

# The Book Rack Newsletter

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

Vol 10, #1  
January 2017

4764 Elmore Ave, Davenport  
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*Store Hours: 10:00 - 6:00 Monday - Sunday*

<http://www.thebookrackqc.com/>  
[BookRackQC@Gmail.com](mailto:BookRackQC@Gmail.com)

As we enter our 10<sup>th</sup> year of The Book Rack Newsletter, I'd welcome your feedback on what you'd like to see in future editions. And, what do you not bother to read when you open it? I make no claims to being a writer and fear it is too repetitive in format and topics. If you'd favor me with your input I would be very appreciative.

**Drawing Winners of our Holiday Drawing for  
\$15.00 Gift Certificates**

**Cherie Werner &  
Kristine Oswald  
Congratulations!!**

**Best Sellers at your Book Rack in 2016**

1. The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins
2. Me Before You; A Novel by Jojo Moyes

3. Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs
4. Make Me; A Jack Reacher Novel by Lee Child
5. Working with Really Stupid People: The Relatives by Cindy McDermott, one of our fine local authors
6. Top Secret Twenty-One: A Stephanie Plum Novel by Janet Evanovich
7. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by JK Rowling
8. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by JK Rowling
9. Deadline, A Virgil Flowers Novel by John Sanford
10. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by JK Rowling

## Looking for:

We rather consistently need books by Lee Child, Diana Gabaldon (Outlander Series), Stephen King, John Sanford, Terry Brooks, JK Rowling, JRR Martin (Game of Thrones Series) and Jim Butcher.

Also, always interested in Westerns and most Science Fiction, especially older titles in good condition.

## Trivia for January

What cartoon character said, "The problem with the rat race is there is no finish line"?

See below for the answer.

*Did you know?*

*The manuscript of "The First Man" by Albert Camus was found in the wreckage of the car in which he was killed in 1960 but wasn't published until 1994.*

## January Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

January in National Blood Donor Month – Roll up your sleeve and donate a pint

**Jan 1 – New Year's Day - The Book Rack will be closed all day.**

**3 – National Festival of Sleep Day - It is an opportunity to sleep in, snooze, doze, nap, and catch 40 winks.**

**13 – Friday the Thirteenth**

**16 – Martin Luther King Birthday**

**18 – Winnie the Pooh Day**

**Free Verse** is a regular, monthly, feature by one of our wonderful Quad Cities area local authors. Each month we enjoy writing by a different talent. These articles and poems are on a variety of topics bound to be of interest to many of our readers. Please help spread the word by forwarding the newsletter to others. Give these folks as wide an audience as possible, please.

### The Battle Hymn

By

Adam J Kugler

There was battle going on all around us. Still we stood firm. We would not move. We would not give in. We were well locked in this place.

Dad and I had come here many times and every time we came on the way to the park we

sang the song and on the way home we sang it again. I guess you could say that it was a part of who I was growing up.

My sister and I were lucky, up to a point. Our parents would go out of their way to make sure that there was something for us to get out of the places we went. We lived just on the other side of the river from Memphis, Tennessee. It was a beautiful little place and I was thankful for everything that was there.

I am not sure what I would do if we weren't a few hours from the park. There were never a lot of people in the park when we were there. It felt like there was a million miles of territory to cover and not a single person was there to get in our way. As we crossed the field and looked up at the brand new Shiloh Methodist Church, you could see, off to the side, a replica of the one that once stood there. It was a beautiful thing to see.

My dad and I often went out here together. We would spend hours together trying to make sure that we covered the whole battlefield. I could remember asking dad to stop the car so I could get out and look down the bluff to the river down below. I guess you could say that there was something about this place.

My sister didn't mind coming, but that was the way things were going to be. I am not sure that there was anything that was going to come of the issue. I was not sure that there was ever going to be a time when I wasn't going to want to come back to this park. As always people went to Gettysburg and those places out east, but there was little traffic here. Sure, there were busy days, but today was not one of those days.

I can remember little Rhea Spring down at the bottom of the hill. If you went beyond it, and far enough back in the woods there was no doubt in my mind that there was going to be a Confederate Grave. This was how the Confederates were buried. They were just dumped into a hole in the ground and left to wither, while the Union boys, they were given the proper burial

in the national cemetery.

The thing that amazed me the most was the fact that there was something about the place, something so real to it. There were no modern structures. There were no strange things. It was just the way life was. I would have loved to have seen the way things were supposed to go. I was just one of those people who wanted to figure it all out. I wanted to walk the field.

And as we would walk across the field there was no doubt in my mind that there was a desire to be there. I felt at home here in Shiloh. I felt alive here in Shiloh.

Maybe it was the fact that every time we came there was something else to see.

Maybe it was the fact that I was taking it all in.

The only things getting in the way—the roads that had been put in since then.

There was something about them. Even the visitor's center and the bookshop were a part of the history. What was there not to want to see. Every time I was there I wanted to read a new book. I wanted to read a little more about this field that I was standing on. Before long there I was with my father. We were singing the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. It was in those moments that we would get to going and it was one song after the next and we were just having a lot of fun. I wish I could go there now. As my father has grown older and I have moved away to Illinois, I think of the people in my community and wonder if they know anything about that little park down there in Tennessee. The name still remains the same as it did 150 years ago. The people have changed a little—but then again, we can't stay the same forever, but I know that there are plenty of people who have never heard of the tremendous Battle of Shiloh.

Now I long for just one more trip with my father. I long for that chance to walk across that field.

I long for the chance to sing all those silly battle songs.

Do you know what I mean?



### About the Author

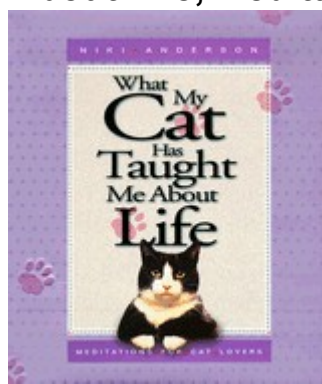
**Adam J Kugler**

Adam J Kugler is a novelist and short fiction writer. He has pursued his career in writing and has a new novel coming out as of March, 2017. He loves to write, and if there is time there is always time to go and wander through the historical section of a local bookstore, you have no idea how much fun that is. Never wanting to stay the same every book is a little different. He likes to do many things. He has degrees in American History, Political Science, Sociology and English. He has spent a great deal of time getting ready to undertake the next project on his list, as he writes a book about the American Civil War and most specifically about the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

## Book Reviews

**Read a good or bad book lately? Send us a book review and we may include it in the next newsletter!**

**What My Cat Has Taught Me About Life, Meditations for Cat Lovers by Niki Anderson. (1997)**



Climb a Tree. The view is better from on high.

Need a fresh, up-high purr-spective on life? You'll find it with this insightful and inspiring gift book! Author Niki Anderson inspires you to see life from a cat's-eye-view--and what a view it is! You'll be inspired to live with passion, pouncing on every precious moment.

What My Cat Has Taught Me About Life offers all the motivation you need to enjoy life to its fullest with your favorite felines. Inside you'll discover purr-sonal meditations, real-life cat stories, little-known cat facts, kitty wisdom, and a lot more!

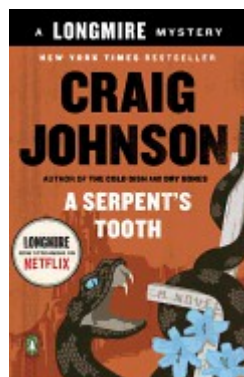
Curl up for some quiet time with these inspiring meditations. Right on the same page with each meditation, you'll also enjoy a companion scripture verse, a brief prayer, a memorable quote, a lighthearted cat quip, and a helpful cat care tip.

Whether you're in the mood for something dignified or just need a chuckle or two, What My Cat Has Taught Me About Life has all you're looking for.

Each chapter focuses on one cat-fancying theme. So where and whenever you need a touch of inspiration you're sure to find a paw-full of practical, sensible counsel that'll have you purring in no time!

I usually avoid cutesy books about cats even though we're cat owners from WAAAAY back. However, I have to say that while this book contains the obligatory cat facts, tips, and plays on words (e.g., "Paws for Prayer"), it also contains stories with worthwhile morals that reach beyond our animal family members. Each chapter identifies a characteristic attributed to cats that is also an important attribute for the human race: Secrets Are for Keeps, "Be courteous to all, but intimate with few; and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence." – George Washington. There are enough inspirational quotes and stories that make this worthwhile... especially for a cat-lover.

## **A Serpent's Tooth, A Longmire Mystery by Craig Johnson (2013)**

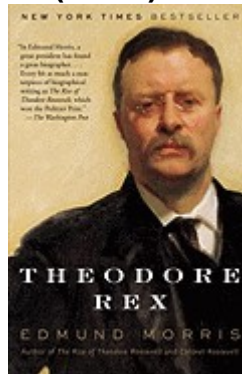


It's homecoming for the Durant Dogies when Cord Lyneer, a Mormon lost boy forced off his compound for rebellious behavior, shows up in Absaroka County. Without much guidance, divine or otherwise, Sheriff Walt Longmire, Victoria Moretti, and Henry Standing Bear search for the boy's mother and find themselves on a high-plains scavenger hunt that ends at the barbed-wire doorstep of an interstate polygamy group. Run by four-hundred-pound Roy Lyneer, Cord's father, the group is frighteningly well armed and very good at keeping secrets.

Walt's got Cord locked up for his own good, but the Absaroka County jailhouse is getting crowded since the arrival of the boy's self-appointed bodyguard, a dangerously spry old man who claims to be blessed by Joseph Smith himself. As Walt, Vic, and Henry butt heads with the Lyneers, they hear whispers of Big Oil and the CIA and fear they might be dealing with a lot more than they bargained for.

My first Craig Johnson book won't be my last. *A Serpent's Tooth* began admittedly a little slow, but the banter and trash talk between the sheriff and his friends and staff made it a fun read. The exchanges were ones I could actually imagine occurring. They were perfectly placed and had just the right edge. The story was creative and once it got going, it moved at a good pace. I give this book a B and recommend you find a Craig Johnson book and give it a read. I don't think you'll stop at one title. If you like William Kent Krueger, CJ Box or Margaret Coel you'll like Johnson.

### **Theodore Rex by Edmund Morris (2001)**



Theodore Rex is a sequel to Edmund Morris's classic bestseller *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*. It begins by following the new President (still the youngest in American history) as he comes down from Mount Marcy, New York, to take his emergency oath of office in Buffalo, one hundred years ago.



A detailed prologue describes TR's assumption of power and journey to Washington, with the assassinated President McKinley riding behind him like a ghost of the nineteenth century. (Trains rumble throughout this irresistibly moving narrative, as TR crosses and recrosses the nation.) Traveling south through a succession of haunting landscapes, TR encounters harbingers of all the major issues of the new century-Imperialism, Industrialism, Conservation, Immigration, Labor, Race-plus the overall challenge that intimidated McKinley: how to harness America's new power as the world's richest nation.

Theodore Rex (the title is taken from a quip by Henry James) tells the story of the following seven and a half years-years in which TR entertains, infuriates, amuses, strong-arms, and seduces the body politic into a state of almost total subservience to his will. It is not always a pretty story: one of the revelations here is that TR was hated and feared by a substantial minority of his fellow citizens. Wall Street, the white South, Western lumber barons, even his own Republican leadership in Congress strive to harness his steadily increasing power.

Within weeks of arrival in Washington, TR causes a nationwide sensation by becoming the first President to invite a black man to dinner in the White House. Next, he launches his famous prosecution of the Northern Securities Company, and follows up with landmark antitrust legislation. He liberates Cuba, determines the route of the Panama Canal, mediates the great Anthracite Strike, and resolves the Venezuela Crisis of 1902-1903 with such masterful secrecy that the world at large is unaware how near the United States and Germany have come to war.

During an epic national tour in the spring of 1903, TR's conservation philosophy (his single greatest gift to posterity) comes into full flower. He also bestows on countless Americans the richness of a personality without parallel-evangelical and passionate, yet lusty and funny; adroitly political, winningly natural, intellectually overwhelming. The most famous father of his time, he is adored by his six children (although beautiful, willful "Princess" Alice rebelled against him) and accepted as an honorary member of the White House Gang of seditious small boys.

Theodore Rex, full of cinematic detail, moves with the exhilarating pace of a novel, yet it rides on a granite base of scholarship. TR's own voice is constantly heard, as the President was a gifted letter writer and raconteur. Also heard are the many witticisms, sometimes mocking, yet always affectionate, of such Roosevelt intimates as Henry Adams, John Hay, and Elihu Root. ("Theodore is never sober," said Adams, "only he is drunk with himself and not with rum.") TR's speed of thought and action, and his total command of all aspects of presidential leadership, from bureaucratic subterfuge to manipulation of the press, make him all but invincible in 1904, when he wins a second term by a historic landslide. Surprisingly, this victory transforms him from apatrician

conservative to a progressive, responsible between 1905 and 1908 for a raft of enlightened legislation, including the Pure Food and Employer Liability acts. Even more surprising, to critics who have caricatured TR as a swinger of the Big Stick, is his emergence as a diplomat. He wins the Nobel Peace Prize for bringing about an end to the Russo-Japanese War in 1905.

Interspersed with many stories of Rooseveltian triumphs are some bitter episodes-notably a devastating lynching-that remind us of America's deep prejudices and fears. Theodore Rex does not attempt to justify TR's notorious action following the Brownsville Incident of 1906-his worst mistake as President-but neither does this resolutely honest biography indulge in the easy wisdom of hindsight. It is written throughout in real time, reflecting the world as TR saw it. By the final chapter, as the great "Teddy" prepares to quit the White House in 1909, it will be a hard-hearted reader who does not share the sentiment of Henry Adams: "The old house will seem dull and sad when my Theodore has gone."

Where is a Teddy Roosevelt when we really need a person of his wisdom and stature??

Theodore Rex is a wonderful look into the man, the time and the Presidency. It's a long book at 768 pages, but a great biography. I give it an A.

### **Cold As Ice by Charles Sheffield (1992)**



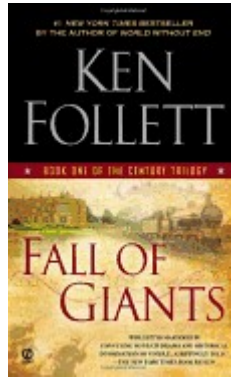
Twenty-five years ago there was a great interplanetary war in the Solar System. It was a suicidal spasm in which terrible weapons were created and used; in which nine billion people were killed. The rivalries that led to the war are not gone. And a few of those deadly weapons remain--some still orbiting the sun in the debris of destroyed ships, some deliberately placed in storage.

Now Cyrus Mobarak, the man who perfected the fusion engine, is determined to bring human settlement to the protected seas of Europa. Opposing him is Hilda Brandt, Europa's administrator. And caught between them are three remarkable

young people: Jon Perry, Camille Hamilton, and Wilsa Sheer.

A hard science fiction story with an interplanetary society, detailed economy and political conflicts. Sheffield is a wonderful writer comparable to Greg Bear, Harry Harrison and Fred Saberhagen. I give this book a B+.

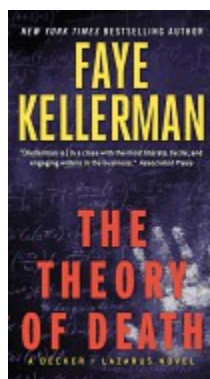
### **Fall of Giants, Book One of the Century Trilogy by Ken Follett (2010)**



A thirteen-year-old Welsh boy enters a man's world in the mining pits. . . . An American law student rejected in love finds a surprising new career in Woodrow Wilson's White House. . . . A housekeeper for the aristocratic Fitzherberts takes a fateful step above her station, while Lady Maud Fitzherbert herself crosses deep into forbidden territory when she falls in love with a German spy. . . . And two orphaned Russian brothers embark on radically different paths when their plan to emigrate to America falls afoul of war, conscription, and revolution. From the dirt and danger of a coal mine to the glittering chandeliers of a palace, from the corridors of power to the bedrooms of the mighty, *Fall of Giants* takes us into the inextricably entangled fates of five families and into a century that we thought we knew, but that now will never seem the same again. . .

Another masterpiece from Follett. I'm endlessly amazed how authors can conceive of such complex stories and then put them down for us to enjoy. I give it an A. It's the beginning of the trilogy, all 3 of which are available in paperback, so as we endure the cold season, pick up a set and curl up for a long winter's read.

### **The Theory of Death by Faye Kellerman (2015)**



Now living in upstate New York, former LAPD lieutenant Peter Decker is plunged into a bizarre web involving academia, underworld crime, and calculating killers in this compulsive novel in Kellerman's beloved Decker and Lazarus series.

Former LAPD lieutenant Peter Decker is relishing the quiet and slow pace of his new job with the Greenbury police department. The work is low stress and engaging, and it's been almost a year since the last murder in this sleepy upstate New York town.

Then the body of a nude man is found deep within the woods, shattering Decker's peace. The death appears to be a suicide a single shot to the head, the gun by his side. But until the coroner's ruling, the scene must be treated as a suspicious crime. Without any personal effects near the body, Decker must dig to uncover his identity, a task made difficult by the department's tight budget and limited personnel. Luckily, Decker gets some unexpected help when his friend and former Greenbury colleague Tyler McAdams calls, looking for a quiet place to study for his law finals.

The investigation takes Decker and McAdams to Knead Loft College, where they must penetrate the indecipherable upper echelons of mathematics and mathematical prodigies. Beneath the school's rarified atmosphere they discover a sphere of scheming academics, hidden cyphers and most dangerous of all a realm of underworld crime that transforms harmless nerds into cold, calculating evil geniuses. It will take all of Decker's experience and McAdams's brains to penetrate enigmatic formulas and codes and solve a dark, twisted crime devised by some brilliant and depraved masterminds.

A very well done murder mystery. Decker and McAdams are engaging. I give it a solid B. Not read Kellerman? Why not? She deserves a try.

## Trivia for January

What cartoon character said, "The problem with the rat race is there is no finish line"?

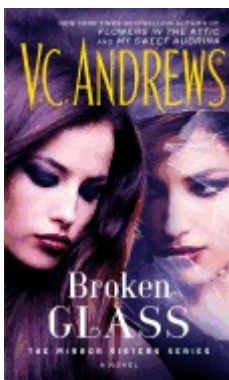
Answer: Dagwood in the "Blondie" strip.

## Upcoming New Releases:

Check out the prices following the title of the book. The price is the publisher's price. The **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 most will get to you eventually.

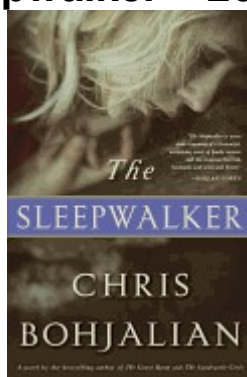
## Hardcover and Trade Paperback

**VC Andrews – Broken Glass – 26.99**



**Alex Berenson – The Prisoner – 28.00**

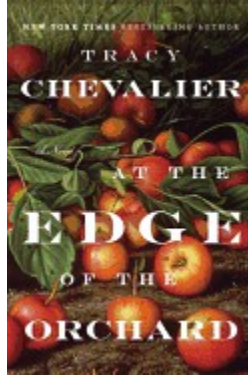
**Chris Bohjalian – The Sleepwalker – 26.95**



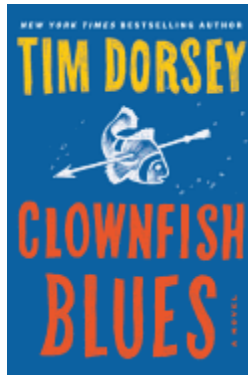
**Octavia Butler – Kindred, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition – 32.00**



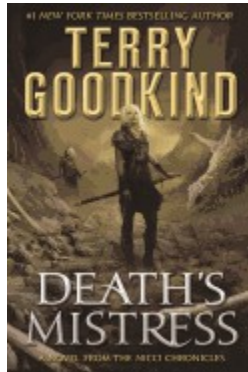
**Tracy Chevalier – At the Edge of the Orchard – 27.00**



**Tim Dorsey – Clownfish Blues – 26.99**



**Terry Goodkind – Death's Mistress – 29.99**



**Lisa Jackson – Expecting to Die – 27.95**

**John Lescroart – Fatal – 26.99**

**Jo Nesbo – Midnight Sun – 15.00**

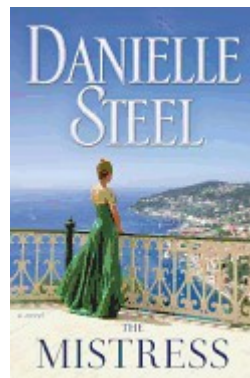


**Joyce Carol Oates – The Man Without a Shadow – 15.99**



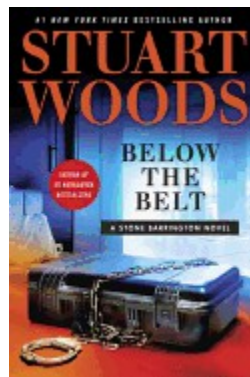
**Ian Rankin – Rather Be Dead – 27.00**

**Danielle Steel – Mistress – 28.99**



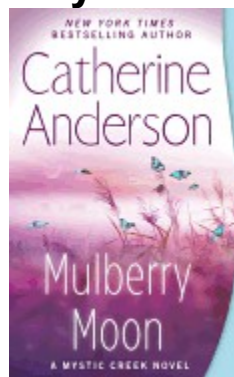
**Brad Taylor – Ring of Fire – 27.00**

**Stuart Woods – Below the Belt – 28.00**



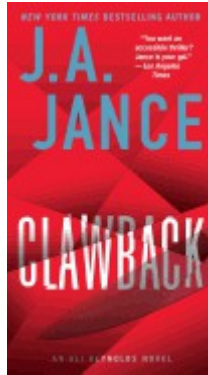
**Paperback**

**Catherine Anderson – Mulberry Moon – 7.99**



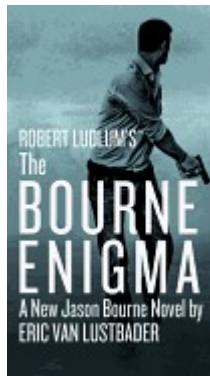
**Steve Berry – The 14<sup>th</sup> Colony – 9.99**

**JA Jance – Clawback – 9.99**

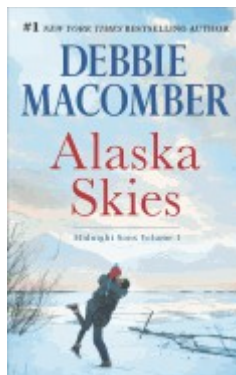


**Jonathan Kellerman – Breakdown – 9.99**

**Eric Van Lustbader – The Bourne Enigma – 9.99**



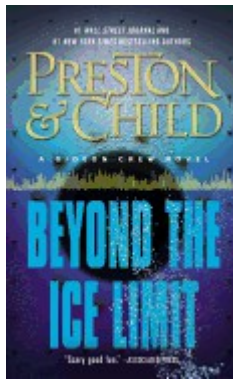
**Debbie Macomber – Alaska Skies – 7.99**



**Fern Michaels – Crash and Burn – 7.99**

**Preston & Child – Beyond the Ice Limit – 7.99**





**Karen Robards – Darkness – 7.99**

**Brandon Sanderson – The Bands of Mourning – 8.99**

