

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

Bookstore News

March 2018
Happy St. Pat's Day!



The previously announced potential sale of the bookstore is still a real possibility but a specific date for the transaction

has not been set. Things happen, complications arise, and so on.

The bottom line is that Bookends on Main is in business as

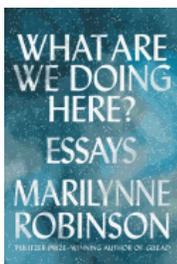
usual and will continue when the new owners take over. Please don't abandon us or any other downtown businesses. We need you, Menomonie needs you.

The new hotel seems to be doing very well, especially on weekends, and the mayor has hinted at some urban renewal projects.

There are a number of new businesses downtown with a younger set of owners. All of that points to a pretty healthy state of our downtown.

Save the Date for Spring Fling, the first of our three annual Ladies Night Out days, April 12. See you!

Midwest Connections Picks for March



In *What Are We Doing Here?* Marilynne Robinson's peerless prose and boundless humanity are on full display.

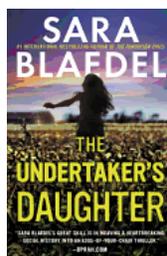
This new collection includes essays on theological, political, and contemporary themes.

Newberry medalist Kelly Barnhill (*The Girl Who Drank the Moon*) has written her first collection of short fiction for adults. It is a



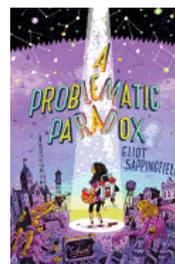
stunning collection, teeming with uncanny characters whose stories

unfold in worlds at once strikingly human and eerily original. Barnhill's stories draw their power from startling metaphors, unforeseeable twists, and universal themes of love, death, jealousy, and hope.



Murder strikes in Wisconsin in the thrilling new suspense

novel from international #1 bestselling author Sara Blaedel. *The Undertaker's Daughter* is an unforgettable suspense novel about a daughter stumbling on an unsolved murder in her estranged father's funeral home.

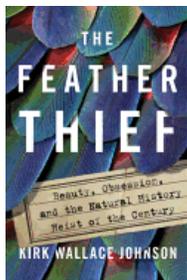


"Guardians of the Galaxy" meets "The Hitchhiker's

Guide to the Galaxy" in this wild, warm-hearted, and hilarious sci-fi debut about a brainy young girl who is recruited for a very special boarding school.

Target age group 9-12.

The Feather Thief, Kirk Wallace Johnson



The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century is the story of a strange and, in its way, almost comical theft. The author

himself becomes obsessed with the story of Edwin Rist, an American teenager who is an acknowledged world master of the arcane art of salmon fly-tying — an art known to precious few it is safe to say. Rist was also a flautist just finishing

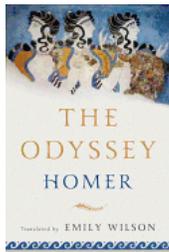
his music studies in London and hoping to join a symphony orchestra in Germany when he pulled off a heist of 299 rare bird skins stored at the Tring Museum in England. The purpose of the heist was to harvest and sell the feathers used in salmon fly-tying. The heist was a blow to natural history collections but it also reveals akin stories, the obsessive collection of rare birds over the centuries, of fashion and the wanton destruction of millions of birds which drove some to extinction.

As a way of understanding the obses-

sions of the international community of fly-tiers, Johnson examines his own obsession with the feather heist and his own work of helping Middle East refugees. Almost as a footnote, *The Feather Thief* reveals a rather arbitrary sense of crime, punishment and justice. Johnson's obsession with the feather heist covers many years, takes him across the USA, to England, Norway, Germany, and South Africa until he gets to the end of the story which results in this book.

The Feather Thief is due for release April 24, just in time for fishing season.

The Odyssey, transl. by Emily Wilson



“What’s your favorite book?” people often ask. *Pride and Prejudice* and *Great Expectations* are my usual answers, but *The Odyssey* tops them. Novels that have never been out of

print for about 300 years are no match for the epic that has been in print for nearly 3000 years. Who was Homer? Some scholars have argued that “Homer” was actually two people and that the author of *The Odyssey* was a woman. That argument makes the recent translation by Emily Wilson, the first translation done by a woman, all the more interesting. It’s

a breath taking accomplishment, translating 12,000 lines of ancient Greek into modern English.

Many students have read part or all of *The Odyssey* in school and remember those repeated phrases like “the

“Tell me about a complicated man”

rosy fingers of dawn.” Wilson’s translation of that phrase is “The early Dawn was born: her fingers

bloomed.” From first to last, the modern phrasing makes this a highly readable rendition of Odysseus’ twenty-year sojourn home from the Trojan War—“Tell me about a complicated man”—until “Athena made the warring sides swear solemn oaths of Peace” and presumably calm and domesticity reign on Ithaca.

A long introduction about the world of Odysseus, maps of the ancient world, notes and a glossary provide all the tools the reader needs to enjoy this great classic all over again.

Now in Paperback

Many book club favorites in the last year are now in paperback.

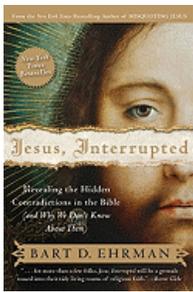
These include *Lincoln in the Bardo*, a novel that intertwines Lincoln’s grief over the loss of his young son Willie, the Civil War, and a fantasized idea of Willie’s existence in the spiritual realm. *The Underground Railroad* is a novel of

escape to freedom on “the underground railroad.” *The Atomic City Girls* and *The Women in the Castle* are WWII stories, one American, the other in Germany after the war ends.

Bookstores

In 2017, ABA welcomed 73 new indie bookstores that opened for business in 33 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, 22 established ABA member stores were bought by new owners.

Jesus, Interrupted, rev. by William Laine



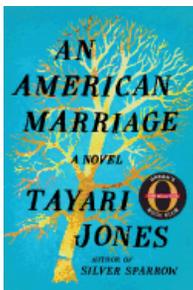
I recently read *Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible* (2010) by Bart D. Ehrman, a New Testament scholar and professor of religious studies at the University of North Carolina, who has written several books on it and Jesus. He began as a fundamentalist evangelical, but study of biblical scholarship eventually turned him into an agnostic. He takes the historical critical approach to the New Testament, which,

he says, virtually all seminarians are taught but don't mention when they address congregations. There were many early Christian sects, but only when Roman Emperor Constantine, under the influence of his mother, to adopt Roman Catholicism as the state religion, did that sect become dominant. At the Council of Nicea in 325, the texts that were to become the Christian Bible were chosen. While we are used to reading the Bible vertically, the historical critical approach is to read it horizontally, comparing the various accounts of the same events. For example,

in Matthew it says that Christians must follow the Mosaic Law in order to be saved, but Paul says that faith, not following the law, is the way to salvation.

Ehrman thinks that Jesus was an apocalyptic Jew, who expected a Second Coming on earth during the lives of his disciples. When that did not happen, later writers changed the story from Christians preparing for the Second Coming on earth to preparing to go to Heaven, which is somewhere beyond earth. He says Christianity is not the religion of Jesus but a religion about Jesus.

An American Marriage, Tayari Jones



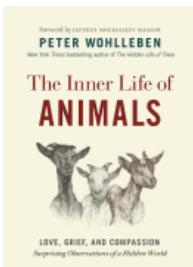
An American Marriage is the most recent of Oprah's Book Club choices. The book has received a lot of advance publicity and good reviews. The story is about newlyweds Celestial and Roy, the living embodiment of the New South, who are settling into the routine of their life

together when Roy is sent to prison for a crime he didn't commit. Jones develops an insightful look into the lives of people who are bound and separated by forces beyond their control.

“. . . timely, thoughtful, and beautifully written. . . . A gem of a book.”

“Tayari's novel is timely, thoughtful, and beautifully written. Reading it, I found myself angry as hell, laughing out loud, choking up and cheering. A gem of a book.”
~Jacqueline Woodson, author of *Another Brooklyn* and *Brown Girl Dreaming*

The Inner Life of Animals, Peter Wohlleben



The Inner Life of Animals is by the same author who wrote the very successful *The Hidden Life of Trees* a few years ago, and this latest book is equally fascinating. His “convincing, highly readable stories about free-living and domestic animals show there's much

overlap between how humans and other animals experience bonding, loss, and the great, shared themes of life.” —Carl Safina

Some examples are of the selfless mother love of squirrels and animals that chastise disobedient offspring. The playfulness of animals is something many of us have observed, but Wohlleben finds some surprising examples like a

crow using a container lid as a sled. His explanation for animals like horses that are prisoners, i.e. fenced in, developing Stockholm syndrome is quite clever and logical.

Altogether, *The Inner Life of Animals* is both entertaining and informative. Its short chapters make it good reading for late night, and you don't have to love animals to enjoy this book.

Bookends on Main

214 East Main St.
Menomonie, WI 54751

Phone: 715-233-6252
Fax: 715-233-6252
Email: info@bookendsonmain.com
www.bookendsonmain.com



An Indie Bookstore

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

DEAR March, come in!
How glad I am!
I looked for you before.
Put down your hat—
You must have walked—
How out of breath you are!
Dear March, how are you?
And the rest?
Did you leave Nature well?
Oh, March, come right upstairs with me,
I have so much to tell!

By Emily Dickinson

I got your letter, and the bird's;
The maples never knew
That you were coming,—I declare,
How red their faces grew!
But, March, forgive me—
And all those hills
You left for me to hue;
There was no purple suitable,
You took it all with you.

Who knocks? That April!
Lock the door!
I will not be pursued!
He stayed away a year, to call
When I am occupied.
But trifles look so trivial
As soon as you have come,
That blame is just as dear as praise
And praise as mere as blame.

Dustyn Dubuque Talks Movies



Our
Main
Street
Exec.
Director
Dustyn

Dubuque took time out to talk about 2017 movies with a few bookstore guests the other day. Besides reviewing his top 10 list, he gave insights into another 10 or 15 other good films. Dustyn is an engaging and enthusiastic

speaker who has given a similar presentation at the senior center to a packed house. Catch his next talk there.

Dustyn's knowledge and love of movies is demonstrated in a couple of other ways. One, he and a friend have a podcast on **You-Tube** where they share their impressions of movies. Here is the url: <https://criticandthedude.podbean.com/>

He says "It's new and a little rough still, but we will find our footing at some point."

Dustyn also plans to bring outdoor movies downtown this summer, setting up a screen in the Mabel Tainter parking lot. That promises a lot of family fun.
