

---

# The Open Door

Newsletter

Published by

The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

128 Jay Street

Schenectady, N. Y. 12305

---

Spring 2022

Volume 30 Number 1

Editor: Lynn Blankman

---



---

## A bouquet of spring books

Are you as ready for spring as we are? And for beautiful, funny, engaging, thoughtful new books? Here are only a few stocking our shelves:

\* Perennial bestseller James Patterson teams up with Dolly Parton (yes, Dolly!) in **Run, Rose, Run**, a thriller about a young singer-songwriter on the rise and on the run, and determined to do whatever it takes to survive. Rose is a talented up-and-comer, singing about the hard life behind her. She's come to Nashville to seek her big break, but the city is also where the darkness she's fled might find and destroy her. Patterson's mastery of suspense and Parton's insider knowledge of Nashville's darker side add up to one great read. \$30

\* From the beloved Pulitzer Prize-winning Anne Tyler, **French Braid** is a funny, joyful, brilliantly perceptive novel following one Baltimore family's lives from the 1950s to the present. Tyler is a master of exploring how interweaving bonds between family members affect people throughout their lives, and she understands that domestic life can contain a whole world. Heartbreaking and hilarious, this is classic Anne Tyler that once again explores how close – yet how unknowable – every family is to itself. \$27

\* In Peter Swanson's **Nine Lives**, nine strangers receive a mysterious list in the mail with nine names, including their own. None of them knows or has ever met the others, and all are living in different parts of the country. When they begin dying under suspicious circumstances, FBI agent Jessica Winslow begins to investigate if there's a connection or if this is the random work of a psychopath – because Jessica too is on the list. \$27.99

\* No one brings wise, funny insight and perception to popular culture and social change quite like Chuck

Klosterman. His latest, **The Nineties**, offers a reckoning with the decade he believes saw a shift in human consciousness more profound than any other in modern history. Klosterman delves into all of it: the films, the music, the sports, the TV, the politics, the changes regarding race and class and sexuality. Lively, entertaining, and unputdownable. \$28

\* Karen Joy Fowler's novel **Booth** is the story of the family of John Wilkes Booth, but the Lincoln assassin himself is not the center of the narrative; it's his siblings who tell their stories of who this family of Shakespearean actors was and how they arrived at an awful moment in history. How did Booth, raised in a strongly anti-slavery, highly literate, progressive household, become a pro-slavery fanatic capable of terrorist murder? The historical context Fowler offers of a pre-Civil War America of deep moral divides, political differences tearing families apart, populism, and fanaticism bears a chilling similarity to today. Beautifully written, and totally riveting. \$28

\* **Origin**, by celebrated anthropologist Jennifer Raff, reveals the untold story and fascinating mystery of how humans migrated to the Americas – who they were, how and why they came – based on a new and powerful kind of evidence: their complete genomes. No written records and little archaeological evidence exist to tell us what happened or how, but Raff explores how genetics is currently being used to construct narratives that shed a bright light on the histories of America's First Peoples. \$30

Lily Bartels  
Book buyer

---

# The Open Door

A locally-owned independent bookseller since 1971

---

Open 7 days a week at 10 am  
For closing times, call or check  
[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  
[opendoor-bookstore.com](http://opendoor-bookstore.com)

---

# Open Door staff favorites

\* *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles follows three 18-year-old boys in the summer of 1954, fresh out of reform school and with a brainy eight-year-old, as they set out from Nebraska in an old Studebaker, in search of a better future. Loved it! Karen \$30

\* *The Last Bookshop in London*, Madeline Martin. Although this WWII novel is set during the London Blitz, it is really a story about love, friendship, compassion, and survival. Martin shows us how the strength of literacy can bring people together even in the worst of times. A great story that takes place during a terrible era! Ellen \$16.99

\* *Vespertine*, Margaret Rogerson. A gripping start to a new YA fantasy set in a world full of ghosts. A nun trained to fight against the undead must team up with the very thing she has been taught to stand against, in order to save their world. They must learn not only

to tolerate their differences, but to appreciate how those differences make them stronger together. This book had both wonderful worldbuilding and compelling characters that made it impossible for me to put down! Anna \$18.99

\* *I'm Possible: A Story of Survival, a Tuba, and the Small Miracle of a Big Dream*, Richard Antoine White. Growing up homeless on the streets of Baltimore, Richard Wright joins the school band for something to do and discovers a talent that gives his life purpose. He describes the racism and socio-economic disparities he experienced on his journey. Fortunately, with the help of dedicated mentors and perseverance, he eventually becomes the first African American to earn a doctorate in music for tuba performance. Currently he is principal tubist with the New Mexico Philharmonic. An inspiring memoir of the saving grace of music and community. Janet \$27.99

\* *The Paper Daughters of Chinatown*, Heather Moore. This book is a brilliant work of historical fiction. The writing enables you to fall into the story and get swept along. If you enjoy soft suspense and gritty details partnered with the heart-wrenching tenderness of a found family, then this is the book for you. Jessica \$15.99

\* *The Celtic Myths that Shape The Way We Think*, Mark Williams. This beautiful book is a must-read for folks who love Celtic mythology. Each chapter follows the figures you think you know (Taliesin, Arthur, Merlin, Branwen, and others), breaking down the familiar contemporary understanding and delving into the earliest mentions of them in medieval literature. Williams then brings us back to the present day with smart challenges for today's readers and writers. How can we continue to make sense of these beloved figures? I love reading a chapter every night before bed! Tara \$34.95

\* *The Man Who Died Twice*, Richard Osman. An intriguing whodunit with lots of

action for the quartet of retiree sleuths, featuring spies and missing diamonds, and funny and warm interwoven side plots. John \$26



## Celebrate spring!

Spring is here at The Open Door. New treasures arriving daily. Just to name a few:

\* Head-to-toe personal care products and candles from **Dani Naturals**, crafted with 100% plant-derived bases and purest essential oil blends. Oregon based.

\* Scented candles hand poured in New Jersey by Rose Powell, a 14-year-old who wants to make a difference. **Rose & Co.** candles donates a percentage of proceeds to benefit organizations empowering girls.

\* Spring scarves and sun hats from **Shihreen**. 100% cotton. Lovely!

\* Sweet and savory snacks from **Rustic Bakery** and signature rubs and sauces from **Rick Orlando**.

\* More than just an insulated water bottle. **Corkcicle** adds color and style to your drinking experience, along with supporting clean water initiatives. Tumblers, stemless wine cups, travel mugs. A cup to fit the occasion.

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

**Lil Bertalan**

**Kathleen Monaco Haber**  
Gifts buyers

## Dear friends,

We can't wait for spring when we can open our doors to fresh warm air, and welcome you with new books and great new gifts!

This year we will partner again with the Reading Is Fun program to bring books to students in the Schenectady School system during the month of April. RIF mobilizes volunteers to reinforce reading-readiness and conversational skills 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.

We are also excited to welcome a variety of local authors for book signings this spring. Check out our calendar of events (p. 3)!

As always, stay up to date by checking our Facebook and Instagram pages, and [www.opendoor-bookstore.com](http://www.opendoor-bookstore.com).

**Janet Hutchison**  
Owner



## Calendar

**Saturday, March 19, 1-2:30 pm:** Bruce Dearstyne will sign *The Spirit of New York*.

**Saturday, April 2, 1-2:30 pm:** Sara Perkins will sign *On a Rainy Day*.

**Saturday, April 9, 1-2:30 pm:** Bernard Melewska will sign *Inside the Green Lobby*.

**Saturday, April 16, 1-2:30 pm:** Gregory Maguire will sign *Cress Watercress*.

**Saturday, April 23, 1-2:30 pm:** Nancy Castaldo will sign *When the World Runs Dry*.

# New books for girls and boys

\* ***Big Hedgehog and Little Hedgehog Take an Evening Stroll***, Britta Teckentrup. A master of picture books (*Oskar Loves ...*, *Oskar and Mo*, and many others) returns with a simple and loving story about taking one's time. There is so much to see as the big and little hedgehogs slowly make their way home, and the little one wants to take it all in. Perfect for bedtime. 3-7 \$14.95

\* ***The Friendship Surprise***, Giorgio Volpe, Paolo Proietti. It's spring, and Little Red fox can't wait to see his dormouse pal, Hazel, who's about to awake from her winter sleep. Problem is, Little Red made a new friend over the winter – Brock the badger. How can he introduce the friends while keeping his special friendship with Hazel? Surprises ensue! Companion title to *Before We Sleep*. 4-8 \$17.99

\* ***Knight Owl***, Christopher Denise. Since the day he hatched, Owl has dreamed of becoming a real knight. Then, while holding guard during Knight Night Watch, Owl is faced with a frightening intruder. Can he make up for his size with clever ideas?

Lots of wordplay in this tale of bravery – and of brains over brawn. 4-8 \$17.99

\* ***Cress Watercress***, Gregory Maguire. Beloved author Maguire (*Wicked*) turns his trademark wit and wisdom to an animal adventure about growing up, moving on, and finding community. When Papa Rabbit doesn't return from nighttime honey-gathering, Cress holds out hope but Mama moves the family to a run-down apartment oak with a suspect owl landlord, a nosy mouse super, a rowdy family of squirrels, and a pair of songbirds who broadcast everyone's business. Can a dead tree full of annoying neighbors and no Papa ever be home? Glowing illustrations by David Litchfield. *Don't miss Maguire's book signing April 16!* 8-12 \$19.99

\* ***Wingbearer***, Marjorie Lu, Tenny Issakhanian. Zuli has been raised by mystical birds in the branches of the Great Tree and never ventured from this safe haven – until now, when a sinister force is threatening the life-giving magic of the tree. Zuli, along with her guardian owl, Frowli, sets forth on

an adventure that will bring her face-to-face with an ancient dragon and, most surprisingly, her true identity. 8-12 \$12.99

\* ***The Ogress and the Orphans***, Kelly Barnhill. The bestselling and Newbery Medal award-winning author (*The Girl Who Drank the Moon*) returns with this instant-classic fantasy about a lovely town fallen on hard times, a dazzling but deceitful mayor, a kindly Ogress, and clever and resourceful children. A satisfying tale about the power of generosity and love and how a community suffers when they disappear. 10-18 \$19.95



# 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

**Open 7 days a week at 10 am**  
**For closing hours, call or check**  
**opendoor-bookstore.com**

**Phone orders welcome**  
**Curbside pickup available**  
**Private appointments possible**  
**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, 2022  
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 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!