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# The Open Door

Newsletter

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The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

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Fall 2020

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Editor: Lynn Blankman

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## Fabulous fall books

L ooks like books will continue to be a mainstay in this strangest of times—and luckily, we've got plenty of new titles for you. Debut novels, horror, historical fiction, mysteries, non-fiction—we've got it all.

\* ***Cheri Ami and Major Whittlesey*** is gorgeously written historical fiction based on the incredible true story of a WWI messenger pigeon and the soldiers whose lives she forever altered. In this transporting and inspiring story, Kathleen Rooney (*Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk*) creates a saga of hope, duty, love, and endurance by resurrecting two long-forgotten figures and recounting their tale in an alternating pair of voices (pigeon and man). Unique and richly imagined, this one goes straight to the heart. \$17

\* The utterly compelling ***That Time of Year*** by Marie Ndiaye is a masterful literary horror novel about the spell cast by a French village on its inhabitants, willing and otherwise. It's time for the vacationing Herman and his family to return to Paris, but his wife and child are nowhere to be found. Their disappearance becomes a mystery that gradually opens a portal into social and psychological terror in this eerie, surreal story that will keep you holding your breath even beyond the end. 9/8, \$19.95

\* ***The Party Upstairs***, Lee Conell's assured debut novel unfolds in the course of a single fateful day inside a tony New York City apartment building, as tensions between the building's super and his grown daughter spark a crisis that will, by day's end, have changed everything, for everyone in the building. A sharp, insightful take on class and privilege, how they're inherited and how they're not, and the invisible stresses of being poor when most of the people you know and grew up with are not. \$26

\* A riveting tale of deception, vengeance, and power, ***The Stone Girl*** by Dirk Wittenborn is set against the haunting beauty of the Adirondack wilderness, in which three women—each scarred by the hands of an exclusive group of rich and powerful men—seek a reckoning. \$27.95

\* In ***The Cold Vanish***, journalist Jon Billman offers a fascinating, in-depth look at people who vanish in the wilderness and those determined, against staggering obstacles, to try to find them. Here are stories that defy conventional logic, the vanished-without-a-trace incidents that occur far more often than you'd think. Billman focuses mainly on the case of Jacob Gray, who disappeared in a national park, and his father's relentless search to find him, but other accounts of disappearances and desperate families seeking closure are woven throughout. Amazingly well-researched, this is an enthralling and haunting read. \$28

\* Spanning nearly a century, from 1930s Siberia to contemporary Brighton Beach, ***Nesting Dolls*** by Alina Adams is a page-turning, epic family saga about three generations of women in one Russian Jewish family—each striving to break free of fate and history, each yearning for love and personal fulfillment—and how the consequences of their choices ripple through time. \$27.95

\* Louise Penny returns with the latest of her Chief Inspector Gamache mysteries, taking us from the safe milieu of Three Pines to Paris and the secrets of family and history, in ***All the Devils are Here***, an amazing edge-of-your-seat thriller that fans will love! (Hot tip: early readers are touting this one as Penny's best yet.) \$28.99

Lily Bartels  
Book buyer

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## The Open Door

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# Open Door staff favorites

\* ***The Last Year of the War***, Susan Meissner. In 1943, Elise and Mariko meet in the Texas desert at an internment camp for German and Japanese American families. Through their friendship, they hold on to their dreams as young American women who look forward to a future after the war. When Elise's family is sent to Germany in exchange for American soldiers, she experiences firsthand the prejudice and hatred the war created. She wonders if her plans to find Mariko and to claim her own identity will ever be possible. This novel reconstructs a little known part of history. Janet \$17

\* ***Don't Turn Around***, Jessica Barry. Two women take a road trip from Lubbock, Texas

to Albuquerque, New Mexico: Cait, a journalist, and Rebecca, the wife of a candidate for a Senate seat. Somebody is following them with a plan to kill. Each of the women thinks she is the reason. This is a spellbinding novel, fast-paced, and with surprising twists and turns. I loved Jessica Barry's first novel, *Freefall*, but this one is even more thrilling and the backstory is relevant in these times. Tina \$27.99

\* ***A Better Man***, Louise Penny. I picked up one of Louise Penny's mysteries about Three Pines in Quebec and I was hooked! *A Better Man* contains all of the twists, turns, and red herrings that she is noted for. I loved it. Ellen \$17.99

\* ***The City We Became***, N. K. Jemesin. What if you could physically see racism as it destroys a city? Now New York City and its boroughs must ban together to fight off a Lovecraftian monster of racism and gentrification in order to preserve the city's unique and diverse way of life. Anna \$28

\* ***The Girl Who Wrote in Silk***, Kelli Estes. While exploring the island estate she has inherited, Inara discovers a fragment of elaborately embroidered fabric. When she realizes that the fabric tells a story, she begins a search to uncover the mystery of a Chinese girl who was forced from her home a century earlier. I was captivated as the story of these two women unfolded and a long-forgotten family secret is revealed. Janet \$14.99

\* ***One Crazy Summer***, Rita Williams-Garcia. I read this along with my grandson Ethan as his summer reading project. The story of three sisters who travel to California to meet their estranged mother, it's set during the civil rights movement of 1968. There are so many similarities with what is going on right now in our world. This makes for a great read as well as a good discussion tool. Vicki \$7.99

\* ***Anxious People***, Fredrik Backman. Take a blotched bank robbery, a bridge, and an apartment open house. Throw in

a few quirky personalities and you have Backman's (*A Man Called Ove*) newest gem. Witty, humorous, and a fun read! Lil \$28



## New gifts

No New York Gift Show this summer but we have been virtually shopping for new gift ideas!

- \* Soft, vibrant, affordable **cashmere scarves** from Rapti.
- \* Enjoying your **outdoor lighting** from Allsop? New styles are in, plus beautiful indoor electric **table lamps**.
- \* Mangiacotti returns with **hand sanitizers, hand creams, and mini lip balms** in lovely floral scents.
- \* Continue the fun of **jigsaw puzzling** with puzzles from EeBoo, Eurographics, Galison, and more.
- \* New from Beekman, **skin care products with CBD**. Also, gift sets for holiday giving.
- \* The perfect gift item year round, **insulated picnic baskets** and wine carriers from Picnic at Ascot.
- \* **Face masks!** We have them! A wide array for adults and children.
- \* Conscious Step **socks** are not only comfortable organic bamboo but a portion of each sock purchase goes to an environmental charity.
- \* Coming to you from "across the pond," warm and colorful **fleece accessories** from Anna Falke for adults and children.
- \* And, of course, **new styles and designs** from your favorite artists and companies in both home and personal accessories.

Lil Bertalan  
Karen Monaco Haber  
Gift buyers

## Dear friends,

We are so happy to be able to welcome you back in the store! Thank you for staying safe by observing the New York State guidelines. Stay up to date as we gradually expand our hours.

Please remember that we continue our **curbside pickup** and offer **private shopping appointments** for those with underlying health issues.

We were pleased by your generosity donating books to be distributed to children who participate in the SICM Summer Lunch Program. Thank you for considering how important reading and book ownership can be especially during this challenging time.

In November we will again ask you to consider book donation for Northeast Parent and Child Society. This holiday tradition has been successful for over 25 years!

Our wish is for everyone to be safe and healthy, and we are most grateful for your continued support!

Janet Hutchison  
Owner



# Fall books for kids

Kids need books, too, in this unusual time. We've got the classics plus these great new titles for children from little ones up to teens:

\* ***I Am Every Good Thing***, Derrick Barnes, Gordon C. James. The confident Black narrator of this book is proud of everything he is. An upbeat, empowering, and important picture book from the team that created the award-winning *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*. 3-7 \$17.99

\* ***The Tiny Chef and da mishing weshipee blook***, Rachel Larsen, Adam Reid, Ozi Akturk. The tiny chef, a small herbivore with a huge heart, goes on a quest to find his missing recipe book in this irresistible picture book from the creators of the @The Tiny Chef Show. 4-8 \$18.99

\* ***If You Come to Earth***, Sophie Blackall. "If you come to earth, there are some things you need to know . . . each of us is different. But all of us are amazing. And, together, we share one beautiful planet." A lovely and moving picture book that provides a visually comprehensive guide to the earth, filled with warmth and humor. 5-8 \$18.99

\* ***Skunk and Badger***, Amy Timberlake, Jon Klassen. Who wants a skunk for a friend? Not Badger, but he's stuck with Skunk as a roommate, and everything he knows is upended. A fresh take on a classic odd-couple friendship with charming black-and-white illustrations. 8-12 \$18.95

\* ***The Time of Green Magic***, Hilary McKay. When Abi's father marries Max and Louis's mom, Abi suddenly is the middle child and expected to share far too much. Then the new family moves into an eerie, ivy-covered house, where strange things begin to happen. Like Abi reading a book and suddenly tumbling so deep into it, the book feels real. A startling guest arrives; is it a cat—or something else? An enchanting story with a little bit of magic. 8-12 \$17.99

\* ***Before the Ever After***, Jacqueline Woodson. For as long as he can remember, ZJ's father, a pro football star, has been everyone's hero. But now he's having trouble remembering things and he seems to be angry all the time. ZJ's mama says it's because of his head injuries from playing football, but how does a family move on when their glory days are past? 10+ \$17.99

\* ***The Scapegracers***, Hannah Abigail Clarke. As a witch, lesbian, and lifelong outsider, Sideways Pike has had a tough time making friends. But when three popular girls pay her to cast spells at their party, suddenly she has friends. Which is new for her, and a little complicated. This novel subverts the trope of mean girls and instead portrays a mercilessly supportive clique of diverse and vivid characters. 14+ \$17.95

**Kathleen Kemp**  
Children's book buyer

## Calendar

**Thursday, Sept 10, 12-1:30 pm:**  
Roger Hull signs ***How to Get Beyond Trump***.

**Saturday, Sept. 19, 1-2:30 pm:**  
Paul O'Brien signs ***Looking Back Looking Beyond***.

*Due to Covid restrictions, both of these events will be held **outside** in front of the store. In case of severe weather, they will be held one week later.*

**Monday-Sunday, Nov. 2-8:**

In place of our usual **Holiday Open House**, we welcome the holidays with a full week of celebrations, prize drawings, and specials. Stop in any time during the week for the festivities!



## Thinking of You!

Last year we joined other retailers in celebrating Thinking of You Week, a global movement to celebrate the benefits of sending and receiving hand-written notes.

This year we invite you to make *every* week **Thinking of You Week** by "sending a card, delivering a smile." Come in and choose from our carefully curated selection of greeting cards and bridge the social distance with your written words.

# The Open Door

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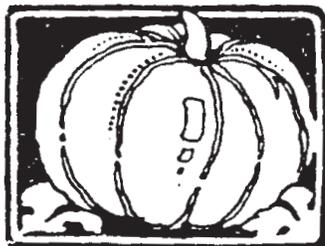
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## Ways to save at The Open Door

**W**e offer many ways to save on purchases at The Open Door—and many special services, including fast book orders (usually 2-3 days) and website book ordering ([www.opendoor-bookstore.com](http://www.opendoor-bookstore.com)). Here are some of the many ways you can save:

- \* Sign up for our Rewards Program to earn a \$15 Rewards Coupon.
- \* Look for our unadvertised in-store specials.
- \* Save 20% with our newsletter coupon.
- \* Save 20% with our Revolving Sale.
- \* Reading groups, save 15%.
- \* Teachers, save 20%.
- \* Seniors, save 15% on Tuesdays.
- \* And a great selection of Bargain Books every day!

Complete details available in the store.

## Art contest for kids!

**I**t's time for our twenty-fourth annual children's art contest! Design a jacket for your favorite book. Winners will be notified, and all entries will be displayed in the store's windows Nov. 14-21.

Children in grades one through eight may enter. Entries are due in the store before Oct. 9. Pick up your entry form at the store or download from our website—[www.opendoor-bookstore.com](http://www.opendoor-bookstore.com).