

April 2009 Family Book Shop Newsletter

This is no way to start a newsletter but I am just shocked. Barbara Parker, mystery writer died! At 62! It's not that people dying is so shocking, it's just that it seems so many authors have died recently. I wanted to write the list in January but got side tracked and didn't want to start the year on a morbid note. But then more writers died... so here goes...Philip Agee, Gary Gygax, Stephen Marlowe.

Donald Westlake, Robert Jordan, Randy Pausch, Tim Russert, Solzhenitsyn, Robin Moore, William Buckley, Arthur C. Clark, Margaret Truman, Phyllis Whitney (at 104), George Macdonald Fraser, John Updike, Philip Jose Farmer, Thomas M. Disch, and Michael Crichton. More, I'm sure, but these are the ones that come to mind. It seems an inordinate number of Science Fiction writers have died. For you Robert Jordan fans, the last in his Wheel of Time series, A Memory of Light, is supposed to be published in November. Kelli and I met Robert Jordan the year before he died. He told us then that he thought the last installment would be too long for one book. We'll know in November.

Maybe my pre-occupation with Parker's surprising death at 62, (and Randy Pausch at 47, Robert Jordan at 58)) is that I'll be 70 next month. I find that the older I get the younger "old" is. Is 70 the new 50? <giggle>

It occurs to me you might be wondering how we, as an independent bookstore, are faring in these tough times. Onething you might have noticed is that there are fewer new, current books on the shelves. We are taking a prudent approach to our ordering. We have to pay for the books that you see on our shelves so have pared the amount we order. We can, and do, special order books that usually take only two days to reach us. So, if there is something you want just call or come by and we'll get it in. There is no charge for postage...just the book and the tax, of course.

Another phenomenon happening in all the stores that sell magazines in our area is that the distributor FOR US ALL, Anderson News, has "suspended business" owing over \$3,000,000.00 (that's million) to 4 book publishers, and an undisclosed amount to the magazine publishers. We are all scrambling to find new distributors but there may be a gap in continuity until we are back on track. Our new magazine distributor, Ingram Books, has been our book distributor for over 20 years and we have great faith in them. Anderson was the sole distributor for the whole east coast of Florida. We use to call them the "distributor from hell" and it is really no wonder they're in trouble. Unfortunately many local people lost their jobs and they "suspended business" owing us about \$9,000.00.

Done whining.

Quotation of the Day

Books Rather Than Men: A More Perfect Relationship"Relationships with books actually have some pretty compelling advantages over relationships with men. With books, it's always your choice if the liaison ends prematurely. You don't have to worry about the awkwardness of trying to avoid your discarded book should you bump into it in the grocery store. You can tell it, "It's not you, it's me" or even "You know, it actually is you" without hurting its feelings.

It will also never insist on an exclusive relationship, and no one will think ill of you if you love more than one. You can take one to bed with you the very first night you bring it home without your mother blinking an eye."--Kim Kovacs on the BookBrowse blog.

You're not gonna believe this one. Our American Bookseller Association, otherwise known as ABA, has offered all member booksellers a 50% reduction in dues for the year. I had planned not to rejoin this year since our dues are over \$500.00. But if they can do this to keep us and some of the independent stores that are having financial difficulties covered with their many programs then, well, we'll manage the dues to help keep them helping independent bookstores. Awkward run on sentence noted!

This website was humiliating...eyeopening but humiliating. Could I be that dense?

I guess so!

http://www.rethinkingschools.org/just_fun/games/mapgame

I received the following from a customer:

I read & enjoy all kinds except sci-fi or extreme violence. I prefer Christian writers, fiction and informational/study books.Thanks for the follow-up. Sincerely, Janet

Since I don't read the type she likes maybe one of you will write in with some suggestions. Please.

Another fun web site:

http://www.rollinrollin.com/haunting_of_america.htm I don't know why Deland isn't listed. We have a whole book on Haunted Deland at the store.

and this:

<http://www.infoplease.com/dayinhistory>

We have 13 boxes ready to mail to soldiers in the Middle East and have found someone to take our excess books, jigsaw puzzles and audio books to the VA hospital in Orlando.

The bookclub I belong to read In The Woods for March but couldn't meet so we're holding over for April. It's a good thing too because I hadn't finished it. I enjoyed it but it's not a quick read. I hope her next book ties up some loose ends although life is like that...some things never conclude.

Savannah has moved on from her second reading of all four of the Twilight books and has started the House of Night series which begins with Marked (Enter the dark, magical world of The House of Night, a world where vampyres have always existed. Sixteen-year-old Zoey Redbird has just been Marked as a fledgling vampyre and joins the House of Night, a school where she will train to become an adult vampire. That is, if she makes it through the Change--and not all of those who are Marked do.) Very popular series for those of you who loved Twilight. So many heretofore non reading teens are reading voraciously now.

She is also reading The Perks of Being a Wallflower for a second time (Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie is navigating through the strange worlds of love, drugs, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show", and dealing with the loss of a good friend and his favorite aunt.) As the third generation in our store, you'd think she didn't have access to any and all the books.

Harry Potter and Twilight have created a whole new generation of readers...yea!

Amanda has been spring cleaning so hasn't read as much as she'd like. She did read and does recommend Jacquelyn Frank's new book, Ecstasy (At one with the darkness, the mysterious Shadowdwellers must live as far from light-loving humans as possible in order to survive. Yet one damaged human woman will tempt the man behind the Shadowdweller throne into dangerous desire, in this stunning work by the "New York Times"-bestselling author of the Nightwalkers series.)

She also liked Dark Harvest (Denver psychologist Kismet Knight counsels vampires. Her life changed forever when she discovered a dark preternatural underworld and became involved with gorgeous, eight-centuries-old Devereux, the powerful leader of a vampire coven. Still adjusting to her new role as an expert on all things paranormal--as well as her unexpected notoriety and new clientele--she schedules what she believes is simply another radio interview. She couldn't be more mistaken. Not only does the radio host behave very strangely, but an ominous, on-air call turns Kismet's world

upside-down--again. Meanwhile, Luna, Devereux's hostile, femme fatale personal assistant recognizes a perfect opportunity to throw a wrench into her boss's blossoming relationship with the human psychologist and, to complicate matters further, Kismet's old boyfriend, self-absorbed psychologist Tom Radcliffe, shows up with his own outlandish request.

Kelli is reading Evermore by Alyson Noel, another young adult novel (The first book in Noel's exciting new Immortals series. Since the accident that claimed her family, 16-year-old Ever can see auras, hear people's thoughts, and know a person's entire history through one touch. She's been branded a freak at her new high school, but everything changes when Ever meets the mysterious Damen August.) and has the advance reading copy of

Wings by Aprilynne Pike (When a flower blooms in the middle of her back, Laurel discovers that she is a faerie and was placed with human parents as a child. As Laurel learns about her true background and the dangers that face the faerie realm, she struggles to find her place in both worlds.)

We have all enjoyed young adult novels and many New York Times bestselling authors (James Patterson and Carl Hiaasen come to mind) are writing them. They leave out blood and guts and gratuitous sex and write compelling stories with interesting characters and real plots.

Lori is still stuck on her computer game and had read nothing. Nothing! How can you work among 200,000 books and read nothing?

Stacy has finished James Patterson's The Final Warning (Patterson takes readers on the wildest ride yet in the fourth adventure in his #1 "New York Times"-bestselling series. Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride and the other members of the Flock must flee again--and this time, it seems the whole world is on their tail.) and is anxious for the next one, Max (Maximum

Ride and the other members of the Flock have barely recovered from their last adventure, when they are confronted by the most frightening catastrophe yet. Millions of fish are dying and someone--or something--is destroying hundreds of ships. The government enlists the Flock to help them get to the bottom of the disaster before it is too late.)

Long list follows:

The Indie Bestseller List Published Thursday, March 26, 2009 (for the sales week ended Sunday, March 22, 2009). Based on reporting from many hundreds of independent bookstores across the United States. For information on more titles, please visit IndieBound.org

Booksellers: The Indie Bestseller List may be downloaded as a color PDF for display in your store. Go to the Indie Bestseller page under the IndieBound section on BookWeb.org and choose the format that works best for you, or click on the bestseller link in Thursday's [Bookselling This Week](#)

email.

Debuts for the week:

Hardcover Nonfiction

#5-A Lion Called Christian, by John Rendall, Anthony Bourke
(9780767932301)

#14-Cheever, by Blake Bailey (9781400043941)

Paperback Fiction

#15-Mudbound, by Hillary Jordan (9781565126770)

Paperback Nonfiction

#9-The Soloist, by Steve Lopez (9780425226001)

Children's Interest

#7-Twilight: Director's Notebook, by Catherine Hardwicke
(9780316070522)

Children's Illustrated

#15-All in a Day, by Cynthia Rylant, Nikki McClure (Illus.)
(9780810983212)

Children's Fiction Series

New: Max (Maximum Ride), by James Patterson (9780316002899)

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Mary Ann Shaffer, Annie Barrows, Dial, \$22, 9780385340991

2. Handle With Care

Jodi Picoult, Atria, \$27.95, 9780743296410

3. The Associate

John Grisham, Doubleday, \$27.95, 9780385517836

4. Fool

Christopher Moore, Morrow, \$26.99, 9780060590314

5. The Help

Kathryn Stockett, Putnam, \$24.95, 9780399155345

6. The Women

T.C. Boyle, Viking, \$27.95, 9780670020416

7. The Story of Edgar Sawtelle

David Wroblewski, Ecco, \$25.95, 9780061374227

8. Heart and Soul

Maeve Binchy, Knopf, \$26.95, 9780307265791

9. Little Bee

Chris Cleave, S&S, \$24, 9781416589631

10. The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo

Stieg Larsson, Knopf, \$24.95, 9780307269751

11. Corsair

Clive Cussler, Jack Du Brul, Putnam, \$27.95, 9780399155390

12. Night and Day

Robert B. Parker, Putnam, \$25.95, 9780399155413

13. The Host

Stephenie Meyer, Little Brown, \$25.99, 9780316068048

14. Cutting for Stone

Abraham Verghese, Knopf, \$26.95, 9780375414497

15. The Art of Racing in the Rain

Garth Stein, Harper, \$23.95, 9780061537936

ON THE RISE:

21. The Tourist

Olen Steinhauer, Minotaur, \$24.95, 9780312369729

Steinhauer's outstanding contemporary espionage novel is a March Indie Next List

Great Read.

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. Outliers

Malcolm Gladwell, Little Brown, \$27.99, 9780316017923

2. The Lost City of Z

David Grann, Doubleday, \$27.50, 9780385513531

3. Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man

Steve Harvey, Amistad, \$23.99, 9780061728976

4. House of Cards

William D. Cohan, Doubleday, \$27.95, 9780385528269

5. A Lion Called Christian: The True Story of the Remarkable Bond Between Two

Friends and a Lion- Debut

John Rendall, Anthony Bourke, Broadway, \$21.95, 9780767932301

6. Dewey

Vicki Myron, Grand Central, \$19.99, 9780446407410

7. The Yankee Years

Joe Torre, Tom Verducci, Doubleday, \$26.95, 9780385527408

8. The Inaugural Address, 2009

Barack Obama, Penguin, \$12, 9780143116424

9. The Last Lecture

Randy Pausch, Hyperion, \$21.95, 9781401323257

10. Animals Make Us Human

Temple Grandin, Catherine Johnson, Houghton Mifflin, \$26, 9780151014897

11. Food Matters

Mark Bittman, S&S, \$25, 9781416575641

12. Barefoot Contessa Back to Basics

Ina Garten, Clarkson Potter, \$35, 9781400054350

13. How We Decide

Jonah Lehrer, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$25, 9780618620111

14. Cheever: A Life- Debut

Blake Bailey, Knopf, \$35, 9781400043941

15. Hot, Flat, and Crowded

Thomas L. Friedman, FSG, \$27.95, 9780374166854

ON THE RISE:

24. My Booky Wook

Russell Brand, HarperCollins, \$25.99, 9780061730412

An irreverent memoir by the popular British comedian and actor.

TRADE PAPERBACK FICTION

1. The Shack

William P. Young, Windblown, \$14.99, 9780964729230

2. The Elegance of the Hedgehog

Muriel Barbery, Europa Editions, \$15, 9781933372600

3. People of the Book

Geraldine Brooks, Penguin, \$15, 9780143115007

4. The Reader

Bernhard Schlink, Vintage, \$13.95, 9780307454898

5. The White Tiger

Aravind Adiga, Free Press, \$14, 9781416562603

6. American Wife

Curtis Sittenfeld, Random House, \$15, 9780812975406

7. Out Stealing Horses

Per Petterson, Picador, \$14, 9780312427085

8. The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

Junot Diaz, Riverhead, \$14, 9781594483295

9. Loving Frank
Nancy Horan, Ballantine, \$14, 9780345495006

10. The Miracle at Speedy Motors
Alexander McCall Smith, Anchor, \$13.95, 9780307277466

11. Lush Life
Richard Price, Picador, \$15, 9780312428228

12. Sarah's Key
Tatiana De Rosnay, St. Martin's Griffin, \$13.95, 9780312370848

13. Still Alice
Lisa Genova, Pocket, \$15, 9781439102817

14. Revolutionary Road
Richard Yates, Vintage, \$14.95, 9780307454621

15. Mudbound- Debut
Hillary Jordan, Algonquin, \$13.95, 9781565126770

TRADE PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. Three Cups of Tea
Greg Mortenson, David Oliver Relin, Penguin, \$15, 9780143038252

2. Dreams From My Father
Barack Obama, Three Rivers, \$14.95, 9781400082773

3. Animal, Vegetable, Miracle
Barbara and Camille Kingsolver, Steven Hopp, Harper Perennial, \$14.95, 9780060852566

4. The Middle Place
Kelly Corrigan, Voice, \$14.95, 9781401340933

5. The Zookeeper's Wife
Diane Ackerman, Norton, \$14.95, 9780393333060

6. The Omnivore's Dilemma
Michael Pollan, Penguin, \$16, 9780143038580

7. Blink
Malcolm Gladwell, Back Bay, \$15.99, 9780316010665

8. Eat, Pray, Love
Elizabeth Gilbert, Penguin, \$15, 9780143038412

9. The Soloist (Movie Tie-in)- Debut
Steve Lopez, Berkley, \$15, 9780425226001

10. The Power of Now
Eckhart Tolle, New World, \$14, 9781577314806

11. A New Earth
Eckhart Tolle, Plume, \$14, 9780452289963

12. The Audacity of Hope
Barack Obama, Three Rivers, \$14.95, 9780307237705

13. Team of Rivals
Doris Kearns Goodwin, S&S, \$21, 9780743270755

14. Infidel
Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Free Press, \$15, 9780743289696

15. The Tipping Point
Malcolm Gladwell, Back Bay, \$14.99, 9780316346627

ON THE RISE:

29. The Match: The Day the Game of Golf Changed Forever
Mark Frost, Hyperion, \$15.99, 9781401309619
The latest by the bestselling author of The Greatest Game Ever Played is available in paperback.

MASS MARKET

1. The Whole Truth
David Baldacci, Grand Central, \$9.99, 9780446539685

2. Hold Tight
Harlan Coben, Signet, \$9.99, 9780451226501

3. Atlas Shrugged
Ayn Rand, Signet, \$8.99, 9780451191144

4. The Appeal
John Grisham, Dell, \$7.99, 9780440243816

5. Chasing Darkness
Robert Crais, Pocket, \$9.99, 9781416514985

6. Bones
Jonathan Kellerman, Ballantine, \$9.99, 9780345495174

7. Plague Ship
Clive Cussler, Jack Du Brul, Berkley, \$9.99, 9780425226698

8. Angels and Demons
Dan Brown, Pocket, \$9.99, 9781416524793

9. Stranger in Paradise
Robert B. Parker, Berkley, \$9.99, 9780425226285

10. To Kill a Mockingbird
Harper Lee, Warner, \$7.99, 9780446310789

CHILDREN'S INTEREST

1. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw
Jeff Kinney, Amulet, \$12.95, 9780810970687

2. The Graveyard Book
Neil Gaiman, Dave McKean (Illus.), Harper, \$17.99, 9780060530921

3. Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World... One Child at a Time
Greg Mortenson, David Oliver Relin, Puffin, \$8.99, 9780142414125

4. Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Jeff Kinney, Amulet, \$12.95, 9780810993136

5. The Book Thief
Markus Zusak, Knopf, \$11.99, 9780375842207

6. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
Jeff Kinney, Amulet, \$12.95, 9780810994737

7. Twilight: Director's Notebook- Debut
Catherine Hardwicke, Little Brown, \$17.99, 9780316070522

8. Scat
Carl Hiaasen, Knopf, \$16.99, 9780375834868

9. Listen to the Wind
Greg Mortenson, Susan L. Roth, Dial, \$16.99, 9780803730588

10. The Tales of Beedle the Bard
J.K. Rowling, Arthur A. Levine, \$12.99, 9780545128285

11. The Mysterious Benedict Society
Trenton Lee Stewart, Little Brown, \$6.99, 9780316003957

12. The Composer Is Dead
Lemony Snicket, Carson Ellis (Illus.), Harper, \$17.99, 9780061236273

13. Inkheart
Cornelia Funke, Scholastic, \$9.99, 9780439709101

14. Coraline
Neil Gaiman, Dave McKean (Illus.), HarperTrophy, \$6.99, 9780380807345

15. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
John Boyne, David Fickling, \$8.99, 9780385751537

CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED

1. Goodnight Moon
Margaret Wise Brown, Clement Hurd (Illus.), Harper, \$8.99, 9780694003617

2. The House in the Night
Susan Marie Swanson, Beth Krommes (Illus.), Houghton Mifflin, \$17, 9780618862443

3. Gallop!
Rufus Butler Seder, Workman, \$12.95, 9780761147633

4. Pat the Bunny
Dorothy Kunhardt, Golden, \$9.99, 9780307120007
5. Where the Wild Things Are
Maurice Sendak, Harper, \$17.95, 9780060254926
6. Swing!
Rufus Butler Seder, Workman, \$12.95, 9780761151272
7. The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Eric Carle, Putnam, \$10.99, 9780399226908
8. Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy
Jacky Davis, David Soman (Illus.), Dial, \$16.99, 9780803733398
9. Cat
Matthew Van Fleet, S&S, \$16.99, 9781416978008
10. Fancy Nancy Sees Stars
Jane O'Connor, Ted Enik (Illus.), HarperTrophy, \$3.99, 9780061236112
11. Good Night, Gorilla
Peggy Rathmann, Putnam, \$7.99, 9780399230035
12. Twilight: The Complete Illustrated Movie Companion
Mark Cotta Vaz, Little Brown, \$16.99, 9780316043137
13. The Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes
Dubose Heyward, Marjorie Flack (Illus.), Houghton Mifflin, \$6.95,
9780395185575
14. Make Way for Ducklings
Robert McCloskey, Puffin, \$7.99, 9780140564341
15. All in a Day- Debut
Cynthia Rylant, Nikki McClure (Illus.), Abrams, \$17.95, 9780810983212

CHILDREN'S FICTION SERIES

1. Twilight (hardcover and paperback)
Stephenie Meyer, Little Brown
 2. Magic Tree House (hardcover and paperback)
Mary Pope Osborne, Sal Murdocca (Illus.), Random House
 3. Percy Jackson & the Olympians (hardcover and paperback)
Rick Riordan, Miramax
 4. Harry Potter (hardcover and paperback)
J.K. Rowling, Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine
 5. House of Night (hardcover and paperback)
P.C. Cast, Kristin Cast, St. Martin's
 6. Maximum Ride (hardcover and paperback)
James Patterson, Little Brown
- New in Series: Max (9780316002899)
7. The 39 Clues (hardcover)
Peter Lerangis, Rick Riordan, Gordon Korman, Scholastic
 8. The Clique (paperback)
Lisi Harrison, Little Brown
 9. Junie B. Jones (hardcover and paperback)
Barbara Park, Denise Brunkus (Illus.), Random House
 10. Warriors (hardcover and paperback) Erin Hunter, Avon

OTHER INDIE FAVORITES

Hardcover

THE MIRACLES OF PRATO: A Novel by Laurie Albanese, Laura Morowitz
(Morrow,
\$24.99, 9780061558344/0061558346) "Based on the true story of Fra
Filippo Lippi's love for a young nun (whom he immortalized as the
Madonna in many of his greatest works), this novel is beautifully
evocative of Renaissance Italy, and I found the descriptions of the
process of Lippi's artistry to be insightful and enlightening.

A wonderful book to take on a journey to Tuscany." -- Jennie Turner-Collins, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH WAITING FOR THE APOCALYPSE by Veronica Chater (Norton, \$23.95, 9780393066036/0393066037) "Veronica Chater's father, believing that Vatican II has corrupted the Roman Catholic Church, drags his family-six children and a wife-off to Portugal to live near Fatima and find a traditional parish and mass in Latin.

Waiting for the Apocalypse

is a story of monomania inflicted on loved ones, but Chater speaks of her coming of age with honesty, wit, and grace." -- Helen Sinoradzki, Annie Bloom's Books, Portland, OR Paperback PATIENT ZERO by Jonathan Maberry

(St. Martin's Griffin, \$14.95, 9780312382858/0312382855) "The ultimate terrorist biological weapon is about to be unleashed on U.S. soil, and our only hope is Joe Ledger. Filled with zombies, terrorists, and some of the best action in years, Patient Zero, an electric thriller, will warm up those cold March nights with pure terror." --Katie Glasgow, Mitchell Books, Fort Wayne, IN

For Teen Readers

JESSICA'S GUIDE TO DATING ON THE DARK SIDE by Beth Fantaskey (Houghton Mifflin, \$17, 9780152063849/0152063846) "Things change for Jessica when Lucius Vladescu arrives from Romania claiming he's a vampire prince, destined to marry her to bring peace between two vampire clans. But just as Jessica starts to believe Lucius, he changes his mind -- how confusing is that? Will she fight for him? Can she stop a vampire war? The many twists along the way keep you guessing right to the end." --Angela Mann, Kepler's Books & Magazine, Menlo Park, CA

"If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters."