



THE BOOK STALL

THE FRONT LINE



My husband and I just returned from Italy where we celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. In anticipation of the trip, one of my college roommates suggested that I read *When in Rome* by Ngaio Marsh and *Blood and Beauty* by Sarah Dunant (available by special order). I loved both and felt like I'd started the trip even before we set foot on the plane! Reading books set in specific locations you may be traveling to is a wonderful way to enhance your experience. Histories of travel destinations are great but so are historical novels and memoirs or biographies of individuals from those places. Going to Florence? Try *The Agony and the Ecstasy* by Irving Stone. Weekend in New York? Pick up *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore. Heading north to Canada? Read Louise Penny! The staff at The Book Stall are ready to help!

We do have a few fun events on our calendar for this usually sleepy month. Jarrett Dapier returns to one of our favorite venues, Good Grapes, on Tuesday August 2 at 6:30 pm to talk about his new book, *The Most Haunted House in America*. And, of course, since there's a musical element to this book, we'll be featuring some live drumming as well.

Alice Moody and Ann Walters will appear to discuss their program "Alice and Anne Talk Books" on Wednesday, August 3 at 6:30 pm. These long-time friends of the store have launched their subscription book discussion service, and we're delighted to partner with them. Stop by to hear about this really cool program and get some book recommendations from these very well-read women!

We'll be celebrating **Bookstore Romance Day** on Saturday, August 20. This category has become incredibly popular in the store—so much so that we're using the weekend to unveil its new location with more shelf space to accommodate more titles. Customers make a beeline for that section looking for books that have a happy ending, a required element of the genre, as I learned from Kari, our children's book buyer, who knows quite a bit about the category and can give excellent recommendations—as can Betsy Balyeat. Some of my favorites in that section are *The Love Hypothesis* by Ali Hazelwood, *Husband Material* by Alexis Hall, out August 2 (the follow-up to *Boyfriend Material*, which I also loved) and *Book Lovers* by Emily Henry. Stop by that weekend and receive 20% off all Romance titles!

For this last glorious month of summer, there are some great books to dive into. *The Latecomer*, by Jean Hanff Korelitz, was completely engrossing! (See Kathleen's review inside.) *Corinne*, by Rebecca Morrow, is a thought-provoking story about a young woman cast out by her very conservative church but still very much connected romantically to one man. I was fascinated by the world of assistants to movie moguls that Allison Hart painted in *Work Wife*. For those who watched Gilded Age or read Renee Rosen's *Social Graces*, you may be interested in *American Rascal: How Jay Gould Built Wall Street's Biggest Fortune* by Greg Steinmetz (out August 30). Finally, I'm looking forward to diving into *Properties of Thirst* by Marianne Wiggins, a big, immersive novel about America during World War II (out August 2), and *Big Red: A Novel Starring Rita Hayworth and Orson Welles* by Jerome Charyn (out August 23), a bittersweet novel set in old Hollywood. My husband, Roger, is enjoying *Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe* by David Maraniss (out August 9), about the legendary Native American athlete, who excelled at every sport—Olympic gold medals and Football Hall of Fame. We're so looking forward to hosting Mr. Maraniss on September 12.

Steph

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, AUG. 3

6:30 pm at Good Grapes
821 Chestnut Court, Winnetka



JARRETT DAPIER
The Most Haunted House in America
Drum roll please! Join us for an entertaining evening featuring the Evanston children's author, **Jarrett Dapier**,



hosted by **Good Grapes** (821 Chestnut Court in Winnetka). We will celebrate the release of his new picture book, *The Most Haunted House in America*, featuring a rollicking spooky-fun trip through the most haunted home in America: The White House! With rhyming, rhythmic text and wonderfully macabre illustrations, this musical tour of America's most famous home is full of spooky surprises at every turn! *The evening will showcase drum music and food and beverages for both adults and children will be available.*

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 3

6:30 – 7:30 pm at the store
Talking Books with Alice and Ann

Spend an hour talking books with **Alice Moody** and **Ann Walters**. A year ago, the professional book facilitators launched a first-of-its-kind literary subscription series in partnership with The Book Stall. It caters to readers who can't commit to a book club or are looking for something extra. Currently, over 100 subscribers enjoy receiving hand-selected titles and a link to an hour-long talk featuring Alice and Ann debating and dissecting the books.



Join us for this special evening to learn more about the series, the "surprise" books subscribers get in the mail, the "Siskel & Ebert" style talks, and the carefully curated selection of titles. In addition, there will be a raffle for a 6-month subscription (\$150 value – entitling the winner to 3 books and 3 talks), as well as other prizes for readers.

Alice Moody is a seasoned book group facilitator, writing coach, and workshop leader whose stints in publishing and secondary education laid the foundation for her true passion: inspiring aspiring writers and readers. **Ann Walters**, a longtime bookseller in Lake Forest and book group facilitator, writes a popular book review blog, Books on the Table, belongs to too many book clubs, and gets a huge kick out of recommending the right book to the right person.

THE INSIDE LINE

KATHLEEN CRAWFORD



The Latecomer by Jean Hanff Korelitz (\$28) is my favorite book of the first half of 2022 because I found it to be ingeniously plotted with remarkable character development. It's deliberately built as a slow burn and is full of surprising twists and turns that the author is known for.

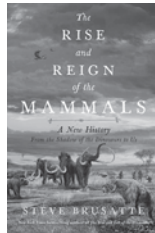


The story is about three siblings in Brooklyn, NY who, despite being born as triplets, are not close or even fond of each other and never have been. Their father, Salo, runs a successful investment firm and has a keen eye for collecting contemporary art. Their mother, Joanna, is doting and self-sacrificing and only wants for her children to get along. On the eve of the children departing for college, Joanna makes a sudden and frantic decision to have another child, and Salo goes along with this idea. Now, the triplets, as young adults, must learn to navigate school, relationships, work, and their individual life choices while coming to eventual terms with what this much younger sibling means to them and why their parents made this seemingly rash decision. *The Latecomer* is clever, witty, and charged, but also very much a tender family novel. This story will enthrall all readers, but especially those who wish to have rich discussions on family secrets, denials, and surprises. This is a gem of a book that I highly recommend!

SHARMAN MCGURN



The Rise and Reign of the Mammals: A New History, from the Shadow of the Dinosaurs to Us by Steve Brusatte (\$29.99). Why did mammals evolve? How did we (*homo sapiens*) come to be? When a giant asteroid hit the earth and sent the dinosaurs to extinction, what



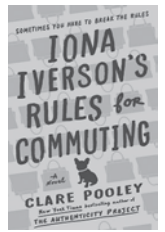
allowed some of our mammal ancestors to survive? In non-scientific language, peppered with imaginative but plausible scenarios, easy-to-understand examples, and humor, Brusatte answers these questions and many more, based on current knowledge related to our family tree, that of mammals. The information he imparts is so interesting! Did you know that our cousin, the blue whale, is the largest animal to ever live (larger than *brontosaurus*), and its closest living relative is the hippo? Paleontologists are detectives sleuthing for answers, and Brusatte doesn't disappoint as he deftly explains paleontologists' methods in looking for clues and the thrill of discovery. He explains that the hallmarks of "mammalness" evolved, "piece by piece, over the last 325 million years, starting when those scaly critters in the coal swamps broke away from the reptile line. Hair, big brains, awesome sense of smell and hearing, incisors and canines and premolars and molars, fast-paced and warm-blooded metabolism, babies raised with milk." But Brusatte also tells a cautionary tale. During the four-billion-year evolution of life on Earth there have been a few mass extinctions fueled, in addition to the asteroid, by megavolcanos and climate change. Today as global warming quickly intensifies, caused solely by us, we could be facing another extinction event with grave consequences for our species and many others. There is so much to digest in this book! I couldn't put it down and would like to learn more about *The Rise and Reign of the Mammals*.

ELIZABETH HUBBARD

Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting by Clare Pooley (\$27) is the feel-good book of the summer, a charming novel about the titular Iona Iverson, a delightful, and rather eccentric, Brit. Iona likes things orderly and has rules for everything, especially her commute into London, where she works as an advice columnist for a magazine. The second of these rules is "Never talk to strangers on the train." When one of her fellow commuters



chokes on a grape, Iona is forced to break rule number two. Which starts a chain reaction that teaches Iona and a group of new friends that talking to strangers can lead to connection and make the world a little bit smaller and quite a bit better. You won't want this book to end because it's like leaving new friends too soon. And sometimes spending time with unexpected friends is exactly what you need, even if you didn't realize it.



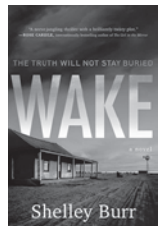
The Change by Kirsten Miller (\$27.99) is a hoot. Called Feminist Revenge Fantasy, this book is part manifesto, part mystery. In this novel, women of a certain age, at a certain stage of life, find themselves cast aside. Ignored as if invisible, passed over for deserved promotions and seemingly alone in a world that seems to prefer young, perky, and fertile. But oddly, this leads to a new type of empowerment, new powers if you will. Set in an affluent Long Island town, the main characters Nessa, Harriet, and Jo set about to right wrongs, including finding out why young girls keep going missing. With some tongue-in-cheek supernatural elements and a lot of knife-sharp humor, these women prove that with age comes power and that when women join together, there is nothing they can't accomplish. A perfect beach read, especially for women approaching or firmly ensconced in midlife.



Dirtbag, Massachusetts: A Confessional by Isaac Fitzgerald (\$27) is a memoir told in essays. When Fitzgerald was conceived his parents were married...but not to each other. Thus begins a difficult childhood, which included living in a homeless shelter and then a move to rural Massachusetts. The stories are at times raw, at times touching, and always honest. Caring teachers and librarians helped Isaac attend a private boarding school, which in some ways changed the trajectory of his life but also highlighted all he was missing. His parents' connections to their church and the ways the church let young Isaac down feature prominently in his stories, but we also go along on a journey that includes acceptance and occasional forgiveness. A fascinating peek into a complicated and messy life. A masculine story but one that is universal in its revelations about what it is to be part of a complex family. And what family isn't complex?



Wake by Shelley Burr (\$27.99, out August 30) is a crime novel set in the Australian outback. Fans of Jane Harper will gobble this one up. Mina's life revolves around one thing: finding out what happened to her twin sister the summer they were 9. It is a night she'll never forget, and because of the publicity generated, neither will anyone else in her small town or across the country. Now a young woman, Mina has retreated to her family farm, preferring little to no contact with the outside world. Until the day when Lane Holland, a private investigator with demons of his own, shows up in the car he currently calls home. He is determined to solve this decades-old crime, but what is his motivation? His unconventional methods, combined with his police training, make him qualified to crack cold cases, but could his own childhood influence him in his quest? This is a story about trauma and tragedy, and about how the personal can become public. But it's also about letting people in and learning to trust. And ultimately, it's never too late for the truth to come out! I look forward to reading more by this promising mystery writer.



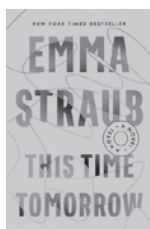
Fox Creek by William Kent Krueger (out August 23) is the latest in the Iron Creek mystery series, featuring Cork O'Connor. In

this story, Cork, now a private investigator, happily runs his hamburger stand with help from his grown children in between PI jobs. One day, a customer orders lunch and then asks Cork for help finding his missing wife. This leads Cork into the woods and the Boundary Waters on a hunt for the woman, but also his own wife and his closest friend, Henry Meloux, the ancient Mide (Healer) who has spent over 100 years living in the forest abutting Alouette, which houses the Ojibwe Reservation. Tracking and hunting come naturally to O'Connor, but will his skills be enough to find his loved ones before the mercenaries who are a step ahead of him? Another beautifully written book, which is like a love letter to the region, the natural world, and the relationships between people connected by ancestry and friendship. As usual, Krueger weaves Native American lore and history throughout the story and keeps readers on the edge of their seat. I read this one while holding my breath. So worried for Henry and the women and rooting for Cork to find them before it was too late...in more ways than one!

SUSAN DAVIS



This Time Tomorrow by Emma Straub (\$28). This delightful novel from bestselling author Straub, a master at weaving together relatable family dramas, follows Alice Stern on the eve of her 40th birthday, a time when she is beginning to assess a lifetime of choices. On the morn-

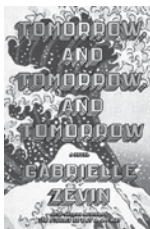


ing of her birthday, she wakes up in a familiar bedroom, but one from her past: Alice is 16 once again! With her loving father down the hall instead of ailing in a hospital, and her best friend on speed dial, Alice strikes out to recreate her best memories and relive her 16th birthday. Finding that she can continually return to this day, Alice navigates a myriad of choices that lead her down various paths in life. With each visit to the past, while enjoying spending time with loved ones and visiting long-gone places from her youth, Alice is also trying to fix all the mistakes she feels have impacted her life. However, she is finding that no matter what choices she makes, some things seem to be out of her control, and she is falling short at making the flawless life. This book is perfect for those nostalgic about the '90s and their teenage years, or for anyone looking for a feel-good story about living life to the fullest as the person you're meant to be.

LEAH GORDON



Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin (\$28). Upon finishing page 397, I found myself willing the book to take on the life of the video games described within it and miraculously grant me another chapter, another round, another anything

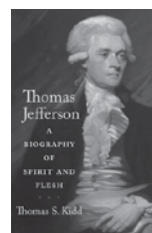


just to keep the writing from stopping. Gabrielle Zevin builds the characters of Sam, Sadie, and Marx in such a beautiful and sustainable way that you don't want them taken away from you. The friendship-turned-partnership between them is raw when it needs to be, while intimate when you crave it, and is somehow all magically layered on top of their individual obstacles, due to opposite upbringings. Brought together at ages 11 and 12, the story of Sam and Sadie is one that you cheer for, mourn, and demand to succeed as personal and professional battles are waged over the course of 30 years. Marx creates a balance between the two of them for the reader, his empathy and generosity never failing, until you're forced to let go. The true gift of the book, however, is how the author seamlessly blends visual cues with fictional writing in a way that makes you feel like you are living within the games being created, while sitting in the room with the people creating them, thereby binding you to the story even more.

JON GRAND



Thomas Jefferson: A Biography of Spirit and Flesh by Thomas S. Kidd (\$30). We know what Jefferson wrote, but what did he believe? His brilliant writing soars with an idealistic vision for a new nation. And yet his personal life reveals contradiction after contradiction

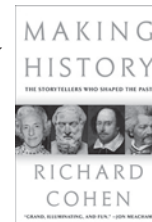


that fails to live up to his rhetoric. Democracy is the ideal, but slavery is the reality. He lives with ostentation, while praising the yeoman farmer. And what of religion? He would call Jesus' teachings the greatest moral system but also blast Christianity for the coercion and torture of millions. Are we to revere or revile Jefferson? The answer is neither. Jefferson was both brilliant and deeply flawed. And from both aspects of the man, there is much we can learn about him, our country, and ourselves. Thomas Kidd examines Jefferson's contradictions—contradictions he was aware of through his letters, diaries, and public papers. We find Jefferson struggling for moral clarity, while being unable to rise above his own moral failings.

The Newspaper Axis: Six Press Barons Who Enabled Hitler by Kathryn S. Olmsted (\$30). It was one thing to be an isolationist. Quite another to be pro-fascist. The scars of the Great War convinced many Americans that George Washington was right in warning against foreign, and especially, European, entanglements. Four newspaper owners dominated the American press in the 1930s onward: William Randolph Hearst, Robert McCormick, and Joseph and Eleanor Patterson. Their power and influence were enormous in both domestic and foreign policy. As one critic noted, "Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one." In England, two figures dominated the press: Lord Beaverbrook and Lord Rothermere. They shared with their American counterparts a commitment to isolationism. All six denied the threat of a rising Hitler. All six denied the plight of the Jews. Indeed many of the six were openly anti-semitic and blamed the Jews for fomenting war. Hitler was celebrated for his return of Germany to respect within Europe; his invasions seen as mere reunification. In America, the four opposed Roosevelt in ways great and small. These six controlled papers throughout their countries and reached virtually every household. Just how much these six enabled the rise of Hitler is a rarely told story. We believe in freedom of the press, but this cautionary tale reminds us that we must also be critical readers.



Making History: The Storytellers Who Shaped the Past by Richard Cohen (\$40). They say that history is written by the victors. But history is written not just by historians. Our view of the past and our interpretation of events is often formed by novelists, dramatists, journalists, politicians, and even the writers in the Bible. Given that, Cohen asks whether there really is such a thing as objective history. Are Shakespeare's history plays good history or are they propaganda in service to the Queen? Is the monumental *Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire* by Gibbon objective history or is it in service to another purpose? It is impossible to separate ourselves entirely from our biases, culture, values, etc. They color our judgements as we examine the past and the present. Cohen has written a wonderful survey of history writers. What and why they wrote is fascinating history in and of itself. Their interpretation of the past is often familiar. But as Cohen points out, it is often a construct with a purpose.



KATHY RILEY

Three by Valérie Perrin, translated by Hildegard Serle (\$28). On the first day of fifth grade, three students are seated together in alphabetical order. Thus begins the inseparable friendship of the three. Nina is the artistic, diminutive, intelligent bond between Etienne, the beautiful, lackluster student, and Adrien, who is

Most Anticipated Books for Fall of 2022

FICTION



The Last White Man

by Mohsin Hamid (August 2, \$26)
From the NYT-bestselling author of *Exit West*, a story of love, loss, and rediscovery in a time of unsettling change. In Hamid's prose, this new novel powerfully uplifts our capacity for empathy and the transcendence over bigotry, fear, and anger it can achieve.



On the Rooftop

by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton (September 6, \$28.99)
A stunning novel about a mother whose dream of musical stardom for her three daughters collides with the daughters' ambitions for their own lives—set against the backdrop of gentrifying 1950s San Francisco.



The Marriage Portrait

by Maggie O'Farrell (September 6, \$28)
The author of *Hamnet* brings the world of Renaissance Italy to life in this unforgettable portrait of the captivating young duchess Lucrezia de' Medici as she makes her way in a troubled court.



Lessons

by Ian McEwan (September 13, \$30)
The story of one man's life across generations and historical upheavals: from the Suez Crisis to the Cuban Missile Crisis, the fall of the Berlin Wall to the current pandemic, Roland Baines sometimes rides with the tide of history, but more often struggles against it.



Less Is Lost

by Andrew Sean Greer (September 20, \$29)
In the "wildly, painfully, funny" (David Sedaris) follow-up to the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Less: A Novel*, the awkward and lovable Arthur Less returns in an unforgettable road trip across America.



Shrines of Gaiety

by Kate Atkinson (September 27, \$29)
The author of *Life after Life* transports us to a restless 1926 London in the wake of the Great War—a city fizzing with money, glamour, and corruption—in this spellbinding tale of seduction and betrayal.



The Winners

by Fredrik Backman (September 27, \$28.99)
The conclusion to the NYT bestselling series follows a small, hockey town's residents as they grapple with change, pain, hope, and redemption. It's the final installment of Backman's *Beartown* series with over 1 million copies sold.



Our Missing Hearts

by Celeste Ng (October 4, \$29)
From the author of *Little Fires Everywhere*, a suspenseful and heartrending novel about the unbreakable love between a mother and child in a society consumed by fear.



Demon Copperhead

by Barbara Kingsolver (October 18, \$29.99)
Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, this is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. He braves the perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses.



The Passenger

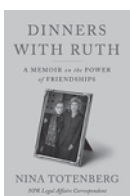
by Cormac McCarthy (October 25, \$30)
The author of *The Road* returns with the first of a two-volume masterpiece: This is the story of a salvage diver, haunted by loss, afraid of the watery deep, pursued for a conspiracy beyond his understanding, and longing for a death he cannot reconcile with God.



NON-FICTION

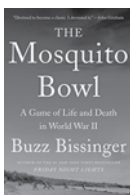
Solito: A Memoir

by Javier Zamora (September 6, \$28)
A young poet tells the story of his harrowing migration from El Salvador to the United States at the age of 9 in this moving memoir hailed as "the mythic journey of our era." (Sandra Cisneros)



Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships

by Nina Totenberg (September 13, \$27.99)
Celebrated NPR correspondent Totenberg recounts her decades of extraordinary friendships, anchored by the story of her friendship with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg over nearly 50 years, as these iconic women broke barriers in the male-dominated worlds of law and journalism.



The Mosquito Bowl: A Game of Life and Death in World War II

by Buzz Bissinger (September 13, \$32.50)
When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, college football was at the height of its popularity. As the nation geared up for total war, one branch of the service dominated the aspirations of college football stars: the United States Marine Corps. Which is why, on Christmas Eve of 1944, when the 4th and 29th Marine regiments found themselves in the middle of the Pacific Ocean training for what would be the bloodiest battle of the war—the invasion of Okinawa—their ranks included one of the greatest pools of football talent ever assembled: Former All Americans, captains from Wisconsin and Brown and Notre Dame, and nearly 20 men who were either drafted or would ultimately play in the NFL.



Woman Without Shame

by Sandra Cisneros (September 13, \$27)
With dozens of poems, this is a collection of songs, elegies, and declarations that chronicle her pilgrimage toward rebirth and the recognition of her prerogative as a woman artist. It is the culmination of her search for home—in the Mexico of her ancestors and in her own heart.

An amazing wealth of new titles is coming out this fall. Here are just a few!



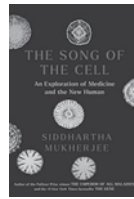
American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis by Adam Hochschild (October 4, \$29.99) From historian Hochschild, a fast-paced, revelatory new account of a pivotal but neglected period in American history: World War I and its stormy aftermath, when bloodshed and repression on the home front nearly doomed American democracy.



Go-to Dinners: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook by Ina Garten (October 25, \$35) America's favorite home cook presents delicious, crowd-pleasing, go-to recipes that readers want to make over and over again!



Inciting Joy: Essays by Ross Gay (October 25, \$27) Prize-winning poet and author Gay considers the joy we incite when we care for each other, especially during life's inevitable hardships. Throughout this book, he explores how we can practice recognizing that connection, and also, crucially, how we expand it.



The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human by Siddhartha Mukherjee (October 25, \$32.50) From the Pulitzer Prize winner, a riveting book about the miracle and promise of cellular medicine, written and laced with Mukherjee's singular stories of scientific discovery and the patients who benefit.



Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story by Bono (November 1, \$34) Bono—artist, activist, and the lead singer of Irish rock band U2—has written a memoir: honest and irreverent, intimate and profound, it is the story of the remarkable life he's lived, the challenges he's faced, and the friends and family who have shaped and sustained him.



Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Great Environmental Awakening by Douglas Brinkley (November 15, \$37.50) Brinkley chronicles the rise of environmental activism during the Long Sixties, telling a highly charged story of an indomitable generation that quite literally saved the natural world under the leadership of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon.

Calendar continued from page 1

SATURDAY, AUG. 20

All day at the store
BOOKSTORE ROMANCE DAY
20% off all Romance titles in the store. See our special report on page 8.

And keep in mind these upcoming September events:

All on MONDAY, SEPT. 12

6:30 pm at the store

DAVID MARANISS *Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe*



Jim Thorpe, a member of the Sac and Fox Nation, rose to world fame as a mythic talent who excelled at every sport. He won gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, was an All-American football player at the Carlisle Indian School, the star of the first class of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and played major league baseball for John McGraw's New York Giants. Even in a golden age of sports celebrities, he was one of a kind. For more information, see our website.

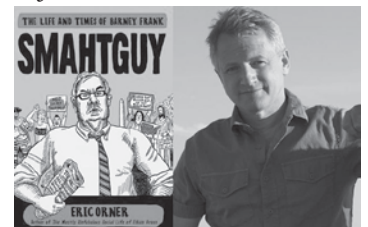


7 pm, A Live Event Highland Park Library 494 Laurel Ave., Highland Park

ERIC ORNER

*Smahtguy: The Life and
Times of Barney Frank*

Eric Orner presents his new graphic novel—an irreverent biography of the iconic and iconoclastic Barney Frank, one of the first out gay congressmen and a front-line defender of civil rights.

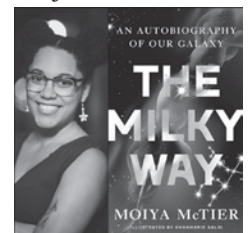


7 – 8 pm, A Virtual Event Family Action Network

DR. MOIYA MCTIER

*The Milky Way:
An Autobiography of Our Galaxy*

Astrophysicist and folklorist Dr. Moiya McTier channels The Milky Way in an autobiography of the titular galaxy, detailing what humans have discovered about everything from its formation to its eventual death, and what more there is to learn about this galaxy we call home. Free and open to the public. Reservations required. For more information see familyactionnetwork.net.



the children's line...



Hello, children's book fans!

KARI PATCH

Join us for an evening featuring the renowned children's author, **Jarrett Dapier**, hosted by **Good Grapes** (821 Chestnut Court in Winnetka) on **Tuesday, August 2 at 6:30 pm**. We will be celebrating the release of his new picture book, *The Most Haunted House in America*, based on Jarrett's own experience playing drums at the White House. *The evening will showcase drum*

music, and food and beverages for both adults and children will be available.

About the book: When the Skeleton Drummers receive an invitation from the First Lady to perform at the biggest Halloween party of a lifetime—or afterlife—the band must pack their instruments, rise from the earth, and prepare to rock the White House. With gusto and bone-rattling beats, the skeletons *BOOM! BANG! and CLANG!* as the crowd of trick-or-treaters dance on the president's lawn. But when the party moves inside, something's not quite right: there's a chill in the air and a prickle of fright. There's one thing you might not know: The White House is haunted from top to toe!

As *Kirkus Reviews* writes, 'No bones about it. This book has pep, drive, and the perfect vibe for the Halloween season.'

AMY TROGDON



The Little Bear by Nicola Killen (\$16.99). It's the night before the first day of school, and Ollie is feeling a bit nervous. She has packed her backpack and drifts off to sleep. Soon, she is awakened by the hoot of an owl. She,

and many other animals, begin to follow the owl and come upon a small schoolhouse. Outside sits a little bear, looking very anxious. Ollie suggests they go in together. A full day of school activities await them, Ollie helping little bear all the while. A soothing tale for the back-to-school jitters and a great bedtime story. *Ages 4-8*

Every Dog in the Neighborhood by Phillip Stead, illustrated by Matthew Cordell (\$18.99). Grandma and grandson Louie make a good team. They are both inquisitive and concerned about doing their civic duty. One day on their walk around the neighborhood, Grandma spies a vacant lot. Louis asks, "How many dogs are in the neighborhood?" "This leads to each of them writing letters to City Hall. While Grandma's project is vague throughout the book, Louis actively works the neighborhood, knocking on doors and questioning occupants. The answers Louis receives are humorous and endearing. The results are quite satisfying...for Grandma and Louis! The detailed illustrations are hilarious and full of detail. I keep re-reading to catch what I have missed. My favorite picture book of the year...so far. *Ages 4-8*

Wretched Waterpark, Sinister Summer Book One by Kierston White (\$16.99). This is a new series about the Sinister-Winterbottom twins, who have to solve one mystery after another at weird and crazy vacation destinations. In Book One, we meet the Sinister-Winterbottoms, including brave Theo, her timid twin, Alexander, and older sister, Wil. They are staying with Aunt Saffronia, who is



Illustration: Summer Pierre

Kari P.



clueless about children and whose feet never seem to touch the ground when she glides—er—walks. They decide to visit Fathoms of Fun Waterpark, which turns out to be creepier than Aunt Saffronia! A mystery is unfolding, and the twins are on it...or are they? An entertaining and funny new series, perfect for these summer days. *Ages 8-12*

Breda's Island by Jessie Ann Foley (\$16.99). Breda Moriarity lives in Chicago with her mom, who came to the United States from Ireland 18 years ago. At the time, she was pregnant with Breda, and her father had disowned her. Now she has a successful beauty salon, and life is easier for the two of them. But the past year has been tough for Breda, who often felt she was raising herself, while her mom worked. She began stealing little things, and after she was caught, her mother sent her to Ireland to live with her Granda for the summer.

Breda is understandably nervous and is not sure how to act around the grandfather she has never met. Right away, Breda understands Granda is a man of few words. He also seems a little gruff and grumpy. After he gives Breda her mother's old bike, which he has restored, she realizes he does have a softness about him that his hard shell belies.

While she explores the countryside daily, she makes a friend, who unfortunately is a member of the Fahey family...the one family in all of Ireland her Granda told her not to associate with. Breda keeps this a secret from Granda, even though she feels guilty. During the summer, Breda realizes she might be able to find her father, whose name her mother has never spoken. Breda also discovers that Granda grew up in a cruel orphanage and was mistreated terribly as a child. So many secrets, all the while becoming closer to the Irish land of her Granda. I loved this book. The descriptions of Ireland are beautiful, and Breda's story has remained with me. It is so true that families are one of the greatest gifts we have, but not without challenges. *Ages 10-14*

BETSY BALLYEAT

Those Summer Nights by Laura Silverman (\$19.99).



Hannah used to be all about focus back before she shattered her ankle and her Olympic dreams in one bad soccer play. These days she is all about distraction—anything to keep the painful memories of her recent past at bay, including the string of bad decisions that landed her at

boarding school for a year. Enter Bonanza: the local entertainment multiplex and site of Hannah's summer employment. With its mini-golf course, bowling alley, and arcade, Bonanza seems like the perfect way to stay distracted. Until her boss announces the annual Bonanza tournament, a staff competition that brings the past Olympic nightmares crashing back into her present. On top of that, the Bonanza staff includes Brie, the ex-best friend she cut off last year, and Ethan, her brother's best friend who accepts her, even knowing her worst secrets. Under the neon lights of Bonanza, Hannah must decide whether she can find a way to discover a new self in the midst of her old life. Fresh starts are not always easy in this summer romance. Perfect for fans of Jenny Han. *Age 14 up*

The Fort by Gordon Korman (\$17.99). The morning after hurricane Leo rips through the town of Canaan, residents awaken to widespread destruction—power outages, downed trees, and damaged roofs. Four 8th grade friends meet to explore the destruction. Evan, Jason, Mitchell, and C.J. are a tight group, not willing to include anyone else. They are dismayed that Evan has brought an outsider with him. Ricky is new to the school and



doesn't have any friends yet. Ricky is the one who finds a strange trap door that has appeared in the middle of the woods—the door to an old bomb shelter unearthed by the hurricane. Inside the boys find a completely intact underground lair, complete with electricity and food. The boys vow to keep their find a secret, but eventually some bad locals keep snooping around. What began as a place to escape to becomes a serious refuge for one of the boys, who is trying to escape an abusive home situation. The friends must keep the shelter a secret and build the safest place for their friend they can. *Age 8-12*

New From Here by Kelly Yang (\$17.99). When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, 10-year-old Knox Wei Evans' mom makes a last-minute decision to move him and his siblings back to California for safety. Suddenly, Knox has two days to prepare for an international move—and for leaving his dad, who must stay for work. At his new school in California, Knox struggles with being the new kid. His classmates think that because he is from Asia, he must have brought the virus. At home, Mom just got fired and is panicking over the loss of health insurance, and dad does not know when he will be able to be with them again, since flights have been cancelled. As if there are not enough problems, Knox's older brother and younger sister fight all the time, and Knox has been diagnosed with ADHD. Mounting anti-Asian racism is becoming more and more of an issue. Banding together, the kids launch Operation Dad come over, raising money to afford their father's plane ticket, and even applying for jobs on his behalf. A pandemic tale that is also about the importance of family, friendship, and standing up for what is right. Another knock-out by Yang! *Age 8-12*



Beauty and the Besharam by Lillie Vale (\$17.99) Kavya Joshi is aware that some people—classmates, Indian aunties and uncles, her older sister—think she is *besharam*: "bossy, audacious, rude, mouthy, boastful and shameless." Nevertheless, Kavya is proud of her all-or-nothing attitude and refuses to compromise her personality for anyone, including people she dates. And no one brings out her competitive spirit like Ian Jun, her Korean-American friend-turned-rival. As their junior year wraps up, their friends decide to settle the long-standing rivalry over the summer with three mystery challenges. Kavya is eager to win and be the undisputed victor, especially after Ian joins her in working as off-brand Disney character children's entertainers. But as she spends more time with Ian, who is considerate and charming and seems to genuinely admire Kavya for who she is, Kavya begins to wonder if she has misjudged him all along. Set in the picture-perfect town of Luna Cove, this is a story that rings true to life. The characters drive the plot, which values friendship, family, and romance. Perfect for fans of Sandhya Menon and Emma Lord. *Age 13-18*



Inside Line continued from page 3



quiet and reticent. The novel is written in chapters which switch from their elementary school days, their adolescence, graduating from high school and their early adult years. It is told in dated chapters of information throughout the next 30+ years. In their small town of La

Comelle, France, they do everything together: study, swim, make music, laugh, share secrets, and become like brothers and sister. This deeply rooted bond allows them to know each other's deepest secrets, understand each other's moods, faults, and personalities. They fight, they forgive, but the very core of their friendship cannot be shaken. As they earn their baccalaureate, their plans to move together to Paris are shattered

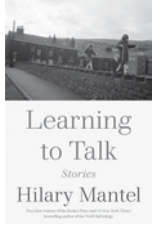


by the death of Nina's beloved grandfather and the disappearance of Etienne's girlfriend. Adrien does move to Paris here he writes a bestselling novel and several much-acclaimed plays. Etienne becomes a police detective, and Nina enters a disastrous, abusive marriage. The following years challenge their loyalties, but in 2017 the discovery of a submerged car brings them back together. **Three** by Valerie Perrin, translated from French, is an engaging story of friendship, love, grief, and adversity told through the power of friendship.

CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON



Learning to Talk: Stories by Hilary Mantel (\$19.99). Mantel, author of the Wolf Hall trilogy, has gone after her own childhood with a scalpel in this collection of seven short stories. She refers to these stories as "autoscopic" rather than autobiographical, stressing that she views

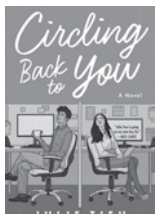


childhood events from some remove, not just retelling tales of her youth. Her prose is so beautiful and incisive that I started to forget how traumatic and essentially undoing her growing-up years must have been. She captures perfectly the oppression of the child living in the tyrannical world of adults—the church, the school, and particularly the family. Mantel grew up in the north of England in the middle of the 20th century. Her red-haired Irish mother took in a "lodger" when Mantel was 7, and he became part of the household, fathering two more children, while Mantel's father remained, moving into a separate bedroom and becoming a dreamy specter in his own household. The child cannot square the Catholic church's admonishments with the ostracism and gossip in their small mill town. In the title story, a 13-year-old girl, having been moved to a more prosperous community, is sent for elocution lessons. "The late sixties were an age of equality and people were not supposed to worry about their accents, but they did worry, and tried to adapt their voices—otherwise they found themselves treated with a conscious cheeriness, as if they were bereaved or slightly deformed." The narrator visits the town as an adult "All those places where people don't talk proper look curiously alike...I'm glad I don't live there, in the nursery of my vowels." This is a slender little book full of exquisite writing and packed with heartfelt lessons.

GRACE CONCANNON



Circling Back to You by Julie Tieu (\$15.99). Candace Lim is a talented market analyst with a tendency to keep everyone at an arms-length. In the cubicle next to her is Matt, a flirty real estate broker without someone to share his life with.



Much to Candace's displeasure, the office refers to Matt as her "work husband." When a prospective client brings both Candace and Matt on a trip away from the office, they begin to think of each other as more than friends. Between Matt bringing Candace to meet his close family as his fake girlfriend, to Candace's complicated relationship with her own father, this book dives into the complex nature of family relationships. Tieu's newest novel is filled with witty banter and fake dating, rotating between perspectives of both Candace and Matt. While it is a lighthearted read, it also manages to touch on more serious topics and includes diversity of both the author and main characters.





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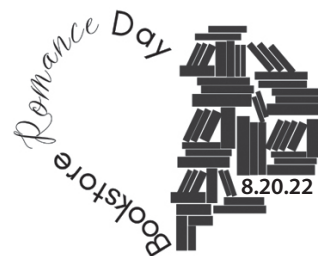
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Saturday, August 20 Is Bookstore Romance Day!

Calling all romance readers! The Book Stall is excited to be celebrating the fourth annual Bookstore Romance Day on Saturday, August 20. All Romance titles will be 20% off that day. We'll also feature free advance reading copies (ARCs) with purchase and special giveaways, while supplies last. We just moved the Romance section to give it more shelf space. Come see the new section and check out some of our recent favorites! Online panel events will be happening all weekend. Be sure to check bookstoreroromanceday.org for the schedule.

A few of Betsy and Kari's favorite books in the Romance section:

Hook, Line, and Sinker by Tessa Bailey (\$15.99 in paperback)

The Soulmate Equation by Christina Lauren
(\$16.99 in paperback)

Book Lovers by Emily Henry (\$17 in paperback)

The Bodyguard by Katherine Center (\$27.99)

A Caribbean Heiress in Paris: A Historical Romance
by Adriana Herrera (\$16.99)

American Royalty by Tracey Livesay (\$15.99 in paperback)

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By the Book: A 'Meant to Be' Novel by Jasmine Guillory
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Bringing Down the Duke by Evie Dunmore
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Secrets of a Summer Night by Lisa Kleypas
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Dari in Disguise by Lisa Kleypas (\$8.99 in paperback)

The Viscount Who Loved Me by Julia Quinn
(from the Netflix "Bridgerton" series, \$16.99 in paperback)