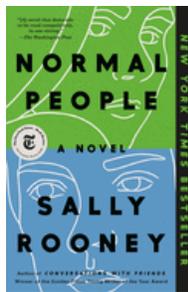


Bookbites

Bookends on Main

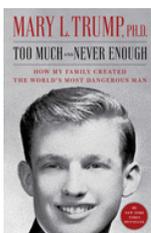
The Old and New Normal



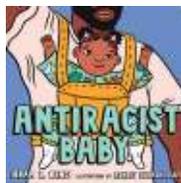
The Old Normal prevails. People are still buying and reading new

books, getting recommendations from friends and reading lists in various publications, and enjoying their summer activities. Kids are playing outdoors. It's quieter with less traffic and feels comfortably old-fashioned in our small town. Fiction, typically

books with mystery, thriller or romance themes are best sellers. Books with political subjects continue their grip.



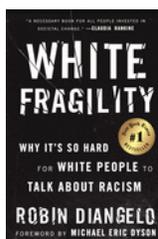
The New Normal means a loss of group activities. No Ludington Guard concerts, limited church services, everyone wearing face masks. Many people feel on edge and are super cautious about contact with



other people. The city council nixed

our Ladies Day Out and other summer down-

town events. Books with race-



consciousness subjects are best sellers.



2020

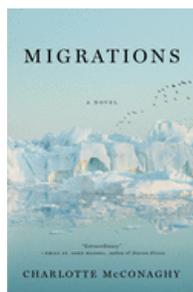
August

Winners—

Mabel Tainter complimentary tickets and drink coupons—waiting for those whose name was drawn to call and accept.

August raffle: \$25.00 Gift Certificate.

Recently Published



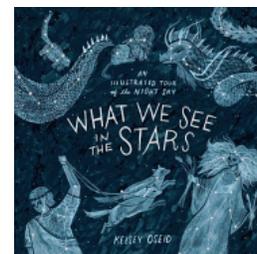
Migrations by Charlotte McConagh is breathtaking.

Franny, the main character, is one of the most unusual, psychologically damaged heroines in a long line of this type that have captured our imagination in recent years. On one level the novel is science fiction, a not-so distant future that

is nearly devoid of all wildlife, and an epic quest by Franny to follow the migration of the last wild Arctic terns to their Antarctic nesting site.

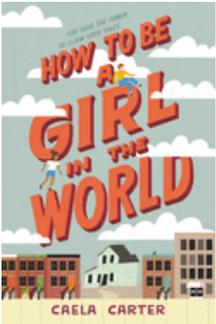
On another level the story is about the quest of Franny to come to terms with an overwhelming shame. The sources for that shame are doled out bit by bit and in the manner of a good story, and are not fully divulged until the last pages of the novel.

A third level is the quest for warmth of family. That quest is accompanied by daunting imagery of cold, ice, freezing water and an assortment of familial migrations and travel expeditions. The settings include Greenland, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, etc. etc. There is much to fascinate in this story. *Migrations* is a marvelous novel.



A summer favorite: Combining art, mythology, and science, *What We See in the Stars* gives readers a tour of the night sky through more than 100 magical pieces of original art, all accompanied by text that weaves related legends and lore with scientific facts.

Highly Recommended Fiction for the 8-12 Age Group



How to Be a Girl in the World by Caela Carter

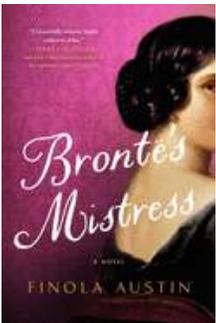
Life can get difficult as a girl begins to grow into a woman. Boys start teasing in a whole different way. Members of the male gender tend to think they can touch you as though you are their property. And even parents don't understand why

you hate all these changes and feel so vulnerable. Lydia no longer feels comfortable in her own skin because of all of this. And no one understands or seems to care. When the class bully starts taking liberties and snapping her bra straps in class, Lydia goes ballistic. And she is the one who gets into trouble and suspended from school. How can she make her mom, the teachers and principal, and even her best friends understand how she feels about

this? When her mom's current boyfriend even becomes too physically close to her, how will she cope? Can she tell her mom? Will her mom understand? An excellently written book about learning that our bodies are our own and how we can choose who to invade our private space. – Rev by Pat Trotter

Topics in the book: body image, sexual harassment, family life, coming of age.

Bronte's Mistress, rev. by Heather



Bronte's Mistress by Finola Austin is a beautifully written historical fiction novel that reimagines how the notorious love affair between Branwell Bronte (the

brother of Emily, Anne, and Char-

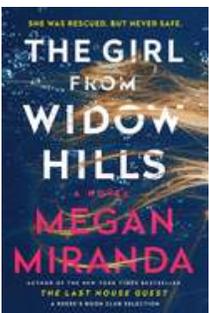
lotte Bronte) and Lydia Robinson (a married woman eighteen years his senior) began and ended. History has often portrayed Lydia as a femme fatale but in this novel told

“a beautifully written historical fiction novel”

from Lydia's point of view the reader sees how Lydia is a victim of the affair as well. Similar in style, this book is an excellent “next read” for readers who enjoyed Mrs. Poe (by Lynn Cullen) and The Paris Wife (by Paula McClain).–Rev. by Heather Obenberger

Bronte's Mistress explores the scandalous love affair that brought down the entire Brontë family.

A Reese's Book Club Pick



The Girl From Widow Hills by best-selling author Megan Miranda is a fast-paced and engrossing thriller you won't be able to put

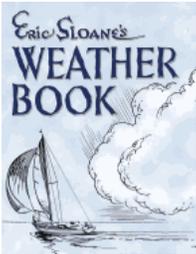
down. Olivia Meyer is a young woman with a traumatic past. She was born Arden Maynor and at the age of six years

old she went missing while she was sleepwalking in a rainstorm. She was miraculously found alive in a storm drain a few days later. In an effort to escape the unwanted fame and attention that follows her she decides to change her name to Olivia Meyer and is able to build a new life for herself where no one knows her past. However, she always fears her past will find her and late one night it does when she

awakes outside her home in the company of a dead man. What follows is a creepy and nail-biting narrative as Olivia tries to make sense of who this man is, why it appears he came looking for her, who killed him, and whether or not she can trust the friends she has made in her new life. Trust me when I tell you this book has an ending you won't see coming. –Rev. by Heather Obenberger

Customer Recommendations

Book buyers frequently ask for books not in stock (but now are) and make recommendations about books that might interest others. Here are a few recent ones.



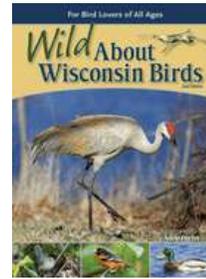
Sloane's *Weather Book*. "Amateur weather forecasters (which includes just about everyone) will find this volume an informative and enter-

taining account of the why and how of the weather."



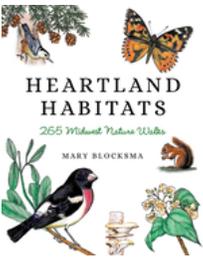
Definitely creepy and sort of popular graphic book, *The Last Book on the Left*: "Delightfully creepy...Cult-favorite horror-comedy podcast Last Podcast on the Left brings its morbid humor and astute research to the page... You don't need to be a listener to enjoy

the book; it will appeal to anyone who likes their true crime with a side of comedy." - *Booklist*



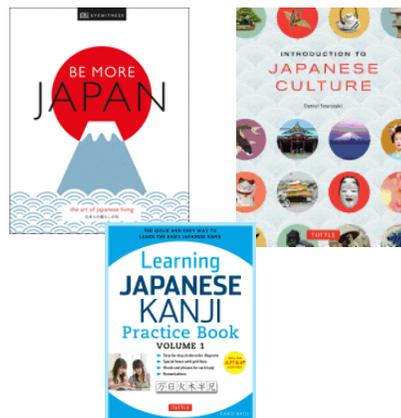
Wild about Wisconsin Birds is brilliantly informative. Besides vivid photos, details on habitat, migration, and nesting, the "Where to Look" sections tell us where to find these Wisconsin birds.

In Lieu of Spectator Sports



Heartland Habitats showcases flora and fauna of the Midwest through fun, full-color illustrations and gives a month-by-month guide on the plant and animal species one can expect to see, along with easy ways to identify different species.

Take an armchair trip to Japan.



A clever new children's board book, *Our World*, gives an introduction to world geography and opens into a globe shape.



Popular Classics and Cultish Favorites of Menomonie Readers

Always in stock, in no particular order, here is a list of books many people buy for their bookshelves:

Les Miserables

Inferno

Plato's Dialogues

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

Zen and the Art of Archery

Grimm's Complete Fairy Tales

Complete Stories of Edgar Allen Poe

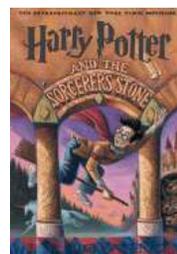
Jane Austen's novels

1984

The Hobbit

Harry Potter

American Gods



Into the Wild

Caddie Woodlawn

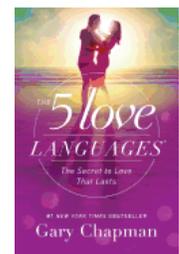
The Screwtape Letters

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?

The 5 Love Languages

James Herriot's Treasury for Children

Love You Forever



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Greeting Cards, Guitars &
Guitar Strings, Journals, Etc.

The Pandemic and Society

Secretary General of the UN Antonio Guterres in the annual Nelson Mandela Lecture said, "[COVID-19] has been likened to an X-ray, revealing fractures in the fragile skeleton of the societies we have built. It is exposing fallacies & falsehoods everywhere: The lie that free markets can deliver health care for all, the fiction that unpaid care work is not work, the delusion that we live in a post-racist world, the myth that we are all in the same boat."



As of July 31, there are 284 books for the "average well-read reader" on the coronavirus, from children's picture books to scientific tomes.

Dog Days of Summer By Meena Alexander

In the dog days of summer as muslin curls on its own heat

And crickets cry in the black walnut tree

The wind lifts up my life

And sets it some distance from where it was.

Still Marco Polo Airport wore me out,

I slept in a plastic chair, took the water taxi.

Early, too early the voices of children

Mimicking the clatter in the Internet café

In Campo Santo Stefano in a place of black coffee

Bordellos of verse, bony accolades of joy,

Saint Stephen stooped over a cross,

A dog licking his heel, blood drops from a sign

By the church wall—Anarchia è ordine—

The refugee from Istria gathers up nails.

She will cobble together a gondola with bits of drift-wood

Cast off the shores of the hunger-bitten Adriatic.

In wind off the lagoon,

A child hops in numbered squares, back and forth,
back and forth,

Cap on his head, rhymes cool as bone in his mouth.
Whose child is he?

No one will answer me.

Voices from the music academy pour into sunlight

That strikes the malarial wealth of empire,

Dreams of an old man in terrible heat,

Hands bound with coarse cloth, tethered to a scaffold,

Still painting waves on the walls of the Palazzo Ducale.

Meena Alexander, "Dog Days of Summer" from *Quickly Changing River*. Copyright © 2008 by Meena Alexander.