



THE BOOK STALL

August 2020
Vol. XXXI, No. 6
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



THE FRONT LINE



Dear Readers,

We miss seeing you in the store, but we're happy to see you at our front window for book requests and pick-ups, and we've extended our hours for both phone calls to 847 446-8979 (11 am – 3 pm) and store pick-ups (10 am – 4 pm). We've set up a table in front of the store with a curated list of recent titles for browsing. Book Stall staffers manning the table are

eager to chat about these books and happy to make recommendations. Of course, we're wearing our masks and request that you do so as well.

We talk daily about what re-opening would look like, and we continue to work on installing protective shields around the store so that we can at least welcome a few of you in at a time in the near future. Check out our website, follow us on social media, or sign up for our e-news to learn the latest on our plans to re-open. Our priority is always to keep our staff and our customers safe and healthy.

Inside you'll find some excellent reviews by our booksellers as well as information about some of our upcoming virtual events. If you have attended some of our virtual events and had difficulties, we apologize. Some of the issues are ours, as we learn to navigate this new world, and others have to do with the platforms we're using. I cannot express how much I miss in-person events—if this pandemic has taught me anything, it's the importance of human connection. We also appreciate the online orders and support we've received from customers all around the country.

I have been reading quite a bit lately and want to suggest a few new titles for your consideration. My husband Roger and I both enjoyed *Members Only* by Sameer Pandya, about an Indian man who is a member of a posh tennis club. It's funny and insightful at the same time. Byron Lane, a former assistant to Carrie Fisher, has written a hilarious novel, *A Star is Bored*, based on that experience—truly laugh-out-loud funny! Lucy Foley has crafted a suspenseful thriller in *The Guest List* about a lavish wedding on an island off the coast of Ireland. I was lucky enough to spend a week on the Delaware Shore and picked the perfect beach read, *The House on Frapp Island*, an incredibly engaging book by Rebecca Kauffman about two families vacationing together. There's a mystery and some observantly narrated family dynamics. Roger also recommends *Love and Theft* by Stan Parish, a high-octane thriller with heart and humor. My daughter, Katie, loved Raven Leilani's debut novel, *Luster*, a great read for fans of the TV show "Fleabag."

Stay safe and happy reading!

Steph

AUTHOR EVENTS in August

The Book Stall's events are currently taking place virtually. Authors speak from their homes, and take questions from an interviewer and from you, participating from your computer or mobile phone. **You'll need to reserve your spot by emailing us at events@thebookstall.com.** To purchase the author's book, please order it at thebookstall.com.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5

3 – 4 pm

KATE HANNIGAN and ALEX GRAUDINS

The Great Chicago Fire: Rising from the Ashes

Chicago-based children's author **Kate Hannigan** talks about her new graphic novel for kids, *The Great Chicago Fire: Rising from the Ashes* aimed at educators working with grades 3 through 7. Also participating is **Alex Graudins**, the book's illustrator. See details on page 4.

THURSDAY, AUG. 6

6:30 – 7:30 pm

TODD HASAK-LOWY

We Are Power: How Nonviolent Activism Changes the World
Evanston-based author **Todd Hasak-Lowy** discusses his new book with guest star **Deborah Heiligman**. See details on page 4.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12

6:30 – 7:30 pm

KEVIN O'LEARY

Madison's Sorrow: Today's War on the Founders and America's Liberal Ideal

Book Stall staffer **Jon Grand** interviews **Kevin O'Leary** about his new book. See Jon's review of the book on page 2.

THURSDAY, AUG. 13

12 – 12:45 pm, Lunchbreak Seminar

PETER YAWITZ

Flip-Flops and Microwaved Fish:

Navigating the Dos and Don'ts of Workplace Culture

In a light-hearted and conversational way, **Peter Yawitz**, a 30-year veteran in global communications consulting, walks readers through formal and written rules of office communication but also unwritten cultural norms in American companies both in the US and abroad. Great for young people just entering the workplace!

THURSDAY, AUG. 20

12 noon – 1 pm

ALYSSA RAPP

Hacks for the New World

In her new book, business expert **Alyssa Rapp**, author of *Leadership and Life Hacks*, shares 19 "hacks"—work-arounds and work-throughs—for home and work, strategies she has developed within her family and her company to powerful effect.

Staff Reviews

KARA GAGLIARDI



The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett (\$27) is an eye-opening book about race, identity, deception, and its consequences. It explores the question: What happens when you build a life based on a lie? The book opens in



Mallard, Louisiana, a town established for Black residents with light skin. Identical twins Stella and Desiree witness their father's lynching. Rather than following in their mother's footsteps, working as a domestic in a white household, they run away to New Orleans. Bright, quiet Stella gets a job as a typist and passes for white. She marries her wealthy white boss and never looks back. Dreamy Desiree marries a dark-skinned, abusive man and returns to Mallard with a "blueblack" child named Jude in tow. Much of the story is narrated by Jude, who never fits in Mallard, who escapes to California on a track scholarship, and, yes, encounters her mother's lost sister and forces her to reckon with her past. *The Vanishing Half* asks the question: "If you're not honest with people you love, can anyone really know you?" Bennett's book takes place between the 1950s and 1980s, surely historical fiction relevant to today. Hard to believe this University of Michigan grad and author of *The Mothers* is only 29 years old!

JON GRAND



The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir by John Bolton (\$32.50). This latest post-White House employment memoir is a disturbing look at a dysfunctional administration, written by an experienced Washington insider. Bolton's descrip-



tions of the chaotic way that critical issues is handled are not all that surprising. From the crisis in Venezuela, the wooing of North Korea and China, and the support of Putin's Russia, to the proposal to bring the Taliban to Camp David, Bolton catalogues a series of steps and missteps that reveal a president whose approach to foreign policy is ill-informed and driven by his personal gut feelings. Input from the intelligence community is suspect and the advice of experts ignored. The result has been a serious deterioration of our relationships with traditional allies and confusion about America's role in the world. While Bolton is quick to blame the president's advisors for failing to manage and control the president, he admittedly was unable to do so either. Many of the allegations in the book raise serious concerns about the handling of national security matters. It is unfortunate that Bolton failed to bring a number of the allegations to the attention of the Congress during the various investigations leading to impeachment.

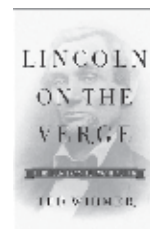
The book puts Bolton himself on display, and the picture that emerges is not always flattering. Bolton is well known as a hawk and hardliner. As a result, many of his recommendations for a U.S. response tends to be more aggressive. He shows little sympathy for those of more moderate views and is quick to suggest that such views lack the intellectual discipline that he brings to the table. He consistently denigrates the Obama administration, and in discussing predecessors or colleagues, he rarely grants equal status of their ideas or actions to his own. His contempt for the media is constant and wearisome. It is ironic that Bolton owes so much of his general name-

recognition to his years as a commentator on television. No one can argue that Bolton is not highly intelligent and widely experienced. His views and insights into the workings of the current administration are informed and informative. Unfortunately, much that is interesting and useful in the book is overshadowed by Bolton himself. His domineering arrogance detracts from what he has to say.

And there remain serious questions as to why much of what Bolton writes about was not made public earlier. In recent interviews, Bolton argues that the things that he was privy to were not the main focus of on-going investigations. But perhaps had he shared his insights, those concerns might have been given proper consideration. He also has said that during the impeachment investigations, he was trying to get his life back together and, by the time things settled down, it was too late to share his allegations. In the end, this is a memoir—not researched and vetted history. As such, it provides a look behind the scenes at the workings of the White House while attempting to burnish the image of its author.

Lincoln on the Verge: Thirteen Days to Washington by Ted Widmer (\$35). On February 11, 1861,

newly elected President Abraham Lincoln left Springfield, Illinois for Washington D.C.—not knowing what the future held. Ironically, at just about the same time, Jefferson Davis left his home as the newly elected President of the Confederate States of America. As Lincoln moved east, thousands gathered along his train to get a glimpse of Lincoln. At major stops and at rural crossings, Lincoln spoke to the people, affirming his determination to preserve the Union. Yet as the train moved east, rumors of plots to assassinate Lincoln abounded. Nor would it have been difficult. Whether on the back of the rail car or standing up in an open carriage, his tall lanky figure made an easily recognizable target. The biggest threat and most dangerous part of the journey lay ahead in Baltimore. There he would have to leave the security of his train and travel cross-town to a new train that would carry him to Washington. Plots to kill him ran rife through the city. But along the way, Lincoln did what few politicians of the time did: He spoke directly to the people. He did not use the standard poses and gestures common to orators of the time. Instead, he talked in plain language to the curious multitudes that that greeted him. Many were surprised by his physical appearance. Yet they were quickly taken in by the logic of his words. He asked for their support, and it was given. Many have already heard the story of how Lincoln was bundled in a shawl and forced to wear a tam o'shanter as he was whisked through Baltimore. Most histories of Lincoln focus on that final leg of the trip. Ted Widmer, on the other hand, follows Lincoln's journey toward his destiny. It is an intimate portrait that takes us into the frame as witnesses. It is a wonderful book.



Madison's Sorrow: Today's War on the Founders and America's Liberal Ideal by Kevin C. O'Leary (\$27.95). As I read O'Leary's book, I positioned it

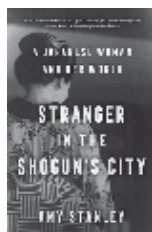
in opposition to John Bolton's memoir. Liberalism is, to many, a dirty word. The radical right portrays it as something alien to the original premises upon which the nation was founded. But as O'Leary points out, liberalism lies at the core of our founding. America was created to be something new and different. It was founded on the ideals of liberty, equality, and democracy. To be sure, reality falls short of those



ideals. But the ideals serve to give us purpose and point us toward "a more perfect union." O'Leary takes us on a journey through history to challenge the right's interpretations of the Founders' intentions and to assert the centrality of America's liberal ideal. Many will argue with his interpretations. And therein lies the great value of this book. It offers a point of departure for liberals and conservatives of every stripe to examine our political beliefs and perhaps find common ground in our shared history.

***Stranger in the Shogun's City: A Japanese Woman and Her World* by Amy Stanley (\$28).**

The somewhat serendipitous discovery of a letter published online led historian Amy Stanley to a treasure trove of letters and documents written in the mid 18th century. Collections of such documents and letters weren't all that uncommon. But this collection was different. In the mix of tax bills and other correspondence and records were a series of letters written by Tsueno, a woman in her 30s, who had left behind three failed marriages and a respected family to seek her own future in the great city of Edo. Using her extensive knowledge of Japanese history, Northwestern professor Stanley describes the challenges and hardships that Tsueno faced, while providing a detailed picture of both village and city life in 19th century Japan. Tsueno herself emerges as a headstrong and demanding person—traits that fuel her rebellion and insure her survival. The result is an amazingly intimate look at one woman's life in a culture so different from our own, a culture that was about to change forever. History tends to tell the story of significant incidents and outsized figures. It is rare to find chronicles of everyday life. This is no anthropological study. Rather it is a vibrant, sparkling reconstruction of life as it was lived below the sweep of great events.



***The Order* by Daniel Silva (\$28.99).** It's hot and muggy and restrictions on what we can and cannot do constrain our usual summertime activities. A good thriller is the perfect antidote to the summertime blues—and Daniel Silva has done it again with his new release. Once again, his protagonist, Gabriel Allon, takes on a hunt to find the murderers of an aging reformist Pope—a murder that is designed to elect a new Pope more suitable to the desires of ultra-conservative Catholics. Woven through the story is an examination of the roots of the doctrinal rifts that separate Jews and Christians. The action takes us from Venice to Rome and on to Munich and Geneva, letting us travel vicariously while locked into place. So go ahead, chill a nice bottle of frascati, and settle back for a good read.

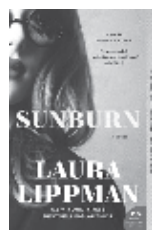


SHARMAN MCGURN



Here are a few Dog Days of Summer Reads: *Sunburn* by Laura Lippman (\$16.99 in paperback), originally published in 2018, is a fun summer mystery. Primarily taking place in rural Delaware, midway between the Delaware shore and the cities of Wilmington,

Baltimore, and Washington, *Sunburn* follows Polly, who has just left her husband and daughter in Fenwick Island, where they were renting a small and run-down vacation apartment on the bay side. Polly lands off the beaten track in Belleville, Delaware, where she gets a job as a waitress at the High-Ho, a local joint that sees few tourists. Enter Adam, a mysterious and good-looking guy who befriends Polly. Their complicated and tangled backgrounds are revealed through the course of the book as shenanigans ensue. Why is Polly on



the run and why is Adam trying to get to know her? What's his secret and who does he work for? Is Polly a murderer? While the characters were not particularly well drawn, with the exception of super villain Irving Lowenstein, the plot and action kept my attention until the very end.

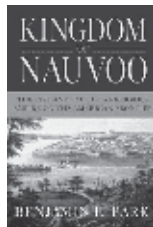
***The Second Home* by Christina Clancy (\$26.99)** is a coming-of-age family saga set for the most part in Wellfleet, Massachusetts on the outer Cape.

The story, Clancy's first novel, revolves around the Gordon family, two teenaged girls and a newly adopted brother about the same age, who spend their summers in an old cottage in South Wellfleet. The girls love the place, travelling there every June from their home in Milwaukee, where Mom and Dad are teachers and liberal hippies, complete with Birkenstocks. After Michael is adopted, he too learns to love the Wellfleet home and the bay, ocean, ponds, coves, and forests that make the Cape so special. But Wellfleet is changing, as old multi-generational cottages are torn down to make way for McMansions, and more and more tourists descend every summer in their Volvos. One summer an incident occurs that changes the lives of the three teenagers and their parents forever, and the seemingly idyllic family all but falls apart. The book follows the teenagers well into adulthood and the climactic chapter is no surprise. Despite the book's stereotyped characters, I kept reading as I found myself wanting to know what would happen next.



I enjoyed both novels. They fulfill the classification of easy summer reads and are pure escapism, the perfect antidote to this difficult and scary time.

Benjamin E. Park's *Kingdom of Nauvoo* (\$28.95) is a fascinating look at the short-lived Mormon community of Nauvoo, Illinois, on the banks of the Mississippi River. Founded by prophet and Mormon president, Joseph Smith, in 1839, Nauvoo had over 12,000 residents in 1844, and by 1845 was larger than Chicago; by September of 1846 Nauvoo was virtually abandoned. Park briefly mentions the early Mormons in the context of Smith and his followers leaving New York, Ohio, and Missouri before settling in the relatively accepting new state of Illinois. The first Mormons to arrive built a thriving community, which benefited from increased population as Mormon converts from Britain and the U.S. arrived. The book describes in detail the evolving, secret practice of polygamy, initially started by Smith in Nauvoo as a way to provide a hierarchical structure for his increasing flock. Women "sealed" to him and other church leaders became part of a broad and complex familial unit. As the practice developed, becoming less secret among the faithful, it morphed from being primarily a spiritual marriage to also a physical one. For example, Smith's successor, Brigham Young, had 55 wives and 59 children at the time of his death in 1877. In addition to the discussion of polygamy and other Mormon rituals, Park provides much interesting historical information about antebellum times and the Jacksonian era, particularly on the frontier, including issues of states' rights, racial and gender equality, and the place of radical groups within American society. *Kingdom of Nauvoo* whetted my appetite to learn more about the early Mormons, particularly their journey west after they left Illinois.



KATHY RILEY

Where to begin with a review of *Parakeet* by Marie-Helene Bertino (\$26)? This novel happens in only a week, and yet there are so many themes, stories, and characters that it takes time and concentration to absorb. Ostensibly, it is the story of



an ambivalent bride who arrives on Long Island to prepare for her wedding. However, her dearly loved and departed grandmother also arrives—but in the form a parakeet, who sends her on the quest of finding her estranged brother. He has been out of her life



for 10 years. Last known as a heroin addict, he is now an acclaimed playwright whose play tells the story of his sister's life. It is centered around a violent attack which scares the bride physically but provides her with an opportunity to interview other victims. Although there is drama, there is also humor, along with hallucinations and out-of-body experiences. Bertino's literary references are fun to acknowledge. It does all come together to provide an intriguing, funny, thoughtful book about a woman who is not quite sure what she wants but discovers in this one week the essential parts of herself.

NATALIE ROBBINS



August is Women in Translation month, a time when we celebrate works written and translated by all who identify as women. If you are looking for a book to help you celebrate, look no further than *Tokyo Ueno Station* by Yu Miri (\$25). Kazu, our



protagonist, is dead. While the book is a ghost story, of sorts, the eerie element lies in the way in which the afterlife seems so indistinguishable from living. Kazu dies a homeless man with few social or material connections to the world. Born in a Japanese village, Kazu spends his life working labor-intensive jobs in Tokyo to earn money to send home to his wife and children. I found myself searching for meaning in Kazu's life before realizing that he was never afforded the luxury to do so himself. Earning enough money to survive consumed Kazu's life, and, in a sense, his death. As a ghost, Kazu begins to see the forces that kept him a poor man are meaningless in death. Meanwhile, a homeless man, widely considered insignificant by society, becomes an essential portal into how we understand society. Yu Miri's writing is simple, but she uses brevity to her benefit by crafting prose that feels fresh and sharp. Like many of my favorite books, I found *Tokyo Ueno Station* to be unsettling. In haunting his corner of Tokyo, Kazu came to haunt me, too. The true mark of Miri's skill is her ability to bring the discomfort of the dead to the living in a way that feels hopeful in the face of loss.

the children's line



Hello children's book fans,
We have two events that will interest those who love children's literature this month.

On **Wednesday, August 5**, join us virtually via Crowdcast as Chicago-based children's author **Kate Hannigan** and illustrator **Alex Graudins** talk about their new graphic novel for kids,

The Great Chicago Fire: Rising from the Ashes. This program

is aimed at educators working with grades 3 through 7, but all are welcome. Part of the new *History Comics* series, *The Great Chicago Fire* tells the true story of how a city rose up from one of the worst catastrophes



in American history, and how this disaster forever changed how homes, buildings, and communities are constructed. This session is free. **Please register by emailing events@thebookstall.com.** We can get you signed, personalized copies of *The Great Chicago Fire*. Just add your signature request in the "Comments" section of your online order or request a signed copy when ordering by phone.

And on **Thursday, August 6**, we have a Crowdcast conversation with Evanston-based author **Todd Hasak-Lowy**, discussing his



new book *We Are Power: How Nonviolent Activism Changes the World* with guest star **Deborah Heiligman**. Todd's book is aimed at young people, and we invite readers ages 9 to adult to attend this free event. Educators will be especially interested! **Registration is required; please send a note to events@thebookstall.com to secure your place.**



We also have new workbook bundles this month. Worried that your grade-schooler might suffer from summer slump? Never fear! Order a **Summer Brain Quest** bundle, and we will send a workbook for



your child aimed at their grade level, along with a fun extra book. Preschoolers through rising 2nd graders will get a sticker book with re-usable stickers. Rising 3rd and 4th graders will get a Mad Libs. And rising 5th and 6th graders will get a random *Choose Your Own Adventure* book. Bundles range from \$20-\$22. Check our website for links and more details.

Kari P.

BETSY BALLYEAT



Brave Like That by Lindsay Stoddard (\$16.99). When a dog is left at the firehouse where his dad works, Cyrus immediately feels a connection. As a baby, Cyrus had been abandoned there, too. The only person who could comfort him was Bruce Olson, the fire



fighter who ultimately adopted him. Unfortunately, his dad has a strict "no pets" policy, and he warns Cyrus not to get attached to the dog, who he has already named. His dad was a talented football player, and that is the route he would like Cyrus to follow, even though Cyrus has yet to admit that he hates football. He really wants to use the Tuesday-Thursday football practice times to volunteer at the shelter where the dog is housed. Cyrus also has a problem that no one is aware of. He can pick up a book and look like he is reading it, but he has no comprehension at all. Now he has to write a book report for his language arts class. Finally, the time comes when he has to come clean to his dad and face the consequences. This is a wonderful character-driven tale that will appeal to both boys and girls ages 8-12

City of Gold by Will Hobbs (\$16.99). Owen Holloway is the man of the house at just 15, since his father died of tuberculosis eight months ago. Now the Holloway clan—Owen, Ma, and younger brother Till—are trying to stake a claim on a new life in turn-of-the-century southwestern Colorado. When a rustler steals their two prize



mules, who are needed to help plow and cultivate their inherited land, the widow and the boys face disaster. Owen sets off across the San Juan Mountains on the trail of their stolen mules and is soon joined by his brother Till. Along the way they encounter corrupt lawmen, greedy mine owners, and two of the most famous outlaws to ever rob a train, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Hobbs keeps the story firmly anchored in its setting, tying in true events and real people along with a deep knowledge of the terrain of the Four Corners region. Fans of historical fiction and exciting adventure will love this book. *Ages 8-13*

Again Again by E. Lockhart (\$18.99). Adrift in the summer between her junior and senior years, Adelaide Buchwald navigates the aftermath of an unexpected break up, at least one potential new romance, and a heartbreaking situation with her brother. She is spending the summer dog-sitting for her teacher at Alabaster Prep, an elite boarding school, and trying to process her brother Toby's opioid addiction. Her mother is spending the summer with her brother, and her father, a teacher at Alabaster, is with Adelaide. Soon she runs into Jack Cavallero, a boy who once wrote a poem about her, and she has idolized him ever since. This is a twisty, inventive, philosophical and romantic story about the many ways a person can find, lose, and understand love. *Age 13 up*



Jo & Laurie by Margaret Stohl and Melissa de la Cruz (\$18.99). 1869, Concord, Massachusetts: After the publication of her first novel, *Little Women*, Jo March is shocked to discover her book of scribbles has become a bestseller. Now her publisher and fans demand a sequel. While pressured into coming up with a story, she goes to New York with her dear friend Laurie for a week of inspiration—museums, operas and even a once-in-a-lifetime reading by Charles Dickens himself! But Laurie has love on his mind, and despite her growing feelings, Jo's desire to remain independent leads her to turn down his heartfelt marriage proposal and sends the poor boy off to college heartbroken. When Laurie returns to Concord with a sophisticated new girlfriend, will Jo finally communicate her true heart's desire or lose the love of her life forever? This is clever, satisfying, and well researched—a perfect summer read. *Age 13 up*



AMY TROGDON



All the Birds in the World by David Opie (\$16.99). A confused kiwi travels with readers through this exploration of birds and their characteristics, illustrated realistically and with great detail. The birds are shown nesting, wading, roosting, and flying. The text is rhythmic ("*All birds have wings/all birds have beaks*"), always ended by kiwi's question: "*But what about me?*" Eventually, we have a discussion of kiwis. "*The kiwi has no tail/but has whiskers like a cat, and all birds in this book/are part of the same feathered family.*" Even kiwis! An extra bonus is the key which identifies every bird in the book. Young birders will return to this book again and again. *Ages 4 - 8*



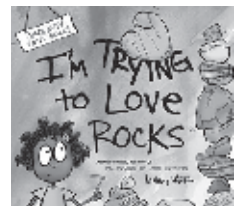
Peter and the Tree Children by Peter Wohlleben, illustrated by Cale Atkinson (\$17.95). Piet the squirrel is all alone in the forest until Peter the Forester comes up with a plan to cheer him up. They begin to search for the Tree Children. As they wander through the forest, Peter tells Piet many amazing facts about trees, the struggles they have, and how they communicate and care for each other. Little Piet begins to feel much better, especially when he realizes how he has helped the Tree Children to grow and flourish. Peter Wohlleben, author of the bestseller *The Hidden Life of Trees*, reaches out to children in this beautifully illustrated, environmentally conscious picture book. *Ages 4 - 8*



Summer Song by Kevin Henkes, illustrated by Laura Dronzek (\$18.99). This book captures all the sights and sounds of summer. Green is the primary color of summer, portrayed by the grasses, the trees, the flowers, and more. There is also gray when the beach is foggy or the rains come. The text is rhythmic and the illustrations pop with color. The reader will visit and revisit this book, enjoying the luscious sights and sounds of summer. *Ages 4 - 8*



I'm Trying to Love Rocks by Bethany Barton (\$17.99). Concluding that rocks are pretty boring, the narrator decides to end this book before it begins. But, wait! A young scientist disagrees with the narrator, saying there is so much to love about rocks. The funny exchanges between the two are entertaining and also educational. Science facts about geology, the rock cycle, and gemstones are included along with fantastic illustrations. Great introduction to geology for any would-be rock collector! *Ages 4 - 8*



First Day Critter Jitters by Jory John, illustrated by Liz Climo (\$17.99). The first day of school is fast approaching, and the animals are nervous. Sloth worries about being late, snake can't get his backpack on, and bunny is afraid she won't be able to sit down. When they arrive at school—surprise! Their teacher, an armadillo, is so nervous, he has rolled himself into a ball. It takes him a while to relax, but by the next day, everyone has found a way of helping each other settle in to school. A very funny guide to the first day of school! *Ages 4 - 8*



Continued on next page



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Book Groups at The Book Stall

These book discussions are free but require registration.

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WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5, Morning discussion at 9:30 am

A Long Petal to the Sea by Isabel Allende

Led by Roberta Rubin

MONDAY, AUG. 17, Evening discussion at 6:30 pm

Writers & Lovers by Lily King

Led by Alice Moody

A Bit of Our Inside Comes Outside

Stop by the store **Mondays-Fridays** from **10:30 am to 3:30 pm** to browse a selection of new releases and bestsellers set up on a table outside the store.

All displayed titles are 10% off!

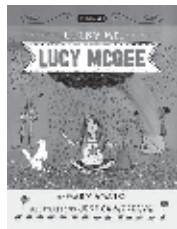
Children's reviews continued

Middle Grade Fiction

The One and Only Bob by Katherine Applegate (\$18.99). Remember *The One and Only Ivan*? The beloved gorilla has a little dog-friend named Bob, who is sassy, full of attitude and wry observations. Bob now lives with his girl, Julia, and her parents. Luckily, her father works for the zoo where Ivan and Ruby the Elephant now live. Bob has always felt he was a "bad dog," meaning "not a good representative of my species." But a tornado strikes, and Bob proves to himself and others that he is indeed brave. The canine glossary and picture dictionary of canine postures add to the pure joy of this book. A must-read.
Ages 8 - 12



Lucky Me, Lucy McGee by Mary Amato, illustrated by Jessica Meserve (\$15.99). Fourth grader Lucy McGee has lost her beloved ukulele...and she will be kicked out of the Songwriting Club. When she discovers a famous songwriting duet is appearing in concert and giving away a ukulele, Lucy thinks her problem is solved. Except the tickets



are expensive, and her parents say no. But her friend, the ever-scheming Scarlet, has a ticket to give away. How can Lucy charm Scarlet into giving her the ticket? This is a warm, humorous book about friendship and family. The illustrations and original songs make this series special.
Ages 8 - 12



City Spies by James Ponti (\$17.99). In this suspenseful spy novel, 12-year-old Sara is facing juvenile detention for hacking the New York City foster care system to expose her foster parents' cruelty. A mysterious man, a British spy, appears and tells her he is her attorney. He convinces the judge to release Sara into his custody. He then tells her she may either go to a boarding school in the UK or join a secret M16 agency. Soon Sara is being trained in Scotland with a group of 16-year-olds from around the world. Using her computer intelligence, she helps the City Spies stop a serious international crime. With lots of action, this is a page-turner for even the most reluctant reader.

Ages 8 - 12