

The Open Door

Newsletter

Published by

The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

128 Jay Street

Schenectady, N. Y. 12305

Spring 2023

Volume 31 Number 1

Editor: Lynn Blankman



A bouquet of spring books

New spring books are filling our shelves. We have new novels by Joyce Carol Oates, Lisa Scottoline, and Jeannette Walls, as well as brilliant new nonfiction, thrilling spy fiction, spellbinding mysteries ... and so much more. Come on in!

* An American librarian. A Portuguese bookseller. A mission to change the tide of the war. Inspired by the true stories of the heroic librarian spies of World War II, Alan Hlad's *The Book Spy* transports readers from the New York Public Library to Portugal's city of espionage in a thrilling, riveting tale perfect for fans of intrigue-packed historical fiction. \$16.95

* From Jeannette Walls, whose memoir *The Glass Castle* was a phenomenal bestseller, comes *Hang the Moon*, an enthralling new novel about an indomitable young woman taking on the family bootlegging business in Virginia during Prohibition. It's hard not to fall in love with Sallie Kincaid, a feisty and fearless, terrified and damaged young woman who refuses to be corralled. \$28

* Sarah Bakewell's *Humanly Possible* brilliantly explores 700 years of humanist writers, thinkers, scientists, and artists, all grappling with what it means to be truly human. A singular examination of this vital tradition and a major contribution to its literature, this is an intoxicating, joyful celebration of the human spirit. \$30

* *I Have Some Questions for You* by Rebecca Makkai is a dazzling literary mystery involving a 1990s boarding school murder and its repercussions decades later. When the murdered girl's former roommate is invited back to the school to teach, she is inexorably

drawn back into the events of the case and must reckon with a past she has long kept at arm's length. One of the most anticipated books of the season, this is masterful storytelling and a compulsive page-turner. \$28

* The ultimate "What If?" alternate history book, *Impossible Histories* by Hal Johnson looks at 20 pivotal historical moments and examines how tiny differences could have dramatically altered their outcomes. From the absurd and outlandish to the terrifying and triumphant, this is a fascinating and entertaining work of imagination. \$24.99

* From Sarah Penner, author of the bestselling *The Lost Apothecary* comes *The London Séance Society*, a spellbinding Gothic whodunit about truth, illusion, and the grave risks women will take to avenge the ones they love, introducing two enigmatic women who set out to solve a most unusual mystery. \$30

* An exquisite novel of unbearable suspense, *48 Clues into the Disappearance of My Sister* is Joyce Carol Oates's latest captivating and un-put-downable offering. When Marguerite vanishes from her small town in Upstate New York, her younger sister Gigi must tally up the clues to discover her fate. As revelations about both sisters are uncovered, clues mount up that ultimately reveal Marguerite's fate. \$26.95

* Bestselling author Lisa Scottoline presents a deeply immersive, emotional, action-packed epic of love and justice in her novel *Loyalty*, set during the rise of the Mafia in Sicily. Unforgettable characters, vivid history, and a driving plot make this a perfectly addictive story. \$28

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Lily Bartels
Book buyer

Open Door staff favorites

* ***The Violin Conspiracy***, Brendan Slocumb. A young black classical violinist who has spent years overcoming pressures and prejudices is finally on his way to the prestigious Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow when his valuable violin is stolen. A family heirloom, the violin caused a stir when it was discovered to be a valuable Stradivarius. The suspects are many and varied, including the hotel maid, the violinist's own family, and the family who claim original ownership. Intrigue, passion, and the painful legacy of slavery make this suspenseful novel a real page-turner right up to the surprising ending. I loved it! Janet \$17

* ***The Winners: A Novel***, Fredrik Backman. The third installment of Backman's *Beartown* trilogy is a story of raw emotion, triumph, and tragedy. Youth hockey may be the focal point of the story, but it is the development and growth of the characters that is the central theme. Although it is part of a trilogy,

Backman is careful to give the reader enough information to make this a stand-alone novel. An intense and satisfying read. Ellen \$17.99

* ***The Book Woman's Daughter***, Kim Michele Richardson. This historical fiction takes place in the 1950's in rural Kentucky. The story features the Pack Horse Librarians and their struggles against ignorance, racial prejudice, and a male-dominated society. I really liked the storyline of how books can change your life. Vicki \$16.99

* ***The Invisible Library***, Genevieve Cogman. An utterly charming, fast-paced fantasy series where capital-L Librarians with magical powers steal books from across the multiverse to prevent the worlds from falling into chaos. Heroine Irene is snarky, sneaky, and smart – lots of adventure, “fae,” dragons, a smidge of romance, with some family drama to top it all off. This is Book 1 of 8, so get ready to binge. And they're all available so you don't have to wait for the next one! Tara \$17

* ***The Lies of Ajungo***, Moses Ose Utomi. This succinct and powerful tale of learning to come together to stand against those who would keep people apart reads more like an extended parable than a short story. The author quickly gets you invested in his world and characters, and despite the briefness of the book, manages to develop the story wonderfully. I have read it again and again! Anna \$19.99

* ***Sapiens***, Yuval Noah Harari. If you haven't picked up the incredibly compelling *Sapiens*, now's the moment. An impeccably researched history of the human species that tells the tale from when Homo sapiens first walked the earth alongside other humans through the various revolutions that make us who we are today. A must-read. Tara \$24.99

* ***Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest***, Suzanne Simard. A member of a family of loggers in western Canada, Simard conducted extensive observations, research, and experiments on trees, leading to her ground-breaking discovery that, through tree-to-tree communication beneath the surface of the soil, bigger, older trees nourish younger

seedlings. Read how her work has led to greater appreciation for our forests and their unique role in our environment. Kathy \$17



Celebrate spring!

Spring is here at The Open Door. We've been busy shopping at the NY Gift Show and Faire Market. New treasures are arriving daily. Just to name a few:

* **Professor Puzzle** – new puzzles and games for all ages. Fun for everyone!

* Personal care products from **ESW, June & Moon, Palish, Spa Sisters**, and **Bombshell Beauty Bars**. Create your own spa experience!

* Small batch hot sauce from Georgia-based **Hot n Saucy**. Yum!

* Earrings and necklaces from new jewelry artisans, including **Treisi, Forest & Fog**, and more.

* New spring/summer shawls and hats from **Rubyzaar** and **Shihreen**.

* **Kind Bags of London** – sustainable, stylish, and versatile backpacks. You will love these!

* **Northern Lights** scented votives – they're back! Also, new to us, scented candles from **Vellabox**. Set the perfect mood!

And, of course, new designs, colors, and gift ideas from **your favorite companies**. Check Instagram and Facebook for photos and information. Or, better yet, come and see!

Lil Bertalan
Kathleen Monaco-Haber
Gift buyers

Dear friends,

We always look forward to spring when we can show you exciting new books and gifts, and welcome you with our door actually "open"!

Thank you to everyone who donated food or cash for the **Schenectady Shares** program to replenish the local food banks. Your generosity is appreciated.

In April we will again partner with the **Reading Is Fun** program to bring books to students in the Schenectady Schools. RIF mobilizes volunteers to reinforce reading-readiness and vocabulary to students ages 4-9. You can purchase a paperback book at a 20% discount and we will get the books to the kids.

Check out our calendar of wonderful author events on page 3 and stay up to date with our website and social media by using the QR code on the back of this newsletter.

Janet Hutchison
Owner



New books for girls and boys

* **100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli**, David LaRochelle, Lian Cho. High on a mountaintop live 100 mighty dragons. A tremendous wind blows half of them away, ten others sail off to become surfers in Hawaii, two more take a train to New York City to start a heavy metal band ... and so it goes. A wacky counting adventure that's an hilarious ode to dragons – and math. 3-7 \$19.99

* **Corner**, Zo-O. A crow finds itself in an empty corner and begins to make the space its own. It adds a bed, a bookshelf, a rug. But something is missing. It adds art to the walls. But something is still missing. What can it be? A quirky story about balancing creativity and connection. 3-7 \$19.99

* **Twenty Questions**, Mac Barnett, Christian Robinson. Not all questions have answers. And some have endless answers. In this spare yet expansive narrative, Barnett poses twenty questions both playful and profound. A charming invitation to speculate without limits. 4-8 \$17.99

* **When Sea Becomes Sky**, Gillian McDunn. Bex and Davey's summer in their beloved saltmarsh is different this year, thanks to a record-breaking

drought. Then they learn of a development plan that could destroy their marsh. What will it mean if they lose this cherished place, where otters frolic and dragonflies buzz, their favorite place to be siblings together? 8-11 \$16.99

* **Hoops**, Matt Tavares. It's 1975 in Indiana, and the Wilkins Regional High School girls' basketball team is in its rookie season. They have to make their own uniforms, they practice at night in the elementary school, they have no bus to take them to away games. But with help from a committed female coach, they push their way to one improbable victory after another. This debut graphic novel, based on a true story, celebrates an early step in the battle for women's equality in sports. 8-12 \$12.99

* **You Are Here: Connecting Flights**, Ellen Oh. An incident at a TSA security checkpoint sows rumors and chaos, creating a chain of events that affects 12 young Asian Americans in a crowded airport. As their disrupted journeys crisscross and collide, they discover the challenges of friendship, the power of courage, and the importance of the right word at the right time. Written by 12 powerhouse Asian American authors,

including Linda Sue Park, and edited by Ellen Oh. 8-12 \$18.99

Kathleen Kemp
Children's book buyer

Calendar

Please check website and social media for updates!

Saturday, March 4, 1-2:30 pm:
Josh Sheridan will sign *The Four Deaths of Clayton Standard*.

Saturday, March 25, 1-2:30 pm:
Joseph Bruchac will sign *Voices of the People*.

Saturday, May 6, 1-2:30 pm:
Keenan Taylor will sign *Tales of Kaimere, Books 1 and 2*.

Saturday, May 20, 1-2:30 pm:
Greg Wolos will sign *The Thing about Men* and *The Green Ray: And Other Stories*.

Sunday, May 21, 11 am-12:30 pm:
Nancy Castaldo will sign *The World that Feeds Us* and *The Ultimate Food Atlas*.

Saturday, June 24, 1-2:30 pm:
David Busman will sign *Forget It, Jake, It's Schenectady*.

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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 Rewards Certificate to use on any store merchandise!
- * Save 20% with our newsletter coupon.
- * Reading groups, save 15%.
- * Teachers, save 20%.
- * Seniors, save 15% on Tuesdays.
- * Substantial savings on our Bargain Books!

Complete details are available in the store.



What's in your basket?

Make it extra special with wonderful Easter/spring books, lovable plush, and beautiful spring items throughout the store. Need a greeting card? We have them!