

# Bookbites

## Bookends on Main

### Wrapping Up 2019

#### Downtown Dec. Hours

Nov. 30 10:00 – 6:00  
Sundays 11:00 – 4:00  
Dec. 17 - 20 10:00–8:00  
Dec. 21 10:00 – 5:00  
Dec. 24 10:00 – 1:00

#### Register with Every

#### Purchase to Win

*The Drink That Made Wisconsin Famous*  
Drawing on Dec. 21

Three bottles of wine—next drawings Nov. 30, Dec. 15, Dec. 31



Free gift wrapping of the old-fashioned sort—please ask or DIY with our supplies.

WinterDaze parade  
December 12

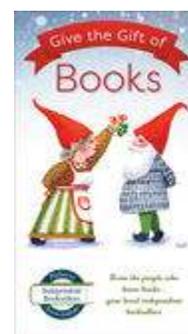
The Holiday Book Catalog was inserted in the Dunn County News this year and is also available at the bookstore. There is an 18% discount coupon for one book, good to January 15. The cover image is borrowed from *The Little Winter Book of Gnomes* which includes miscellaneous gnome images, quotations and recipes.



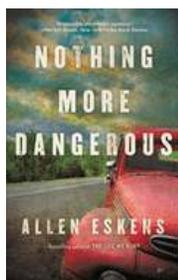
2019

December

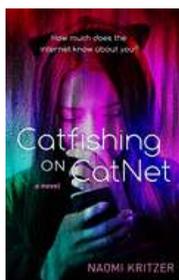
Inside this issue:



### Midwest Connections Picks for December



Teenager Boady Sanden comes of age in a Missouri town grappling with racial divisions in this sensitive, graceful mystery. *Nothing More Dangerous* is a gripping yet reassuring story of friendship. The boys' summer adventures exploring the woods take on a Stephen King-like dread around every bend. ~ *Minneapolis Star Tribune*



How much does the internet know about YOU? A thought-provoking near future YA thriller

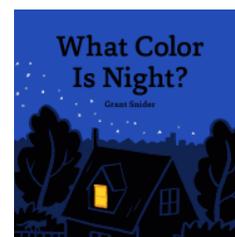
that explores issues of online privacy, artificial intelligence, and the power and perils of social networks. “Smart, sly, scary, and irrepressibly good fun, this novel has everything I’ve ever wanted from a story: it is a cerebral, funny, tender, big-idea delight.” ~ Kelly Barnhill, Newbery Award-winning author.



*My Mighty Journey* is the story of the only major waterfall on the Mississippi River—and

the changes it has witnessed over twelve thousand years, from the days of the woolly mammoth to what it is today. The scope of time is apparent from the first words of this impressive book.

John Coy is the author of many YA, middle reader and children picture books.



Against the backdrop of the dark blue night, the text explores the colors of things, both natural and manmade, that one can see in the night, before falling asleep to dream.

—This beautiful children’s picture book is by an orthodontist / author-artist.

## Heather's Reviews – Saint X



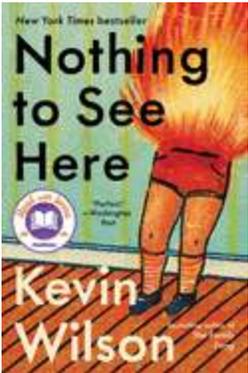
*Saint X* by Alexis Schaitkin is one of the best debut novels I have read. What begins as a tropical family vacation at a resort on the fictional island

of *Saint X* becomes a tragedy when seven year old Claire's older sister Alison goes missing the night before

they are to return home and is subsequently found dead not far from the resort. It appears that two men, Clive and Edwin, who are employees at the resort played a role in her death but there is not enough evidence to convict them so the mystery of Alison's death remains unsolved. Claire remains haunted by her sister's death and years later she sees a chance to learn the truth about that night when she has a chance encounter with Clive in New York. She decides to conceal

her true identity from Clive, follow him from a distance, and even forges a friendship with him in the hopes that he will eventually reveal to her the truth about her sister's death. This novel is highly engrossing with a twist at the end you won't see coming, the characters are unique and believable, and the author's keen observations on human nature and relationships throughout the novel are remarkable. This novel is a must read for book clubs!

## Nothing to See Here



*Nothing to See Here* is a novel with a pretty bizarre premise. Kevin Wilson is an amazing literary talent who has the ability to make the impossible

plausible. The story centers on two friends, Lillian and Madison, who

lose touch after college. Years later, Madison contacts Lillian with a seemingly benign request that Lillian accept a job offer to be a caretaker for her twin step-kids. Lillian accepts the offer and subsequently learns that the twins

**"In *Nothing to See Here* the reader finds everything that makes a great and memorable story."**

she will look after are far from ordinary...they start on fire whenever they feel upset! What ensues is a transformative summer for Lillian where she learns about herself, friendship, responsibility, the importance of family, and the permeability of what defines a family. Throughout this heartwarming book are plenty of laugh-out-loud moments. In *Nothing to See Here* the reader finds everything that makes a great and memorable story.

## January Kids' Story Time



her agenda will be the much-loved classic, *Stone Soup* and the newer, funny *Vegetables in Underwear*. Her plan is to busy the children with songs and stories of magical soup and goofy vegetables and discuss food sourcing and seasonal awareness with the adults.

Kristine has a six month-old daughter and a full time job, and wants to add a monthly Saturday story time

to her busy life.

We hope it will be successful, so please put this on your calendar for January 18.

## Gift Books

Besides books to give to others, there are always books to self-gift. Besides popular novels, biographies and self-help books, there are several especially attractive this year.



A follow-up to Michelle Obama's very successful memoir is *Becoming: A Guided Journal for Discovering Your Voice*. It has both encouragement for ways of becoming

and a journal/diary for that journey.

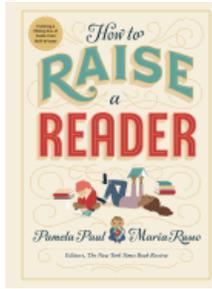
## Reviews by Pat Trotter

This review by Pat is featured in the winter issue of the *Kids Next* brochure.

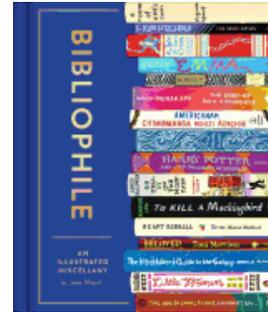


*Diana: Princess of the Amazons* by Shannon Hale

Diana lives on the island of Temy-scira, home to the Amazons. She is



The two books for parents pictured above have self-explanatory titles. Both are full of wonderful ideas and perhaps provide a desirable antidote to too much screen time.



The *Bibliophile* is a beautiful illustrated book with such book-ish topics as fictional meals, au-

thors' workspaces, independent bookstores around the world, and bookstore cats. Heather has already self-gifted herself with this and I am copying her. It's a delight.

the only child among these grown-up, powerful, incredible women, so to ward off loneliness, she makes a duplicate of herself out of sand and

“...how easy it is to let ourselves be deceived by what looks good.”

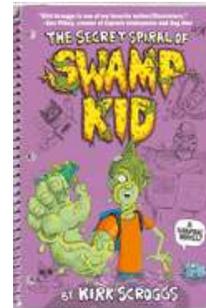
clay. When her “twin” comes to life, Diana is extremely happy to have someone her own age to do things with. But all is not as it seems. Her double is actually the evil nemesis of the Amazons and their friendship puts her and all the Amazons in great peril. This book enforces how easy it is to let ourselves be deceived by what looks good.

## The Secret Spiral of Swamp Kid by Kirk Scroggs

*The Secret Spiral of Swamp Kid* by Kirk Scroggs A graphic story for 8-12 year olds

Russell Weinwright comes by his nickname of Swamp Kid naturally. His hair is made of duckweed. His toes are webbed. One finger is a carrot. He has face tendrils that grow from a plant growing out of his right arm, which looks more like a tree trunk than an arm. The other kids in his school don't understand him at all; his only real friend is Charlotte, a science gen-

ius. Russel's favorite place is the swamp, where a recent discovery has been made of remnants of an old science lab. Russell and Charlotte decide to investigate. After all, Russell was found in the swamp when he was a baby. What is Russell's connection with the old science lab? Why is he part plant? Can his ability to grow long tendrils help him beat his biggest rival in school? And what is his connection with the swamp monster? Who or what is Arcane? Can Russell rescue his school when it is threatened? And will



he be able to embrace the talents he does have? Middle school boys will love Russell and his escapades. Full of illustrations, this book is written as a middle school boy's journal. It will

probably be found in many middle schools, tucked inside textbooks, and read during class.

## Bookends on Main

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Guitar Strings, Journals, Etc.

from Richard III, spoken by Gloucester)

Now is the winter of our discontent  
Made glorious summer by this sun of York;  
And all the clouds that lour'd upon our house  
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.  
Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths;  
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments;  
Our stern alarums changed to merry meetings,  
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.  
Grim-visaged war hath smooth'd his wrinkled front;  
And now, instead of mounting barbed steeds  
To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,  
He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber  
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.

....

Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace,  
Have no delight to pass away the time,  
Unless to spy my shadow in the sun  
And descant on mine own deformity:  
And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover,  
To entertain these fair well-spoken days,  
I am determined to prove a villain

And hate the idle pleasures of these days.  
Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous,  
By drunken prophecies, libels and dreams,  
To set my brother Clarence and the king  
In deadly hate the one against the other:  
And if King Edward be as true and just  
As I am subtle, false and treacherous,  
This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up,  
About a prophecy, which says that 'G'  
Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.  
Dive, thoughts, down to my soul: here  
Clarence comes.

*(Isn't it a marvel how often lines from Shakespeare resonate in our times? That's the genius of a genius. "The winter of our discontent," but better times will follow.)*

## The Winners

Winners of the wine drawings  
so far are:

1. Eric Atkinson
2. Jenny and Sandy Rogers
3. Pat Erickson
4. Pat Ginsbach (Elmwood)
5. Next Drawing on Dec. 15
6. and Dec. 31

