

# Bookbites

## Bookends on Main

### February Bookstore News



Register to win our Valentine Book Basket. Drawing on Feb. 14.



Vintage Valentines are a fun retro pick.



Heather has done some reorganizing starting with a nice display of book club books and the IndieNext Lists.



New Fiction A-L. The result is very nice.

The Local Author shelves have been moved beside



A friend inherited many boxes of books. True to my frequent comment, every box of used books has a surprise. In this case it is a first edition of *Trump's Art of the Deal*, 1987 and a 1989 February *McCall's* featuring Trump and first wife Ivana, "Trump's Best Deal."

Both of these items are collectible and eligible for a real deal!



February 2019

### Happy Valentine!

Plus:

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 3 Take Your Child to a Library Day
- 5 Chinese New Year
- 9 Nat'l Read in a Bathtub Day
- 12 President's Day
- 22: Nat'l Margarita Day

### Midwest Connections Picks for February



Like all families, the Parkers of Thunder Bay have had their share of complications. Set over the course of four calamitous days that culminate in a road trip to Duluth, Minnesota, Amy Jones's big-hearted, bestselling novel follows the Parkers as catastrophe forces them to do something they never thought possible—act like a family.



In the dead of winter, state troopers pull two young women from the Black Root River—one dead, one alive. What happened was no accident, and news of the crime awakens the community's memories of another young woman who lost her life in the same river ten years earlier, and whose killer may still live among them.

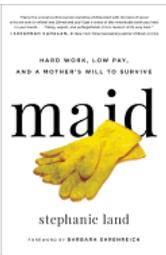


Women growing older contend with ageism, misogyny, and loss, but their struggles can help them grow into the authentic, empathetic, and wise people they have always wanted to be. Drawing on her own experiences, Mary Pipher explores ways women can cultivate resilient responses to the challenges they face.

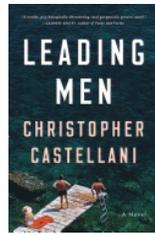


When these ducks go to the pond, it is Bim, Bam, Bop . . . and Oona, always last. Spunky Oona will inspire and delight all who see her final triumphant creation. A tale about being true to yourself, building confidence, and finding friendship, Bim, Bam, Bop . . . and Oona is sure to bring smiles to readers and listeners of all ages.

## Three books on the February INDIE NEXT List

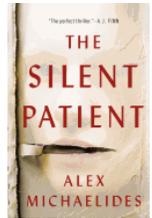


In *Maid*, a journalist describes the years she worked in low-paying domestic work under wealthy employers, contrasting the privileges of the upper-middle class to the realities of the overworked laborers supporting them. This book will strike a personal chord with anyone who has worked very hard for low pay from a privileged employer and in general presents a vivid picture of economic and differences in our fair land.



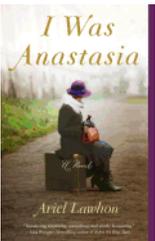
Combining fact and fiction, *Leading Men* is an “expansive yet intimate story of desire, artistic ambition, and fidelity, set in the glamorous literary and film circles of 1950s Italy. In July of 1953, at a glittering party thrown by Truman Capote in Portofino, Italy, Tennessee Williams and his longtime lover Frank Merlo meet Anja Blomgren, a mysteriously taciturn young Swedish beauty and aspiring actress. Their encounter will go on to alter all of their lives. Ten years later... a young man connected to the events of 1953 lures her reluctantly back into the spotlight after

he discovers she possesses the only surviving copy of Williams's final play.”



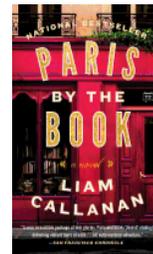
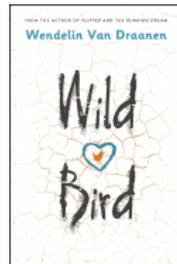
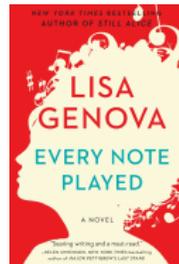
*The Silent Patient* is a strange thriller: Alicia Berenson's life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London's most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word. She's in a locked ward, her art work soars in value and a psychotherapist aims

## Now in Paperback



*I Was Anastasia* is the story of Anna Anderson who claims to be the Romanov Princess Alexandra. It is dramatic and suspenseful historical fiction, a dual story of how Anastasia would

become Anna Anderson, or, perhaps, how Anna became Anastasia. In the end, what Lawhon does so convincingly is shake up our notion of identity, and not just that of Anastasia and Anna. Are we who we say we are, or who others believe us to be?



*Paris by the Book* has a bookstore, a writer's manuscript, a bereft family, a love story, not to mention Paris, in other words, numerous ingredients for a very enjoyable winter read.



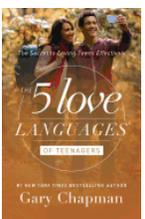
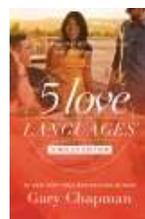
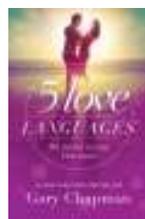
Link to the latest Midwest Bestseller List:

<http://www.midwestbooksellers.org/uploads/4/4/1/7/44171411/>

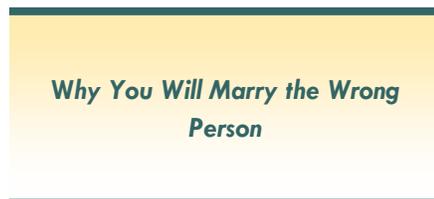
## Self-Help

Self-Help books are hard for a small bookstore—the variety of needs and the desire to find a book that addresses them is great. Some topics are pervasive so that need can often be addressed with a book—grief and addiction, in particular. The current tidying-up interest has replaced the spate of decluttering books a few years back. The stay-at-home and cozy-up books from Scandinavia are still popular two years in.

Of course there is love which never goes out of style. The *5 Love Languages* has a thirty-year run and the others in the series the singles edition and the ones for teens and children are popular as well.



One of the stranger love books is *Why You Will Marry the Wrong Person: A Pessimist's Guide to Marriage, Offering Insight,*



*Practical Advice, and Consolation.* It's written by therapists from The School for Life who apparently have had a few too many sad marriage counseling sessions. Of course, read in the right frame of mind, this is a humorous take on one of life's most serious steps.

## Bookends on Main

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An Indie Bookstore

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Guitar Strings, Journals, Etc.

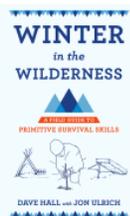
## February by Margaret Atwood

Winter. Time to eat fat  
and watch hockey. In the pewter mornings, the cat,  
a black fur sausage with yellow  
Houdini eyes, jumps up on the bed and tries  
to get onto my head. It's his  
way of telling whether or not I'm dead.  
If I'm not, he wants to be scratched; if I am  
He'll think of something. He settles  
on my chest, breathing his breath  
of burped-up meat and musty sofas,  
purring like a washboard. Some other tomcat,  
not yet a capon, has been spraying our front door,  
declaring war. It's all about sex and territory,  
which are what will finish us off  
in the long run. Some cat owners around here  
should snip a few testicles. If we wise  
hominids were sensible, we'd do that too,  
or eat our young, like sharks.  
But it's love that does us in. Over and over  
again, *He shoots, he scores!* and famine  
crouches in the bedsheets, ambushing the pulsing  
eiderdown, and the windchill factor hits  
thirty below, and pollution pours  
out of our chimneys to keep us warm.  
February, month of despair,  
with a skewered heart in the centre.  
I think dire thoughts, and lust for French fries  
with a splash of vinegar.  
Cat, enough of your greedy whining  
and your small pink bumhole.  
Off my face! You're the life principle,  
more or less, so get going  
on a little optimism around here.  
Get rid of death. Celebrate increase. Make it be spring.



## Cold Enough for You?

Having recently spent a week in Florida when it was warmer than here but not as warm as is nice for a winter getaway, I saw a lot of northerners in shorts and t-shirts boasting about being from Minnesota etc. Meaning: "I'm too tough to be cold in a t-shirt when it's in the 60s"? Or

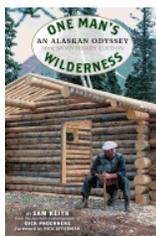


"I'm too dumb to dress for the weather"?

So here we are at -30 which is genuinely cold outdoors, but indoors it is whatever tempera-

ture for which the thermostat is set.

How long do most people spend between leaving their house to get to their car and from their car to get to their place of work? Long enough to get frost bite? Of course, the carless and the homeless have genuine des-



peration in these circumstances and a lot of people have untrustworthy cars and live off the beaten track, so -30 is seriously dangerous to them.

Still, there are a few people who court such extreme weather and survive to write about it. Some climb Mt. Everest, some ski across Antarctica, some build cabins in the wilderness of Alaska and some of us would rather just read about them.

