

# Bookbites

## Bookends on Main

### Sidewalk Sale & Ladies Night Out

April 2018



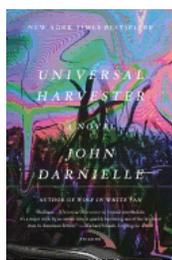
Thanks to Parents Weekend at UW-Stout **April 6-7**, many downtown businesses are participating in a Sidewalk Sale event. Of course, all local people are invited also. Hopefully the weather will be fine enough to have things out-

doors. If the weather is inclement the sidewalk sale will be moved indoors.

The first Ladies Night Out event of 2018 will be **April 12th, 3-8 PM**. As usual the bookstore will offer discounts on all sales. We are hoping for nice spring weather which we deserve. In any case, ladies of all ages (and their friends) are welcome for a spring tour around town.



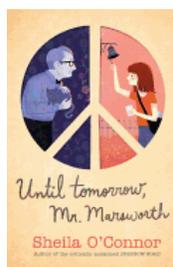
### Midwest Connections Picks for April



It's the late '90s, and you can find Jeremy Heldt at the VideoHut in Nevada, Iowa—a small town in the center of the state. The job is good enough for Jeremy, quiet and predictable, and it gets him out of the house, where he lives with his dad and where they both try to avoid missing Mom, who died six years ago in a car wreck. But when a local school teacher comes in to return her copy of *Targets*—an old movie, starring Boris Karloff—the transaction jolts Jeremy out of his routine. “There’s something on it,” she says as she leaves the store, though she doesn’t elaborate. Two days later, another

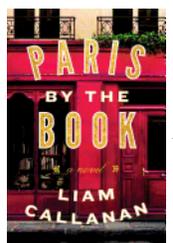
customer returns another tape, and registers the same odd complaint: “There’s another movie on this tape.” In *Universal Harvester*, the once-placid Iowa fields and farmhouses become sinister, imbued with loss and instability and foreboding. As Jeremy and those around him are absorbed into tapes, they become part of another story—one that unfolds years into the past and years into the future, part of an impossible search for something someone once lost that they would do anything to regain.

*Until Tomorrow, Mr Marmsworth* is set against the background of the Vietnam war. A young girl is deter-



mined to save her older brother from the draft. This is historical fiction for young readers.

*Paris by the Book*: A mysterious disappearance, hidden plane tickets to Paris, and an unfinished manuscript lead Leah



and her daughters in search of her husband in Paris. Readers will laugh and cry during this unforgettable journey through the City of Lights, not to mention a Paris bookstore .

#### See What Can Be Done

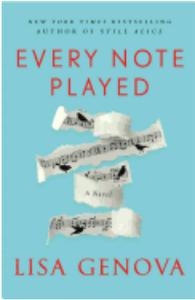


*Essays, Criticism, and Commentary*

Lorrie Moore

Lorrie Anne Moor is one of America's most revered and admired novelists. This collection of more than fifty essays, reviews, and pieces of cultural criticism parses political, artistic, and media idiom of the last three decades. Moore taught at UW-Madison for more than 30 years and is now at Vanderbilt University.

## Every Note Played by Lisa Genova



Lisa Genova's latest novel about a terrible disease is on ALS, visited upon a famous concert pianist. Once used to standing ovations at the world's most

well-know concert halls, Richard gradually loses his ability to move his hands and arms. His ex-wife takes him in and becomes his caregiver, partly out of sympathy, partly with hate-driven, conflicted feelings.

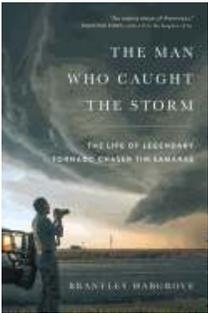
In *Every Note Played* every horrible detail of the disease and treatment is graphically spelled out. The disease takes its toll mercifully fast, unlike Stephen Hawking we often hear about who suffered ALS for about fifty years.

Unlike Genova's *Still Alice*, *Every Note Played* lacks strong empathy for the characters. It may be too clinical a book, but one reads with horrible fascination at the progress of the disease and the unfolding secrets of a marriage that had gone very bad.

The last fifty pages, however, are gripping as the patient reaches his end, both he and his ex-wife are freed, the daughter and estranged family appropriately united. Old grievances are forgiven, peace and transcendence are reached at last.

Publisher's blurb: A once accomplished concert pianist, Richard now has ALS. As he becomes increasingly paralyzed and is no longer able to live on his own, Karina becomes his reluctant caretaker. As Richard's muscles, voice, and breath fade, both he and Karina try to reconcile their past before it's too late.

## The Man Who Caught the Storm, rev. by Pat Trotter



Tim Samaras was a legendary tornado chaser. He had a passion for finding, following, and photographing severe storms and tornadoes. He really,

really wanted to discover what makes a tornado do what it does when it forms and then touches down on the earth. Brantley

Hargrove has done a masterful work in this book, following Tim as he crisscrosses the country in search of tornadoes and risking his very life to learn more about them in an effort to make forecasting these severe storms better to the point of

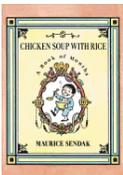
**A must-read for anyone who has watched a storm form, marveled at its awful beauty.**

saving people's lives. A must-read for anyone who has watched a storm form, marveled at its awful beauty, and wondered why some are benign while others are killers.

Another comment: "Insanely gripping, impossible to put down. This book takes you inside the whirling core of monster tornadoes, and the life of a maverick storm researcher who pushed his luck too far."

~Richard Grant, author of *Dispatches from Pluto*

## APRIL – National Humor Month, National Poetry Month



Perhaps no better way to celebrate the congruence of humor and poetry than a foray into children's books.

Here is "April" from Maurice Sendak's *Chicken Soup with Rice* originally published in 1962:

In April / I will go away / to far off Spain / or old Bombay / and dream about / hot soup all day. / Oh my oh once / oh my oh twice / oh my oh / chicken soup / with rice.

The Ichthyosaurus  
There once was an Ichthyosaurus  
Who lived when the earth was all porous,  
But he fainted with shame  
When he first heard his name,  
And departed a long time before us.



From *A Child's Book of Poems*, illustrations by Gyo Fujikawa



In anticipation of Mother's Day, there is a humorous *Parentally Incorrect* by Shayna Ferm and Tracey Tee. This is a collection of anecdotes about children saying and doing outrageous things: "My daughter told me I'm not meeting her expectations. She's 7" and "mis-speakings" that speak for themselves: "Wouldn't leave the house until I put both shoes on one foot."

# Midwest Bestseller List

## HARDCOVER FICTION

- 1. A Gentleman in Moscow**  
Amor Towles, Viking, \$27,  
9780670026197
- 2. An American Marriage**  
Tayari Jones, Algonquin, \$26.95,  
9781616208776
- 3. The Great Alone**  
Kristin Hannah, St. Martin's, \$28.99,  
9780312577230
- 4. Little Fires Everywhere**  
Celeste Ng, Penguin Press, \$27,  
9780735224292
- 5. The Punishment She Deserves**  
Elizabeth George, Viking, \$28,  
9780525954347
- 6. The Woman in the Window**  
A.J. Finn, Morrow, \$26.99,  
9780062678416
- 7. Alternate Side**  
Anna Quindlen, Random House, \$28,  
9780812996067
- 8. The Immortalists**  
Chloe Benjamin, Putnam, \$26,  
9780735213180
- 9. Before We Were Yours**  
Lisa Wingate, Ballantine, \$26,  
9780425284681
- 10. The House of Broken Angels**  
Luis Alberto Urrea, Little Brown, \$27,

- 11. The Power**  
Naomi Alderman, Little Brown, \$26,  
9780316547611
- 12. The Temptation of Forgiveness**  
Donna Leon, Atlantic Monthly Press,  
\$26, 9780802127754
- 13. Sing, Unburied, Sing**  
Jesmyn Ward, Scribner, \$26,  
9781501126062
- 14. The Flight Attendant**  
Chris Bohjalian, Doubleday, \$26.95,  
9780385542418
- 15. The Sparsholt Affair**  
Alan Hollinghurst, Knopf, \$28.95,  
9781101874561

## HARDCOVER NONFICTION

- 1. Russian Roulette**  
Michael Isikoff, David Corn, Twelve,  
\$30, 9781538728758
- 2. Educated: A Memoir**  
Tara Westover, Random House, \$28,  
9780399590504
- 3. I've Been Thinking...**  
Maria Shriver, Pamela Dorman Books,  
\$20, 9780525522607
- 4. Astrophysics for People in a Hurry**  
Neil deGrasse Tyson, Norton,  
\$18.95
- 5. Killers of the Flower Moon**  
David Grann, Doubleday, \$28.95

- 6. Enlightenment Now**  
Steven Pinker, Viking, \$35, 9780525427575
  - 7. I'll Be Gone in the Dark**  
Michelle McNamara, Harper, \$27.99,  
9780062319784
  - 8. Leonardo da Vinci**  
Walter Isaacson, S&S, \$35, 9781501139154
  - 9. The Subtle Art of Not Giving A F\*ck**  
Mark Manson, HarperOne, \$24.99,  
9780062457714
  - 10. Disappointment River**  
Brian Castner, Doubleday, \$28.95,  
9780385541626
  - 11. Obama: An Intimate Portrait**  
Pete Souza, Little Brown, \$50,  
9780316512589
  - 12. Food: What the Heck Should I Eat?**  
Mark Hyman, Little Brown, \$28,  
9780316338868
  - 13. Born a Crime**  
Trevor Noah, Spiegel & Grau, \$28,  
9780399588174
  - 14. The Hidden Life of Trees**  
Peter Wohlleben, Greystone Books, \$24.95,  
9781771642484
  - 15. The Future of Humanity**  
Michio Kaku, Doubleday, \$29.95
- Link to paperback titles: <http://www.midwestbooksellers.org/bestsellers.html>

## The Making of a Psychiatrist

*Because I Come from a Crazy Family*  
*The Making of a Psychiatrist*, Edward  
M. Hallowell

This memoir by Dr. Hallowell won't be published until June, but I've just read it, so am ready to give a short review.

First of all, the title is rather discouraging—you don't want to know your doctor is crazy, do you? Though Hallowell seems quite mentally healthy himself, he describes family members in two or three generations who did suffer from mental

illness, addiction and dysfunctional situations. His family background might be called blue blood eccentrics—East coast, financially well-heeled, prestigious school education—all counterpoints to the *Hill-billy Elegy* kind of background.

Hallowell's memoir isn't exactly compelling, is sometimes tedious because it seems to leave no stone unturned, but yet one wants to keep reading and get the whole story. It isn't until half way through that the psychiatrist part gets started and

that is most interesting. He himself undergoes analysis and thus shows the value of psychiatry from a personal perspective. His doctor-patient relationships are also interesting.

Hallowell's memoir reminds one about the values and pitfalls in writing a memoir: "It's my story so I can write what I want."

To read more about the current surge of need for psychiatrists, follow this link: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-illinois-psychiatrist-shortage-20180320-story.html>

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Guitar Strings, Journals, Etc.

## Always Marry An April Girl by Ogden Nash

Praise the spells and bless the charms,  
I found April in my arms.  
April golden, April cloudy,  
Gracious, cruel, tender, rowdy;  
April soft in flowered languor,  
April cold with sudden anger,  
Ever changing, ever true --  
I love April, I love you.

*A light-hearted poem for April: We need this after rather cold and fairly miserable weather in 2018, so far.*

*Ever read or watched "Revolutionary Road" (It's on Netflix)? The main character is named April, main actors are Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. The book is by Richard Yates. Very good, serious drama, complex characters.*

## Back Page Bookstore News

Congratulations to my employee, Sheridyn, on her engagement to Gabriel.



*You are invited to drop Sheridyn and Gabe cheerful marriage tips in the vase at the bookstore.*



Graduation gift for your UW-Stout grad: the history of the university written by Jerry Poling, *An Idea Comes of Age: UW-Stout 1891-201*.

**Discounted all of April**

At the March Master Gardener's seminar which was well-attended. We had some gardening books, a green house had a really nice and varied display of merchandise, and there were other vendors, information booths, and very good presentations.

