

# Bookbites

## Bookends on Main

Happy New Year from Us to You!

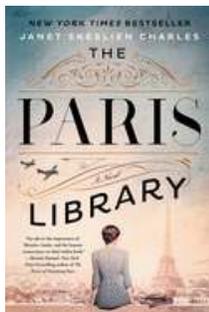
January 2022



Mask On!



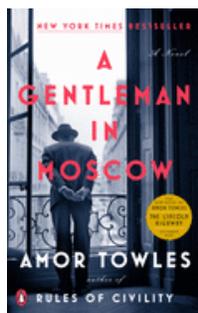
## Recently Published, Still Popular



Yes, another WWII story, but authors find new material. *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles is historical fiction based on real people, the legendary director of the Paris Library, Dorothy Reeder, and others, as well as the German occupation of Paris. A wartime romance is superimposed on this background, fortified by family secrets, a mysterious past, friendship, jealousy, and the

horrible things war leads people to do to one another. There are dual settings, Paris 1939-1945 and Montana 1983-1989 with parallel elements as well as the story of the main character, Odile encompassing both. To book lovers, the story of the American library in Paris includes marvelous statements about books. — A quotation from *The Little Prince*: “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.” — “...why books. Because no other thing possesses that mystical faculty to

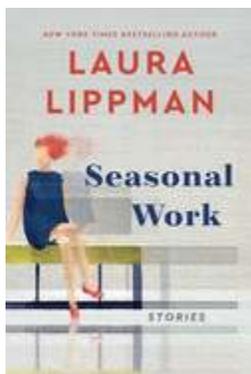
make people see with other people’s eyes. The Library is a bridge of books between cultures.” — “Libraries are lungs. . . . Books the fresh air breathed in to keep the heart beating, to keep the brain imagining, to keep hope alive.”



Amor Towles’ *A Gentleman in Moscow* is one of those books with a long shelf life. It first came out in March 2019 and is still very

popular, attested to by the fact that it is our January book club selection. It is not so much a novel as it is a collection of vignettes. It’s an account of a Count who survives the Bolshevik revolution only to be sentenced for life to house arrest in the Hotel Metrople in Moscow. How do you make a life out of that? He starts by attempting to read Montaigne—one of those books we all mean to read but might take a prison sentence to tackle. Towles is compared to Tolstoy as epic in miniature, but there is a lot of Montaigne there too. It’s a wonderful book.

# No Light to Land On by Yara Zgheib



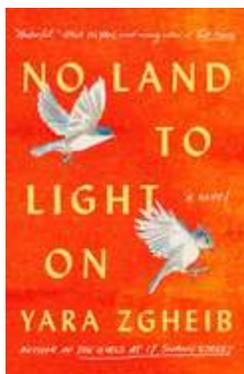
In the aftermath of a travel ban a family is torn apart. Sama, who came to the United States from Syria to attend a university, and Hadi, a

Syrian refugee, meet and fall in love in Boston. They marry and are expecting their first child when Hadi learns his father has passed and he

returns to Syria for the funeral. In the short time he is away the President enacts a travel ban (Executive Order 13769) which aims to reduce the number of refugees that are allowed into the United States and suspends the entry of Syrian refugees indefinitely. This order affects Hadi directly and he is not allowed to return. On the night he is denied entrance to the United States, Sama goes into early labor and her son is born premature. In the months following this catastrophic night, Hadi tries desperately to re-

turn to his wife and child. Sama finds herself alone and caring for her medically fragile child without the support of her husband and her family who remain in Syria. This book was heart-wrenching as Sama and Hadi try to figure out if, how, and ultimately where they can be together again. The writing is so superb, the characters so richly developed, and the emotions so raw, that I found myself reflecting on Sama and Hadi's story for weeks after I finished this book. *Rev. by Heather Obenberger*

## Seasonal Work: Stories by Laura Lippman



Laura Lippman is one of my favorite crime writers. Her novels are always full of well-developed characters, suspense, and lots of twists

and reveals that you don't see coming. This collection of short stories was no exception to what I have

come to expect from this author. There are twelve stories con-

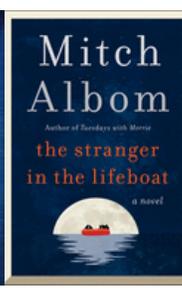
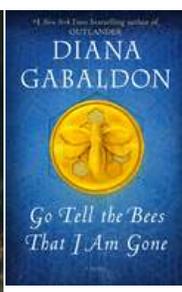
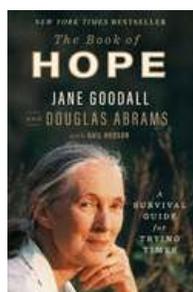
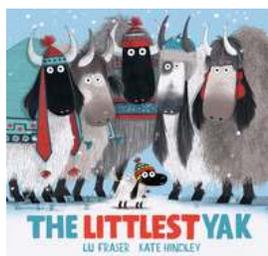
**"...lots of twists and reveals that you don't see coming."**

tained in this collection. The characters at the center of these stories include petty and serious criminals, women seeking revenge on the men

who wronged them, and even a ghost. The last story in the collection takes place during the recent Pandemic and was very clever. This collection is perfect for mystery and psychological suspense fans looking to escape into a good story for a short time as each story can be read in about twenty minutes. However, I was never able to stop after just one story because I would read the first page of the next one and be hooked! *Rev. by Heather Obenberger*

## Often-Bought Books in December—These and Many Others

Also, we gifted 50 books in our "12 Days of Christmas" drawing.



## 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,  
Ukuleles, Journals, Etc.

Nearly everyone's old favorite –  
Robert Frost's

Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy  
Evening



Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

## January Sale Books

Selected novels, sci-fi, memoirs  
Children's Christmas books and selected  
Middle Reader books

Pres. Trump themed books  
First Edition of *The Art of the Deal*

