

The Open Door

Newsletter

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Editor: Lynn Blankman



A bouquet of spring books

Important nonfiction, beautiful historical fiction, emotionally resonant novels, high adventures, mysteries...you name it! They're the new spring books filling our shelves.

* In his novel ***The American Daughters***, Maurice Carlos Ruffin tells the story of an enslaved Black girl in antebellum New Orleans who joins a far-flung spy network, "the Daughters," working to subvert the Confederacy. A high adventure, a revealing history, and a chronicle of one woman's self-realization and Black women as agents of their own liberation. \$28

* Jennifer Croft's ***The Extinction of Irena Rey*** is a wickedly funny mystery about eight translators searching for a world-renowned author gone missing in a Polish forest. A hilarious, thought-provoking debut that offers a brilliant take on art, celebrity, the natural world, and the power of language. \$28.99

* ***The Black Box: Writing the Race*** by Henry Louis Gates examines how Black Americans have used the written word to define and redefine themselves throughout the country's history, and how creative thinkers have identified, and resisted being confined to, the "black box." \$30

* Former *Village Voice* columnist Tricia Romano delivers a phenomenal oral history of the alternative weekly from its founding in 1955 to its shutdown in 2018 in ***The Freaks Came Out to Write: The Definitive History of the Village Voice, the Radical Paper that Changed American Culture***. Drawing on extensive interviews with *Voice* personnel, Romano explores the personalities, colorful stories, and heated disputes that defined the nation's first alternative newspaper. \$35

* In Kyoto, Japan, Koishi Kamogawa and her father Nagare serve delicious meals at their Kamogawa Diner. But the real draw of the place is that the two are "food detectives," who through their ingenious investigations are able to recreate dishes from a person's memories—dishes that may hold the keys to the forgotten past and to future happiness. ***The Kamogawa Food Detectives*** by Hisashi Kashiwa is the first book in a bestselling Japanese series. \$25

* Moving between late 1990s small-town Texas, pre-World War II Japan, and occupied Tokyo, ***The Turtle House*** by Amanda Churchill is an emotionally engaging literary debut about a grandmother and granddaughter who connect over a beloved lost place and the secrets they both carry. \$30

* Set in a Lower East Side tenement in the early days of the Covid lockdown, ***Fourteen*** is an irresistible novel from the Authors Guild, with an unusual twist: each character in its diverse, eccentric cast of New York neighbors has been secretly written by a different major literary voice—from Margaret Atwood and Celest Ng to Tommy Orange and John Grisham. \$32

* Forty years after their breakup, lovers run into each other at intermission at the opera house and nothing will ever be the same in Roxana Robinson's beautifully written novel, ***Leaving***. Her depiction of family relationships and the difficult choices they entail will resonate with readers in every phase of their own lives. \$28.99

Lily Bartels
Book buyer

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Open Door staff favorites

* **Only the Beautiful**, Susan Meissner. As a young unwed mother, Roseanne fights to keep her daughter and unwillingly becomes the victim of a eugenics program. Many years later, her life intersects with someone who wants to reunite with both Roseanne and her daughter. Meissner's beautiful story takes the reader on an emotional journey of hope and second chances. Janet \$28

* **The City of Brass**, S. A. Chakraborty. This is the first book in the "Daevabad" trilogy, a fantastic fantasy epic. Nahri, a young woman who doesn't believe in magic, accidentally wakes a djinn who spirits her away to the magical city of Daevabad. There,

Nahri must discover who she really is while navigating dangerous court politics—and romantic entanglements. Tara \$19.99

* **The Last Thing He Told Me**, Laura Dave. This is a page-turner with mystery, family drama, and plot twists that really got me into the story and I just had to know how it was going to end! I don't often like books that jump between time-lines, but this was written in such a way that the flashbacks play into the current timeline and make it easy to follow while giving you helpful nuggets of information. Heather \$17.99

* **The Women**, Kristin Hannah. When her brother is killed in the Vietnam war, "Frankie," in a fit of patriotism, enlists as an Army nurse and is deployed to a field hospital in-country. She quickly learns to let go of her fear and care for the many wounded American soldiers. Upon her return home, Frankie searches for work amid anti-war sentiment and animosity. For some, *The Women* may bring back memories of a deeply divided America; for others too young to remember the 60s and 70s, it will be a valuable history lesson. Kathy \$27

* **Union Station**, David Downing. This is a spy thriller set in McCarthy-era Hollywood and post-Stalin Berlin. A captivating depiction of America in 1953, including issues that affect us today. This title is part of the author's "John Russell WWII Spy Thriller Series." John \$27.95

* **The Warm Hands of Ghosts**, Katherine Arden. A beautiful work of historical fiction about a Canadian nurse and her brother who served in WW1. This is a ghost story, a book of speculative fiction, a war story, and a tale about the lengths one woman will go to find her brother in the hell of battle. It is tense, loving, brave, and it will leave you thinking about the plot and characters for a long time after you finish. Al \$28.99

* **Dirty Thirty**, Janet Evanovich. Stephanie Plum is back! Once again, she is in need of finding bail jumpers, and as usual, it gets

her into trouble! All of the usual characters are helping out, including her mother. And while Joe is out of town, Ranger is her go-to for help. A real surprise ending and cliff hanger. I love all of her books! Ellen \$29.99



Celebrate spring!

Spring is here at The Open Door. We've been shopping at the NYC shows and Faire Market. New "must see" treasures arrive daily. Just to list a few:

* Earrings and bracelets from **Ink & Alloy**, handcrafted from colorful glass beads and up-cycled brass. Fair trade, women-owned.

* Delectables from **Lighthouse Keeper's Small Batch Foods**. Sweet and savory condiments, Cape Cod-inspired.

* Lip balms and scrubs in a variety of flavors from **Poppy & Pout Lip Care**. Beautifully packaged. Discover your favorites!

* **Finchberry** returns! Luxurious soaps and bath salts made with natural organic ingredients. A store favorite. Get ready to treat yourself!

* New soy candles from **Paddywax**. Hand poured in Nashville, Tennessee, with a variety of scents in fun, reusable vessels.

And, of course, new designs, colors, and items from your favorite companies. We have the perfect gift for all the special spring occasions.

Lil Bertalan
Karen Monaco-Haber
Gift buyers

Dear friends,

We can't wait to show you wonderful new spring books and exciting new items in our Gallery! Shipments are arriving daily.

This year we are happy to partner with the STARS program (Schenectady Takes Action for Reading Success). This program, led by the Schenectady County Public Library, spreads free and diverse books throughout Schenectady for young children from birth. By choosing a board book to donate (at a 20% discount), you will be helping us give quality books to our youngest residents. This initiative will continue until March 14.

In April, we will again partner with Reading Is Fun to bring books to the students in Schenectady Schools. RIF mobilizes volunteers to reinforce reading readiness and vocabulary.

We appreciate the commitment of our customers to help us support literacy in our community.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Janet Hutchison
Owner



New books for young people

The shelves in our children's section are filled with tons of new books—sweet, funny, informative, beautifully illustrated, and heart-warming. Available now or as noted.

Picture books

✳ ***Doris***, Lo Cole. Doris does not like to stand out. But as a red elephant, no matter where she hides—whether behind a flock of birds, within a bed of flowers, or among a school of fish—she is easily spotted. Can she find a way to embrace her colorful self? 3-6 \$18.99

✳ ***Something About the Sky***, Rachel Carson, Nikki McClure. Some clouds are fleecy and fair-weathered; others portend storms. But clouds are more than pretty or ominous backdrops. They're the vehicle of water between land and sea in a cycle without end or beginning. Rachel Carson's lovely essay is brought to life by Nikki McClure's signature cut-paper artistry. 5-8 \$19.99 Available March 12

✳ ***Treehouse Town***, Gideon Sterer, Charlie Mylie. Hidden high above the ground, we welcome you to Treehouse Town! There's the Birch Bazaar, the Tulip Train, the library in the hemlocks, the game of birdball... there's something for everyone in this treehouse world built by children. 4-8 \$18.99

✳ ***Luigi, the Spider Who Wanted to Be a Kitten***, Michelle Knudson, Kevin Hawkes. When an old lady mistakes Luigi, a big hairy spider, for a kitten, Luigi begins to think he likes the life of tasty breakfasts and being tucked into bed. But how long can he keep up the façade, and what might be at stake in pretending to be what you are not? 4-8 \$18.99

Books for older readers

✳ ***Ferris***, Kate DiCamillo. For Ferris, the summer before fifth grade is sheer chaos. Her little sister has vowed to become an outlaw. Uncle Ted has left Aunt Shirley and is holed up in the Ferris basement to paint a history of the world. And Ferris's grandmother, Charisse, is seeing a ghost at the doorway to her room...is Charisse about to go to the Great Beyond? No, the ghost has other plans—crazy, wild plans. How can Ferris satisfy the specter, with her sister terrorizing the town, Uncle Ted sending Ferris to spy on her aunt, and, oh yes, her father battling an invasion of raccoons? Sweet, playful, and emotionally resonant. 8-12 \$18.99

✳ ***Olivetti***, Allie Millington. Being a typewriter is not as easy as it looks. Surrounded by books and recently replaced by a computer, Olivetti has been forgotten by the busy Brindle family. When Olivetti

learns that Mom has mysteriously gone missing, he knows he can help find her. He breaks the only rule of his "kind"—and *types back* to 12-year-old Ernest. Now Ernest must face what he and his family have been running from, "The Everything that Happened." Only then can they find the parts of themselves they have lost. 8-12 \$17.99 Available March 26

Kathleen Kemp
Children's book buyer

Calendar

Please check website and social media for updates!

Saturday, March 23, 2-3 pm: Sam Daley Harris will sign ***Reclaiming Our Democracy: Every Citizen's Guide to Transformational Advocacy*** (2024 edition).

Sunday, April 14, 11 am-12:30 pm: Marc Renson will sign ***How Will I Know***.

Sunday, April 28, 11 am-12:30 pm: Alexandra Stafford will sign ***Pizza Time: Deliciously Doable Recipes for Pizza and Salad***.

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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!