

June 2008 Family Book Shop Newsletter

I received such a clever and interesting response from a customer after my April letter that I got his permission to quote it here:

' I have undertaken the reading of economics books myself, as this is an area in which my education has been sorely lacking. When I finish them, I expect to be well and truly boring in an altogether new and different way than I have been previously. I believe that thus far the only effect it's had on me is to increase the length of my sentences.

I recall that once, about ten years ago, my father-in-law asked me if I ever 'read for pleasure.' I answered in the affirmative, as I could not then, nor can I now, imagine reading for discomfort.

I sat down and calculated the amount of the Economic Stimulus 'rebate' that Frances and I are to receive, and found out we're going to owe the government \$400. I think of that as more of an economic sedative. Apparently we can avoid this penalty by picking some underprivileged person at random and buying him or her a large screen television.

We have a Chili's now. The good news is that DeLand is now big enough to have a Chili's. The bad news is that DeLand is now big enough to have a Chili's. Sometimes the price of progress is progress. I'm pretty sure Will Rogers said something like that 80 years ago and if he didn't, he should have.

Why am I still up?

Cheers,
jbm!'

I get a few responses with each letter so I know you're out there. Anyone wanting to emote about a book you've loved (or hated) feel free to let me know.

I wrote my May letter before April was done so when Denise Stype recited 'Nature's Requiem' by Christina Rossetti she didn't get credit in my letter. Thanks Denise. That makes three people who collected a discount on their purchase. Three isn't many but it's more than the only one last year. You now have a whole year to learn a poem before next April's Poetry Month.

At the end of April, you may remember, we had our First Annual Parking Lot Book Sale. We also used the time to include a regular yard sale of miscellaneous items by 5 families. As I was selling some of my household stuff I was reminded that that was how I got started in the bookstore business about 35 years ago. While I was waiting for a teaching job I was selling some of my and my mother's

things at the flea market and saw someone selling books. On another table I saw some inexpensive books so I bought them and sold them on my table. Later in the week at the Wednesday Flea Market I saw someone with a great many books selling them 6 for \$1.00. Picture here a lightbulb over my head as I thought 'I can do that!' The rest is history.

And speaking of history, in prior letters I wrote some of the actual history of the Family Book Shop and how we morphed into what we are today. I left off at the point where we had moved into the 'L' shaped building next to the Potato Patch Restaurant on South Woodland Blvd.

I bought a large collection of comics from a mom who was cleaning out her son's room while he was away at college. This would have been about 1978 and I imagine he is still not speaking to her. I didn't know the value of the comics, just that I now had another commodity to add to my bookstore. I also began selling new comics ordered from Diamond comics each month. The problem, as I see it, with comics is that you order 3 months ahead of time without knowing how many you really need or how 'hot' they'll be. They are not returnable so they just sit there. Before I knew it I had 300 long comic boxes that hold 300 comics each. You do the math. I sold all but 4 boxes to a comic store in Longwood and got out of the comic business. I kept the 4 boxes of what I deemed to be truly 'collectable' and they are buried under stacks of books. I will someday get them out and see what I really have.

If you're interested in the whole history I will eventually add it to my very primitive website, wordperson.net. Or you can go there and check out the past newsletters.

Kelli is reading *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt. It is billed as a 'wonderfully witty and compelling novel about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967-68 school year.' Those were Kelli's school years as well so she can relate.

Jen, Nikki and Amanda are reading their next book club selection, *Damien* by Jacqueline Frank. Our paranormal section has grown so large it has it's own entire bookcase. Nikki is also reading *Twilight Lord* by Bertrice Small. The main character is a male with an unusual anatomy. I'm blushing and it's not what you're thinking. Call or come by and Nikki or I will tell you what it is.

Her daughter who is also an Amanda is reading and loving Stephanie Meyer's *The Host*. Donna, a 7 year, now retired, employee also loved it enough to come and get *Twilight* by Meyer. Our Amanda, nee Sherman, now Amanda Abner (after the wedding of the century) is reading the next Gena Showalter book, *Darkest Pleasure*. This 'Lords of the Underworld' trilogy is Nikki's absolute favorite.

Jen is also reading *Riverwind the Plainsman* (Dragonlance Saga Novel: Preludes #04) by Paul B. Thompson and *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* by Alison Weir.

Lori is reading *Millionaire: The Philanderer, Gambler, and Duelist Who Invented Modern Finance* by Janet Gleeson, and Jeremy Rifkin's *The European Dream: How Europe's Vision of the Future is Quietly Eclipsing the American Dream*.

Savannah, 14 and a voracious reader, is reading *Three Little Words: A Memoir* by Ashley Rhodes-Courter, 'In this unforgettable memoir, Ashley Rhoades-Courtier, now a college student, recounts her years growing up in the foster care system, revealing painful memories but also her determination to discover the power of her own voice and her refusal to fall through the cracks.' and *Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer, 'This Newbery Honor Book and ALA Notable Book is now in paperback. After moving to Wisconsin to run a diner with her aunt, 16-year-old Hope finds herself involved in the small town's mayoral race.'

I'm reading The Girl With No Shadow by Joanne Harris. It is the sequel to Chocolat which was made into a movie with Johnny Depp, Juliette Binoche and Judi Dench. Even though she misspells her name, I could happily watch Judi Dench read the phone book. She doesn't know it but she is my BFF.

Prepare yourself for August 8, 2008, 08/08/08, when we will give you an 8% discount IF you ask.

FYI:

Do readers have enough time to read? USA Today reported the results of a Harris Interactive survey conducted in March that sought to discover, 'compared with five years ago, [the] amount of time people who read at least a book a year have for book reading.' The good and bad news:

Less--45%
Same--33%
More--22%

More next month.

Judy (correctly spelled)

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

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