

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

2021

October



Our third Ladies Night Out in 2021 is Thursday, Oct. 21, 11:00–8:00. Take advantage of 15% off all sales at the bookstore that day. Start your

Christmas shopping early. The annual Holiday book catalog could be here by that day.

The early birds—some people are already wrapping their Christmas presents, however, a large percent of people don't do nay shopping until a few days before Christmas.

News is that we will return to downtown Trick or Treat after two years of cancellation. According to the [DCN](#), Dunn

County only has a 42.5% vaccination rate, so the infection risk is still great and herd immunity far off.



Come on, let's get on the program. We need to return to normalcy.

Straight from Germany, Oktoberfest souvenirs:



Beer mug refriger magnets.

Happy Halloween!



Recently Published: Top October Picks

Cloud Cuckoo Land

The Lincoln Highway

Peril

Beautiful World Where Are You?

The Book Of Magic: A Novel

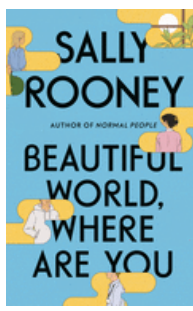
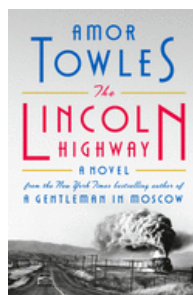
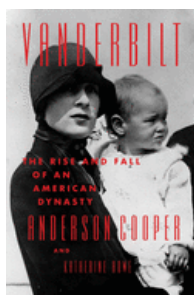
Under the Whispering Door

The Ex Hex

Finding the Mother Tree

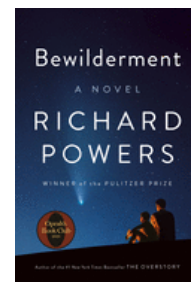
Bewilderment

Madness of Crowds



In this tender story, focusing on the love between a father and his young son as they struggle to cope with a profound loss, Powers demonstrates that his skill remains undiminished even on this smaller scale.

HARVEY FREEDENBERG BOOKREPORTER



Three Sept. Middle Reader Books, Reviews by Pat Trotter



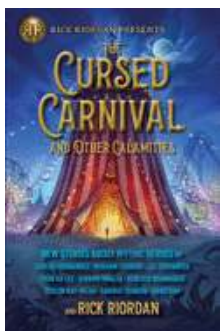
Once Upon a Tide: A Mermaid's Tale by Stephanie Kate Strohm
For ages 8-12

For those who loved "The Little Mermaid" and wished there were more stories like that, this book was written for you. Princess Lana is the youngest mermaid ambassador of her underwater kingdom to represent her

king and kingdom at the royal festival held on land. She cannot wait to prove herself, even though it means trading her beautiful mermaid tail for a pair of ungainly human legs and spending time with her human mother for a time. Things don't go the way she had thought or planned once she gets on land. She's too young. She's too inexperienced. No one wants to listen to her, not even her mother, who is in the middle of a new romance. But

then disaster strikes her underground home. How can she stay away when she knows what is happening underwater? Will even her father keep her from returning? Will there be war in the future for her kingdom? Who is behind the devastation and destruction and why can't she go home? Will she be prepared to become queen of her kingdom one day? This is another of Disney's Hyperion series, well written, engaging, proving that even princesses "kick tail" now and then.

Rick Riordan Presents the Cursed Carnival and Other Calamities



This is the latest in the Rick Riordan Presents series. It is a short story collection for middle grade readers of "new stories about mythic heroes", involving 10 of

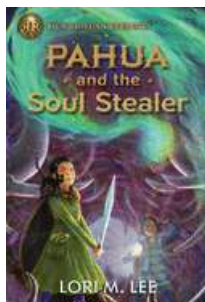
the heroes from previous stories and one new hero. How exciting to join Aru Shah on another adven-

ture complete with snakes and lightning bolts; visiting a museum with Gum Baby and discovering a trouble-

some ghost; searching for the magical meat flowers with Paola Santiago because that is the only thing that will

cure her sick chupacabra puppy; watching Sikander Aziz being challenged to a duel by a persistent demon; or Rick Riordan's own new hero, an 8-year-old whose mother chases him away when the Clan Morna warriors threaten, he falls off a cliff, hits his head on a rock, and lands on a donkey. Who has found him and what is his fate? Ten new Celtic short stories are not enough. All Rick Riordan fans will clamor for more.

Pahua and the Soul Stealer



Rick Riordan Presents *Pahua and the Soul Stealer* by Lori M. Lee
For ages 8-12

It's difficult to live in a foreign country that does not always respect your family's traditions and culture. Pahua is an 11-

year-old Hmong girl, living with her family in a small town in Wisconsin, who wonders where she belongs. She feels so different from everyone around her because she is able to see all the spirits in her world. How can she manage to live in a place that does not understand her or her family? How can she save her little brother who is at risk because of a mistake she has

made? Will she be strong enough to do what she must do, despite what everyone around her says? An exciting adventure, written by one who endured much of what Pahua is enduring. Full of information about the Hmong culture, this is a must-read for those who wonder about and long to understand the Hmong peoples living in their midst.

Death at Greenway, rev. by Heather Obenberger



Death at Greenway by Lori Rader-Day is a wonderful work of historical fiction that is set in England during World War

II. The novel revolves around two young nurses, Bridey and Gigi, who are hired to care for ten evacuated children at Greenway House. Greenway House was one

of the homes of the famed mystery writer Agatha Christie and it did in fact serve as a home for evacuated children during the war. Greenway House is shrouded in mystery, as are its inhabitants, caretakers, and the nurses themselves. Shortly after the nurses and the children arrive at Greenway House a mystery presents itself when a body is found on the shore near the estate. It appears to the nurses that this death was not accidental but rather a murder. Bridey and Gigi must work

quickly to uncover the truth as to whether or not this death was a murder and if so, at whose hands. I really enjoyed this novel because other than the death (which was fictional) the author did a lot of research and included lots of historical details about the time period, Greenway House, and the children and staff who lived there during the war. It was a highly entertaining read with lots of twists and turns that kept me turning the pages.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek



This month our bookstore book club is reading *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*. Since it came out just over two years

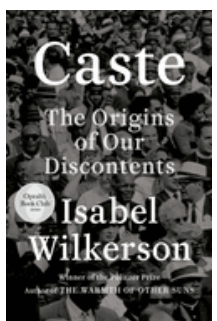
ago, we have sold 20 copies and if you read it you'll understand its long shelf life. It's

historical fiction, set in the depression era about a WPA program of traveling librarians who brought reading materials to people in isolated Kentucky communities. The yearning for knowledge of all sorts

The “blue people of Kentucky” is a fascinating story

is a central theme of the book but more memorable is that the book woman heroine has a rare genetic condition that causes her skin to be blue. The “blue people of Kentucky” is a fascinating story that the author uses to explore the meaning of color as a tool of prejudice. Of course, romance, coal mining, family values, and the Appalachian setting all make this a memorable story.

Caste



After our book club read *The Warmth of Other Suns*, I decided to follow it up with Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste*. The latter currently ranks in the top ten of the

Midwest book list and is a top book club choice more than a year after it

first was published.

In *Caste*, Wilkerson explores the creation of cultural hierarchy based on color as an American phenomenon. Early on she mentions an incident when she was giving a talk in England and a woman from Nigeria told her that in Africa “there are no blacks.” Africans identify themselves by ethnicity, tribal and regional background. The uniqueness of Ameri-

cans' use of color is contrasted to the way ethnicity is/was used in South Africa, Nazi Germany, India. The depth and breadth of Wilkerson's analysis is punctuated with excruciating specific examples. *Caste* is a book not easy to forget and should probably be on everyone's reading list.

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THE TYGER BY WILLIAM BLAKE

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

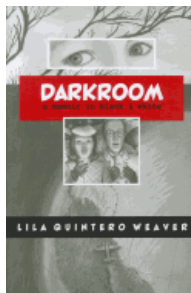
And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

Chippewa Valley Book Fest



Lila Quintero Weaver's Book, *Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White* is an arresting and moving personal story about childhood, race, and identity

in the American South, rendered in stunning illustrations by the author, Lila Quintero Weaver.

The author and book are featured in the Chippewa Valley Book Festival. A virtual event will be held on October, 25, 2021 from 7-8, sponsored by UW-Stout.

Check out the webpage for the other authors who will be part of this festival at <https://www.cvbookfest.org>

Madeleine Miller, author of *Song of Achilles* and *Circe*, both very popular with young readers.

Kate Moore, *The Woman They Could Not Silence*

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