

---

# The Open Door

Newsletter

Published by

The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

128 Jay Street

Schenectady, N. Y. 12305

---

Spring 2021

Volume 29 Number 1

Editor: Lynn Blankman

---



---

## A bouquet of spring books

After the winter—and the year—we’ve had, what could be better than to feast your eyes on these fascinating, thrilling, heart-breaking, illuminating books? Available except as noted.

\* An unforgettable 13-year-old girl propels Chris Whitaker’s stunning novel, **We Begin at the End**. This riveting, dark, emotion-charged thriller centers on a police chief who never really grew up and a girl who never had a childhood, as they each pursue their respective quests to solve the murder of someone they love. Duchess Day Radley is a self-proclaimed “outlaw” whose devotion to protecting her little brother is ferocious, and whose grit, strength, and vulnerability are the light that illuminates this story, and often breaks your heart. At once a murder mystery, a love story, and a tragedy, this superb thriller ends with the blessing of hope. \$27.99

\* **Come Fly the World** by Julia Cooke is a breezy but engrossing account of Pan American Airways in its heyday, interwoven with the engaging stories of several longtime flight attendants whose lives intersected as they sought adventure and a chance to see the world at a time of severely limited options for women. This well-researched look into a gritty and glamorous era in air travel is both entertaining and revelatory. \$28

\* A young Puritan woman plots her escape from a violent marriage in the mesmerizing **Hour of the Witch**, the latest novel from Chris Bohjalian. When Mary shocks her community and risks her life to file for divorce in 1662 Boston, her compelling claims of her husband’s cruelty are countered by charges of witchcraft against her. Now she must fight to escape

not only her marriage, but also the gallows. Fascinating, fast-paced historical fiction that will have you on the edge of your seat. April \$27.95

\* In Kaitlyn Greenidge’s novel **Libertie**—inspired by the life of one of the first Black female doctors in America—Libertie, a freeborn Black girl in Reconstruction-era Brooklyn, knows her physician mother expects her to go to medical school and join her practice. But Libertie is drawn more to music than science and yearns for something else. When a young Haitian man proposes marriage and assures her that she will be his equal on the island, she accepts, only to discover that she is still dominated by him and other men. Seeking to parse what freedom actually means for a Black woman, Libertie struggles with where she might find it—for herself and for generations to come. 26.95

\* An international bestseller, **The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World** by Laura Imai Messina, tells a story about grief, mourning, and survival, inspired by a real phone booth in Japan with its disconnected “wind” phone, a place of pilgrimage and solace since the 2011 tsunami. When Yui, who lost her mother and daughter in that disaster, hears about the phone booth, where the grieving go to speak to their lost loved ones, she too makes the pilgrimage. But she cannot bring herself to speak; instead she finds Takeshi, a bereaved husband whose daughter has stopped talking since her mother’s death. Heartbreaking but heartwarming, this beautifully written book points to the healing that can come after terrible loss. \$25

---

# The Open Door

A locally-owned independent bookseller since 1971

For current hours, call store, check Facebook or [opendoor-bookstore.com](http://opendoor-bookstore.com)

Phone orders welcome  
Curbside pickup available  
Private appointments possible

518/346-2719 (local)  
1-800/468-2598 (outside local calling area)  
FAX 518/346-0765  
[www.opendoor-bookstore.com](http://www.opendoor-bookstore.com)

Lily Bartels  
Book buyer

# Open Door staff favorites

\* ***The Song of Achilles***, Madeline Miller. This wonderful retelling of the legend of Achilles and the siege of Troy is exciting, romantic, and utterly heartbreaking, with an ending that is deeply satisfying. Perfect for anyone who loves Homer and anyone who loves a thrilling story. Alexandra \$16.99

\* ***The Wife Upstairs***, Rachel Hawkins. Take Jane, newly arrived in Birmingham, Ala., add Eddie Rochester, a recently widowed charmer, and mix in Jane's mysterious past and Bea Rochester's mysterious death,

and one has a page-turning novel, as well as a love triangle with a twist—suspense at its best. Lil \$27.99

\* ***The Great Alone***, Kristin Hannah. Desperate and anguished from living in the “real world,” a Vietnam ex-POW moves his family to an isolated outpost in Alaska, facing harsh conditions and no modern conveniences. But the real danger comes from within the family. Ellen \$17.99

\* ***Sparks Like Stars***, Nadia Hashimi. I was swept away by this tragic, yet uplifting story of a successful Afghan-American woman who is haunted by her past. She returns to Kabul to learn exactly what happened to her family the night she escaped a brutal coup and assassination. This engrossing tale of her travels and search will capture readers to the very end. Janet \$27.99

\* ***Ghosted***, Rosie Walsh. Sarah and Eddie meet by chance and fall deeply in love. They spend a week together and both think they found their forever, but destiny changes everything, or so it seems. A romantic suspense story, something light to read and distract us from this challenging time. I became totally immersed in the story. Tina \$16

\* ***A Promised Land***, Barack Obama. A dense, intimate self-portrait of exploration into the president's life as well as his insights, motivations, and self-criticisms, which illuminates the decency, humanity, and difficulties he faced. Remarkably, this book leaves you with even greater respect for our 44th president and anticipating his next volume. Eugene \$45.

\* ***Red Lotus***, Chris Bohjalian. I love reading Bohjalian's books! This story is set in Vietnam and involves a bicycle journey with many twists and turns, love, deceit, murder, and pandemic. A great read. Vicki \$16.95

\* ***The Vanishing Half***, Brit Bennett. A rich, immersive story about light-skinned black identical twin girls who grow up in a light-skinned black community in Louisiana. As very young girls, their lives

are forever altered when they witness the lynching of their beloved father. As they grow into adulthood, they choose different paths and each must learn how to live with the decisions they've made. The story covers many thought-provoking themes that will leave you wanting to discuss with friends and book club members! Karen \$27



## New for spring

Spring is here at The Open Door. New arrivals daily!

\* Check out the fun and fresh counter cards and gift bags from **Red Cap Cards**.

\* New fragrances, colors, and companies make our candle selection even more enticing. **Greenleaf, Vance, Kitira, Evil Queen, Homesick**—and more!

\* English-based **Wrendale Design** brings spring to your home and garden in whimsical flora and fauna designs.

\* Garden and indoor seed-growing kits are ready for you from **Modern Sprout**.

\* Discover our new jewelry lines, including **Zafino** and **C.A.I.**

**And**, of course, new designs and gift ideas from **your favorite companies!** Remember to check our Facebook and website pages for photos and descriptions. Or, better yet, come and see!

Lil Bertalan, Karen Monaco Haber  
Gift buyers

### Dear friends,

We are looking forward to the arrival of spring more than ever this year! We have so many things we want to share with you.

We plan to gradually extend our store hours while still remaining within N.Y. State guidelines. As always, the safety of our customers and staff is our most important consideration. We are grateful that with your help and the efforts of the staff, we have been able to remain healthy.

As the warm weather begins to arrive, we hope to be able to schedule some outdoor book signings. There are wonderful books by local authors we are excited to be able to bring to you.

This spring, we will celebrate our 50th anniversary—and you can help! Do you remember when Betty Fleming opened the store in 1971? The expansion into our current quarters in the 1980s, when John and I bought the store in 1992, the “Great Flood” of 1995, and ... ?

We plan to feature displays of store memorabilia, so if you have bookmarks, shopping bags, newsletters, photos, newspaper clippings that you would be willing to let us use, please get in touch.

Lastly—and most importantly, thank you for your years of support, especially 2020!

Janet Hutchison  
Owner



# Books for girls and boys

Could there be a better time to have a pile of new children's books in the house? Here are beautiful titles that inform, challenge, thrill, and inspire. Available now or as noted.

\* **Caution! Road Signs Ahead**, Toni Buzzco, Chi Birmingham. This hefty board book presents 35 road and highway signs in cleverly shaped pages with one-sentence descriptions. The perfect book for the little ones in the back seat! 2-4 \$17.99

\* **Birds of a Feather**, Sita Singh, Stephanie Fizer Coleman. Mo has always felt different. Unlike the other peacocks with their beautiful, bold green and blue feathers, Mo's feathers are white. But when a storm threatens, Mo must stand tall and shake his tail feathers—as only he can—to help his friends. A story about finding strength in our differences—and beauty in all its forms. 4-8 \$17.99

\* **Fearless**, Mandy Gonzalez. *Hamilton* and Broadway star Mandy Gonzalez offers a spooky middle grade novel about a group of young thespians who must face the ghost haunting their theater. Can the cast overcome their fears and reverse the ghost's

curse before opening night so they can save the show—and their dreams? 8-12 \$17.99 April

\* **Becoming: Adapted for Young Readers**, Michelle Obama. The former First Lady's bestselling memoir tells her story in a new version for young readers, from her

growing-up years in Chicago's South Side to her life in the White House, and asks readers to realize that no one is perfect. The *process* of becoming is what matters. She asks her readers: Who are you and who do you want to become? 10+ \$18.99

\* **The Elephant in the Room**, Holly Goldberg Sloan. Sila's mother is in Turkey, seeking important immigration papers. Sila is in Oregon with her father, and through a series of events helps to rescue a circus elephant and meets an unusual boy named Mateo. These elements combine in a moving story of family separation and the importance of the connection between animals and humans. 10-14 \$17.99

\* **The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country**, Amanda Gorman. The nation was captivated when Amanda Gorman, the first National Youth Poet Laureate, presented her poem at President Biden's inauguration in January. Now that powerful and historic poem is available in a beautiful gift edition. 14+ \$15.99 March 30.

## Cool new toys for spring

Are your kids ready for new activities after the long, COVID winter? We've got 'em!

- \* **Puzzles** and **games** galore for all ages
- \* **STEM** activities for the science buffs
- \* **DIY kits** for the makers, from creating llamas to making your own wind chimes
- \* Burp cloths, swaddles, and **plush toys** for babies and toddlers—plus lots of **developmental playthings**.

And, of course, with spring here, **outdoor toys!**

Ellen Carpenter  
Toy buyer

Kathleen Kemp  
Children's book buyer

# The Open Door

A locally-owned  
independent bookseller since 1971


128 Jay Street  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305  
518/346-2719 (local)  
1-800/468-2598 (outside local calling area)  
FAX 518/346-0765

For current hours, call the store or check  
[opendoor-bookstore.com](http://opendoor-bookstore.com) or Facebook

Phone orders welcome  
Curbside pickup available  
Private appointments possible

[www.opendoor-bookstore.com](http://www.opendoor-bookstore.com)

*We will wrap and ship your books anywhere!*

 Printed on recycled paper.



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #664  
ALBANY, N.Y.

**Please bring in  
this coupon to  
receive 20% off  
any hardcover  
book.**

**The Open Door  
128 Jay Street  
Schenectady,  
N.Y.**

**Expires May 15, 2021  
Special orders  
and sale books  
excluded**

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

Complete details are available in the store.



## What's in your basket?

**W**e have oodles of Easter goodies—lovable bunnies, squeezable lambs, fuzzy ducks, lots of “just right” toys and games, chocolates, candy, not to mention our collection of beautiful spring items—and, of course, wonderful books!