

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

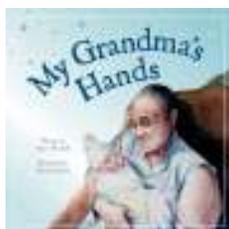
Spring Fling –Ladies Night Out–April 25

April 2019

It's a late Easter this year, so the **Spring Fling–April's Ladies Night Out**—comes late in the month, but maybe that will mean a beautiful spring day, beyond the April freak blizzard time.

At the bookstore we are celebrating the day with two guests, one an author, the other an entrepreneur.

Susan Wardell has a children's book titled *My Grandmother's Hands* that pays homage to the special things that grandmothers do, and its illustrations are encompassing, showing



grandmothers and grandbabies of various ethnicities, body types and ages. It would make a nice Mother's Day gift for grandma.

Wardell will be at the bookstore from 3:00 to 6:00, reading, talking and signing books.

Carla Scholz, our entrepreneur, will be at the bookstore from 5-8. Carla is a UW-Stout grad whose SoakItUp cloths are in the bookstore. She will come with her team, do a

“show and tell” and of course we will have her products in the store. Carla is currently launching a crowd funding campaign around Earth Day.

The cloths are 70% cellulose (tree pulp) & 30% cotton so completely compostable—Use water-based inks—Reusable—Easy clean in the dishwasher—Sanitize in the microwave—Clean anything—dishes, stainless, even faces! Use till worn then chop them up and put in your plants to help soil hold moisture or toss in your compost bin. —Save \$150: the average consumer spends over \$180 a year on paper towels.

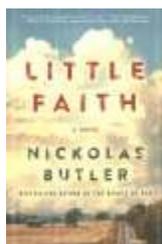
Happy Easter!

Inside this issue:

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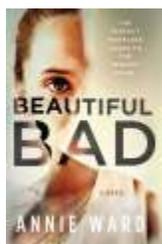
Midwest Connections Picks for March



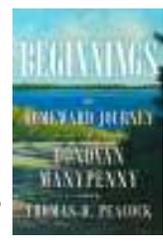
Butler, our Eau Claire author has written about a daughter's involvement with an extremist church and her father's struggle between his unease with the church and his desire to keep his daughter and grandson in his life. This is a story about a subject many of us can recognize. *Little Faith* tests the boundaries of unconditional love.



Lorna Landvik's latest humorous novel is about a small-town newspaper columnist whose articles are rediscovered as she lies dying in a coma at age 89. The book blurbs don't do it justice. It's funny, has a wonderful cast of characters, and, oh yes, recipes. Also, feminism, family, and a great a title.

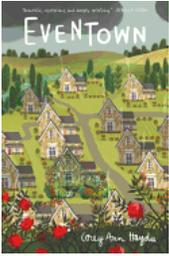


Beautiful Bad has a complicated plot. There are two sides to every story and every person. So prepare to read this as a love story that evolves over time and tragedy including war time service and accidents, marriage and children. It's classified as a thriller and psychological fiction.



Raised by his grandparents on a northern Wisconsin Ojibwe reservation until their passing when he is ten years old, Donovan Marnypenny becomes a ward of the state of Wisconsin and enters the child welfare system. He puts his past behind him for over forty-three years—until events in his life take him back to his childhood home, retracing the historical westward migration of his Ojibwe ancestors. Heartfelt and bittersweet, this story will resonate with anyone who longs to make the journey home.

Children's Books rev. by Pat Trotter



Eventown by Corey Ann Haydu

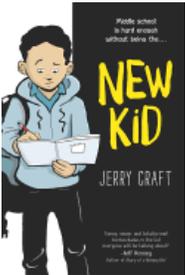
Imagine you are 11 years old. Something horrible has happened in your family and everyone in town is looking at you, whispering behind your back, making you feel like whatever it was is your fault. It gets so bad your family decides to move to Eventown. You leave behind all your books, pictures, just about everything. And you discover that living in Eventown is pretty nice. It never rains. The

weather is always perfect. Whatever you bake turns out perfectly. However, everyone wants you to leave everything about your past behind and just follow the traditions of this perfect town. What about your memories? What about your stories that make you who you are? A masterfully written tale about being yourself even when everyone around you wants you to be someone else.



"The Book Hog loved books. And he had quite a few." So begins this delightful children's book by Greg Pizzoli. Even though the book hog had a large collection of books and loved

looking at them, he could not read. Yet he kept collecting books. One day, as he was out looking for books, he discovered a library. And that changed his life. This book would be particularly good for youngsters having a hard time learning to read and feeling they will never accomplish that task. If the book hog could master it, so can they. What an encouragement for those who love books but can't enjoy them to the fullest because they cannot read them.



New Kid by Jerry Craft

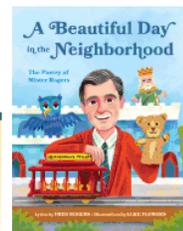
It's hard being the only new kid in your middle school class. It's even harder when you really wanted to attend an

art school but your parents enroll you in a private school known for its academics. Even more difficult is that Jordan is the only student of color in his whole school. Jordan's friends are

completely different from his new classmates. It's like living in two worlds. Can Jordan fit in both worlds? Or will he remain divided between the two? Or will he manage to live in both worlds and not become someone he doesn't want to be? This graphic novel for middle readers is full

"It's hard being the only new kid in your middle school class."

of side tips and advice for making it in Jordan's world. Well written. Well illustrated. Parents and kids alike should love this book.



A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: The Poetry of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood by Fred Rogers and Luke Flowers, a collection of 75 of Mr. Rogers' lyrics from the songs he used on his TV show .

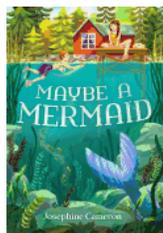


My Mama Is a Mechanic by Doug Cenko

Young children need to see their parents as more than just the ones

who give them food and clothes and things. Doug Cenko has captured the imagination of a child who sees his mother as anything she wants to be and anything he can imagine her to be. What a delightful treasure for young children to read and see their parents as more than just the ordi-

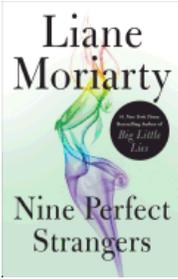
nary. No stereotypes here. A great book for young children and their parents to read together.



Anthony is searching for someone to be a "true blue" friend. She and her mom work together at her mom's cosmetic business and work well together as a team. But an 11-year-old girl needs someone her age. Six weeks at a resort on a small lake sounds like a dream come true. Sure, she finds that a friend she knew 5 years ago still lives there. But is she really a

"true-blue" friend? There is klutzy, crazy DJ. Everyone seems to think he is too weird to even consider for a friend. And then there is the mermaid. The crazy lady at the resort's front desk who dives into the lake every morning and doesn't come up again! Is she a real mermaid? And what about her mom's business that Anthony learns is not doing as well as she believed. Does that mean they will have to move once again? Over the weeks at this resort, Anthony learns much about what it means to have and be a "true blue" friend. A delightful read from a debut author that includes much about mystery, friendship, lies, perseverance, and hope.

Recently Published



: *Nine Perfect Strangers* is best-selling author Liane Moriarty's newest novel. If you are a fan of her past novels (*Big Little Lies*, *The Husband's Secret*, and *What Alice Forgot* to name a few) then you will enjoy this

book, and if you are not familiar with her writing then this book will make you a fan. Nine people find themselves on a ten day retreat at Tranquillum House, a

remote health resort. Each is motivated by a different purpose to attend the retreat. All of the characters are richly developed, and one of the most interesting characters is the resort's owner, Masha, who claims to know exactly what each of her guests will need to achieve their personal health and wellness goals. However, as the days go by the treatment methods become more bizarre and the guests begin to question the unconventional therapies. The reader is privy to the point of view of each of the characters on their personal

wellness journeys, their self discoveries, highs and lows, and ultimately a shared fear as they begin to doubt Masha, the employees, and the therapeutic methods at Tranquillum House. *Nine Perfect Strangers* is an engrossing read with the characters' often humorous observations sprinkled throughout. There is also a fair share of serious topics and emotional revelations that will tug at your heartstrings. There is a rumor that this book has been optioned for film so read it before it makes it to the screen.—*Heather Obenberger*



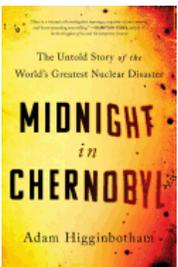
I really enjoyed *I Miss You When I Blink* a collection of essays by Mary Laura Philpott. I feel it will especially appeal to female readers in their late thirties or early

forties who tend to be type-A perfectionists trying to

a career, marriage, friendships, and family obligations and attempting to make it look easy when it is anything but! There were lots of laugh-out-loud moments for me and many insights and observations I could relate to. Ultimately there is the comfort of recognizing that one is not alone in the challenges of daily life and motherhood and that it is important to take little mental and physical time-outs from the daily demands to really

ask ourselves what changes (be they little or big) we can make in our lives to be happier and enjoy these days and this stage of our lives that when we look back on it will seem to have passed in the "blink" of an eye.

—*Heather Obenberger*



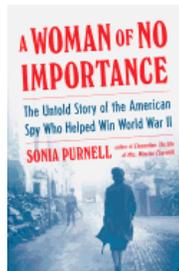
Midnight in Chernobyl by Adam Higginbotham

Higginbotham details the "Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster" in clear and concise writing.

This was a disaster in the making from the first groundbreaking for the nuclear reactors. The author details the substandard materials sent to the construction site which the workers then had to rebuild themselves, putting them behind from the deadline set by the Party Officials in Moscow. He tells us of the pressure put on all concerned with getting the reactors up and running in record time, despite the problems with being forced to hurry the project. He details why radiation is so dangerous and the steps that must be

taken to contain it. After the explosion, so many protocols were abandoned or not considered. The author has given us a clear picture of the tragedy that was Chernobyl. May we learn from this history, told through the eyes of those who witnessed it firsthand.

—*Pat Trotter*



A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II by Sonia Purnell.

Virginia Hall was a woman of whom most people have never heard. Yet, without her courage and boldness in the face of the most daunting circumstances, the story of WWII might have ended up

quite differently. Born in the early part of the 20th Century, Virginia grew up determined to make a difference with her life. Fluent in six languages, she pursued a career in the American consulates in Europe. But, because she was a woman and had a prosthetic leg, she was continually turned down for anything but a clerk's position. As she watched the advance of Naziism and Fascism in Europe, a chance meeting with a spy changed her life and the life of many forever, and she became what some have called the most important spy of the entire War. Sonia Purnell spent years researching this little known woman whose passion for helping turn the tide of the War became known as "the Madonna of the Resistance" in France and has told her story masterfully. This book reads like a James Bond novel; but, this is truth and history. —*Pat Trotter*

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An Indie Bookstore

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

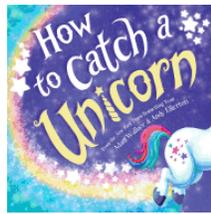
April Washed by Fay Slimm

March gone, I return April washed, ready
For writing once more, my exciting dreams
Needing a pen nudge me, with steady
Muse again daily, poetic scheming
Of verse is now a prime motive, romantic
New thoughts jostle for space as they line up
For lines.

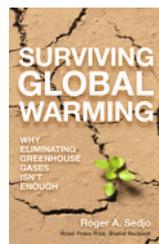
Gyrating inside pedantically,
Metres emerge as desire becomes sated
And verses are birthed. So friends I appear
Among you again refreshed and rested,
Heart full of thanks for your care, I feel clear
And eager to write, - at least, trying my best.

Notable April Events with Books

National Unicorn Day April 9



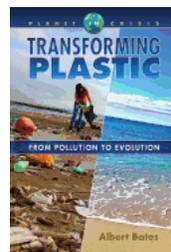
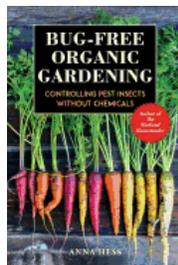
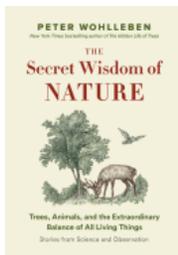
Earth Day April 22



April National Poetry Month



Earth Day April 22



Passover begins April 19



Easter April 21