

The Open Door

Newsletter

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The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

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Editor: Lynn Blankman



Fabulous fall books

Our shelves are filled with fantastic new fall books, including a beautifully moving story told from a dog's point of view(!), a new novel by Chris Bohjalian, a charming work by Eric Idle that combines memoir, travelogue, and a comedy masterclass, and much more. Available or as noted.

✱ When an astronaut is lost in space, his wife attempts to unravel what truly happened to him in Chanel Cleeton's **An Infinite Love Story**, a thought-provoking novel set in the 1960s. Joe Mitchell is on a moon mission when his spacecraft loses contact, and he and his crew are feared dead. An investigation assumes operator error, but Vivian is determined to clear Joe's name and uncover the truth. When she begins receiving handwritten messages seemingly from Joe, she wonders if their connection might be stronger than space and time, and she'll do whatever it takes to bring him back. A moving story of dedication, sacrifice – and the possibilities of infinity. \$30

✱ Paul Yoon's unforgettable novel **Etna** is a story told through the eyes of the title character, an ex-military dog. After surviving years of an unnamed and devastating war, Etna decides to leave the men he has fought alongside for years and return home to the place he was taken from when he was young, in the uncertain but persistent hope that a home still exists for him. Traveling across ruined landscapes, he fights to survive in a precarious post-war world, encountering other animals and humans struggling to find a way to start again. A moving, beautiful novel about the power of hope in the direst of times. \$28

✱ When a young woman, a golf prodigy, kills a caddy with a stray ball at the country club, the investigation of this freak accident reveals a dark and shocking tale

of secret affairs, predatory men, and a teenager on trial. Chris Bohjalian's **The Amateur** is a masterful morality tale, haunting, complex, and startling, with an unforgettable narrator who will break your heart. \$33

✱ In 1971, Eric Idle of Monty Python fame bought a crumbling ruin in the hills of Provence and set out to transform it into what he lovingly calls a shackeau. **Idle in Provence** is the story of the transformation of both the place and the man. Here in his sanctuary, Idle created iconic songs and scripts, hosted his eccentric and brilliant friends – George Harrison, Robin Williams, Paul Simon, and others – and found peace from the madness of showbiz. Equal parts memoir, travelogue, and comedy masterclass, this delightful book is filled with laugh-out-loud moments, tender reflections, and the kind of sharp, self-deprecating wit only Idle can deliver. Oct. 8 \$29.99

✱ **Solace House** by Will MacLean is set in the summer of 1993, when broke student Alex Lane joins a team clearing out Solace House, a Victorian mansion willed to the university by a reclusive hoarder called Flayne. Sorting through piles of junk, they stumble upon Flayne's journals, which reflect his obsession with his missing mother, his discovery of a place called Bewise – and his belief in another realm parallel to ours, with coded instructions as to how it might be reached. As the students delve deeper into the house's secrets, one of them becomes obsessed with deciphering Flayne's strange promise of another world... and they may be willing to sacrifice everything and everyone to get there. Immersive, mind-bending, and utterly gripping. Oct. 13 \$28

Lily Bartels
Book buyer

The Open Door

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Open Door staff favorites

✱ **Flashlight**, Susan Choi. Ten-year-old Louisa survives a mysterious night walk with her father when he vanishes near the sea. This remarkable complex story spans decades and traces three fractured families through post-war Korea, Japan, and America. A coming-of-age story that's a fascinating piece of historical fiction. Perfect for a book group discussion! Karen \$19

✱ **Enormous Wings**, Laurie Frankel. Despite the unlikely premise of Pepper Mills' pregnancy at the age of seventy-seven after moving into a Texan retirement residence, the author tells an absorbing story of Pepper's journey and the difficult decisions she must make. Frankel convincingly balances pertinent issues including new life and end of life, and women's reproductive choices and the limits imposed

on them. Her use of humor keeps the story from being too heavy while addressing serious issues and makes *Enormous Wings* a relatable and enjoyable read. Kathy \$28.99

✱ **Partita**, Barbara Kingsolver. A new Barbara Kingsolver novel is always to be celebrated! Livia is content with her modest life in her hometown, when a phone call takes her back to memories of a long-ago love affair when she had dreams of being a concert pianist. Time and place shift back and forth as we learn more about Livia's passions and challenges. In this sensitive and intimate portrait about the value of art, we learn more about the author's personal experiences with music. Oct. 6 Janet \$32

✱ **Plant Lady**, Minyoung Kang. This is a book about a quiet woman who owns a plant shop – and offers “special services” to women who are mistreated and abused by the men in their lives. *Plant Lady* is a deeply feminist story of anger, revenge, and healing. Al \$28

✱ **The Woman with the Cure**, Lynn Cullen. In the 1940s and 1950s outbreaks of polio, which primarily affected children, were causing terror and lockdowns in American communities. Scientists didn't know how the disease was transmitted, so it was a long, hard battle to develop a vaccine, and many women scientists, such as Dr. Dorothy Horsmann, faced sexism and professional rejection in the male-dominated field of medical research. Vicki \$19

✱ **The People We Keep**, Allison Larkin. This is one of those books you're glad you've read. April travels through the hard life dealt to her but finds ways to make it work and survive. Along the way she meets all sorts of people. I loved this line from the book: “We have people we get to keep, who won't ever let us go. And that's the most important part.” Everyone should have their tribe of people they get to keep in life! Lots of New York mentions – Ithaca, Rochester, and more! Heather \$18.99

✱ **The Unicorn Hunters**, Katherine Arden. Arden weaves history and folklore into a tapestry that brings both to vibrant life. *The Unicorn Hunters* takes tragic figures from both history and myth, Anne of Brittany and the

unicorn, and asks if both would be doomed to their fates if they had been able to come together. I flew through this book and was bitterly sad to reach the end. Anna \$30



Fall into the gallery!

We are brimming with many new items to celebrate fall and all its special happenings. Just to mention a few:

✱ New **Asian ware** from Urban Tokyo, including tea sets, ramen bowls with condiment lids, and more.

✱ Whimsical **trinket dishes, ring holders, lidded boxes, mugs** and frames from ChangArt and Tag.

✱ Must-see fall designs from Danica in **totes, mugs** and **pouches**.

✱ **Arkansas-made soap** and **lotions** from Milk & Pail. Small batch, packaged by hand, goat milk products.

✱ Coming in October, **hot chocolate** for cool fall evenings from Connecticut-based Whittard of Chelsea and **hot chocolate spoons** from Ticket Chocolate.

✱ New **teas** from Tea Can Company. Beautifully packaged, delicious teas.

Karen Monaco-Haber
Lil Bertalan
Gift buyers

Dear friends,

We are always excited to begin the fall season. Publishers save their biggest titles for this time of year, and the store takes on a festive air with our beautiful holiday decorations and greeting cards. Each time you visit, you will find wonderful new gift ideas.

Customer response is always generous for our book donation programs. This summer we were able to contribute a large box of great books for kids to be distributed by Sycamore Collaborative at their summer meals program in Schenectady.

“Let Books Be—Protect the Freedom to Read” is the theme for Banned Books Week, Oct. 4-10. Banned Books Week is a national effort to bring attention to the efforts of bookstores, libraries, and schools to combat censorship. Watch for our display of challenged titles and remember: at The Open Door we always support your freedom to read!

Janet Hutchison
Owner



Fall books for young people

We have charming and fun new picture books for little ones, and fascinating new novels for older kids. Don't miss the new one by Lois Lowry! Available as noted.

✱ ***Gruffalo Granny***, Julia Donaldson, Axel Sheffler. After 20 years and more than 18 million *Gruffalo* books sold worldwide, there's a new *Gruffalo* story! Donaldson's lively rhymes and Sheffler's quirky art offer the same delightful charm and humor that made *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo's Child* timeless favorites. 3-7 Sept. 15 \$19.99

✱ ***Igloo: A Home Built from Kindness and a Giant Snowball***, Ann Kim Ha. A big storm is coming, and Chickadee doesn't have a home to keep her warm. One by one, geese, a fox, and a bear notice Chickadee and huddle around her. But...with the snow falling all around them and the wind blowing harder and harder, will Chickadee and her new friends ever stop shivering – and will she ever find a place to call home? 4-8 Oct. 6 \$19.99

✱ ***The Little Stone Buddha***, Grace Lin. When a small stone Buddha falls off a cyclist's wagon, it lands in a neglected part of a busy city street. But as passersby begin to notice the little stone Buddha, they each begin to make one small change. Inspired by a true story, readers will see how one small action can change a moment, which can, in the end, change everything. 6-8 Oct. 6 \$18.99

✱ ***Building 903***, Lois Lowry. The best-selling, award-winning, beloved Lois Lowry (*The Giver*) delivers a story about censorship that is

sure to be a classic. Twins Tessa and Theo live in a world ruled by a tyrannical leader, where citizens live long and safe lives. So when Theo disappears, no one wants to discuss it. Then Tessa's 135-year-old neighbor, slips her a key – the key to her brother's disappearance *and* to the source of all real magic – books. Now Tessa won't be able to rest until she finds her brother and society itself has been transformed. 8-12 Sept. 29 \$19.99

✱ ***Mind vs. Machine: The Match That Changed the World***, Steve Sheinkin, Maurice Ashley, Thien Pham. It's May 1997 in Manhattan. World chess champion Garry Kasparov is set to play a six-game match with Deep Blue, the cutting-edge supercomputer developed by IBM. No machine has ever defeated a chess champion in a multi-game match. Will the human mind prevail? Or is this checkmate for humankind? Written by award-winning Sheinkin, with first-hand accounts from chess grandmaster Ashley, and riveting illustrations by Pham, this is compelling storytelling with a connection to today's rise of AI. **Don't miss his book signing Oct. 3!** 10-14 Sept. 8 \$14.99

✱ ***Children of Owl***, Dulcie Little Badger, Abigail Rajunov. This singular YA fantasy tells the story of three cousins – Maisie, who hasn't gotten her life straight since her best friend died; Joel, a streaming prodigy with questionable decision-making who's been exiled to a summer of kitten-fostering; and Verona, who will do anything to leave their trailer park behind, including watching a house she knows is haunted. Then there's Owl, son of Big Owl,

who can't help who he is, or how much he cares about the afore-mentioned humans. Illustrated throughout with comics pages. 12-18 Oct. 6 \$19.99

Kathleen Kemp
Children's books buyer

Calendar

Saturday, Sept. 12, 1-2:30 pm: Ken Jones will sign *The Life and Times of Gen. William North*.

Friday, Sept. 18, 5-6:30 pm (Art Night!): Badiana Radio Eckstrom will read and sign *Black Women in Bloom*, and Adonis Richards will read and sign *Confessions of a Hopeless Creative*.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 1-2:30 pm: Ben Hoshko will sign *Where Did You Go, Mr. Black?*

Sunday, Sept. 27, 11 am-12:30 pm: Janet Tanguay will sign *Hammock Way of Life: Leaping Toward Joy*.

Saturday, Oct. 3, 1-2:30 pm: Steve Sheinkin will sign *Mind vs. Machine: The Chess Match that Changed the World*.

Sunday, Oct. 11, 11 am -12:30 pm: James Ziskin will sign *The Prank*.

Sunday, Oct. 17, 1 - 2:30 pm: Karen Lombardo will sign *Silly Lily and Miss Tillie Visit Grammee's House*.

Sunday, Oct. 25, 11am -12:30 pm: James Preller will sign *Fairy House Halloween* (as well as other stories for Halloween!).

Saturday, Nov. 14, and Sunday, Nov. 15: Holiday Open House!

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Ways to save at The Open Door

We 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). 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.
- * Reading groups, save 15%.
- * Teachers, save 20% on books.
- * Seniors, save 15% on Tuesdays.
- * And a great selection of Bargain Books every day!

Complete details available in the store.

Art contest for kids!

It's time for our thirtieth 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. 15-21.

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.