

# The Open Door

Newsletter

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The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

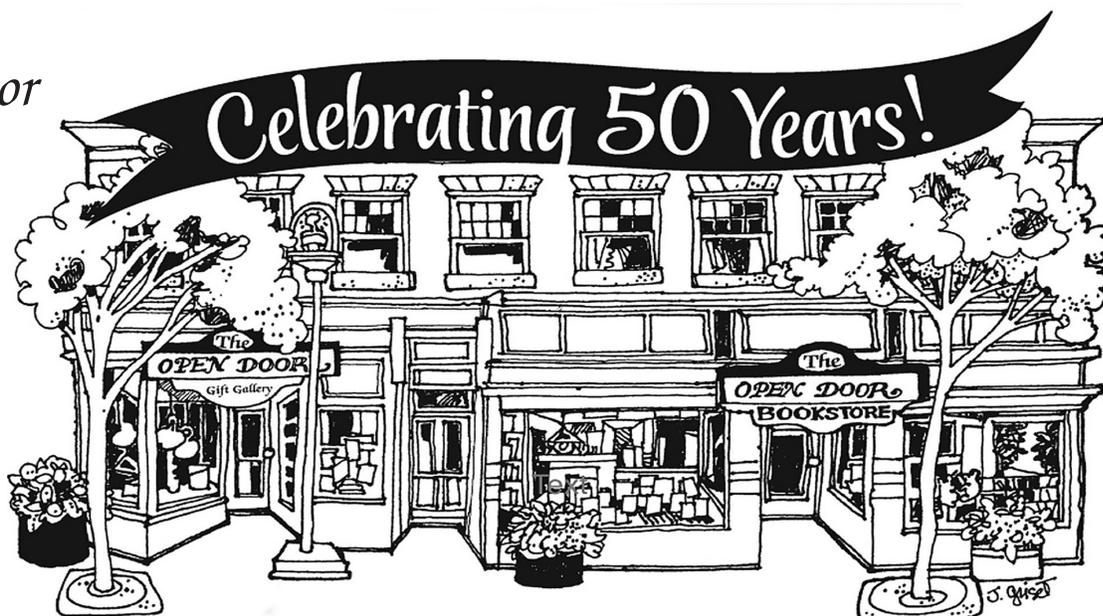
128 Jay Street

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Fall 2021

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Editor: Lynn Blankman



## Fabulous fall books

So many great new books are being released this fall, we had trouble winnowing titles for the newsletter. These are only a few:

\* Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny have teamed up to write the unique and utterly compelling international thriller, **State of Terror**. The former secretary of state and the bestselling novelist combine incomparable insider expertise with first-rate narrative skill in a gripping thriller of behind-the-scenes global drama set in the complex world of high-stakes diplomacy and treachery. \$30

\* Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Colson Whitehead delivers another exceptional novel with **Harlem Shuffle**, a wildly entertaining story of heists, shakedown, and rip-offs set in 1960s Harlem. To his customers, Ray Carney is an upstanding furniture salesman, but few know he descends from a line of uptown hoods and crooks, and that his façade of normalcy has more than a few cracks. \$28.95

\* An Upper East Side housewife finds her life shattered by her husband's latest novel in Virginia Feito's astonishing debut, **Mrs. March**. In this razor-sharp exploration of the fragility of identity and the smothering weight of expectations, the venerable but gossipy New York literary scene is twisted into a claustrophobic fun house of paranoia, horror, and wickedly dark humor. \$26

\* **Vanderbilt: Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty** is CNN anchor Anderson Cooper's chronicle of his mother's family, the legendary Vanderbilts. Cooper teams with historian and novelist Katherine Howe to recount, with his unique insider's viewpoint, the triumphs and tragedies of an American family unlike any other. This is a rollicking, quintessentially

American history as remarkable as the family it so vividly captures. \$30

\* From Silvia Moreno-Garcia, the bestselling author of *Mexican Gothic*, comes a riveting noir about a daydreaming secretary, a lonesome enforcer, and the mystery of a missing woman—whom they're both desperate to find—that brings them together. **Velvet Was the Night** is an edgy, simmering historical novel for lovers of smoky noirs and anti-heroes. \$28

\* From Anthony Doerr, author of the beloved *All the Light We Cannot See*, comes the highly anticipated **Cloud Cuckoo Land**. Set in Constantinople in the fifteenth century; in a small town in present-day Idaho; and on an interstellar ship decades from now, this gorgeous novel is a triumph of imagination and compassion, in which Doerr has created a magnificent tapestry of times and places that reflects our vast interconnectedness, a magical literary puzzle that offers a spark of hope. \$26.

\* Amor Towles (*A Gentleman in Moscow*) returns with **The Lincoln Highway**: It's 1954. Eighteen-year-old Emmett is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon, Emmett plans to pick up his eight-year-old brother and head to California to start a new life. But when the warden drives away, he discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. And they've hatched a very different plan for Emmett's future that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the city of New York. \$30

Lily Bartels  
Book buyer

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# Open Door staff favorites

\* ***The Book of Accidents***, Chuck Wendig. If you're looking for a story of supernatural horror confronting a loving, functional family and friends, this is the book for you. Wendig blends horror, science fiction, and fantasy together flawlessly in a story that will have you cheering for the characters until the very end. Al \$28.99

\* ***The Lions of Fifth Avenue***, Fiona Davis. I like historical fiction, and this one involves

three generations. The story takes place in the New York Public Library, which becomes another character in the book. Family secrets take their toll, and you will wonder if this family will be whole again. Vicki \$17

\* ***The Lost Apothecary***, Sarah Penner. This debut novel is a fast-paced dual timeline mystery that I could not put down! Aspiring historian Caroline discovers an apothecary vial while mudlarking in the River Thames. Her curiosity about a strange symbol on the vial leads her into a 200-year-old mystery surrounding London's apothecary serial killer. (PS—If you want to know more about mudlarking, you should check out Lara Maiklem's *Mudlark: In Search of London's Past Along the River Thames* in our nonfiction section!) Tara \$27.99

\* ***Clark and Division***, Naomi Hirahara. A young woman investigates the death of her sister, as her family deals with fellow Japanese Americans resettled in Chicago in 1944. The novel is inspired by historic events and provides an excellent depiction of people and settings. John \$27.95

\* ***The Henna Artist***, Alka Joshi. Lakshmi is a talented henna artist with secrets and heartache of her own who becomes the confidant of the wealthy women of Jaipur. I loved this novel of an independent woman, which reveals the clash of class, identity, love, and deceit in 1950s India. A beautifully written story with plenty of detail, tastes, and textures to savor. Janet \$17.99

\* ***The Forest of Vanishing Stars***, Kristin Harmel. Kristin Harmel has done it again! Inspired by true stories, she has written a compelling and unique novel of a young girl who is kidnapped by a strange old lady, raised in the forests of Eastern Europe, and then helps hide Jewish escapees from the Nazis. A different aspect of Jewish survival during the Holocaust. Ellen \$28

\* ***The Sweetness of Water***, Nathan Harris. Set in the deep South immediately following the Civil War, this is a beautifully written and compelling story about the reconstruction era and the trials freedmen

faced as they desperately struggled to build their lives from nothing. Karen \$28

\* ***She Who Became the Sun***, Shelley Parker-Chan. When faced with a destiny you cannot bear, what would you do? Submit or steal another? A fantastical reimagining of the founding of the Ming Dynasty, this novel delves into the point where gender, fate, and willpower intersect to consider whether the course of life is as set as it seems. Featuring three characters who struggle to fit into the roles their society says their gender dooms them to, the novel offers each a different approach to their fate. Anna \$27.99

## Dear friends,

Once again, we thank you, our wonderful and loyal customers, for shopping local! Your support has been so welcome, overwhelming, and so appreciated. We also are grateful for your help as we continue to navigate guidelines due to covid. Your safety and the health of our staff are our top priority.

### In October we'll celebrate our 50th anniversary!

We'll feature displays of Open Door memorabilia, including bookmarks, tote bags and lots of photos. If you have items to share or contribute to this effort...let us know!

We'll also proudly display the many honors we've received over the years from local organizations.

Be sure to stop by to reminisce with us over special times at the store... including some not-so-happy memories, such as the great flood of 1995. The silver lining during that difficult time was the wonderful support from our customers, who offered not only moral support but physical support, from cleaning and sorting soggy books to bringing platters of sweets and sandwiches for the hungry crew!

It has been quite an adventure! Thank you!

**Janet Hutchison**  
Owner



## Puzzles galore!

We have jigsaw puzzles galore! Choose from our wonderfully curated selection, now located in the gift gallery.

What is your pleasure—art, nature scenes, collections, novelties? 500 pieces? 1000 pieces?

Don't miss our many children's puzzles in a range of themes and sizes.

Fun for individuals, groups—entire families!

Happy puzzling!



# Fall books for kids

**E**xciting adventure stories, sweet picture books, enchanting graphic novels, beautiful new books—we've got 'em all.

\* **Thankful**, Elaine Vickers and Samantha Cotterill. When the first snow falls, a little girl writes down the things for which she's grateful on strips of paper and links them together. As one idea leads to another, her chain grows longer. A beautiful story with the reminder to observe and honor life's small joys. 4-8 \$17.99

\* **The Littlest Yak**, Lu Fraser and Kate Hindley. Gertie is the littlest yak, but she longs to be big. She eats her veggies, exercises every day, and reads lots of books. But she's still no bigger. Then, when the other yaks come calling for Gertie to help them with a daring and dangerous task, could it be because it's something only a small yak can do? 4-8 \$16.99

\* **Dumpling Day**, Meera Sriram. Ten diverse families cook dumplings in their homes for a neighborhood potluck. One by one the dumplings are added to plates, and readers can count along. All the recipes are included, along with a map showing regions of origin, including India, China, Israel, and the Pennsylvania Dutch area of the U.S. 4-9 \$9.99

\* **Garlic and the Vampire**, Bree Paulsen. No matter how much her friend Carrot and kindly Witch Agnes encourage her, Garlic just wants to tend her garden, where it's nice

and safe. But when her village of vegetable folk learn that a vampire has moved into the local castle, they all agree that Garlic is the obvious choice to confront him. Reluctantly, she agrees. But does she have what it takes? An enchanting graphic novel. 8-12. \$12.99

\* **A Soft Place to Land**, Janae Marks. When Joy loses her home, she must also give up her friends, her school, and her dreams of becoming a great pianist. But when a new neighbor reveals the apartment's secret hideout, Joy finds solace in a mysterious letter writer who seems to know exactly what she is going through. From the author of *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* comes a compassionate novel about the meaning of home. 8-12 \$16.99

\* **Pony**, R. J. Palacio. Twelve-year-old Silas is awakened in the dead of night by three menacing horsemen who take his father away. Silas—shaken, scared—is alone except for his companion Mittenwool...who happens to be a ghost. When a mysterious pony shows up at his door, Silas decides to embark on a perilous journey to find his father. Palacio (*Wonder*) offers an enthralling adventure about courage, and love, and the ties that bind us across distance and time. 10+ \$17.99

**Kathleen Kemp**  
Children's book buyer

## Calendar

**Saturday, Sept. 18, 1-2:30 pm:** John Gray will sign *Chasing Manhattan*.

**Saturday, Oct. 2, 1-2:30 pm:** Kyra Teis will sign *Sometimes When I'm Sad* and *Sometimes When I'm Mad*.

**Saturday, Oct. 9 1-2:30 pm:** Barbara Delaney and Russell Dunn will sign *Paths to the Past: History Hikes Through the Hudson River Valley, Catskills, Berkshires, Taconics, Saratoga, and Capital Region*.

**Saturday, Oct. 16, 1-2:30 pm:** Jim and Carol McCord will do a poetry reading and sign *Beneath the Midi Sun*.

**Saturday, Oct. 23, 1-2:30 pm:** Dennis Webster will sign *Haunted Adirondacks*.

## New gifts

**K**aren and Lil have been busy! Stop in and see our carefully curated selection of irresistible gifts. Here is a sampling of some of our new lines:

\* Coming from Philadelphia, PA, up-cycled cashmere fingerless gloves from **Sardine Clothing Company**. "Ahmazing!"

\* Gloves and scarves from **Powder**, evoking glamour and fun. Beautiful bespoke packaging makes these items perfect for gifting or simply treating yourself. Dazzling!

\* Award-winning honey and beehive products from **Savannah Bee Company**. Wonderful variety of products to delight your palate and nourish your skin.

\* Gorgeous stemware and glasses for your favorite beverages! **Zafferano America** brings Italian artistry to American homes.

\* Goodies from **The Crispery**: marshmallow treats in devilishly delicious varieties—toasted coconut, cookies and cream, chocolate brownie, s'mores and more.

**Liz Bertalan**  
**Karen Monaco Haber**  
Gift buyers

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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). 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.
- \* Save 20% with our Revolving Sale.
- \* 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!

**I**t's time for our twenty-fifth 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. 13-20.

Children in grades one through eight may enter. Entries are due in the store before Oct. 1. Pick up your entry form at the store or download from our website—[www.opendoor-bookstore.com](http://www.opendoor-bookstore.com).