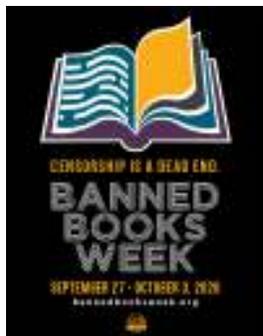


# Bookbites

## Bookends on Main

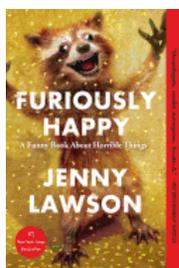
### October Book News



Banned Books week is an annual book event that pays attention to the practice of censorship by no doubt well-meaning people with a special point of view. A list of books banned

from classrooms and removed from shelves is duly noted. The usual reason for banning a book is to protect young readers from inappropriate content. The list of what makes a book inappropriate is quite long and changes over time. For example, back in the 1950's *Catcher in the Rye* was bannable, today it is a typical high school recommendation. Recently challenged books include *The Handmaid's Tale*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *A Day in the Life of Marlon*

*Bundo*. The antidote to close-mindedness is READ MORE.



Our next bookstore book club book:

*Furiously*

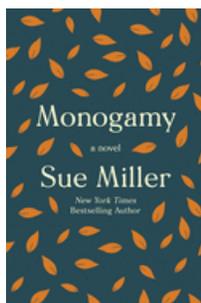
*Happy*, a humor memoir tinged with just enough tragedy and pathos to make it worthwhile. Join us for our ZOOM meeting Oct 29.

2020

October



### Monogamy by Sue Miller



*Monogamy* is one of those onion books, so many layers to peel off. I picked it up first out of a box of Advance Reader books because the main character is a bookseller. It's a lot more complicated, of course, starting with the fact that the bookstore is near Harvard.

As far as the title goes, mo-

nogamy is a fact, a public image, a perception, a cultural ideal, a state of mind. At the center is a seeming golden couple with a 30-year marriage. One fall morning, Annie wakes up to discover her husband Graham dead in bed beside her. That's shocking, and so is what follows, the peeling back of Annie's perception of her husband and their marriage. It's difficult and harrowing yet quite a normal thing to do.

One of the many strengths

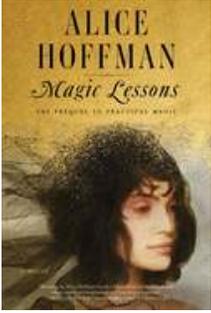
of this novel is the detailed and interesting character portrayal including a well-knit step family and a deep friendship between Annie and Graham's first wife.

Here are a couple review quotes:

A haunting meditation on love, marriage, fidelity, betrayal, and loss...Miller's work is magnificent and moving. Consider it for your next book club. ~ *AARP Magazine Fall Preview*-*AARP Magazine*

What makes a good marriage?...The book's title isn't the full answer for the couple in this emotionally perceptive novel...The key to a happy marriage, Miller's moving story suggests, lies in just this: two people opening themselves up to one another - like inviting books." ~ Heller McAlpin, *Christian Science Monitor*

## Magic Lessons, Alice Hoffman rev. by Heather Obenberger



Magic Lessons by bestselling author Alice Hoffman is the quintessential autumn read. It is the perfect blend of historical fiction and fantasy. Magic Lessons is a prequel to Practical Magic

which was published in 1995 (and was later made into a movie starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman as the bewitching Owens sisters). Magic Lessons takes the reader back to England in the 1600s and the origins of the Owens family when an infant is found abandoned in a field by local healer Hannah Owens. The baby is wrapped in a blue

blanket bearing the name Maria and Hannah knows instantly that there is something special about this baby. Hannah raises the child as her own and teaches young Maria about healing herbs and magic.

One day Maria meets a man who promises to love her but shortly after his declaration he leaves her without even saying goodbye. Heartsick she travels to Salem, Massachusetts where her beloved hails from to try and find him, but in Salem her talents and healing powers put her in danger when fears of witchcraft overtake the town. The man she thought loved her does nothing to help her and Maria feels betrayed by love and calls forth a curse that will follow and affect the generations

of women in her family for years to come. In the years that follow her uttering of the fateful curse Maria comes to realize that she still has many lessons to learn about the powers of magic and about the power of true love. Magic Lessons is a fairytale-like escape from the fall and winter doldrums and should be on your must-read list this year.

P.S. I was pleasantly surprised by Magic Lessons as I have never read Hoffman before and as this book was partially classified as Fantasy (which is not a genre I generally enjoy) and was about witchcraft I truly feared it might be kind of cheesy or hokey. However, it turned out to be one of those "don't judge a book by its cover" lessons for me and I really enjoyed it.

## One by One Ruth Ware rev. by Heather Obenberger



One by One is the latest mystery and suspense thriller by bestselling author Ruth Ware. Ruth Ware is one of my favorite authors and I have read and

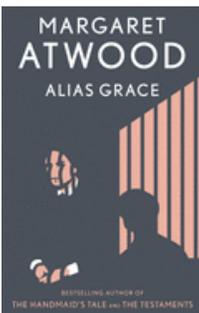
loved all five of her previous novels and I loved this one as well! The setting is a chalet in the French Alps. The only guests in the chalet

are the employees of a small but successful tech company that created and launched "Snoop" a popular online music app. They are at the chalet to enjoy a winter holiday ski retreat, but the holiday quickly turns sinister when an avalanche traps them in the chalet

"This book had me on the edge of my seat and turning pages late into the night!"

along with two of the chalet employees. In the days following the avalanche some of the guests are found dead in their rooms under mysterious circumstances which leads to a fear that there may be a murderer among them. The mystery unfolds through the dual narrative of Liz one of the guests and Erin one of the chalet employees. This book had me on the edge of my seat and turning pages late into the night!

## Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood



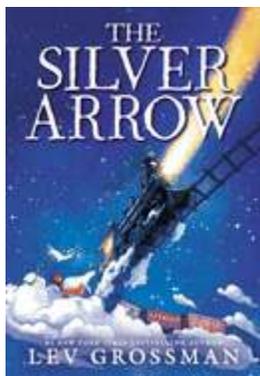
Originally published in 1996, Alias Grace has recently been made into a TV series and our book club adopted it for our September reading. It's based on a true story of murder in

1843 Canada. Grace Marks and James McDermott are convicted of murdering their employer and his housekeeper. McDermott is hanged, Grace is imprisoned for life. Her exemplary behavior in prison leads to an unusual reprieve and she becomes the subject for analysis by a psychiatrist.

Atwood's telling of this story and the complex character of Grace make for

a remarkable study. How much of what Grace says is true? What role does memory play in telling about the past? What is the nature of truth anyway? Is Grace a manipulative murderer? How does abuse explain her character? Are the genteel ladies who take an interest in her misguided? To what extent does the doctor understand her? Is her constant sewing and quilting symbols of piecing together her story? Read this book, come to your own conclusions.

## Two Middle Reader Books, rev. by Pat Trotter



The Silver Arrow by Lev Grossman, Sept 2020

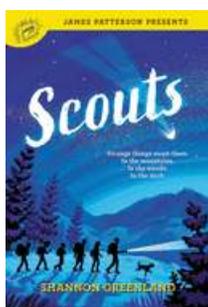
Kate's 11th birthday is tomorrow. No one in the family seems to

care. So she writes a letter to her Uncle Herbert, whom she has never met, but is told is very rich, and

asks him for a birthday present. Kate never dreamed that this would be the present he would give her. And then Kate, and her younger brother, Tom, discover that this present is not only different, but contains adventures they could not themselves imagine. Why does Uncle Herbert believe that Kate is responsible enough to not only own but also operate a full-sized steam engine? Where will it take them? What are all these animals

that keep jumping on and off the train. A very imaginatively written story about growing up, learning responsibility, and realizing that maybe you are resourceful and courageous, after all. And, just maybe, in following the adventure, they can also help save the world

## Scouts by Shannon Greenland



Annie, Rocky, Flynn, and Beans make up the "scouts." They've been friends forever. But this summer is going to be the best ever. They go out one night to

watch the summer meteor shower and actually see a real meteor streak across the sky and fall to the

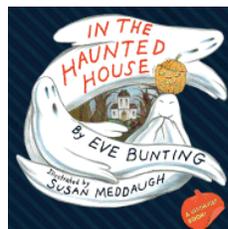
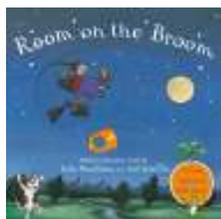
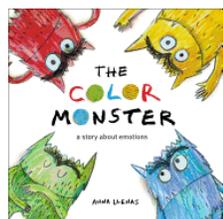
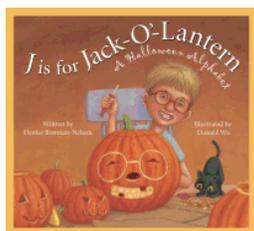
ground. They decide to go find it. The next nearly 24 hours prove to be much more of an adventure than they ever thought it would be. Rivers, caves, bats, kidnapped

“... a wonderful adventure in which to get lost ...”

by "crazy people," trains, a hungry

bear. When they finally find the "crash site," they can't believe what they are seeing. Will this summer adventure prove to be one the "scouts" will be glad to remember? Or will this adventure tear their group apart? Once you start reading, you can't put this page-turner down. Middle readers will be yelled at by parents to "Put that book down!" as many of us were growing up, lost in our favorite books.

## Kids' Halloween Books



## Bookends on Main

214 East Main St.  
Menomonie, WI 54751

Phone: 715-233-6252  
Fax: 715-233-6252

[info@bookendsonmain.com](mailto:info@bookendsonmain.com)  
[www.bookendsonmain.com](http://www.bookendsonmain.com)



An Indie Bookstore

New & Used Books, Toys, Gifts,  
Greeting Cards, Guitars &  
Guitar Strings, Journals, Etc.

## October by Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,  
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;  
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,  
Should waste them all.  
The crows above the forest call;  
Tomorrow 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.

## Holiday Shopping before Halloween? Why Not? It's Good for Social Distancing



Will there be a "Small Business Saturday" this year? Will brick-and-mortar stores be able to compete against catalogs? Our Independent Bookstore holiday book catalog is coming soon. Subscribers to the Dunn County News will have an insert in their weekend paper. As usual, the catalog will be in the bookstore for pick up.



Also note our rack of authentic ethnic clothing and misc. vintage items.