

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

JUNE: Children and Middle Reader Book Sale



At-home schooling and safer at home practice has resulted in few children and young people visiting the bookstore since the middle of March.

Now it's the time for summer reading and maybe postponed baby

showers and birthday parties? So to honor these long-standing habits and events, the bookstore is offering a 15% discount on all children's and middle reader books during the first three weeks of June.

Here's a video of the Middle Reader and Kids' sections of the bookstore.



Kids books 005.AVI



2020

June

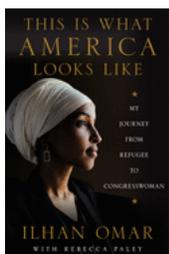
WINNER

Winner of the May drawing for a \$25 gift certificate at the bookstore is Pat Condon.



Buy a book. Send it to a friend or relative.

Just Published Books – Politics and Women



June has several new books by or about women politicians: a biography named *Pelosi*, a novel titled *Rodham*, and memoirs by Ilhan Omar and Madeleine Albright. It's quite a star-studded collection, depending on your political

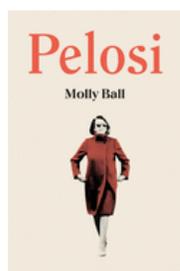
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real life seems to pursue her into fiction.

Pelosi is an "admiring and illuminating new biography of the most powerful

persuasion. So far, *Rodham* has mixed reviews as the love-hate aura around Hilary in



woman in American politics." *NYT Review*

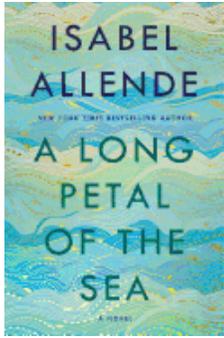


The Hulu series titled *Mrs. America* has resurrected interest in Phyllis Schlafly and her 5-volume series published several years ago. Perhaps of most interest is Vol 3: *Phyllis Schlafly Speaks, How the Republican Party Became Pro-Life*.

Thank you!

Thanks for not forgetting us downtown during our pandemic close-down. Now the stand-alone stores are open. The Raw Deal is back, Marion's Legacy is under new ownership and will be re-opening soon. The bars are open and the restaurants are still doing curbside pick and also have fully re-opened.

A Long Petal of the Sea, rev. by Heather Obenberger

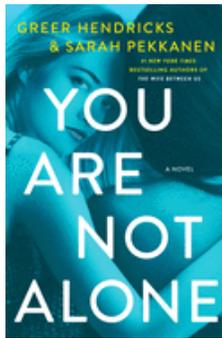


A Long Petal of the Sea is the latest book by bestselling author Isabel Allende. I have been a fan of Isabel Allende's writing ever since I read her book *The House of Spirits* many years ago. *A Long Petal of the Sea* is a historical fiction

novel that centers around the lives of two characters, Roser and Victor Dalmau, during and following the Spanish Civil War. Roser is the pregnant widow of Victor's brother who was killed in the war and Victor feels responsible for her and her child's safety. Although neither of them are in love with each other at the time, Victor marries Roser to ensure that she will be able to travel with him on a ship of refugees headed to Chile where they can pursue new opportunities. The

novel follows the couple through the decades as they face numerous challenges in the new country they now call home and learn to support one another's dreams and ambitions. The novel was a pure joy to read with Allende's use of poetic prose and her ability to immerse the reader in both the characters' lives and the settings of Spain and Chile.

You Are Not Alone, rev. by Heather Obenberger



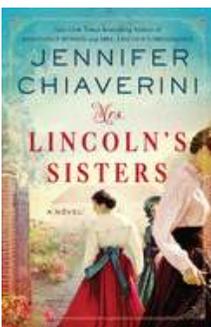
You Are Not Alone is the newest suspense novel co-authored by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen. You may have read one of their previous best sellers *The Wife Between Us* and *An Anonymous Girl* and just like the authors' previous collaborations *You are Not Alone* will keep

your heart racing and keep you up turning the pages all night to see what happens next! The main character in the novel is Shay, a young woman who is living a rather lonely and uneventful life in the city of New York. All that changes one day when she witnesses a tragedy at a subway

"This book will have you on the edge of your seat with all its twists and turns..."

station. Shay sets out to learn more about the victim of that tragedy and in the process she becomes unwittingly entangled with a group of women she believes are her new friends. However, these women are keeping dangerous secrets from Shay and have agendas of their own. Shay soon learns she is never really alone. This book will have you on the edge of your seat with all its twists and turns....and you may not want to be alone when you read it!

Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters, rev. by Pat Trotter



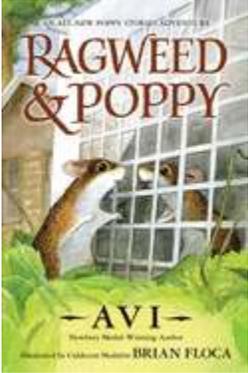
Jennifer Chiaverini has done her research well, as always. While *Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters* is a novel, she captures the life of Mary Todd Lincoln and her three sisters extremely well. Alternating between

their growing up years together and the years after President Lincoln's assassination, she presents a portrait of a headstrong woman whose sisters love her dearly but are appalled at what her life becomes after her husband is killed. She is so distraught over the trauma of his death that, at one point, she attempts suicide. At another point, her only her only remaining son has her committed to an institution for the insane for several

months because of her behavior. The sisters are not all in agreement as to how they should deal with her, but they all realize she is a woman who needs them and they still love her and care for her.

Chiaverini has a way of drawing her reader in to the story, making you feel like you know her characters as real people, not just characters in a book.

Ragweed & Poppy, rev. by Pat Trotter



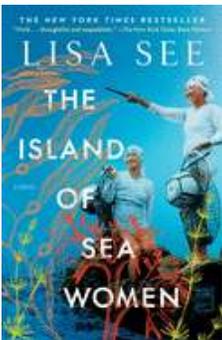
Ragweed and Poppy is the sixth book in the Poppy series. Ragweed, a male golden mouse, hops a train and leaves the city for the forest. He is

searching for Dimwood Forest. When he finds it, he also finds an annoying, young porcupine who won't let him alone; a girl deer mouse, Poppy, in a trap. When he can't get the trap open, he solicits the help of Poppy's family; a large colony of mice living in a falling down house that a family with a little girl might buy and renovate for their home. What an array of

adventures Ragweed and Poppy go on in this enchanting tale. Well written. Middle readers will love it; especially those already familiar with Poppy. And Brian Floca's wonderful illustration make this a book worthy of living on anyone's bookshelf.

Newbery Medal-winning author Avi with illustrations throughout by Caldecott Medal-winning artist Brian Floca.

The Island of Sea Women – August Book Club Pick



"Lisa See excels at mining the intersection of family, friendship and history, and in her newest novel, she reaches new depths exploring the matri-focal *haenyeo* society in Korea, caught between tradition and modernization. This novel spans wars and generations, but at its heart is a beautifully rendered story of two women whose individual choices become inextricably tangled."

~Jodi Picoult

"I was spellbound the moment I en-

tered the vivid and little-known world of the diving women of Jeju. Set amid sweeping historical events, *The Island of Sea Women* is the extraordinary story of Young-sook and Mi-ja, of women's daring, heartbreak, strength, and forgiveness. No one writes about female friendship, the dark and the light of it,

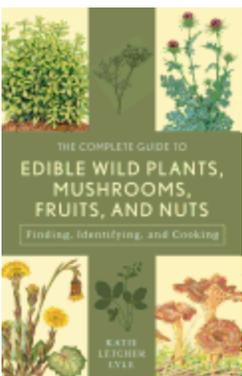
"...women's daring, heartbreak, strength, and forgiveness."

with more insight and depth than Lisa See." ~Sue Monk Kidd

"I loved *The Island of Sea Women* from the very first page. Lisa See has created an enthralling, compelling portrait of a unique culture and a turbulent time in history, but what's really remarkable about this novel is the characters—two women whose lifelong friendship is tested during impossibly difficult times. Compelling, heart-wrenching, and beautifully written, *The Island of Sea Women* will plunge you into a world and a story you've never read before and remind you how powerful women can and must be to survive."

~Kristin Hannah

On the Wild Side



This guide to *Edible Wild Plants, Mushrooms, Fruits, and Nuts*, subtitle "Finding, Identifying, and Cooking" contains a lot of information

that is lost to most of us whose idea of foraging is in the produce section of the grocery store. It's a beautiful book and includes a number of plants that show up in our own back yards. Some of the recipes are totally doable such as one for Blueberry Buckle. So is Candied Violets, but would you bother? Catnip Mice for cats or Catnip tea for people?

Then there is purslane which likes to grow between the seams in your driveway and is "great for salads" — but perhaps it has too much Roundup in its background.

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Guitar Strings, Journals, Etc.

THE TOADS NOT TAKEN

By Bruce Joshua Miller

Two toads emerged from a blackened wood,
And sorry I could not zigzag, following both
And be one follower, long I stood
And eyeballed one as far as I could

Pokémon-like, to wherever it hid;

Then chased t'other, although not as fair,
But, having perhaps the better skin,
Because more bumpy and wanted wear;

Though as for that, the toxins there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally hopped
On leaves no mites had eaten black.

Oh, I'll note them both for another game!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubt if I should ever go back.

I shall be telling this to some worm

Somewhere ages and ages hence:

Two toads emerged from a blackened wood, and I—
I chased the second that went by,
And that has made no difference at all.

Social Distancing by Jordan Miller (age 94)

SOCIAL DISTANCING,
THOUGH IT HAS THE CADENCE OF THE DANCE,
IS HARDLY CONDUCTIVE AND MAKES IT ELUSIVE
TO YOUR AND MY ROMANCE;

SOCIAL DISTANCING,
A PREVENTION, NOT A CURE,
KEEPS US APART TO PRESERVE US,
SO THAT OUR LOVE WILL ONE DAY ENDURE;

I KNOW IT SEEMS A PARADOX,
LIKE WEARING TWO UNMATCHING SOCKS,
OR USING CHOPSTICKS TO EAT LOX,
OR WATCHING FISH TAKING WALKS;

SOCIAL DISTANCING:
HOW WE CAN SURVIVE,
TO TOUCH AND LOVE AND KISS AGAIN,
TO KEEP OUR LOVE ALIVE?

