

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

What Unites Us? Shopping, DNA, ETC.

Dec 2017

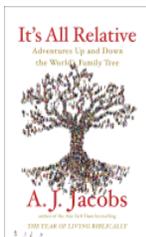


Here is the url for the digital Holiday Catalogue from the Midwest Booksellers (which is also on our website). <https://indd.adobe.com/view/5323e6de-728e-4710-8f0e-6862a6bc494d>

The downtown Bremer bank building is gone, replaced by a parking lot for the Cobblestone Inn and Suites. **Speaking of which, remember to stop by the bookstore to register to win a suite for one night at the Inn after it opens Dec. 18. Register with every purchase. Drawing will be on Christmas Eve.** Hopefully the winner will be home to answer the phone.

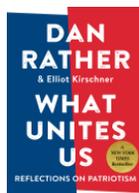
There is a 15% discount coupon on the back for any book in the catalogue, good until the end of January. We have plenty of paper copies of the catalogue in the bookstore. Please pick one up if you don't yet have a copy.

Small Business Saturday was fantastic for all of us downtown. A big Thank You to all who supported our local businesses on that day and every other day of the year. In small towns we depend on each other in so many ways.



That idea ties in with the theme of two new books. A.J. Jacobs *It's All Relative* is a humorous account of organizing a world family re-

union based on the idea that we are all related, we all have a bit of that DNA from the original Adam and Eve in Africa who got us all going. Along the way Jacobs tells about his own family tree which includes the family name of a frequent shopper

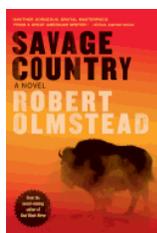


at Bookends on Main! Rather's book is more serious and covers a lot more topics. *con't p.2.*

WinterDaze Dec. 14



Midwest Connections Picks for December



Olmstead's novel is breath-taking in scope, elemental feelings and the power of

nature, all of the darker sort. The main character is a woman buffalo hunter, the book is compared to *The Revenant* and the novels of Cormac McCarthy. *Savage Country*, accurate title, is historical fiction set mostly in Kansas.



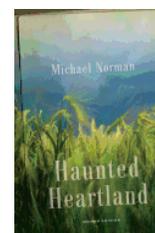
Never Coming Back is set in the present, a bit touchy-feely, about a young woman finding her

way in life, then coming home to care for her aging mother who has memory problems. There is a sort of race to find her mother's true self and secrets of the past before retrieving those memories is no longer possible.



Glory Days is a stark hometown novel set in Nebraska. Though taking place in the present era, it

has a timelessness about it, the hard-scrabble life of a small town that could flourish or become a ghost town, you never know which, depending on forces beyond individual control. This novel has a familiar feel to it.



Haunted Heartland is by retired UW-RF professor of journalism Michael

Norman, so almost a local author, who is given to spine-tingling tales of ghosts. Norman is a folklorist, a collector of tales, not a ghost-buster or paranormalist. His earlier book is *Haunted Wisconsin*.

The Unicorn Quest: The Whisper in the Stone, rev. by Pat Trotter

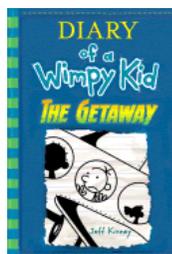


The Unicorn Quest: The Whisper in the Stone by Kamilla Benko, is the first book in a new series.

For those of us who wish we could walk through a wardrobe into a new world, this book is a must read. Two sisters, 11 and 13 years old,

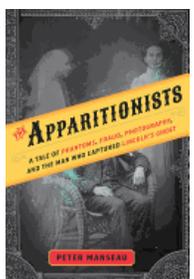
move into a new house and find such a portal into a land of magic and a world that used to have unicorns. The legend in the land is that one day the unicorn in the stone will be unleashed and unicorns will once more live in the land. Kamilla Benko draws her readers into this rich fantasy in such a way that readers will find themselves hiding under the covers with a flashlight just to see what happens next. And then wait impatiently for the next book in the

series! A wonderful adventure fantasy, not just for kids. Book release is scheduled for Feb. 2018.



A number of years ago the author of the Wimpy Kid series was surprised he was still turning out new books in the series. He's up to #14 now and popularity has not abated.

The Apparitionists rev. by David Tank



The Apparitionists: A Tale of Phantoms, Fraud, Photography, and the Man Who Captured Lincoln's Ghost by Peter Mansau.

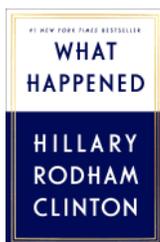
If you are interested in the history of photography and intrigued by stories of ghosts and apparitions, you will enjoy *The Apparitionists*. This book follows the story of William H. Mumler, a con-

troversial 1860s photographer from Boston. It seems that when Mumler took someone's portrait, ghostly images of the person's dead relatives would inexplicably appear in the background of the finished picture.

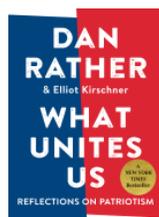
"It's a fun read packed with history."

While many folks flocked to his studio to have their photos taken in the hopes of seeing an image of a lost loved one (especially those who died in the recent Civil War), others challenged Mumler as a fraud and sought to put him in jail. Woven into Mumler's tale are the stories of several of his contemporaries, including Civil War photographers Matthew Brady and Alexander Gardner, and showman P.T. Barnum. It's a fun read packed with history.

Customer Feedback, Rather book *con't*, Talking Pictures

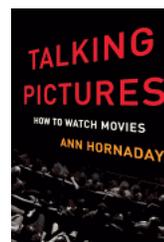


One of the topics that affected me most in *What Happened* is her chapter and comments on how so many women are being treated in our society. Women want to contribute to the betterment of all, but road blocks are causing detours. Yes, this book should be read by men also. What are the chances of that happening? The later chapters on politics now seem to be overtaken by current events and new information.
Judy Schremp



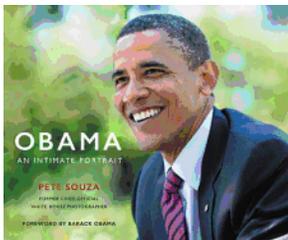
(Con't from p. 1)

The main point of Rather's book seems especially timely as the political and social relationship climate is raw and raucous. Rather himself, now in his 80s has mellowed. The book subtitle is "Reflections on Patriotism" and he divides his thoughts into broad units—Freedom, Community, Exploration, Responsibility, Character. I'm partial to his chapter "Books" in the Exploration unit. Books — reading — knowledge—those are the basic keys to just about everything else.



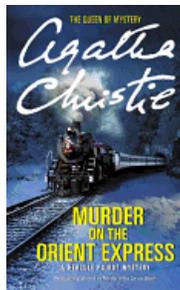
Talking Pictures: How to Watch Movies by Ann Hornaday is recommended by a bookstore habitué. Hornaday, a veteran film critic, offers a lively, opinionated guide to thinking and talking about movies, from *Casablanca* to *Chinatown*, *Groundhog Day* to *Selma*. She Hornaday walks us through the production of a typical movie—from writing the script and casting to the final sound edit—and explains how to evaluate each piece of the process.

Popular this season



This photographic record of the Obama presidency, a beautiful coffee table book has

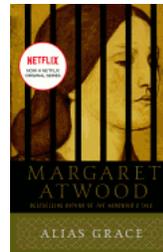
over 15,000 on back order at Ingram, one of the places where we get our books. Pete Souza, the Chief Official White House Photographer for President Obama is the author of the book.



Movie tie-in books: Some people like to read the book first, others after seeing the movie, some don't want to read the book if they've seen the movie and vice versa.

Take your poison. A link to Murder on the Orient Express is that the movie is in Menomoneie at the moment.

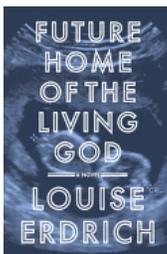
Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood was written a while back and is now a Netflix series. It's a fascinating story about



an Irish servant girl in Canada accused of murdering her. She intelligent and crafty. Is she a murderer? She certainly knows how to say what people expect, intrigues and fascinates them to

the extent she is hired by the governor's wife as a servant. This employment certainly beats life imprisonment. The Netflix series is very good. The novel, based on a true story, is brilliant. Highly recommended for readers who like their mysteries complicated.

Inside Story Headline



Louise Erdrich is one of the authors with a large, devoted following. Her newest book shows this seasoned author trying a new direction, mixing dystopian sci-fi with usual

Native American lore: "Evolution stops as mysteriously as it began. Pregnancy and childbearing quickly become issues of state security. Twenty-six-year-old Cedar, the adopted daughter of idealistic Minneapolis liberals, is as disturbed and uncertain as the rest of America. But for Cedar, this change is

profound and deeply personal. She is four months pregnant.

As Cedar travels north to find her Ojibwe family, ordinary life begins to

"... a moving meditation on female agency, love, self-determination, biology, and natural rights.

disintegrate. Swelling panic creates warring government, corporate, and religious factions. In a mall parking lot, Cedar witnesses a pregnant woman

wrenched from her family under a new law. As she evades capture, Cedar also experiences a fraught love with her baby's father, who tries to hide her.

An unexpected dystopian thriller from a writer of startling originality, *Future Home of the Living God* is also a moving meditation on female agency, love, self-determination, biology, and natural rights.

The book is in the vein of Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, which has been made popular again as a TV series. The end of Atwood's book shows the story as an historical event, a strange anom-

Holiday Gift Ideas for Self or Others

—*Hag-Seed* (the *Tempest* re-told), most recent addition to the Hogarth series offering modern re-imaginings of Shakespeare's plots. Seven are in print so far. (Thanks to Karen Z for the tip.)



—Dare you to buy this: *You Don't Look Your Age and Other Fairy Tales*. The title gets a lot of laughs, inside has more to it.



—Gorgeous new editions of Harry Potter books

—New Y/A titles: *A List of Cages* by Robin Roe, *An Enchantment of Ravens* by Margaret Rogerson

—New sci-fi *Artemis* about colonizing the moon by Andy Weir (author of last year's smash hit in books and film *The Martian*) *Artemis* is currently top on the

Midwest bestseller list.

—On the bookstore sidelines table: cribbage boards, jigsaw puzzles (special order preferred puzzles), "Telestrations" game, 2018



calendars day weekly planners..

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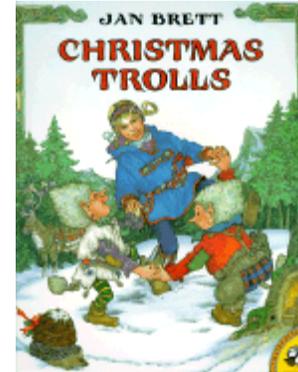


An Indie Bookstore

New & Used Books, Toys, Gifts,
Greeting Cards, Guitars &
Guitar Strings, Journals, Etc.

"Tomten," First stanza of a favorite Swedish poem from 1881 by Viktor Rydberg

Midvinternattens köld är hård,
stjärnorna gnistra och glimma.
Alla sova i enslig gård
djupt under midnattstimma.
Månen vandrar sin tysta ban,
snön lyser vit på fur och gran,
snön lyser vit på taken.
Endast tomten är vaken



Deep in the grip of the midwinter cold
The stars glitter and sparkle.
All are asleep on this lonely farm,
Deep in the winter night.
The pale white moon is a wanderer,
snow gleams white on pine and fir,
snow gleams white on the roofs.
Only tomten is awake

A tomten is a sort of Swedish gnome, a domestic sprite, usually picture with a long red stocking cap.

New Main Street Exec Dir

Main Street of Menomonie, Inc. is excited to announce the hiring of new Executive Director, Dustyn Dubuque, who will fill the vacant position that has been open since June. Dubuque will take over as director on November 8th. A Dunn County native, Dubuque is a graduate of UW-EC where he received a master's degree in public history and non-profit management. Most recently, Dubuque was employed at the Dunn County Historical Society and Washington County Historical Society (MN), where he honed his experience in event planning, programming, and fundraising

"I have lived in the county all my life (graduate of Boyceville High School) and enjoy the unique experiences downtown Menomonie has to offer. Menomonie has a vibrant mix of

shops, restaurants, breweries, events and entertainment. My goal is to build on the previous successes of Main Street Menomonie while bringing something new and fun to the position.

Dustyn has a reputation as a great film critic and we have him penciled in for a presentation at the bookstore in February.



What a treat for short story lovers, a collection of Christmas short stories by favorite crime authors. The reader is invited into stories that include Sherlock Holmes, Niccolo Machiavelli, Jane

The Usual Santas, rev. by Pat Trotter

Austen, and others. The holiday season often finds us too busy to pick up a full-length book and spend hours reading. This book can be picked up, one story read, and then put back down until time for the next one. Some of the stories are funny, some heartwarming, and some stories of crime at Christmas. One of my favorites was "The Usual Santas," eight Santa Clauses (or is it nine?!) left alone at the end of a busy Christmas Eve in a large mall. How they end their Christmas Eve, after imbibing in many bottles of "Christmas spirits," makes their crime a kind of slap in the face of greedy shop owners. Another favorite was "Supper with Miss Shivers." Did Fran really see a ghost? And if she did, was he who she thinks he is? And how did she get the box that he was holding on the train? A delightful read and just in time for the holiday season.