

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

Christmas Season at the Bookstore

December 2018



The Holiday catalog of the Midwest Independent

Bookseller Association is at the bookstore. Please stop by to pick one up. We are offering a 15% discount for books in the catalog, good until Dec. 23.

Books in the catalog not already in the bookstore, can be ordered at no extra charge. At this time of year, we send in book orders 3 or 4 times a week so there is about one-week between order and delivery.



Our holiday gift box

has five books for readers of

all ages and several gift items. Register with every purchase.

Small Business Saturday was a huge success at the bookstore. Thank you Menomoneie! Some people brought in Thanksgiving visitors. We were really busy.



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The Collected Poems of Robert Bly

Bly is a truth-teller and a fearless explorer of the human dilemma. *Collected Poems* makes clear why poets and lovers of poetry have long looked to Bly for emotional authenticity, moral authority, and artistic inspiration.

Gathering more than sixty years of poetry, *Collected Poems* showcases the brilliant career of a “great American transcendentalist” (*New York Times*) with the full magnitude of Bly’s work.



City of Broken Magic, Mirah Bolender

Five hundred years ago, magi created a weapon they couldn’t control. An infestation that ate magic—and anything else it came into contact with. Only an elite team of non-magical humans can defuse and dispose of infestations. Laura has stayed alive longer than most. Now, she’s the last—and only—sweeper standing between the city and a massive infestation with all its glitter and gold, and the underlying greed and power that sought to control lives for money and power.



The End of the End of the Earth, Essays by Jonathan Franzen

In *The End of the End of the Earth*, which gathers essays and speeches written mostly in the past five years, Jonathan Franzen returns with renewed vigor to the themes—both human and literary—that have long preoccupied him. Taken together, these essays trace the progress of a unique and mature mind wrestling with itself, with literature, and with some of the most important issues of our day.

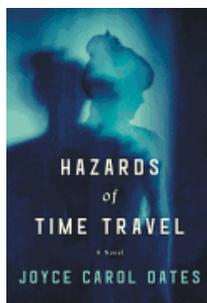
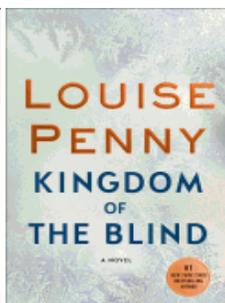
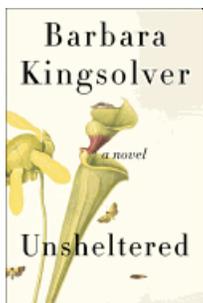


The Mukluk Ball Written by Katharine Johnson, Illustrated by Alicia Schwab

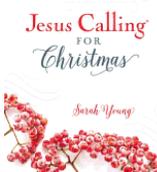
Karhu the bear wants to go to the Mukluk Ball. He will need muklucs, dance moves, and someone to wake him up from hibernation. Will the Ball live up to Karhu’s dreams? The music and fellowship filling Finn Town Hall might just make for the best night of his life.

This charming tale is set in Ely MN

New and Popular This Season

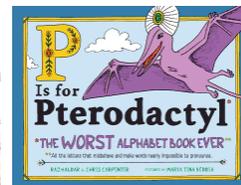
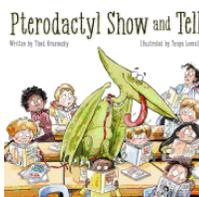


books, once for children, one for adults, both delightful. Finally, for the religiously minded, there is a new Jesus Calling for Christmas.



The former First Lady has written a winning book in her personable style... Kingsolver's book is about two families in two centuries navigating the throes of their time... Penny has produced her 14th Inspector Gamache thriller, find-

ing an ever-bigger audience... Oates' latest is sci-fi with a Wisconsin setting. For younger readers, J.K. Rowling is simply beyond words, a powerhouse of a story-teller with an incredible imagination... And then a couple Pterodactyl

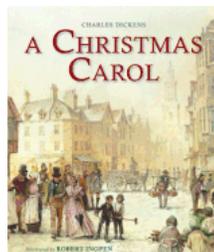


A Christmas Carol and Other Classics



Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is available in many versions, the original, of course, and then an abridged version suitable for

younger readers. For toddlers, there is a "Baby Lit" version —introduce the classic for his/her

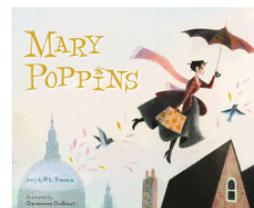


"Baby Lit" version—introduce the classic for his/her first Christmas—

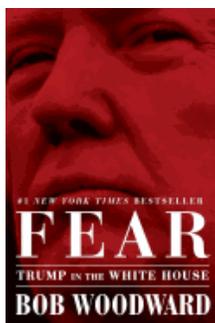
first Christmas. The story is distilled to such lines as "Silver Chains," "Green Wreath" and "Red Scarf."



A new children's picture book based on Travers' 1934 *Mary Poppins* makes the story accessible to the youngest ones. The illustrations are beautiful.



Fear: Trump in the White House, rev. by William Laine



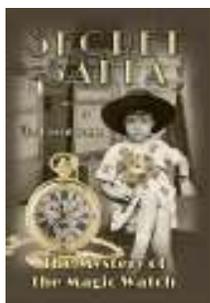
In *Fear: Trump in the White House*, Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Bob Woodward describes chaos in the White House, with warring factions: nationalists vs globalists. Rex Tillerson as Sec of State was a globalist and Steve Bannon a nationalist, both of whom Trump, a nationalist, eventually jetti-

soned. Trump called his daughter and son-in-law moderate Democrats. They wanted him to stay in the Paris Climate Accords. When the suggestion of Trump running for president was made to Bannon, he could not believe it, saying that Trump doesn't write checks; he signs checks other pay him. Trump spends several hours a day watching TV news, especially Fox News. That and his obsession with Mueller's investigation make major distractions from doing his job. Trump's staff try to curb his impulses to sign extreme orders

(Trump doesn't like to read, so his briefings must be very brief) and tweet his decisions on policy. Tillerson learned he was replaced when Trump tweeted it. Trump's attorney, John Dowd, tried to convince him not to testify before the Special Prosecutor, Robert Mueller. Dowd tried every argument short saying, "You are an habitual liar; if you testify under oath, Mueller will catch you in perjury." Dowd gave up and resigned. Woodward had access to White House staff, but Trump declined interviews.

Secret Santa: The Mystery of the Magic Watch by David Tank

Reviewed by Jay Gilbertson



Retired UW-Stout English Professor David Tank, has done it—again! If you're looking for an original, locally created gift for that little reader in your life, look no further.

Each chapter opens with a clue; a vintage photograph to tempt your imagination. Author Tank has packed this new escapade with many historical factoids and woven into the characters' lives are enduring life-lessons. The gift of family, how stealing is stupid and whenever time-traveling always bring plenty of Milky Way candy bars to share.

This is the second *Secret Santa* mystery and boy are the stars of the story off on a major magical adventure! As you probably already are well aware, time travel is a really handy way to get from one place to another especially if you're Santa and have all those gifts to deliver in only one night. Normally this may seem a nearly impossible endeavor, but Nick (alias Santa) is not only the man behind the white beard, but also an avid inventor. One of which is the Chronambulator; a time-traveling machine with many uses and as Nick's knowledge of the invention grew, his closet-sized time machine shrunk to the size of a pocket watch.

Even Santa can be influenced by the myriad of advances in technology and in the case of his magical watch, a visit to the Apple Store was the catalyst.

"I've been using the Smart Watch as my inspiration," Nick continued. "I'm shrinking the workings for my time machine down to a size that will fit into a pocket watch, which is synchronized with the full-sized Chronambulator. Let me show you."

Sam, who is almost 12, and his sister Abby, 7 are the time-traveling duo along with their leader, Nick. Abby inadvertently pockets the watch and literally disappears back to New York City and the year is 1922.

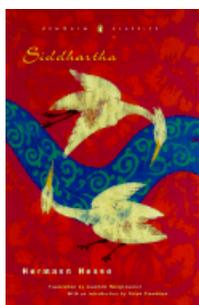
Besides the overall journey-through-time escapade, the reader is also given a great deal of historical facts to consider in the very real way author Tank shapes this story for his protagonists. Such as the fact that sheep used to roam Central Park. That the merry-go-round ride running back in 1922 was actually driven by steam and after befriendng not only the great magician Houdini but his wife, you even learn the secret of one of his most famous tricks! Which is how in the world do you make an elephant disappear? Actually, the secret is safe with Abby.

By the time the story winds up, it is Christmas Day and since the children had been time-traveling, no one is the wiser. All in all, this mystery will not only have your kids ready to find a watch like Abby's, but also remember that the true gift of the holidays is found wherever family is gathered and magic is possible.

Happy Holidays! Stocking stuffer for sure



Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse



Integrating Eastern and Western spiritual traditions with psychoanalysis and philosophy, this strangely simple tale, written with a deep and moving empathy for humanity, has touched the lives of

millions since its original publication in 1922.

Siddhartha is on the Great American Read list of 100 best-loved books and

my on-line book club decided to re-read this classic. I, for one, had a hard time taking it seriously. That extreme asceticism that once seemed admirable now seems misguided, useless. But then, after Siddhartha abandons it and becomes a wealthy business man, I sat up and took notice. Now a new man

Siddhartha is on the Great American Read list of 100 best-loved books

emerges. He had always been confident in his intelligence and ability to think as his primary qualifications. After years of worldly success, he comes full circle, asking himself "is this all there is," so to speak. Well, if you remember the story, you know what happens next. The imagery for death and rebirth and allusions to Eastern spiritual figures give this story its iconic aura.

Hesse won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1946.

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

Tomten

First stanza of a favorite Swedish poem from 1881 by Viktor Rydberg

Midvinternattens köld är hård,
stjärnorna gnistra och glimma.
Alla sova i enslig gård
Djupt under midnattstimma.
Månen vandrar sin tysta ban,
snön lyser vit på fur och gran,
snön lyser vit på taken.
Endast tomten är vaken

Deep in the grip of the midwinter cold
The stars glitter and sparkle.
All are asleep on this lonely farm,
Deep in the winter night.
The pale white moon is a wanderer,
snow gleams white on pine and fir,
snow gleams white on the roofs.
Only tomten is awake.



Bookstore Staffing Changes

Our very capable and cheerful Sheridyn, who has been with us at Bookends on Main for several years is leaving us in mid-December. She and her husband have moved to Eau Claire, and we wish them well in their new life!



We are once again very lucky to have found a fantastic new employee, Heather, who is changing her current status from full-time stay-at-home mom (her sons are high schoolers). Her resume includes being a Menomonie native, UW-Madison

grad, a master's degree, and professional jobs. After years away, she and her family returned to Menomonie. Many of you already know her. Please stop by to greet her. She will usually be holding down the fort on Mon-Tues, but our schedules are fluid.



Pat will continue to pinch-hit as needed, so you may see her from time to time also.

Alicia Schwab's presentation on illustrating Mukluk Ball was informative and enjoyable. She explained the art of illustrating as well as how-to in finding publishers and

illustration work. She's a professional with a significant resume of work.



WinterDaze is Dec. 13

DOWNTOWN MENOMONIE
**WINTER
DAZE**