

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

Traveling Book Club, Ladies Night Out

Date

July 2018

The first meeting of our Traveling Book Club will be at the Barrel Room on Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 P.M. The bookstore doesn't have a good club meeting space and it's also nice to add refreshments to book club meetings.



This first meeting will be a chance to meet one another and to share ideas

on books we have already read on *The Great American*

Read list. Some of the titles are familiar as classroom books and movies. Others are some recent wildly popular titles like *The DaVinci Code* and the *Fifty Shades of Grey* series. We'll decide on a book to read for the September meeting and also the date and where to meet.

A few people have already signed up, so to speak. You can send an email if you plan to join in. Looking forward to a congenial gathering...

Thursday, July 19 is our summer Ladies Night Out. As



usual, at the bookstore we offer a discount

on all sales and we promise no sleet or snow to curb the enthusiasm for the event. Olivia Revolinski will be at the bookstore demonstrating how to hand make books and journals. She will also have some of her handmade journals for sale.

Inside this issue:

Please scroll down to see our short reviews and other book news.

Midwest Connections Picks for July



The Great Believers is a novel about friendship and redemption in the face of tragedy and loss, set in Chicago and Paris in the 1980s. The setting revolves around the art world and the characters negotiate their lives in the chaos of the AIDS epidemic.



The Contest qualifies as an historical novel. It re-tells the story of the tumultuous events of 1968 and the contentious presidential election. Looked at fifty years later, that election seems a turning point in American culture and politics. This is a good book to read in the light of our current contentious political period.

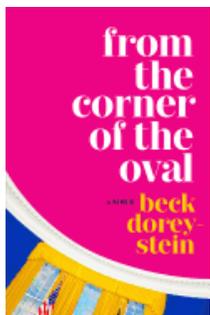


Broken Places is along the lines of escapist fiction, a Chicago mystery with a hard-boiled (former) female homicide detective solving the murder of a respected member of the community. The Chicago author is both an editor and writer of mysteries.



Long Players: "Have you ever fallen in love-exalting, wracking, hilarious love-with a song? [This] is a book about that everyday kind of besottedness-and, also, about those other, more entangling sorts of love that songs can propel us into.... Above all...our many interwoven ways of falling in love: with books" bands, friends and family.

From the Corner of the Oval by Beck Dorey-Stein



From the Corner of the Oval is a very personal account of working in the White House for President Obama. The author's job title is Stenographer which is rather surprising in the digital age but it is apparently a hold-over from the days when stenographer took short hand notes. Today's stenographer records the president's every word, then types up a transcript. She and the others in the pool of people in these sorts of lowly White House jobs are present

during every official minute with POTUS at home and abroad. It's exciting and interesting to be the fly on the wall, to be a witness to history.

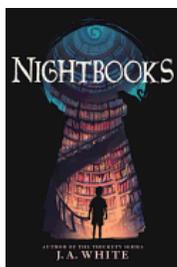
While Dorey-Stein presents plenty of detail about Pres. Obama's official life and interacting with staffers off the record such as being on the next treadmill at a hotel gym, she also concentrates on herself. The longer story in *From the Corner of the Oval* is about the author's love life, her friends, her young-professional's lifestyle. From that perspective, this is very much a millennial's story, the drama and heartaches of the single woman in her first years

out of college, and in that way the book is satisfyingly routine, normal, even boring, so welcome in the present political years.

Dorey-Stein means to be writer. This is her first book and she's off to a great start.

Message from the ABA: "We are delighted to tell you your quote for *From the Corner of the Oval* has been chosen for use in our July 2018 *Indie Next List*. The printed flyer . . . and the full announcement will appear in the June 6th issue of *Bookselling This Week*."

Nightbooks, rev. by Pat Trotter



Nightbooks by J. A. White

Alex is different than the other kids. Instead of participating in sports or the normal things other kids do,

Alex writes scary, creepy, stories. One night he arrives at the point of being tired of being different. He believes that if he destroys his stories, he will be

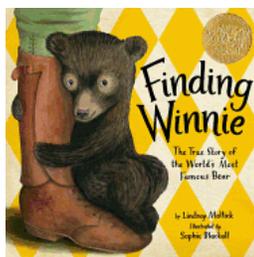
like all the other kids. On his way out of his apartment to destroy his stories, he is lured into another apartment by the sound of his favorite movie and the smell of his favorite food. But he is really taken in by a powerful witch who lives in a magical apartment and lures children in to do her work and tend to her. Will he

ever get out of this place? Will he ever see his family again? How can he ever hope to be successful against such powerful magic? Spellbinding, well written, this book draws the reader in. This is one of those books that will cause parents to say, "Put that book down and come to the table!" Because you really can't put it down until you discover what happens to Alex whose own stories all have bad endings.

"Spellbinding, well written, this book draws the reader in."

The target audience for this book is 8-12 yr. olds.

True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear by Lindsay Mattick



The children's picture book, "The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear" told us where Winnie the

Pooh came from. "Winnie's Great War" tells the story in much more detail. For anyone who loved Winnie the Pooh as a child and continues to love Pooh

Bear through the years, this book is a must-read. While designed for 8-12-year-olds, it is great for any age. We follow Winnipeg, the bear, from the time she emerges from the den with her mother until she is found by the real Christopher Robin in the London Zoo. And so, we travel with her as she is caught by a trapper's son as small cub, sold to a Canadian soldier getting ready to leave for World War I, travels across the Atlantic on a troop ship, stays with her regiment in England as

their mascot until it becomes too dangerous for her, and finally, finds a home in the London Zoo. Reading this book tells us much about courage and bravery, love and care for each other and for animals, the excitement of a new adventure, and even the horrors of war. This is a wonderful read-to-me book for the entire family to enjoy and makes Winnie-the-Pooh even more endearing and lovable.

Rev. by Pat Trotter

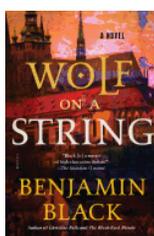
Now in Paperback

A couple books with historical European settings:



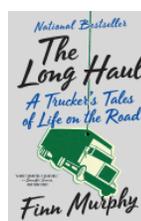
Midnight Blue is set in Holland in 1654 against the backdrop of Holland's Golden Age when the Dutch East India Company imported vast quantities of tea and ceramics from China. A young widow with an aptitude for painting leaves the farm, makes her way to Amsterdam, meets Rembrandt, and ends up married to the owner of a pottery in Delft. The ceramics and china-painting business covered in the novel are inter-

esting on their own. The story line focuses on Catrin, the young woman with a strong character and a dangerous secret. The author packs in a lot of events.



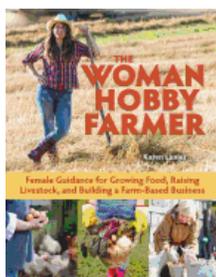
Wolf on a String – it's title in Europe is *Prague Nights* which sounds more intriguing. Christian Stern, an ambitious young scholar and alchemist, arrives in Prague in the bitter winter of 1599, intent on making his fortune at the court of the Holy Roman Emperor, the eccentric Rudolf II. Drunk and lost, Stern stumbles

on the body of a beautiful young woman whose throat has been slashed. Readers of mysteries will see the trajectory of this novel. Along the way are wonderful historical details about Prague, the Hapsburgs, Rudolf II and his passions, alchemy and back magic.



Closer to home is *The Long Haul*, the memoir of a long-haul trucker. The author is a college drop-out, his thoroughly enjoyable book is described as "Mark Twain behind the wheel."

Woman Hobby Farmer



We in Dunn County and elsewhere in our area know that hobby farming is alive and thriving.

Across the country female farmers have been cited as the fastest growing sector within the farming community in recent years.

Inside *The Woman Hobby Farmer*:

- Discussions on the who, what, why, and where of hobby farming
- Deciding on your farming goals

"...female farmers have been cited as the fastest growing sector within the farming community..."

and making a plan

-What to expect in your new endeavor

-How to decide what to plant and prepare your planting sites

-Advice on feeding, caring for, and housing different types of livestock

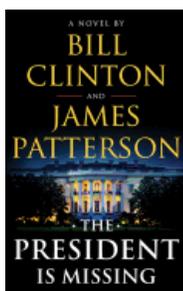
-A look at "agripreneurship"~ running and marketing your hobby farm as a successful business.

Midwest Bestseller List

Link to the latest Midwest Bestseller list:

http://www.midwestbooksellers.org/uploads/4/4/1/7/44171411/midwest_bsl_6_24_2018.pdf

The first three pages list the best-selling books in the Midwest, the second part lists the bestselling books at independent bookstores.



There is overlap but surprising differences, especially in the non-fiction category.

Near the top of the hard cover bestseller list is the collaboration of James Patterson and

The President Is Missing

President Clinton, a thriller titled *The President Is Missing*.

Patterson attributes the insider details about the presidency, White House, etc. to Clinton. Anyone who watches TV will have seen some of Clinton's awkward moments during the book tour interviews, but they aren't in the book.

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An Indie Bookstore

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

July ... a time to relax and abandon serious thinking

Many public-school children seem to know only two dates: 1492 and 4th of July; and as a rule they don't know what happened on either occasion.

- Mark Twain

Mosquito is out,
it's the end of the day;
she's humming and hunting
her evening away.
Who knows why such hunger
arrives on such wings
at sundown? I guess
it's the nature of things.

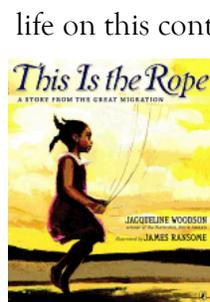
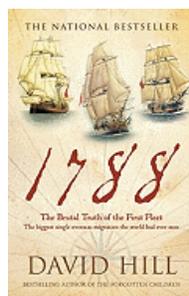
- N. M. Boedecker, "Midsummer Night Itch"

On the other hand

Families belong together:

About 150-200 people marched through downtown in the very high heat on the last day of June to express their views on the separation of parents and children attempting to enter the United States. Could that separation policy be more heartless?

All but Native Americans have a fairly recent immigrant ancestry (mine is German and Czech, what's yours?) but



10,000-15,000 years ago the Native Americans left their Asian and Northern European roots to find a better

life on this continent and

50,000 years ago our deep ancestors left Africa presumably in search of

food, adventure, a better life and just plain curiosity about what else was out there.



Migration is in our DNA.

