellow resister at a tremendous cost and finds a chosen family with the other women in the resistance. And while humanity falls apart around her, Hannie's greatest weapon is her determination not to become a monster herself: *blijf altijd menselijk. Stay human.* A mantra that is sorely tested as the war nears its bitter end... *To Die Beautiful*, taken from a quote of Hannie's, is an unputdownable novel about love (for one's friends, family, and country) and loyalty, but with the emotional resonance of meticulously researched, lived history

Mark Lawrence - The Book That Wouldn't Burn (The Library Trilogy) – Fantasy – 29.00



Two strangers find themselves connected by a vast and mysterious library containing many wonders and still more secrets, in this powerfully moving first book in a new series from the international bestselling author of *Red Sister* and *Prince of Thorns*.

The boy has lived his whole life trapped within a book-choked chamber older than empires and larger than cities. The girl has spent hers in a tiny settlement out on the Dust, where nightmares stalk and no one goes. The world has never even noticed them. That's about to change.

Their stories spiral around each other, across worlds and time. This is a tale of truth and lies and hearts, and the blurring of one into another. A journey on which knowledge erodes certainty and on which, though the pen may be mightier than the sword, blood will be spilled and cities burned

Claire Legrand - A Crown of Ivy and Glass (The Middlemist Trilogy #1) – Fantasy – 25.99



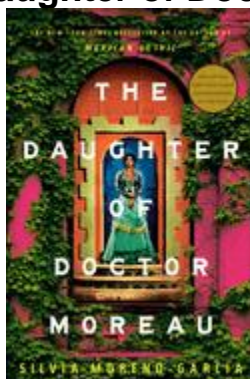
"Every year on St. Walpurga's Eve, Caldella's Witch Queen lures a boy back to her palace. An innocent life to be sacrificed on the full moon to keep the island city from sinking. Lina Kirk is convinced her brother is going to be taken this year. To save him, she enlists the help of the mysterious Thomas Lin, the boy she secretly loves, and the only person to ever escape from the palace. Working together they save her brother, but they draw the queen's attention, and Thomas is then chosen as the sacrifice. Queen Eva casted away her heart when her sister died to save the boy she loved. Now as queen, she won't make the same mistake. With the tide rising higher than ever before and the islanders whispering that Eva's magic is failing, she's willing to sacrifice anyone if it means saving herself and her city. When Lina offers herself in exchange for Thomas's freedom, the two girls await the full moon together. Against their will, they find themselves falling for each other. As water floods Caldella's streets and the dark tide demands its sacrifice, they must choose whom to save"--

Eric Van Lustbader - The Quantum Solution (Evan Ryder #4) – Thriller – 28.99

Evan Ryder is an extraordinary intelligence field agent now working for the security arm of Parachute, a private company and the world's leader in the application of quantum technology. In the past, Ryder has done lethal battle in the modern global wars of power politics, extremist ideology, corrosive disinformation, and outrageous greed. But now she finds herself in a battle arena whose dangers, while less obvious, are greater than anything the world has seen before - the present and future war of weaponized quantum technology.

When an elite Russian scientist and the American Secretary of Defense die, at the same time half a world apart, of inexplicable sudden catastrophic brain damage, the world's intelligence services realize that the quantum war has truly begun. Ryder and her long-time partner, Ben Butler, will risk their lives to discover who the true combatants are, racing against the doomsday scenario of all-out war between America and Russia.

Sylvia Moreno-Garcia – The Daughter of Doctor Moreau – 18.00 – Sci Fi



ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: *The New York Times Book Review, Time, NPR, Polygon, Tordotcom, Paste, CrimeReads, Booklist*

Carlota Moreau: A young woman growing up on a distant and luxuriant estate, safe from the conflict and strife of the Yucatán peninsula. The only daughter of a researcher who is either a genius or a madman.

Montgomery Laughton: A melancholic overseer with a tragic past and a propensity for alcohol. An outcast who assists Dr. Moreau with his experiments, which are financed by the Lizaldes, owners of magnificent haciendas and plentiful coffers.

The hybrids: The fruits of the doctor's labor, destined to blindly obey their creator and remain in the shadows. A motley group of part human, part animal monstrosities.

All of them live in a perfectly balanced and static world, which is jolted by the abrupt arrival of Eduardo Lizalde, the charming and careless son of Dr. Moreau's patron, who will unwittingly begin a dangerous chain reaction.

For Moreau keeps secrets, Carlota has questions, and, in the sweltering heat of the jungle, passions may ignite.

Jo Nesbo – Killing Moon – 29.00 - Mystery Thriller



THE HUNT IS ON AND THE POLICE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. Two young women are missing, their only connection a party they both attended, hosted by a notorious real-estate magnate. When one of the women is found murdered, the police discover an unusual signature left by the killer, giving them reason to suspect he will strike again. THEY'RE FACING A KILLER UNLIKE ANY OTHER. And exposing him calls for a detective like no other. But the legendary Harry Hole is gone--fired from the force, drinking himself to oblivion in Los Angeles. It seems that nothing can entice him back to Oslo. Until the woman who saved Harry's life is put in grave danger, and he has no choice but to return to the city that haunts him and track down the murderer.

CATCHING HIM WILL PUSH HARRY TO THE LIMIT. He'll need to bring together a misfit team of former operatives to accomplish what he can't do alone: stop an unstoppable killer. But as the evidence mounts, it becomes clear that there is more to this case than meets the eye...

The May 2023 winner #3 is: Jamie Stubblefield

James Patterson & Maxine Paetro - The 23rd Midnight: If You Haven't Read the Women's Murder Club, Start Here (A Women's Murder Club Thriller #23) – Mystery – 30.00



An attention-seeking copycat is recreating murders by a famous killer from the Women's Murder Club's past--with devastating new twists.

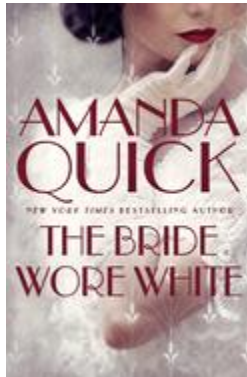
Detective Lindsay Boxer put serial killer Evan Burke in jail.

Reporter Cindy Thomas wrote a book that put him on the bestseller list.

An obsessed maniac has turned Burke's true-crime story into a playbook. And is embellishing it with gruesome touches all his own.

Now Lindsay's tracking an elusive suspect, and the entire Murder Club is facing destruction.

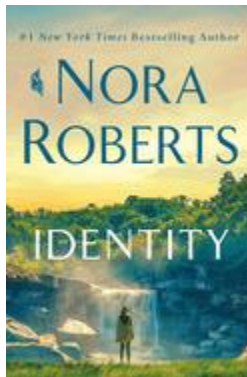
Amanda Quick - The Bride Wore White – Romance – 28.00



Being Madame Ariadne, Psychic Dream Consultant, wasn't Prudence Ryland's ideal gig, but it paid well which was reason enough to do the work--until she realizes that her latest client intends to kill her. But Prudence, a master at reinvention, finds a new job and home as far away as possible and is finally able to relax--which turns out to be a big mistake. Letting her guard down means being kidnapped and drugged and waking up in a bloodstained wedding dress in the honeymoon suite next to a dead man. With the press outside the hotel, waiting with their cameras and police sirens in the distance, it's obvious she's being framed for the man's murder. Prudence knows who is responsible, but will anyone believe her?

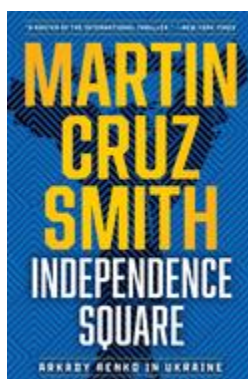
It doesn't seem likely that rumored crime boss Luther Pell or his associate, Jack Wingate, believe her seemingly outrageous claims of being a target of a ruthless vendetta. In fact, Prudence is convinced that the mysterious Mr. Wingate believes her to be a fraud at best, and at worst: a murderer. And Jack Wingate does seem to be someone intimately familiar with violence, if going by his scarred face and grim expression. So no one is more shocked than Prudence when Jack says he'll help her. Of course, his ideas for helping her involve using her as the bait for a killer, but Prudence feels oddly safe with Jack protecting her. But who will protect Prudence from her growing fascination with this enigma of a man?

Nora Roberts – Identity – Thriller - 30.00



Former Army brat Morgan Albright has finally planted roots in a friendly neighborhood near Baltimore. Her friend and roommate Nina helps her make the mortgage payments, as does Morgan's job as a bartender. But after she and Nina host their first dinner party--attended by Luke, the flirtatious IT guy who'd been chatting her up at the bar--her carefully built world is shattered. The back door glass is broken, cash and jewelry are missing, her car is gone, and Nina lies dead on the floor. Soon, a horrific truth emerges: It was Morgan who let the monster in. "Luke" is actually a cold-hearted con artist named Gavin who targets a particular type of woman, steals her assets and identity, and then commits his ultimate goal: murder. What the FBI tells Morgan is beyond chilling. Nina wasn't his type. Morgan is. Nina was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. And Morgan's nightmare is just beginning. Soon she has no choice but to flee to her mother's home in Vermont. While she struggles to build something new, she meets another man, Miles Jameson. He isn't flashy or flirtatious, and his family business has deep roots in town. But Gavin is still out there hunting new victims, and he hasn't forgotten the one who got away.

Martin Cruz Smith – Independence Square: Arkady Renko in Ukraine – Thriller 26.99



Martin Cruz Smith has written nine previous novels featuring Arkady Renko, one of modern detective fiction's most popular characters. These novels, beginning with 1981's international sensation *Gorky Park*, have collectively traced Russia's evolution over the last half-century. Now, with *Independence Square*, Smith focuses on the fraught and frenzied days leading up to Vladimir Putin's war against Ukraine.

It's June 2021, and Arkady knows that Russia is preparing to invade and subsequently annex Ukraine as it did Crimea in 2014. He is, however, preoccupied with other grievances. His longtime lover, Tatiana Petrovna, has deserted him for her work as an investigative reporter. His corrupt boss has relegated him to a desk job. And he is having trouble with his dexterity and balance. A visit to his doctor reveals that these are symptoms for Parkinson's Disease.

This is an ingenious autobiographical conceit, as Martin Cruz Smith has Parkinson's, and is able through Arkady to movingly describe his own experience with the disease. Parkinson's hasn't stopped Smith from his work, and neither does it stop Arkady. Rather than dwell on his diagnosis, he throws himself into another case.

An acquaintance has asked him to find his daughter, Karina, an anti-Putin activist who has disappeared. In the course of the investigation, Arkady falls for Karina's roommate, Elena, a Tatar from Ukraine. The search leads them to Kyiv, where rumblings of an armed conflict grow louder. Later, in Crimea, Tatiana reemerges to complicate Arkady's new romance. And as he gets closer to locating Karina, Arkady discovers something that threatens his life as well as the lives of both Elena and Tatiana.

Few fiction writers have better captured contemporary Russia with more insight or authenticity than Martin Cruz Smith. He does the same here for Ukraine and the events that preceded Russia's invasion. *Independence Square* is a timely and a uniquely personal mystery novel-meets-political thriller by a master of the form.

Danielle Steel – The Wedding Planner – Romance – 28.99



Faith Ferguson is New York's most in-demand wedding planner, an arbiter of taste for elegant affairs, lavish ceremonies, and exclusive fêtes. She appreciates a simple celebration as much as a dazzling event, for she knows that a dream wedding is not necessarily the most expensive one.

As much as Faith enjoys her work, her two failed engagements leave her with no desire to get married herself. She finds fulfillment in her close relationship with her twin sister, Hope, her role as a mentor for her assistant, Violet, and her career.

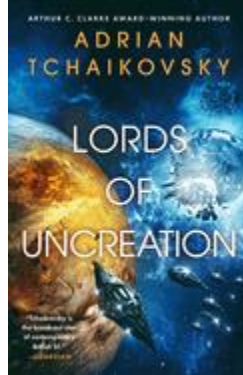
This year, new clients have flocked to her, and she signs up an extravagant reception, a mid-sized gathering, and an intimate soirée, in addition to her mother's next marriage and Violet's modest ceremony. Faith finds herself forming bonds with her new clients and their loved ones--most notably the handsome brother of one of her grooms.

But weddings are not always all champagne and roses, and in no time, Faith is grappling with private quarrels, unplanned pregnancies, family scandals, dark secrets, and the possibility of cancelled ceremonies. Through her own journey, Faith will prove once and for all that there is not just one path to happily ever after.

In *The Wedding Planner*, Danielle Steel presents an enchanting story about the winding road to love and the many ways to find joy while staying true to oneself.

Adrian Tchaikovski - Lords of Uncreation (The Final Architecture

#3) – Sci Fi – 29.00



From the Arthur C. Clarke award-winning author of *Children of Time*, this third and final novel in an extraordinary space opera trilogy depicts humanity on the brink of extinction--and reveals how one man's discovery will save or destroy us all.

Lords of Uncreation is the final high-octane installment in Adrian Tchaikovsky's Final Architecture space opera trilogy.

Louis Alberto Urrea – Good Night, Irene – Historical Novel – 29.00



In 1943, Irene Woodward abandons an abusive fiancé in New York to enlist with the Red Cross and head to Europe. She makes fast friends in training with Dorothy Dunford, a towering Midwesterner with a ferocious wit. Together they are part of an elite group of women, nicknamed Donut Dollies, who command military vehicles called Clubmobiles at the front line, providing camaraderie and a taste of home that may be the only solace before troops head into battle.

After D-Day, these two intrepid friends join the Allied soldiers streaming into France. Their time in Europe will see them embroiled in danger, from the Battle of the Bulge to the liberation of Buchenwald. Through her friendship with Dorothy, and a love affair with a courageous American fighter pilot named Hans, Irene learns to trust again. Her most fervent hope, which becomes more precarious by the day, is for all three of them to survive the war intact.

Taking as inspiration his mother's own Red Cross service, Luis Alberto Urrea has delivered an overlooked story of women's heroism in World War II. With its affecting and uplifting portrait of friendship and valor in harrowing circumstances, *Good Night, Irene* powerfully demonstrates yet again that Urrea's "gifts as a storyteller are prodigious" (NPR).

Trivia for May 2023

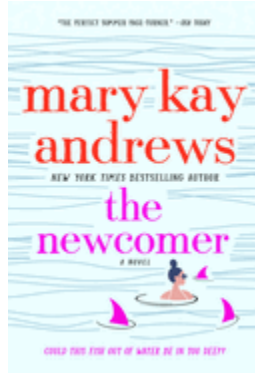
Shakespeare wrote that “brevity is the soul of wit.”
What did noted wit Dorothy Parker say it was?

Answer:

"The Soul of Lingerie"

Mass Market Paperback

Mary Kay Andrews – The Newcomer – Romance – 9.99



After she discovers her sister Tanya dead on the floor of her fashionable New York City townhouse, Letty Carnahan is certain she knows who did it: Tanya's ex; sleazy real estate entrepreneur Evan Wingfield. Even in the grip of grief and panic Letty heeds her late sister's warnings: "If anything bad happens to me--it's Evan. Promise me you'll take Maya and run. Promise me."

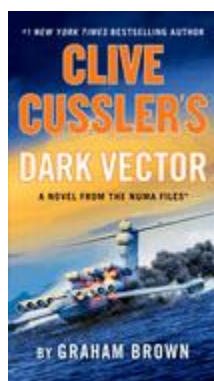
With a trunkful of emotional baggage...

So Letty grabs her sister's Mercedes and hits the road with her wailing four-year-old niece Maya. Letty is determined to out-run Evan and the law, but run to where? Tanya, a woman with a past shrouded in secrets, left behind a "go-bag" of cash and a big honking diamond ring--but only one clue: a faded magazine story about a sleepy mom-and-pop motel in a Florida beach town with the improbable name of Treasure Island. She sheds her old life and checks into an uncertain future at The Murmuring Surf Motel.

The No Vacancy sign is flashing & the sharks are circling...

And that's the good news. Because The Surf, as the regulars call it, is the winter home of a close-knit flock of retirees and snowbirds who regard this odd-duck newcomer with suspicion and down-right hostility. As Letty settles into the motel's former storage room, she tries to heal Maya's heartache and unravel the key to her sister's shady past, all while dodging the attention of the owner's dangerously attractive son Joe, who just happens to be a local police detective. Can Letty find romance as well as a room at the inn--or will Joe betray her secrets and put her behind bars? With danger closing in, it's a race to find the truth and right the wrongs of the past.

Graham Brown – Clive Cussler's Dark Vector – Thriller – 9.99



Kurt Austin must find a vanished ship and stave off a global catastrophe in the latest novel in the #1 *New York Times*-bestselling series created by the "grand master of adventure" Clive Cussler.

A freighter carrying top-secret computers of unparalleled capability disappears in the Western Pacific. While searching for a lost treasure that once belonged to the famous Chinese pirate queen, Ching Shih, Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala are redirected to look for the missing vessel.

Discovering that the sinking of the ship is just part of an intricate web of deception, they find themselves in the middle of a cyber-war between rival groups of hackers, both of whom want to control the flow of data around the world.

With no allies except a group of pirates who operate under their own crude laws, Kurt and Joe must rescue a colleague held hostage--while keeping the computers out of Russian or Chinese hands and the world's digital information safe from the hackers.

The May 2023 winner #4 is:

Lori Haldeman

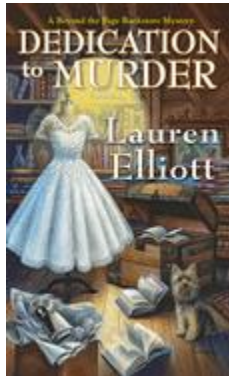
Cleo Coyle - The Ghost Goes to the Dogs (Haunted Bookshop Mystery) - 8.99



Pet Mystery Week brings brisk business to Penelope's Rhode Island bookshop, but a real mystery comes barking at her door when a lost dog turns up in a panic. Pen and her son Spencer follow the furry fugitive to a wooded area where the dog's owner lies unconscious. Mrs. Cunningham is a warm-hearted widow who volunteers at the animal shelter and runs Buy the Book's pet lovers book club. Why would anyone shoot such a sweet soul?

The police believe it's an accident, a shot by a careless deer hunter, but Pen remains skeptical. To straighten out this doggone mess, she whistles for the ghost of PI Jack Shepard, an expert in hounding as well as haunting. Jack has a dog story of his own, a case from the 1940s that may help Pen sniff out clues to her present predicament. Yet even with Jack's hard-boiled help, Pen may not be able to stop the killer from striking again or letting this whole case go to the dogs...

Lauren Elliott - Dedication to Murder (Beyond the Page Bookstore Mystery) – 8.99



Wedding bells are about to ring again in Greyborne Harbor, and as Addie slips into her white dress her thoughts are focused on a bright future with Dr. Simon Emerson. But a discovery in her attic leads her to startling revelations about the past. As the owner of Beyond the Page Books and Curios and a lifelong bibliophile, Addie is delighted to find a rare collection of classic children's books gathering dust in a secret room beneath the rafters, including a first edition of *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams. To her surprise, a handwritten inscription on the title page provides a clue to unraveling a complex mystery in Addie's family . . .

But that's only the first surprise in a series of shocking twists that will turn Addie's vision of where her life is going and where she's come from upside down—including a suspicious death in the present that suggests foul play.

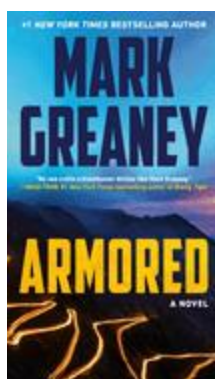
Alex Erickson - Death by Iced Coffee (Bookstore Cafe Mystery) – 8.99



It's a brutally hot day in Pine Hills, and Krissy Hancock would love to be sitting in a shady spot and sipping her favorite iced coffee. Instead, she's lacing up her sneakers for a marathon--and swiftly regretting it. Especially when she finds one of the other runners lying motionless. At first Krissy suspects heatstroke, but the red marks around the man's throat tell a more sinister story.

The victim, it turns out, had brewed up all kinds of enemies thanks to his cheating ways--both romantic and financial. Krissy's not keen to get involved, but her friend Rita's boyfriend, Johan, seems to be mixed up in the mayhem. For Rita's sake, Krissy wants to help filter out the real killer. But can she do it before another Pine Hills resident gets permanently iced?

Mark Greaney – Armored – Thriller – 9.99



Joshua Duffy is a Close Protection Agent--a professional bodyguard--and he's one of the world's elite operatives. That is, he *was* until his last mission in Lebanon. Against all odds, Josh got his primary out alive, but the cost was high. Josh lost his lower left leg.

There's not much call for an elite bodyguard with such an injury. So, Josh has to support his family working as a mall cop in New Jersey. For a man like Josh, this is purgatory on earth, but miracles can occur even in Paramus.

A lucky run-in with an old comrade promises to get Josh back in the field for one last job. The UN is sending a peace mission into the Sierra Madre mountains in Mexico, an area so dangerous it's known as *Espinazo del Diablo*--the Devil's Spine. Only a fool would think they could broker peace between the homicidal drug cartels in the region, and only a madman would sign on to keep those fools alive.

Laura Griffin - Deep Tide (The Texas Murder Files) – Romantic Suspense - 8.99



With two brothers on the police force, Leyla Breda is well aware of the rising crime in her small beach town, but she never expected it to show up on her doorstep. When Leyla finds one of her employees murdered in the alley behind her coffee shop, she's deeply shaken, and as a new law enforcement officer in town begins to circle her place of business, her instincts only sharpen.

Sean Moran is on an undercover mission: The seaside community of Lost Beach may look like a picturesque postcard, but his team suspects it's a point of intersection for several crime syndicates that the FBI has been investigating for years. Even so, when the brash and beautiful Leyla Breda starts bossing him around, he's immediately intrigued. He knows her brothers want him to back off, but every time he sees her, he feels more of a spark.

Leyla's connections in the local community and Sean's skills allow them to go deeper into the case together than they would be able to go alone. But when a single crime spirals into something much darker, Sean's carefully planned mission takes a deadly turn.

Kim Harrison - Trouble with the Cursed (Hollows) – Romantic Suspense – 8.99



Rachel Morgan, witch-born demon, has one unspoken rule: take chances, but pay for them yourself. With it, she has turned enemies into allies, found her place with her demon kin, and stepped up as the subrosa of Cincinnati--responsible for keeping the paranormal community at peace and in line.

Life is...good? Even better, her best friend, Ivy Tamwood, is returning home. Nothing's simple, though, and Ivy's not coming alone. The vampires' ruling council insists she escort one of the long undead, hell-bent on proving that Rachel killed Cincy's master vampire to take over the city. Which, of course, Rachel totally did not do. She only *transformed* her a little.

With Rachel's friends distracted by their own lives and problems, she reaches out to a new ally for help--the demon Hodin. But this trickster has his own agenda. In the end, the only way for Rachel to save herself and the city may be to forge a new understanding with her estranged demon teacher, Al. There's just one problem: Al would sell his own soul to be rid of her....

Winnie Griggs - Her Amish Patchwork Family (Hope's Haven #3) – Romance – 8.99



In this heartwarming Amish romance, a former schoolteacher and a single father discover a second chance at friendship, family, and love--perfect for fans of Laura V. Hilton and Marta Perry.

Former Hope's Haven schoolteacher, Martha Eicher, has always been the responsible one, putting her family first and caring for her widowed father and two younger sisters. But now they're all happily married, and Martha isn't sure where she fits in anymore . . . until she hears that Asher Lantz needs a nanny. Even though her childhood friendship with Asher ended abruptly years ago, when a misunderstanding drove a wedge between them, Martha offers her assistance.

Asher is also feeling adrift. As a single father to his niece and nephews, he struggles to balance his new family responsibilities with those on the farm and in his workshop. He's grateful for Martha's help, but worries things will always feel awkward with her. Yet before long, Asher realizes Martha is exactly what his family needs, and he can't imagine his home without her. Martha and Asher thought they were lost, but could they be right where they belong . . . together?

Miranda James - What the Cat Dragged in (Cat in the Stacks Mystery) – 8.99



Librarian Charlie Harris and his faithful feline companion, Diesel, have inherited Charlie's grandfather's house, along with a deadly legacy: a decades-old crime scene.

Charlie has always believed that his grandfather had sold his house to his longtime tenant, Martin Hale. So when Martin dies, Charlie is surprised to discover the house was not left to Martin but instead belongs to Charlie. As he and Diesel check out the house he remembers fondly from his childhood, he is pleasantly surprised that it is in better condition than expected. That is, until they find a literal skeleton in a closet.

While the sheriff's department investigates the mysterious remains, Charlie digs deeper into the past for clues to the identity of the bones and why they are there. But the cold case heats up quickly when Martin's grandson is found dead on the farm. As Charlie delves into his own family history, he encounters many people who might have been motivated to take a life. But Charlie and Diesel know that things are not always what they seem, and that secrets seemingly lost to time have a way of finding their way back to haunt the present.

Fern Michaels - Fear Thy Neighbor: A Riveting Novel of Suspense— 9.99



At twenty-nine, Alison Marshall is ready to find a place to call home. With no family and no ties, she's drifted from one small Florida town to another since high school, working odd jobs, saving hard, and building a nest egg. Once she finds the right place to settle down, she'll know. And when she reaches beautiful Palmetto Island, she thinks she may have found it. The small, close-knit island community seems to have everything Alison needs. On a hunch, she contacts the island's only realtor, and learns that an old beach house is on the market. Miraculously, it's in her budget, and Alison takes it as another sign that she's in the right place.

At first, home is everything she hoped it would be. But as days turn into weeks, she uncovers a dark side to this supposedly peaceful haven. The locals have a secret, and once Alison discovers what it is, she faces a stark choice. She can stay and join them--or escape. But leaving brings its own risks, and Alison is starting to wonder if coming to Palmetto Island is the last mistake she'll ever make . . .

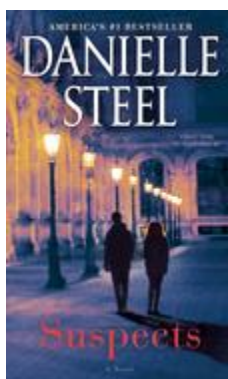
Taylor Moore - Firestorm (Garrett Kohl #2) – Thriller – 9.99



Special Agent Garrett Kohl has just taken down a dangerous and deadly cartel boss when he finds trouble brewing back on his family's homestead. A powerful energy consortium, Talon Corporation, has started an aggressive mining operation that threatens to destroy Garrett's land, his family's way of life, and everything they hold dear. To achieve its goals, Talon is flouting the law, bribing public officials, and meeting anyone who challenges it with physical violence. When the Kohls themselves are attacked by Talon guards, Garrett goes on the offensive, embarking on an investigation that he hopes will rid the Texas High Plains of the intruders once and for all.

Garrett soon discovers that the company has origins in the dark hinterlands of countries across the globe. Using coercion and assassination levied by men from former Russian special operations forces, Talon is working on a highly secretive scheme to commandeer precious U.S. resources. The tit for tat exchange between Talon and the Kohls erupts into a full-scale war when Russian spy, Alexi Orlov, kidnaps Garrett's friend and ally, CIA operative Kim Manning. While Talon may be accustomed to getting its way in many places around the world, they have yet to encounter this rare breed of warrior down in Texas--a man who will fight to the death to protect those that he loves.

Danielle Steel – Suspects – Romance – 9.99



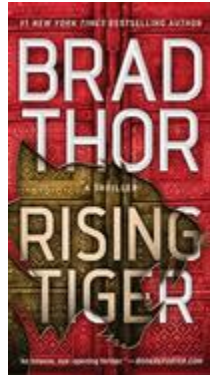
Theodora Morgan is fashion royalty. Founder of a wildly popular online shopping service, she is one of the most successful businesswomen in the world, although she prefers to keep a low profile, especially over the last months. It was a year ago when the unthinkable struck her family, and her husband, industry mogul Matthieu Pasquier, and their son were kidnapped and held for ransom--a nightmare that ended in tragedy.

The case has gone cold, despite evidence linking the crime to Matthieu's Russian competitors. Theo has reluctantly gone back to work running her company. On the flight to a launch party for one of her highly anticipated pop-up shops in New York City, she crosses paths with high-society networker Pierre de Vaumont. Theo politely invites him to her event--unaware that Pierre has been flagged by the CIA.

Senior supervising CIA operative Mike Andrews investigates Pierre's suspicious Russian contacts and clears him to enter the country, but when he realizes that Theodora Morgan is on the same flight, he becomes concerned for her safety. Posing as a lawyer, Mike begins a covert mission--starting with Theo's opening party. When Mike and Theo meet, their connection is

instant, but Theo is completely unaware of Mike's true objective or identity... or that the life she is rebuilding is in grave danger.

Brad Thor - Rising Tiger: A Thriller (Scot Harvath #21) – Thriller – 9.99



Deadly operative Scot Harvath faces down the country's most powerful .

An unprecedented, potentially nation-ending threat has materialized on the world stage. Fearful of the global consequences of engaging this enemy, administration after administration has passed the buck. The clock, however, has run out and doing nothing is no longer an option. It is time to unleash Scot Harvath.

As America's top spy, Harvath has the unparalleled skills and experience necessary to handle any situation, but this assignment feels different.

Thrust into a completely unfamiliar culture, with few he can trust, the danger begins mounting the moment he arrives. Amidst multiple competing forces and a host of deadly agendas, it becomes nearly impossible to tell predator from prey.

With democracy itself hanging in the balance, Harvath will risk everything to untangle the explosive plot and bring every bad actor to justice.