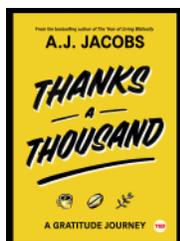


Bookbites

Bookends on Main

Gratitude Books

January 2019



For some reason, there is currently a gratitude movement or fad? and a slew of books to go with it. There is always a good reason for gratitude, of course, and the current climate of blame and re- crimination seems to warrant a counter movement. I typed in “gratitude” on my book-order page and 7187 “products” popped up, starting with *Tiny Buddha’s*

Gratitude Journal: Questions, Prompts, and Coloring Pages for a Brighter, Happier Life, then *Thanks a Thousand: A Gratitude Journey*, and gratitude-themed journals and coloring books, devotional books, and a lot of books to teach kids to be grateful.



The best title, and maybe the best read is the *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, a 2015 book of poetry by Ross Gay. An NPR reviewer wrote, “Gay’s poems burst forth in leggy,



unexpected ways, zooming in on legs furred with pollen or soil breast-stroking into the xylem. Gay’s praise is Whitmanesque, full of manure, mulberry-stained purple bird poop, dirty clothes and hangovers, but also the pleasure of bare feet, of pruning a peach tree, of feeding a neighbor. . . . Gay even thanks you for reading it.”

By the way, “slew” as a noun: It is from *slaugh*, an Irish Gaelic word meaning multitude.

Bookstore gratitude

Thanks for all the wonderful local support from our loyal book buyers this year. In particular, November-December have been the best ever for the bookstore. As a result, we are good for another year.

Midwest Connections Picks for January

We Can’t Breathe: On Black Lives, White Lies, and the Art of Survival by Jabari Asim

Jabari Asim disrupts what Toni Morrison has exposed as the “Master Narrative” and replaces it with a story of black survival and persistence through art and community in the face of centuries of racism. These essays celebrate the vibrancy and strength of black history and culture in America.

Asim has also written a number of children’s books, e. g. *Whose Toes Are Those*.



Laurentian Divide by Sarah Stonich — Poignant portrayals of life on the edge in northern Minnesota border country, weaving in and out of each other’s reach, trying hard to do their best, the residents of this remote town in all their sweetness and sorrow remind us once more of the inescapable lurches of the heart and unexpected turns of our human comedy.



Limetown by Cote Smith

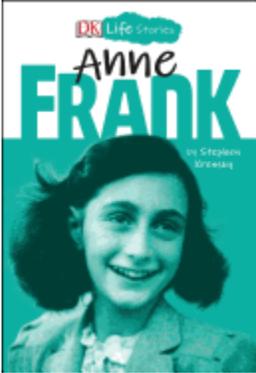
From the creators of the #1 podcast *Limetown*, an explosive prequel about a teenager who learns of a mysterious research facility where over three hundred people have disappeared, with clues that become the key to discovering the secrets of this strange town.



Speechless by Adam P. Smith

How do you give a eulogy when you can’t think of one good thing to say? As 13-year-old Jimmy learns from his mother that he has to say a few words at his cousin’s funeral the next day, he attempts to navigate the odd social norms of a wake while racking his memory for decent memory to share. A poignant, funny, and candid look at grief, family secrets, difficult people, and learning to look behind the facade.

For 8 to 12 year old readers – Review by Pat Trotter



Anne Frank, by Stephen Krensky, a DK Life Stories middle reader.

Anne Frank is one of the first biographies for middle readers to be published in the new DK

Life Stories. While many middle readers tend to shun history, this biography is written in an engaging way and should easily capture the interest of young read-

ers. Written from Anne's own diary, information from her father (the only family member to survive the Holocaust), and a fellow concentration camp prisoner, we realize how much the world lost when Anne died of typhus, just a few weeks before the camp was liberated. The book contains many actual photographs and much information about what so many Jews lived through during those years. I highly recommend this new series of biographies for kids. Well written books which will inspire young people to do more research on interesting and amazing people of history.

Blog Project

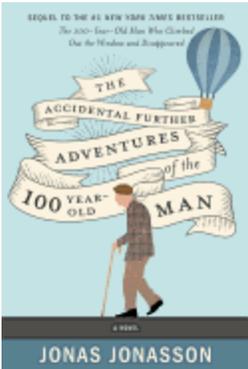
A UW-Stout communications class project was to create a blog about a downtown business and one chosen this year was the bookstore. Here is a link to the blog:

<https://bookendsonmain.wordpress.com>

They did a really nice writing job and are very kind to Bookends on Main. Here is a link to their blog:

<https://bookendsonmain.wordpress.com>

Ludicrous fun... uproarious...clever...madcap...Review by Pat Trotter



The Accidental Further Adventures of the 100-Year-Old Man by Jonas Jonasson

This sequel to *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* is a

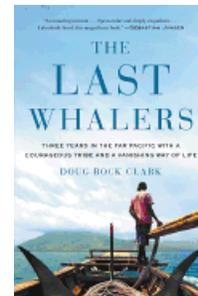
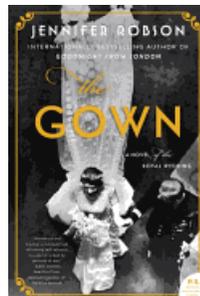
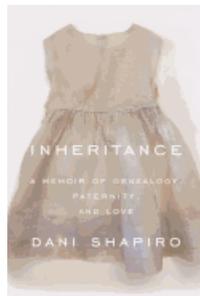
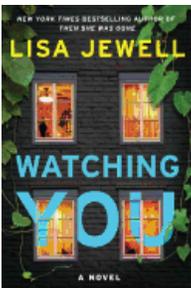
delightful read. Alan, the 100-year-old man, and his friend, Julius, currently

living in Indonesia, decide to take a hot air balloon ride in order to avoid paying an expensive hotel bill. How do they end up in the ocean, being picked up by a North Korean ship carrying enriched uranium, and then visiting with the President of North Korea who has been told Alan is a nuclear expert who can

help them produce nuclear weapons? As the author himself says, this is a novel about recent and present events. Jonasson manages to include President Trump, Chancellor Merkel, the President of North Korea, the Swedish ambassador in the story, taking Alan and Julius from Indonesia to North Korea to the U.S., to Sweden and Denmark, and Kenya, Africa. And Jonasson leaves open the possibility of a third book about the 100-year-old man. This is sure to be a bestseller.

“... a delightful read. . . . This is sure to be a bestseller.”

Indie Next Picks for January



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.

January by John Updike

Photo by Jeanne Foley

The days are short,
The sun a spark,
Hung thin between
The dark and dark.

Fat snowy footsteps
Track the floor.
Milk bottles burst
Outside the door.

The river is
A frozen place
Held still beneath
The trees of lace.

The sky is low.
The wind is gray.
The radiator
Purrs all day



Book Box Winner . . . Bestseller List



David Seim and son claim the box of books given as our Holiday prize to bookstore customers. The drawing was on Christmas Eve. The box included a beautiful coffee table book on the history of books, a Christmas-themed mystery, a *Minecraft* book, a *Goodnight Wisconsin* board book, and a couple of non-book items.

Link to the latest Midwest Bestseller list and top five in each category:

http://www.midwestbooksellers.org/uploads/4/4/1/7/44171411/midwest_bsl_12.23.2018.pdf

- 1. Kingdom of the Blind Louise Penny, Minotaur, \$28.99 2. There There Tommy Orange, Knopf, \$25.95 3. Unsheltered Barbara Kingsolver, Harper, \$29.99 4. A Gentleman in Moscow Amor Towles, Viking, \$27 5. Virgil Wander Leif Enger, Grove Press, \$27
- 1. Becoming Michelle Obama, Crown, \$32.50 2. Educated Tara Westover, Random House, \$28 3. The Library Book Susan Orlean, S&S, \$28 4. Almost Everything Anne Lamott, Riverhead, \$20 5. The Great Minnesota Cookie

Book Lee Svitak Dean, Rick Nelson, U. of Minnesota Press, \$24.95

- 1. Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine Gail Honeyman, Penguin, \$16 2. The Tattooist of Auschwitz Heather Morris, Harper, \$16.99 3. Hope Never Dies Andrew Shaffer, Quirk Books, \$14.99 4. Pachinko Min Jin Lee, Grand Central, \$15.99 5. Milkman Anna Burns, Graywolf Press, \$16
- 1. Sapiens Yuval Noah Harari, Harper Perennial, \$22.99 2. Killers of the Flower Moon David Grann, Vintage, \$16.95 3. Prairie Fires Caroline Fraser, Picador, \$22 4. Evicted Matthew Desmond, Broadway, \$17 5. Braiding Sweetgrass Robin Wall Kimmerer, Milkweed Editions, \$18