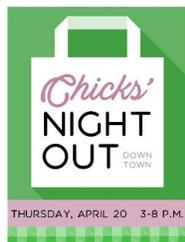


# Bookbites

## Bookends on Main

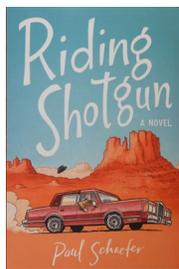


## Chicks' Night Out April 20

Area author Paul Schaefer will be at the bookstore Apr 20th from 5:00–7:00 to present his novel *Riding Shotgun*.

Desperate for adventure, and a last chance to see her sister, 80-year-old Mary hits the road for the cross country adventure of a lifetime. Her late husband's beloved Lincoln Town Car carries Mary from California to Minnesota, but also down memory lane and straight into trouble. She

might be old, but Mary's no dummy, and while the car's a tank, it can't entirely protect an elderly woman traveling alone. The problem with bringing along a companion is that most people are demanding, and Mary wants some peace and quiet on this last voyage. Inspiration leads her to "Mike," a department store mannequin, the perfect plus one to ride shotgun as she heads east. He'll never disagree with her choice of music, food or lodging, doesn't need to pee and is guaranteed to let Mary do and say whatever she wants. Once she gets him outfitted in her dead husband's clothes, Mary figures no one will ever know



she brought a mannequin along for the ride. In reality, her department store companion fills the passenger seat nicely in a pinch but it turns out he doesn't ward off the worst of what's out there. Who knew a nice little old lady out for a drive could be so dangerous?

**Main St. Inc. has done some re-branding. Note the fresh new look of the CNO logo above.**

April 2017

### Inside this issue:

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New collections in the bookstore, Passover, Easter books, Bestseller list, CNO Gifts 3

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## Midwest Connections Picks for April



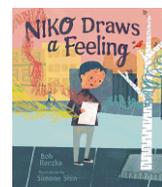
*What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky* – a dazzlingly accomplished debut collection exploring the ties that bind mothers and daughters and men and women to one another and to the places they call home. The author is Minneapolis-based, born in the UK. Her book has received a wide array of praise.



*Girl in Disguise* is based on America's first female detective, Kate Warne, an independent professional whose career took her through the seedy streets of 19th Century Chicago. The target audience is those who like historical fiction and stories about plucky women finding their way in a male-dominated world.

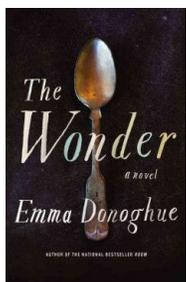


*Strangers Tend to Tell Me Things* is a memoir that is often LOL fully. The author writes an advice column, "Ask Amy," and her perspective is small-town America which suits us fine in Menomonie. Expect to read about the advice people give the advice columnist as well a personal story.



*Niko Draws a Feeling* Niko has captured me. No one understands his abstract drawings that express his feelings. They seem like nonsense scribbles to everyone until he meets someone who understands perfectly. This book is endearing and a great lesson about individual feelings and expressions, not to mention the obvious, abstract art.

## New Fiction: *The Wonder*



*The Wonder* by the author of *Room* is a magnetic story. In a small village in 1850s Ireland, an eleven-year old girl is enduring what to some is a miraculous 4-month fast and to others a fraud.

Believers flock to her family cottage to pay homage to a saint and leave alms taken up by the local priest. Local dignitaries want to prove the girl truthful for both religious and material benefit and so hire a nurse trained by Florence

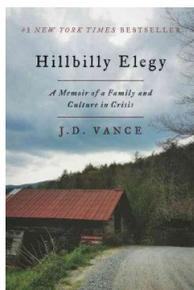
Nightingale to keep watch on the girl supposedly surviving only on manna from heaven. When the formerly healthy girl starts showing evidence of starvation, the nurse is faced with her own role in the child's condition.

The novel has a host of topics that make it sure to be a book club favorite. The historical fiction details are riveting in themselves—rural Ireland not long after the potato famine—the living conditions of the working poor, what they eat, how peat affects just about every aspect of their life. But the central story itself is most interesting, a psychological

thriller involving conflicting perspectives about religious fanaticism and skepticism and adult responsibility for vulnerable children. Journalism plays a role too. In this case, Donoghue can't help but suggest the way the press is both informational and molds public opinion then and now.

The genesis of Donoghue's novel is several examples of extreme fasting over the ages. The ending reverts to historical facts as a way of resolving the issues raised. Five stars for this novel.

## New Non-Fiction: *Hillbilly Elegy*



*Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been

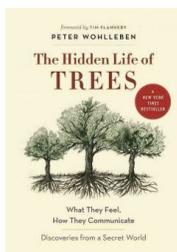
slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, here written

about from the inside by J.D. Vance. Vance's memoir describes what social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck: violence, lack of

education, heavy drinking, abuse. All the stereotypes of “trailer-trash life” are laid out in depressing detail. Why do people reveal such things about their background? Vance ended up in the marines, served in Iraq, eventually earned a law degree from Yale and seems to have a stellar career in Silicon Valley. So the American Dream is still possible. That's the personal story that emerges beside that of crushing defeat of a sub-culture in Appalachia.

**Why do people reveal such things about their background?**

## The Hidden Life of Trees



*The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World*

To the non-scientist, it is enlightening to discover just how the author figures out “the hidden life” of trees. Of course, it's based on interpreting the physical facts. The way of presenting the facts and interpretations

is especially novel. The author humanizes trees. He uses the language we normally associate with human beings, their feelings, functions and relationships. After a number of chapters, though, that approach seems a little too cute. It's hard for some of us to believe that trees feel in the sense that people do. Remember reading Wordsworth and other nineteenth century Romantic poets who believed that when you

break a twig, it weeps? I kept wishing for a little less personification in the explanation of the life of trees and forest ecosystem.

The author manages a beech forest in Germany and has become something of an international sensation for his book. Certainly his findings on the intricacies of an ecosystem are truly interesting.

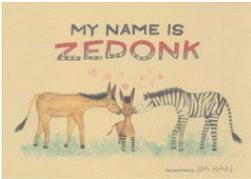
# New in the Bookstore



and gender titles in the Young Adult section.



Thanks to inquires and requests from customers, we have expanded and re-organized our collection of diversity titles for middle readers

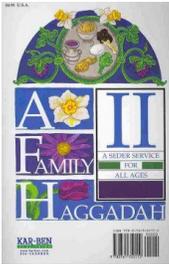


My Name Is Zedonk is a charming new children's book on mixed race told from the point of view of the offspring of a zebra and a donkey.



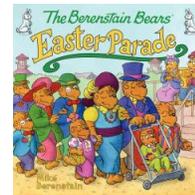
The diversity shelf complements our Middle Reader non-fiction titles that include kid-joke books, books on dinosaurs, chess, legos and so on.

# Passover—Easter Books



The Family Haggadah presents the text of the seder service in Hebrew and English, describes the actions that go with it, discusses what each phase of the festival means, and offers discussion questions and activities related to the seder.

Easter in Mexico is a two-week holiday consisting of *Semana Santa* (The Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday and ending Easter Saturday) and *Pascua* (Starting with Easter Sunday and ending the following Saturday).



Add a bunny or sticker book to a child's Easter basket.

# Midwest Bestseller List

Link to the weekly Midwest Indie Bestseller list

[http://www.midwestbooksellers.org/uploads/4/4/1/7/44171411/midwest\\_bsl\\_3\\_26\\_2017.pdf](http://www.midwestbooksellers.org/uploads/4/4/1/7/44171411/midwest_bsl_3_26_2017.pdf)

(Sorry, only page one of the list will copy)

# Chicks Night Out Gifts

Bookends on Main is again hosting the display for the gifts donated for Chicks Night Out participating businesses. See our window display.



## Bookends on Main

214 East Main St.  
Menomonie, WI 54751

Phone: 715-233-6252  
Fax: 715-233-6252  
Email: [info@bookendsonmain.com](mailto:info@bookendsonmain.com)  
[www.bookendsonmain.com](http://www.bookendsonmain.com)



An Indie Bookstore

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

## Home-Thoughts, from Abroad

by Robert Browning

Oh, to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England—now!



And after April, when May follows,  
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover  
Blossoms and dewdrops—at the bent spray's edge—  
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!  
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,  
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower  
—Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!

## New releases in top demand

