

The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 15, #11 November 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)

Trivia for November 2022

What book begins, “He came into the world in the middle of the thicket, in one of those little, hidden forest glades which seems to be entirely open, but are really screened in on all sides”?

Read on and find the answer later in the newsletter.

NOTE: The Book Rack will close at 4:00 PM on November 23 and

**All day Thanksgiving, November 24.
We'll be open as usual on Black Friday**

**Beginning Black Friday and ending Christmas Eve, all Book Rack Gift Certificates will be discounted 20%!!
\$25 for \$20.00**

\$50.00 will be \$40.00

\$100.00 will be \$80.00

\$10,000.00 will be ONLY \$8000.00

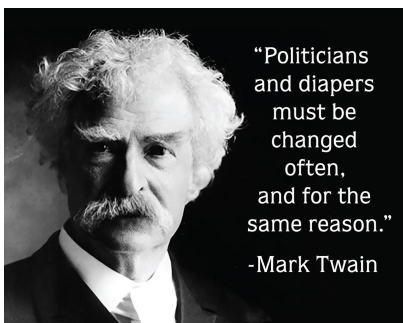
**What a great gift! Any value is discounted 20%
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

**We have added new puzzles and metal signs
just in time for the holidays. They make great
gifts! A few examples:**

Puzzles



Signs



Shop early for the best selection!

\$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 November 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 November 2022 winner #1 is:

Leah Ratermann

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 **November 30, 2022** to claim your prize:

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

November 2022 Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

November Monthly Celebrations

National Caregivers Appreciation Month

National Diabetes Awareness Month

National Epilepsy Month

National Novel Writing Month

Native American Heritage Month

Weekly:

Week 3 Game and Puzzle Week

Holidays

1 – National Author's Day

1 – 2 – Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

5 – Book Lovers Day

6 - Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m.

6 – Local Author Sean Leary will be at The Book Rack 12 – 3:00

7 – College Basketball Season begins. YEAH! Go Team!!

8 – National Election Day- Go out there and do your duty!!

11 – Veteran's Day

11 – Local Author Robin Abbott will be at The Book Rack 11 – 1:00

15 – Clean Your Refrigerator Day

17 – World Peace Day

24 – Thanksgiving Day – The Book Rack will be closed

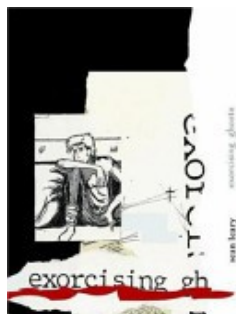
25 – Black Friday

26 – Small Business Saturday

27 – Advent Begins

November's Featured Local Authors

Sean Leary November 6, 12 – 3:00, with his book, "Exorcising Ghosts"

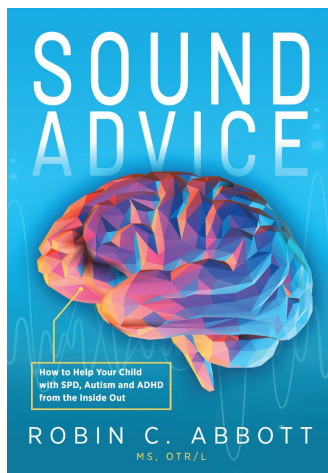


A thrillingly off-beat and dramatic look at the trials and tribulations of Colin Drewry, a teenager struggling with the temptations of alcoholism and adolescence. Cross "The OC" with Neil Gaiman and throw in a little Frank Miller and "Donnie Darko" and you've got "Exorcising Ghosts," an exciting, unique graphic novel by Sean Leary ("The Dingo," "Your Favorite Band.")

Local Author Robin Abbott Will be at The Book Rack Friday, November 11, 11-1:00 with her book,

SOUND ADVICE

HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH SPD, AUTISM AND ADHD FROM THE INSIDE
OUT



When the inner ear's ability to sense sound and movement breaks down during early life, there can be wide-ranging developmental consequences. Sound Advice integrates the personal stories of a pediatric occupational therapist with current science on why some children struggle to learn and adapt. Sound Advice explores these often therapeutically ignored senses as the gateway to the brain. Treating them can help children with SPD, autism and ADHD more easily connect with the world around them. Take "Sound Advice" on:

- The hidden functions of hearing in paying attention
- The "background" sensation of the vestibular system
- How glitches in sensory systems can derail normal development
- Developmentally-effective therapies and interventions
- Empowering yourself to support your child's way of learning about the world



Robin Abbott's fascination with auditory and vestibular treatment and its importance in daily function began when she switched from an adult

to a pediatric occupational therapy practice in 2005. Across the course of twelve years working exclusively with children with autism, SPD, ADHD and learning disabilities, she researched and instituted methods she feels are the most effective and efficient. Now, parents and fellow therapists can access her experience to find out if these methods might help the children in their lives.

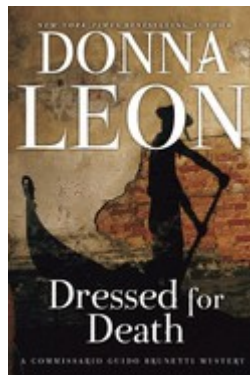
Special Notice for the Authors in the readership!!

Story Unlikely - an online literary magazine run by Quad City locals - is hosting its annual short story contest - \$1,000 in cash prizes and NO entry fee! Submission period opened October 1st and runs until December 31st. Go to <https://www.storyunlikely.com/#contest> for more information.

Book Reviews

Reviews by Claudia:

Dressed for Death by Donna Leon.

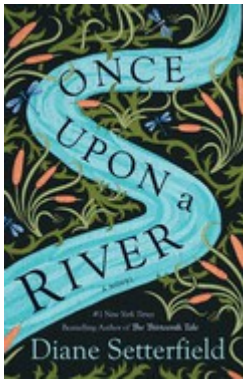


The third in a prolific series of Commissario Guido Brunetti murder mysteries. The discovery of a body in weeds near a slaughter house in Marghera dashes Brunetti's plans to escape the sweltering heat of Venice for a mountain vacation

with his family, and raises several questions. Why was the body placed there?

Why was it dressed as a prostitute? Who was this man whose cosmetized face was so bashed in as to be unrecognizable? Why can he find no one who knows the murdered man? Leon weaves Brunetti's search for answers through Venetian streets and canals with well-developed characters and a plot line that intrigues. If you like to read Donna Leon, as of 2021 there are 30 Commissario Brunetti books. Recommended.

Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield is one of my favorites.



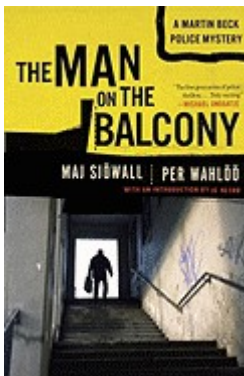
The river Thames and story-telling ground the tale that begins at winter solstice in an ancient riverside inn, The Swan. As the regulars while away the dark evening telling stories and quaffing ale, a badly injured stranger bursts through the door with a lifeless child in his arms. Immediately collapsing, the unconscious man is treated by a local nurse/midwife, who then cradles the little girl's body in another room. When the child stirs, and is clearly alive, but mute, the folks in the inn attempt to explain the mystery. The man recovers, but cannot shed light on the identity of the little girl, having seen her first when he rescued her from the river. Three families, all of whom have lost a little girl, want to claim her, but they all have secrets of their own that must be revealed before the girl's identity can be known. The book offers magic and myth, science and folklore, interesting characters, and a compelling storyline. Setterfield's writing is a pleasure to read. Highly recommended.

The November 2022 winner #2 is:

Brianne Berogan

Reviews by Bob

The Man on the Balcony by Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahloo (1968)

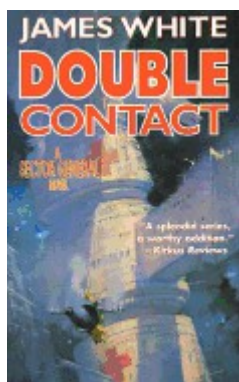


In the once peaceful parks of Stockholm, a killer is stalking young girls and disposing their bodies. The city is on edge, and an undercurrent of fear has gripped its residents. Martin Beck, now a superintendent, has two possible witnesses: a silent, stone-cold mugger and a mute three-year-old boy. With the likelihood of another murder growing as each day passes, the police force work night and day. But their efforts have offered little insight into

the methodology of the killer. Then a distant memory resurfaces in Beck's mind, and he may just have the break he needs.

I'm delighted to introduce you to another excellent author duo, if you are not already their fans. Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö were husband and wife. They were both committed Marxists and, between 1965 and 1975, they collaborated on ten mysteries featuring Martin Beck. A true police procedural with realistic characters, tedium of investigation with many moments of insight and frustration. Wonderfully written, it gets an A from me. While originally published in 1968, this title was reprinted as recently as 2009 and is the 3rd book in the 10-title Martin Beck Series.

Double Contact, A Sector General Novel by James White (1999)



In James White's beloved science fiction medical dramas, an intergalactic hospital promotes peaceful first contact by addressing alien illnesses.

Sector General: A massive deep-space hospital station on the Galactic Rim, where human and alien medicine meet. Its 384 levels and thousands of staff members are supposedly able to meet the needs of any conceivable alien patient—though that capacity is always being strained as more (and stranger) alien races turn up to join the galactic community. Sentient viruses, interspecies romances, undreamed-of institutional catering problems—it all lands on Sector General's doorstep. And the only thing weirder than a hitherto unknown alien species is having a member of that species turn up in your Emergency Room.

Notable for its wide array of believable alien life forms, Sector General's multi-species medical stories and pacifist philosophy make this one of science fiction's most beloved space opera series.

Double Contact is the final Sector General book. Now, in the latest adventure, the empathic Dr. Prilicla, a veteran of Sector General for years, is put in command of an expedition answering three distress beacons. What he finds is two hitherto-unknown intelligent species, one of which has nearly wiped out the

other. And he also finds evidence of a botched first contact--along with a rare opportunity to set matters right.

Assuming, as always, that he can make an accurate diagnosis....

Another really good author, gone with stories yet to share. I give Double Contact an A. The characters and species were very conceivable to me, making the story imaginative, hopeful and yet believable, in the far distant future.

White Fang by Jack London (1906)



White Fang is part dog and part wolf, and the lone survivor of his family. In his lonely world, he soon learns to follow the harsh law of the North--kill or be killed. But nothing in White Fang's life can prepare him for the cruel owner who turns him into a vicious killer. Will White Fang ever know the kindness of a gentle master?

A true classic and one to add to your "books to read" list and your library, if you haven't. It gets an A from me, of course. A book that will make you feel good, at the end.

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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! ☐ ☐

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

Russell Banks – The Magic Kingdom – General Fiction – 30.00

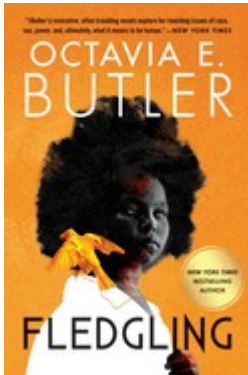


In 1971, a property speculator named Harley Mann begins recording his life story onto a reel-to-reel machine. Reflecting on his childhood in the early twentieth century, Harley recounts that after his father's sudden death, his family migrated down to Florida's swamplands--mere miles away from what would become Disney World--to join a community of Shakers.

Led by Elder John, a generous man with a mysterious past, the colony devoted itself to labor, faith, and charity, rejecting all temptations that lay beyond the property. Though this way of life initially saved Harley and his family from complete ruin, when Harley began falling in love with Sadie Pratt, a consumptive patient living on the grounds, his loyalty to the Shakers and their conservative worldview grew strained and, ultimately, broke. As Harley dictates his story across more than half a century--meditating on youth, Florida's everchanging landscape, and the search for an American utopia--the truth about Sadie, Elder John, and the Shakers comes to light, clarifying the past and present alike.

A dazzling tapestry of love and faith, memory and imagination, *The Magic Kingdom* questions what it means to look back and accept one's place in history. With an expert eye and stunning vision, Russell Banks delivers a wholly captivating portrait of a man navigating Americana and the passage of time.

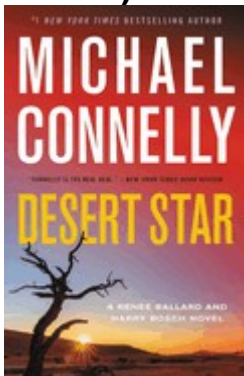
Octavia Butler – Fledgling – Science Fiction – 16.99



Octavia E. Butler's final novel is the story of an apparently young, amnesiac girl whose alarmingly un-human needs and abilities lead her to a startling conclusion: She is in fact a genetically modified, 53-year-old vampire. Forced to discover what she can about her stolen former life, she must at the same time learn who wanted--and still wants--to destroy her and those she cares for, and how she can save herself.

"A master storyteller, Butler casts an unflinching eye on racism, sexism, poverty, and ignorance and lets the reader see the terror and beauty of human nature." -- *The Washington Post*

Michael Connelly - Desert Star (Renée Ballard and Harry Bosch Novel) – Thriller – 29.00



A year has passed since LAPD detective Renée Ballard quit the force in the face of misogyny, demoralization, and endless red tape. But after the chief of police himself tells her she can write her own ticket within the department, Ballard takes back her badge, leaving "the Late Show" to rebuild and lead the cold case unit at the elite Robbery-Homicide Division.

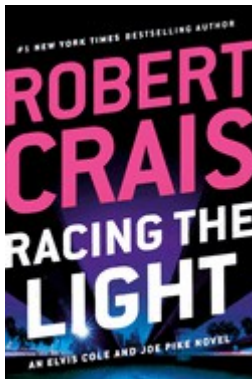
For years, Harry Bosch has been working a case that haunts him--the murder of an entire family by a psychopath who still walks free. Ballard makes Bosch an offer: come volunteer as an investigator in her new Open-Unsolved Unit, and he can pursue his "white whale" with the resources of the LAPD behind him. First priority for Ballard is to clear the unsolved rape and murder of a sixteen-year-old girl. The decades-old case is essential to the councilman who supported re-forming the unit, and who could shutter it again--the victim was his sister. When Ballard gets a "cold hit" connecting the killing to a similar crime, proving that a serial predator has been at work in the city for years, the political pressure has never been higher. To keep momentum going, she must pull Bosch off his all-consuming investigation, the case that is the consumma-

tion of his lifelong mission.

The two must put aside old resentments and new tensions to run to ground not one but two dangerous killers who have operated with brash impunity.

Richard Crais - Racing the Light (Elvis Cole and Joe Pike Novel)

– 29.00



Private investigator Elvis Cole and his enigmatic partner Joe Pike are back on the case in this brilliant new thriller from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Robert Crais.

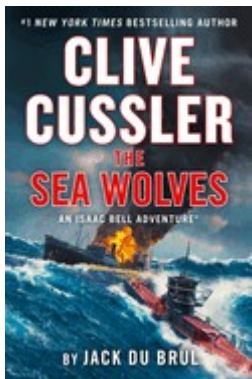
Adele Schumacher isn't a typical worried mom. When she hires Elvis to find her missing son, a controversial podcaster named Josh Shoe, she brings a bag filled with cash, bizarre tales of government conspiracies, and a squad of professional bodyguards. Finding Josh should be simple, but Elvis quickly learns he isn't alone in the hunt--a deadly team of mysterious strangers are determined to find Josh and his adult film star girlfriend first.

With dangerous secrets lurking behind every lead, Elvis needs his friend Joe Pike more than ever to uncover the truth about Josh, corrupt politicians, and the vicious business cartels rotting the heart of Los Angeles from within. And when Elvis's estranged girlfriend Lucy Chenier and her son, Ben, return, he learns just how much he has to lose...if he survives.

Written with the heart, humor, and relentless suspense for which Crais is famous, *Racing the Light* delivers

Elvis Cole's most dangerous case yet.

Clive Cussler - The Sea Wolves (Isaac Bell Adventure) – Thriller – 29.95

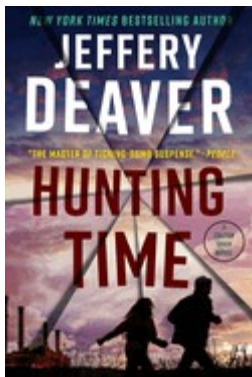


Detective Isaac Bell battles foreign spies, German U-boats, and an old nemesis to capture a secret technology that could alter the outcome of World War I in the latest adventure in the #1 *New York Times* bestselling series from Clive Cussler.

As New England swelters in the summer of 1914, Detective Isaac Bell is asked to investigate a cache of missing rifles--only to discover something much more sinister. Whoever broke into this Winchester Factory wasn't looking to *take* weapons, they wanted to *leave* something in the shipping crates: a radio transmitter, set to summon a fleet of dreaded German U-boats. Someone is trying to keep American supplies from reaching British shores, and if Bell doesn't crack the conspiracy in time, the Atlantic Ocean will run red with blood.

Bell must hunt down a new piece of technology that is allowing the Germans to rule the seas from New York to England. With the outcome of the war at stake and Franklin Roosevelt's orders on the line, Bell will risk everything to stop the U-Boats before they strike again.

Jeffery Deaver - Hunting Time (A Colter Shaw Novel) – Thriller - 29.00



Reward seeker Colter Shaw plunges into the woods and races the clock in a case where nothing is quite what it seems.

THERE ARE TWO FUNDAMENTAL RULES OF SURVIVAL.

#1: NEVER BE WITHOUT A MEANS OF ESCAPE.

Allison Parker is on the run with her teenage daughter, Hannah, and Colter Shaw has been hired by her eccentric boss, entrepreneur Marty Harmon, to find and protect her. Though he's an expert at tracking missing persons--even those who don't wish to be found--Shaw has met his match in Allison, who brings all her skills as a brilliant engineer designing revolutionary technology to the game of evading detection.

#2: NEVER BE WITHOUT ACCESS TO A WEAPON.

The reason for Allison's panicked flight is soon apparent. She's being stalked by her ex-husband, Jon Merritt. Newly released from prison and fueled by blinding rage, Jon is a man whose former profession as a police detective makes him uniquely suited for the hunt. And he's not alone. Two hitmen are also hot on her heels--an eerie pair of thugs who take delight not only in murder but in the sport of devising clever ways to make bodies disappear forever. Even if Shaw manages to catch up with Allison and her daughter, his troubles will just be beginning.

SHAW IS ABOUT TO DISCOVER RULE #3:

NEVER BELIEVE ANYTHING.

As Shaw ventures further into the wilderness, the truth becomes as hard to decipher as the forest's unmarked trails...and peril awaits at every turn.

Stephen R. Donaldson - The Killing God (Great God's War)



Two kingdoms, ancient enemies, must stand alone against an implacable invader in the masterful conclusion of the Great God's War epic from the *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Chronicles of Thomas Covenant*.

They are coming.

The kingdoms of Belleger and Amika had been fighting for generations. But then they learned of a terrible threat moving through them to destroy the Last Repository, an immense hidden library. To face this greater enemy, King Bifalt of Belleger and Queen Estie of Amika allied their lands and prepared for war.

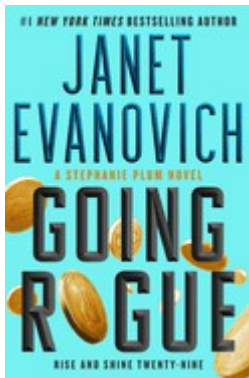
They are at the door.

Now the time of preparation is over. Black ships and sorcery test the cannon that defend the Bay of Lights. Treachery and betrayal threaten the kingdoms. The priests of the Great God Rile sow dissent. And Estie rides for the Last Repository, desperate to enlist the help of their Magisters--and to understand the nature of her own magical gift.

They are here.

Bifalt hates sorcery as much as he loves Estie, and the discovery that she could become a Magister shatters him. But he must rally and fight. Belleger and Amika are all that stand between the Great God's forces and his ultimate goal: the destruction of the Last Repository and its treasure of knowledge.

Janet Evanovich - Going Rogue: Rise and Shine Twenty-Nine (Stephanie Plum #29) – Mystery – 28.99



Stephanie Plum breaks the rules, flirts with disaster, and shows who's boss in the latest smash hit from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Janet Evanovich.

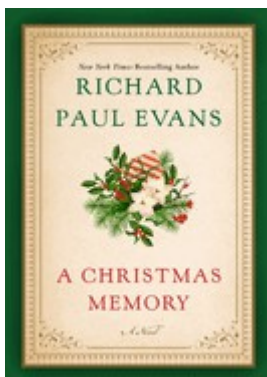
Monday mornings aren't supposed to be fun, but they should be predictable. However, on this particular Monday, Stephanie Plum knows that something is amiss when she turns up for work at Vinnie's Bail Bonds to find that longtime office manager Connie Rosolli, who is as reliable as the tides in Atlantic City, hasn't shown up.

Stephanie's worst fears are confirmed when she gets a call from Connie's abductor. He says he will only release her in exchange for a mysterious coin that a recently murdered man left as collateral for his bail. Unfortunately, this coin, which should be in the office--just like Connie--is nowhere to be found.

The quest to discover the coin, learn its value, and save Connie will require the help of Stephanie's Grandma Mazur, her best pal Lula, her boyfriend Morelli, and hunky security expert Ranger. As they get closer to unraveling the reasons behind Connie's kidnapping, Connie's captor grows more threatening and soon Stephanie has no choice but to throw caution to the wind, follow her instincts, and go rogue.

Full of surprises, thrills, and humor, *Going Rogue* reveals a new side of Stephanie Plum, and shows Janet Evanovich at her scorching, riotous best.

Richard Paul Evans – A Christmas Memory – Holiday – 17.99



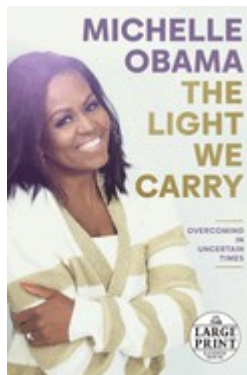
It's 1967, and for young Richard it's a time of heartbreak and turmoil. Over the span of a few months, his brother, Mark, is killed in Vietnam; his father loses his job and moves the family from California to his grandmother's abandoned home in Utah; and his parents make the painful decision to separate.

With uncertainty rattling every corner of his life, Richard does his best to remain strong--but when he's run down by bullies at his new school, he meets Mr. Foster, an elderly neighbor who chases off the bullies and invites Richard in for a cup of cocoa. Richard becomes fast friends with the wise, solitary man who inspires Richard's love for books and whose dog, Gollum, becomes his closest companion.

As the holidays approach, the joy and light of Christmas seem unlikely to permeate the Evans home as things take a grim turn for the worse. And just when it seems like he has nothing left to lose, Richard is confronted by a startling revelation. But with Mr. Foster's wisdom and kindness, he learns for the first time what truly matters about the spirit of the season: that forgiveness can heal even the deepest wounds, and love endures long after the pain of loss subsides.

In *A Christmas Memory*, Richard Paul Evans (#1 *New York Times* bestselling author and the "King of Christmas fiction") delves deep into his childhood memories to take readers back to an age when his world felt like it was falling apart, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the light of hope can still shine.

Michelle Obama - The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times – Autobiography – 32.50



In an inspiring follow-up to her critically acclaimed, #1 bestselling memoir “*Becoming*,” former First Lady Michelle Obama shares practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today’s highly uncertain world.

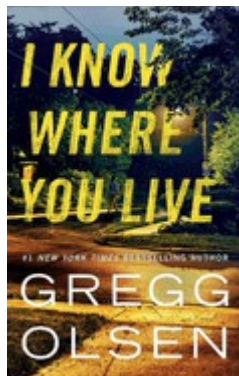
There may be no tidy solutions or pithy answers to life’s big challenges, but Michelle Obama believes that we can all locate and lean on a set of tools to help us better navigate change and remain steady within flux. In *The Light We Carry*, she opens a frank and honest dialogue with readers, considering the questions many of us wrestle with: How do we build enduring and honest relationships? How can we discover strength and community inside our differences? What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness? What do we do when it all starts to feel like too much?

Michelle Obama offers readers a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us, discovering deeper truths and new pathways for progress. Drawing from her experiences as a mother, daughter, spouse, friend, and First Lady, she shares the habits and principles she has developed to successfully adapt to change and overcome various obstacles--the earned wisdom that helps

her continue to “become.” She details her most valuable practices, like “starting kind,” “going high,” and assembling a “kitchen table” of trusted friends and mentors. With trademark humor, candor, and compassion, she also explores issues connected to race, gender, and visibility, encouraging readers to work through fear, find strength in community, and live with boldness.

“When we are able to recognize our own light, we become empowered to use it,” writes Michelle Obama. A rewarding blend of powerful stories and profound advice that will ignite conversation, *The Light We Carry* inspires readers to examine their own lives, identify their sources of gladness, and connect meaningfully in a turbulent world.

Gregg Olsen – I Know Where You Live – Psychological Thriller – 15.99

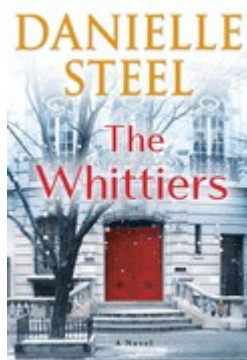


"A nameless undead awakens in an ancient crypt, and thus does the journey begin. Drawn mysteriously toward the horizon, he ventures into a land of perils beyond death. A once shining kingdom has been fractured, and mindless Hollows prowl the dark corners. To see it united and restored, the old king must be freed by his get-the youth Balarion. The undead and his companions, surviving champions of the halcyon era, accompany Balarion on this journey to release his father, battling foes both monstrous and clever. Yet it is not their enemies that give them doubt, it is their quest. Can a world so troubled truly be set right again, or is it fated to vanish into the dark?"

Michael A. Stackpole - Dark Souls: Masque of Vindication – Fantasy – 25.00

"A nameless undead awakens in an ancient crypt, and thus does the journey begin. Drawn mysteriously toward the horizon, he ventures into a land of perils beyond death. A once shining kingdom has been fractured, and mindless Hollows prowl the dark corners. To see it united and restored, the old king must be freed by his get-the youth Balarion. The undead and his companions, surviving champions of the halcyon era, accompany Balarion on this journey to release his father, battling foes both monstrous and clever. Yet it is not their enemies that give them doubt, it is their quest. Can a world so troubled truly be set right again, or is it fated to vanish into the dark?"

Danielle Steel - The Whittiers – Literature – 28.99



Preston and Constance Whittier have built a happy life together, with a brood of six children raised in a beautiful historic Manhattan mansion. Now, with a nearly empty nest, it's easier than ever for the Whittiers to maintain their tradition of a solo romantic "Wintermoon" ski trip.

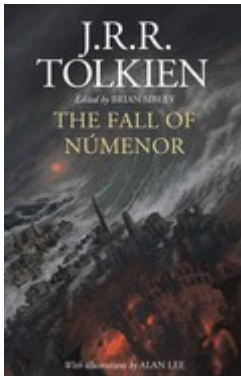
But with this year's trip comes tragedy, and suddenly the Whittier's adult children find themselves reuniting in the family home without their parents for the first time ever. The oldest, Lyle, is reaching a breaking point in his marriage and must decide whether a divorce would be best for him and his two children. Gloria's big job on Wall Street has kept her single at thirty-nine, and growing ever more cynical. The twins, Caroline and Charlie, moved out long ago to start a fashion business that may now be faltering. Benjie, with special

needs, is hit hard by the loss of his parents and needs his siblings' help. And Annabelle, the youngest, drops out of college and starts to spin out of control.

The eldest four are forced to put aside their personal issues and their grief to keep the family together and support each other and their two youngest siblings. Selling the house, along with all the memories that live in its walls, feels like yet another devastating loss. Could there be another way, as unconventional as it seems?

In *The Whittiers*, Danielle Steel delivers an inspiring story about the everlasting bonds of one unforgettable family.

J.R.R. Tolkien - The Fall of Númenor: And Other Tales from the Second Age of Middle-Earth – Fantasy – 40.00



J.R.R. Tolkien's writings on the Second Age of Middle-earth, collected for the first time in one volume complete with new illustrations in watercolor and pencil by renowned artist Alan Lee.

J.R.R. Tolkien famously described the Second Age of Middle-earth as a dark age, and not very much of its history is (or need be) told. And for many years readers would need to be content with the tantalizing glimpses of it found within the pages of *The Lord of the Rings* and its appendices, including the forging of the Rings of Power, the building of the Barad-dûr and the rise of Sauron.

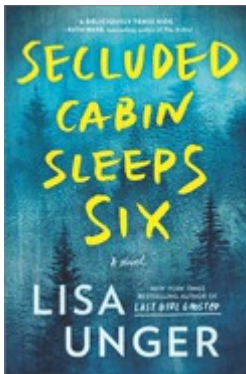
It was not until Christopher Tolkien published *The Silmarillion* after his father's death that a fuller story could be told. Although much of the book's content concerned the First Age of Middle-earth, there were at its close two key works that revealed the tumultuous events concerning the rise and fall of the island of Númenor. Raised out of the Great Sea and gifted to the Men of Middle-earth as a reward for

aiding the angelic Valar and the Elves in the defeat and capture of the Dark Lord Morgoth, the kingdom became a seat of influence and wealth; but as the Númenóreans' power increased, the seed of their downfall would inevitably be sown, culminating in the Last Alliance of Elves and Men.

Even greater insight into the Second Age would be revealed in subsequent publications, first in *Unfinished Tales of Númenor and Middle-earth*, then expanded upon in Christopher Tolkien's magisterial twelve-volume *The History of Middle-earth*, in which he presented and discussed a wealth of further tales written by his father, many in draft form.

Now, adhering to the timeline of The Tale of Years in the appendices to *The Lord of the Rings*, editor Brian Sibley has assembled into one comprehensive volume a new chronicle of the Second Age of Middle-earth, told substantially in the words of Tolkien from the various published texts, with new illustrations in watercolor and pencil by the doyen of Tolkien art, Alan Lee.

Lisa Unger - Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six – Thriller – 27.99



Three couples rent a luxury cabin in the woods for a weekend getaway to die for in this chilling locked-room thriller by *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa Unger.

What could be more restful, more restorative, than a weekend getaway with family and friends? An isolated luxury cabin in the woods, complete with spectacular views, a hot tub and a personal chef. Hannah's loving and generous tech-mogul brother found the listing online. The reviews are stellar. It's his birthday gift to Hannah and includes their spouses and another couple. The six friends need this trip with good food, good company and lots of R & R, far from the chatter and pressures of modern life.

But the dreamy weekend is about to turn into a nightmare. A deadly storm is brewing. The rental host seems just a little too present. The personal chef reveals that their beautiful house has a spine-tingling history. And the friends have their own complicated past, with secrets that run blood deep. How well does Hannah know

her brother, her own husband? Can she trust her best friend? And who is the new boyfriend, crashing their party? Meanwhile, someone is determined to ruin the weekend, looking to exact a payback for deeds long buried. Who is the stranger among them?

Trivia for November 2022

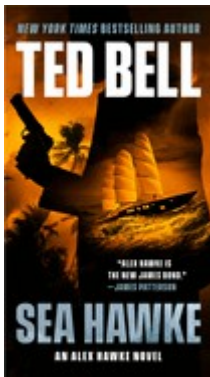
What book begins, “He came into the world in the middle of the thicket, in one of those little, hidden forest glades which seems to be entirely open, but are really screened in on all sides”?

Answer:

Bambi

Mass Market Paperback

Ted Bell - Sea Hawke(An Alex Hawke Novel) – Thriller – 9.99



Alex Hawke is sailing into trouble when an around-the-world journey becomes a fight against terror in the latest exciting adventure from *New York Times* bestselling novelist Ted Bell.

After saving the kidnapped heir to the British throne, gentleman spy and MI6 legend Alex Hawke is due for some downtime. He's got a new custom built sailing yacht and a goal: to get closer to his son Alexi during an epic cruise across the seven seas.

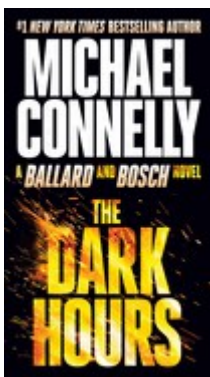
But fate and the chief of MI6, Lord David Trulove, have other plans.

There's an unholy alliance of nations who are plotting to attack Western democracies. The wily intelligence leader plans to use Hawke to drive a knife into the heart of this conspiracy. From an island base off Cuba to a secret jungle lair deep in the Amazon, on the land and the seas, the master spy and his crew of incorrigibles are in for the fight of their lives--the fight for freedom.

The November 2022 winner #3 is:

Debbie Whalen

Michael Connelly - The Dark Hours – Crime Fiction – 9.99

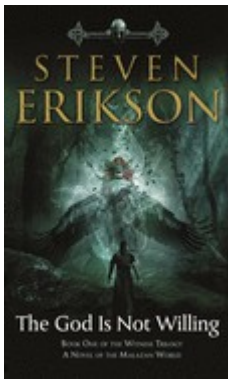


In this "masterpiece," LAPD detective Renée Ballard joins forces with Harry Bosch to find justice in a city scarred by fear and social unrest after a methodical killer strikes on New Year's Eve (*Publishers Weekly*).

There's chaos in Hollywood at the end of the New Year's Eve countdown. Working her graveyard shift, LAPD detective Renée Ballard waits out the traditional rain of lead as hundreds of revelers shoot their guns into the air. Only minutes after midnight, Ballard is called to a scene where a hardworking auto shop owner has been fatally hit by a bullet in the middle of a crowded street party.

Ballard quickly concludes that the deadly bullet could not have fallen from the sky and that it is linked to another unsolved murder--a case at one time worked by Detective Harry Bosch. At the same time, Ballard hunts a fiendish pair of serial rapists, the Midnight Men, who have been terrorizing women and leaving no trace. Determined to solve both cases, Ballard feels like she is constantly running uphill in a police department indelibly changed by the pandemic and recent social unrest. It is a department so hampered by inertia and low morale that Ballard must go outside to the one detective she can count on: Harry Bosch. But as the two inexorable detectives work together to find out where old and new cases intersect, they must constantly look over their shoulders. The brutal predators they are tracking are ready to kill to keep their secrets hidden.

Steve Erickson - The God Is Not Willing: Book One of the Witness Trilogy: A Novel of the Malazan World (Witness #1) – Fantasy – 9.99



Many years have passed since three warriors brought carnage and chaos to Silver Lake.

Now the tribes of the north no longer venture into the southlands. The town has recovered and yet the legacy remains.

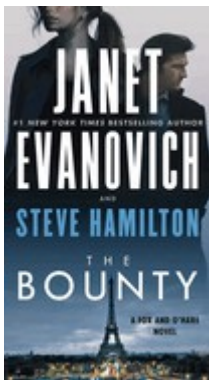
Responding to reports of a growing unease among the tribes beyond the border, the Malazan army marches on the new god's people. They aren't quite sure what they're going to be facing.

And in those high mountains, a new war leader has risen amongst the Teblor. Scarred by the deeds of Karsa Orlong, he intends to confront his god even if he has to cut a bloody swathe through the Malazan Empire to do so.

Further north, a new threat has emerged and now it seems it is the Teblor who are running out of time.

Another long-feared migration is about to begin and this time it won't just be three warriors. No, this time tens of thousands are poised to pour into the lands to the south. And in their way, a single company of Malazan marines . . .

Janet Evanovich and Steve Hamilton - The Bounty(A Fox and O'Hare Novel #7) – Mystery – 9.99



FBI agent Kate O'Hare and charming criminal Nick Fox race against time to uncover a buried train filled with Nazi gold in this thrilling adventure from #1 New York Times bestselling author Janet Evanovich and Steve Hamilton.

Type A special agent Kate O'Hare and international criminal Nick Fox have brought down some of the biggest bad guys out there. But now they face their most dangerous foe yet--a vast, shadowy international organization known only as the Brotherhood.

Directly descended from the Vatican Bank priests who served Hitler during World War II, the Brotherhood is on a frantic search for a lost train loaded with \$30 billion in Nazi gold, untouched for over seventy-five years somewhere in the mountains of Eastern Europe.

Kate and Nick know that there is only one man who can find the fortune and bring down the Brotherhood--the same man who taught Nick everything he knows--his father, Quentin. As the stakes get higher, they must also rely on Kate's own father, Jake, who shares his daughter's grit and stubbornness.

From a remote monastery in the Swiss Alps to the lawless desert of the Western Sahara, Kate, Nick, and the two men who made them who they are today must crisscross the world in a desperate scramble to stop their deadliest foe in the biggest adventure of their lives.

Heather Graham & Jon Land - The Rising (Rising #1) – Thriller –

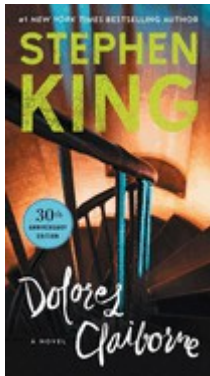
9.99



From acclaimed thriller-suspense novelists Heather Graham and Jon Land comes a story of action, mystery, and the endurance of young love in *The Rising*.

Alex Chin is a football star and Homecoming King: the classic all-American teen, raised in a loving fashion with all the opportunities his parents could give him. His tutor, Samantha Dixon, is preparing to graduate high school at the top of her class. She plans to turn her NASA internship into a career. Their world is turned upside down when a football accident lands Alex in the hospital . . . and his CT scan yields abnormal results. His doctor is murdered. Then, his parents. Death seems to follow him wherever he goes, and now it's after him. Alex flees. He tells Samantha not to follow, but she became involved the moment she walked through his door and found Mr. and Mrs. Chin as they lay dying in their home. She cannot abandon the young man she loves. The two race desperately to stay ahead of Alex's attackers long enough to figure out why they are hunting him in the first place. The answer lies with a secret buried deep in his past, a secret his parents died to protect. Alex always knew he was adopted, but he never knew the real reason his birth parents abandoned him. He never knew where he truly came from--until now.

Stephen King – Dolores Claiborne (30th Anniversary Edition) – 9.99



Master storyteller Stephen King presents the "powerful" (*Time*) #1 *New York Times* bestselling classic thriller about a housekeeper with a long-hidden secret from her past--one that tests her own will to survive.

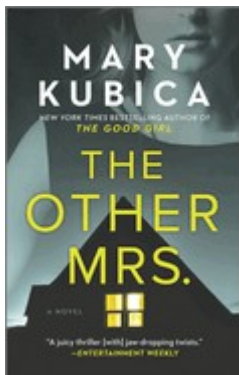
When Vera Donovan, one of the wealthiest and most ill-natured residents of Maine's Little Tall Island, dies suddenly in her home, suspicion is immediately cast on her housekeeper and caretaker, Dolores Claiborne. Dolores herself is no stranger to such mistrust, thanks to the local chatter and mysterious circumstances surrounding her abusive husband's death twenty-nine years earlier.

But if this is truly to be the day of Dolores Claiborne's reckoning, she has a few things of her own that she'd like to get off her chest...and begins to confess a spirited, intimate, and harrowing tale of the darkest secrets hidden within her hardscrabble existence, revealing above all one woman's unwavering determination to weather the storm of her life with grace and protect the one she loves, no matter what the cost...

The November 2022 winner #4 is:

Megan Hudachek

Mary Kubica - The Other Mrs. – Thriller – 9.99

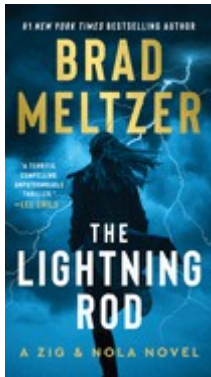


She tried to run, but she can't escape the other Mrs.

Sadie and Will Foust have only just moved their family from bustling Chicago to small-town Maine when their neighbor Morgan Baines is found dead in her home. The murder rocks their tiny coastal island, but no one is more shaken than Sadie.

As the eyes of suspicion turn toward the new family in town, Sadie is drawn into the mystery of Morgan's death. But Sadie must be careful, for the more she discovers about Mrs. Baines, the more she begins to realize just how much she has to lose if the truth ever comes to light.

Brad Metzler - The Lightning Rod: A Zig & Nola Novel (Escape Artist #2) – Thriller – 9.99



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 compromise the very safety and security of America itself.

Trouble always finds her...

She's the lightning rod.

Suzanne Palmer - The Scavenger Door (The Finder Chronicles) – Science Fiction – 9.99



From a Hugo Award-winning author comes the third book in this action-packed sci-fi caper, starring Fergus Ferguson, interstellar repo man and professional finder.

Fergus is back on Earth at last, trying to figure out how to live a normal life. However, it seems the universe has other plans for him. When his cousin sends him off to help out a friend, Fergus accidentally stumbles across a piece of an ancient alien artifact that some very powerful people seem to think means the entire solar system is in danger. And since he's the one who found it, they're certain it's also his problem to deal with.

With the help of his newfound sister, friends both old and new, and some enemies, too, Fergus needs to find the rest of the artifact and destroy the pieces before anyone can reassemble the original and open a multidimensional door between Earth and a vast, implacable, alien swarm. Problem is, the pieces could be anywhere on Earth, and he's not the only one out searching.

Danielle Steel - Flying Angels – Historical Fiction – 9.99



World War II brings together six remarkable young flight nurses, who face the challenges of war and its many heartbreaks and victories as unsung heroes, in this inspiring novel.

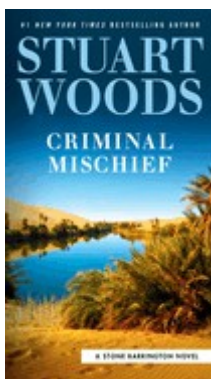
Audrey Parker's life changes forever when Pearl Harbor is attacked on December 7, 1941. Her brother, a talented young Navy pilot, had been stationed there, poised to fulfill their late father's distinguished legacy. Fresh out of nursing school with a passion and a born gift for helping others, both Audrey and her friend Lizzie suddenly find their nation on the brink of war. Driven to do whatever they can to serve, they enlist in the Army and embark on a new adventure as flight nurses.

Risking their lives on perilous missions, they join the elite Medical Air Evacuation Transport Squadron and fly into enemy territory almost daily to rescue wounded soldiers from the battlefield. Audrey and Lizzie make enormous sacrifices to save lives alongside an extraordinary group of nurses: Alex, who longs to make a difference in the world; Louise, a bright mind who faced racial prejudice growing up in the South; Pru, a selfless leader with a heart of gold; and Emma, whose confidence and grit push her to put everything on the line for

her patients.

Even knowing they will not achieve any rank and will receive little pay for their efforts, the "Flying Angels" will give their all in the fight for freedom. They serve as bravely and tirelessly as the men they rescue on the front lines, in daring airlifts, and are eternally bound by their loyalty to one another. Danielle Steel presents a sweeping, stunning tribute to these incredibly courageous women, inspiring symbols of bravery and valor.

Stuart Woods - Criminal Mischief (Stone Barrington Novel) – 9.99



In this exhilarating thriller from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Stuart Woods, Stone Barrington goes up against an enemy on the run.

After a dangerous adventure has him traveling up and down the coast, Stone Barrington is looking forward to some down time at his Manhattan abode. But when an acquaintance alerts him to a hinky plot being hatched across the city, he finds himself eager to pursue justice.

After the mastermind behind it all proves more evasive than anyone was expecting, Stone sets out on an international chase to places he's never gone before. With the help of old friends--and alluring new ones--Stone is determined to see the pursuit through to the end, even if it means going up against a foe more unpredictable than he has ever faced...