

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

Marcus Aurelius and John Donne



Quite a constellation in the title above—their connection is tangential except to the

bookstore. A local attorney is culling his classical personal library and as a result we have a large number of used books relating to the writings of Roman emperor-philosopher Marcus Aurelius and the seven-



teenth-century English poet-clergyman John Donne. The books range from inexpensive paperbacks to vintage



hard covers to rare and scholarly works.

The following quotation from Marcus Aurelius seems as pertinent today as it must have been in his own time in the second century: “Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth.”



To refresh your memory of John Donne, here is one of the most well-know quotations from his work:



“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent.” (Cribbed from Wikipedia—go there for more on these two great thinkers and writers.)

May 2017

Is This Spring?

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Once in a Blue Moon Lodge is another of Lorna Landvik's Minnesota-loving humorous novels

featuring cabins in the woods, and Norwegian-American connections. This novel is a sequel to *Patty Jane's House of Curl*. Besides writing novels, Landvik has done stand-up comedy and public speaking. Good Mother's Day pick also. (Hardcover only)



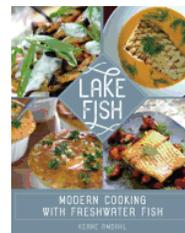
A second hilarious and fast-paced book Midwest Connections recommendation is *The Good Byline*.

The main character gets in over her head by writing an obituary for her childhood best friend when she mixes murder, corruption, and a shady taco truck into the obit. You can anticipate the comic mayhem that ensues. (Paperback \$16)



The End of the Wild is a Middle-Reader book. Eleven-year-old Fern's home

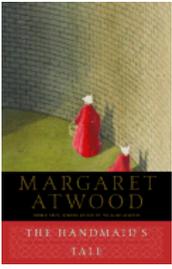
borders a pristine forest where her impoverished family forages for food. Fern has family responsibilities, a father with PTSD, and then a fracking company threatens to invade their environment. This is both a serious and moving tale for a thoughtful young reader.



Just in time for the fishing season, *Lake Fish* is a cook-

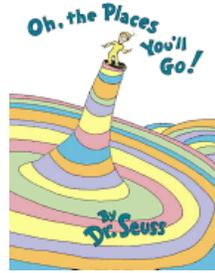
book that focuses on all things about pan fish, trout, and walleyes. It goes beyond creative recipes in tune with our times with a lot of local lore about purchasing, substituting, and preparing Midwestern fish.

Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood, Graduation Gift Books



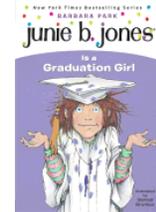
First published in 1985, this is a novel of such power that the reader is unable to forget its images and its forecast. It is at once scathing satire, dire warning, and tour de force. "A novel that brilliantly illuminates some of the darker interconnections between politics and sex." from *The Washington Post Book World* The book is

currently being featured in a TV series on HULU.

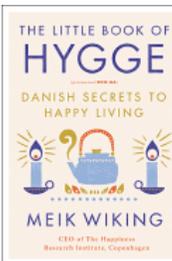


For graduation from kindergarten to medical school, the perennial favorite is Dr. Seuss, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* It's a joyous ode to life with a get-and-go spirit to move mountains.

Other favorites for kids are the *Berenstain Bears' Graduation Day* and *Junie B. Jones Is a Graduation Girl* and for high schoolers, *The Graduate Survival Guide: 5 Mistakes You Can't Afford to Make in College*.



The Little Book of Hygge – A Mother's Day Suggestion



The Little Book of Hygge Danish Secrets to Happy Living, like Marie Kondo's books about the "Magic of Tidying Up" is a slim book packed with practical, folksy, homey advice.

"Hygge" is one of those untranslatable words that has a special mean-

ing to those in the culture it reflects. The first chapters explain the term, the later pages demonstrate it.

**...socializing for introverts:
"a way of being social
without being draining"**

There are suggestions for socializing for introverts: "a way of being social without being draining," a section on

emergency kits that include jam and a good pair of woolen socks. There are sections of food, holidays, Copenhagen, and "How to Dress like a Dane."

In short, *The Little Book of Hygge* is a delightful book to have at hand to read a few pages at a time for a short foray into relaxing mindfulness.

Preservation Celebration

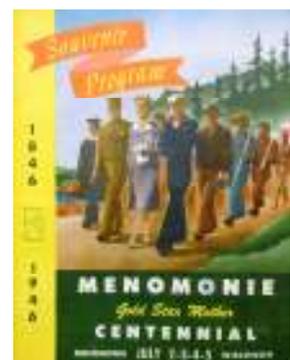
Main Street of Menomonie will be piloting a new event on Thursday, May 18th titled the "Menomonie Preservation Celebration." This event will take place from 5-7 p.m. and is being held in May to celebrate National Preservation Month.

The event will include historical walking tours utilizing recent research that shines a new light on

how the downtown landscape and its buildings were utilized in the late 1800s and early 1900s. There will also be a lumberjack beard competition, a history scavenger hunt, and other activities.

The bookstore will participate in the event by staying open until 7:00, and we will feature a historical

book to raffle off, a 1946 Menomonie Souvenir Program. Raffle runs May 1-18.



Toshiba

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An Indie Bookstore

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Death Be Not Proud, by John Donne

Death be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadfull, for, thou art not soe,
For, those, whom thou think'st, thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poore death, nor yet canst thou kill mee.
From rest and sleepe, which but thy pictures bee,
Much pleasure, then from thee, much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee doe goe,
Rest of their bones, and soules deliverie.
Thou art slave to Fate, Chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poyson, warre, and sicknesse dwell,
And poppie, or charmes can make us sleepe as well,
And better then thy stroake; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleepe past, wee wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die.

This sonnet is viewed as one of Donne's finest poems. Like much of Donne's poetry it fuses religious and erotic imagery and ideas, bringing the physical and the metaphysical together.

Chicks Night Out – Bestsellers – Downtown Update



The bookstore hosted
24/7's photo booth.
They provide the Chick
hats, boas, and cardboard
drinks, all part of the fun.

Link to the latest Midwest Bestsellers list:

<http://www.midwestbooksellers.org/bestsellers.html>



As for downtown, the physical condition,
the second story frame of the new hotel is up,
and soon all but one store front on
Main Street will again be occupied.