

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

At the Bookstore in October

October 17th is this year's last Ladies Night Out. It's not exactly Halloween, but maybe the weather will be nicely autumnal.



Jenny Knipfer, Elk Mound author, will be at the bookstore from

5:30-7:30 with *Blue Moon*. The premise for this novel is heartrend-

ing: The year is 1885 and unwed Vanessa Gulet must surrender her newborn son to her twin sister and her husband to raise. Knipfer spins a tale of love, forgiveness, and reuniting lost things.

This is the second in her series that starts with *Ruby Moon*, a novel that has had a lot of success.



On Saturday, Oct. 19, Eau Claire author Maureen Mack will be at the

bookstore from 2:00-3:30 to present her novel *Wild Dreams*. The novel features a strong woman, Ireland, and a Chicago dance company.

Downtown Trick or Treat 3-5 Oct 31

October 2019

Raffle

Two tickets to the Jeans & Jewels

**Charity Gala
Nov. 2
Value \$180**

Register with every purchase

Drawing Oct. 23



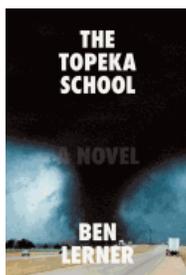
Midwest Connections Picks for October



Midwestern Strange: Hunting Monsters, Martians, and the Weird in Flyover Country

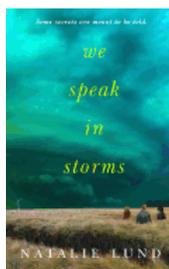
Think there's nothing odd, mysterious, or phenomenal about flyover country? Look a bit closer. From Bigfoot to Area 51 to the Jersey Devil, the United States boasts plenty of legendary unsolved mysteries, and the Midwest has had its share of odd occurrences.

Author B.J. Hollars is from UW-EC



The Topeka School Ben Lerner's new novel is on family, masculinity, and the changing shape of American political life.

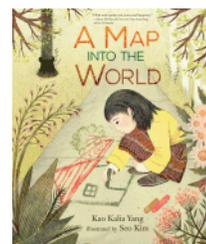
"The Topeka School is one of those amazing novels that captures a specific place and period, even as it reveals transcendent truths about the human condition. I cannot stop thinking about all the humanity infused in each character." —Sarah Bagby



We Speak in Storms is a powerful and haunting debut novel about friendship, acceptance, and learning to

let go as the balance between the living and the dead is upended, perfect for fans of *We Were Liars*.

Author Natalie Lund is a former middle and high school teacher.

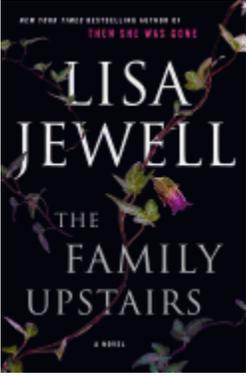


A Map into the World Kao Kalia Yang's debut picture book

features a young Hmong American girl who seeks out beauty everywhere. By sharing all she's seen with her grieving widower neighbor, she finds a true connection.

Yang is the author of the award-winning books *The Latehomecomer* and *The*

Heather's Reviews — *The Family Upstairs*



The Family Upstairs by Lisa Jewell is the suspenseful thriller I have been waiting for. From page one I was hooked and couldn't wait to see how Libby's

story evolved. Libby, who always knew she was adopted, learns on her twenty-fifth birthday the iden-

tity of her birth parents and that she has inherited a mansion in London. This inheritance is not as straightforward as it appears as she soon learns about the existence of siblings who have been waiting to meet her, each with their own agendas. There are lots of twists and turns as Libby tries to unravel the history of her birth and make sense of her family ties. I couldn't put the book down and it kept me guessing until the very last page.

Latest Midwest Bestseller list at www.midwestbooksellers.org

New # 1 on the nonfiction list is Malcolm Gladwell's *Talking to Strangers*. Has Gladwell ever failed to write a best-selling book about topics that resonate with just about everyone? His *Blink*, *Tipping Point*, etc. continue to attract new readers while most books start to mangle after about three months which isn't surprising when about one million new books are published every year.

Swallowtail Poems by Brenna Twohy



I am not a regular reader of poetry, but the cover of this volume grabbed my attention and from the very first poem I was hooked.

I

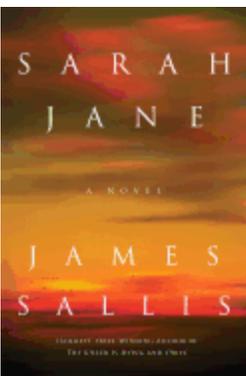
read *Swallowtail Poems* cover to

cover in one sitting. Brenna Twohy's newest volume of poetry contains poems that explore love, the loss of love, and abuse by someone you love. It has poems about living with anxiety and mental illness and the daily strength it can

"It is a collection of poems that will resonate with everyone who reads it."

take to do so. There are poems that reflect on the death of a loved one and living with grief and loss. It is a collection of poems that will resonate with everyone who reads it.

Sarah Jane by James Sallis



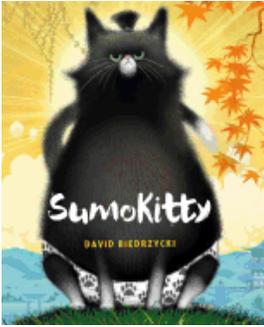
In *Sarah Jane* the reader is pulled into the life and mind of Sarah Jane Pullman a woman with a varied and complex past. We follow Sarah

Jane through a series of moves, jobs,

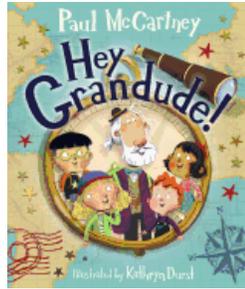
and failed romantic relationships until she finds herself in the role of acting sheriff of a small town. The previous sheriff whose disappearance is a mystery has been a sort of mentor and friend to Sarah and in trying to discover his whereabouts and what has happened to him she uncovers a complicated past he was keeping secret as well. The writing in this book is superb and borders on poetic in many places. I am not

a regular reader of the crime fiction genre, but I plan to read more of James Sallis' work after reading this remarkable novel.

New Children's Picture Books

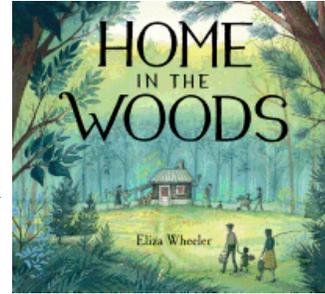


Five delightful new children's picture books arrived at the bookstore recently. *Sumokitty* will steal your heart. Set in Japan with sumo wrestlers, this stray cat story is a cultural road trip. You'll learn a few words of Japanese, a lot about sumo wrestling, and several good life lessons as well.



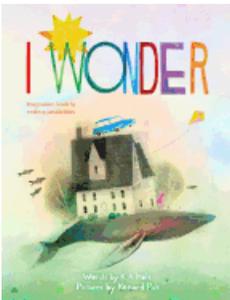
As if Paul McCartney weren't famous enough—he's now written a humorous book for the 4-6 year-old set. *Grandude* brightens a

dreary weekend for his visiting grandchildren by using his magic compass and postcards to take them on adventures around the world. So here is another international entry for kids.



Our beloved Eliza Wheeler has written a poignant story based on her grandmother's

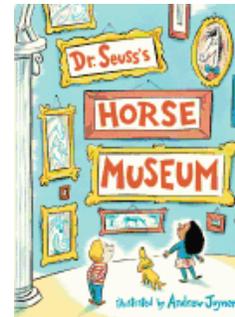
story of survivalism in the 1930s. A young widow with eight children is reduced to scraping by in a tar paper shack. Family, home, the gifts of nature and Wheeler's illustrations make this a thoroughly engaging book.



I Wonder asks the kind of questions children — maybe all of us — ask that can't be answered. Some are fanciful like "Where are all the unicorns hiding?" and some are philosophical: "I wonder if books read us, too." Every

page has a question that will tease children to think and perhaps come up with a creative answer. And another nice thing, the book follows the current trend of using all-inclusive race and ethnic identities.

Last but not least is *Dr. Seuss's Horse Museum* which is about art. It's about seeing art and making art, about going to a museum. To top it off, it has



images of 30 actual works of horse art through the ages starting with a 4th century B.C. Celtic stone carving and includes, Monet, Picasso, etc. It's

both instructive and fun.

New Controversial Books

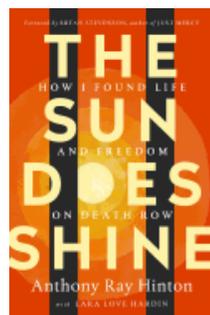


Whistleblowing is big news and for Edward Snowden's story as told in his *Permanent Record* this may be not good news as his story may be eclipsed by the latest scandal. Still, he

has his supporters and detractors. He also seems to be a bit at loose ends in Moscow, though of course he may be putting his skills to work in some way.

"Gripping... Snowden demonstrates a knack for explaining in lucid and compelling language the inner workings of [CIA and NSA] systems and the men-

ace he came to believe they posed." *~The Washington Post*



The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row

"Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison for opposing a racist system in South Africa. Anthony Ray Hinton spent 30 years on death row because a racist system still exists in America. Both emerged from their incarceration with a profound capacity to forgive.

They are stunning examples of how the most horrendous cruelty can lead to the most transcendent compassion. *The Sun Does Shine* is both a cautionary tale for all who think that a great nation can easily forget its past and inspiring proof of the inability to condemn a man's capacity for hope, love, and joy. An amazing and heart-

"An amazing and heartwarming story, it restores our faith in the inherent goodness of humanity."

warming story, it restores our faith in the inherent goodness of humanity." - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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October by Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
To-morrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
To-morrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow,
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know;
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away;
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes' sake along the wall.