

The Open Door

Newsletter

Published by

The Open Door

Bookstore and Gift Gallery

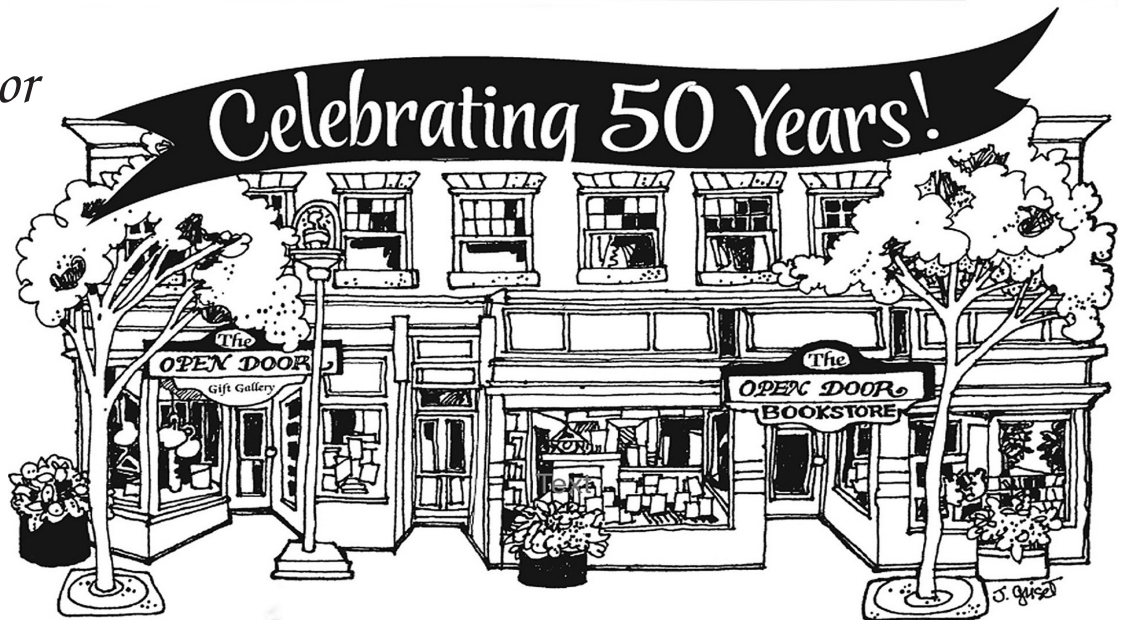
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Schenectady, N. Y. 12305

Fall 2022

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Editor: Lynn Blankman



Fabulous fall books

What fabulous books are on the new fall lists! Don't miss new novels by Maggie O'Farrell and Ian McEwan, a fascinating biography of Agatha Christie, a debut novel rich in Eastern European folklore, nonfiction about strange and wondrous beasts – and many more.

* Maggie O'Farrell, author of the bestselling *Hamnet*, now brings the world of Renaissance Italy to gorgeous life in **The Marriage Portrait**, an unforgettable portrayal of the captivating young duchess Lucrezia de' Medici as she makes her way in the complex world of the 16th-century court. Married off to a duke at 15, Lucretia may be facing mortal danger from her husband, who she fears is trying to kill her as she has not given him an heir. In imagining an alternative fate that deviates from the historical record, O'Farrell crafts a bold portrait of a woman attempting to free herself from a golden cage. A lush and extraordinarily evocative story. \$28

* The renowned and prolific Agatha Christie spent her illustrious writing career pretending that she was "just" an ordinary housewife. But Lucy Worsley, author of **Agatha Christie: An Elusive Woman**, maintains that she was "thrillingly, scintillatingly modern": going surfing in Hawaii, loving fast cars, and intrigued by the new science of psychology. It's been said that the greatest character Christie ever invented was herself. Now Worsley brings her back to life in a fresh new way that is revealing and ultimately very moving. \$29.95

* From the best-selling author of *Atonement* comes the new novel **Lessons**. Ian McEwan's epic yet intimate story of the life of one man – Roland Baines – that spans generations and a vast panorama of major historical moments. McEwan creates a layered and poignant

exploration of how Roland and the book's other characters contend with global events over which they have no control, while dealing with the profound challenges of daily life. A tale of aspiration, disappointment, and familial dysfunction, **Lessons** is a powerful meditation on history and humanity through the prism of one man's lifetime. \$30

* In the tradition of modern fairy tales like Neil Gaiman's *American Gods* and Naomi Novik's *Spinning Silver* comes a sweeping epic rich in Eastern European folklore – a debut novel about both the ancestral hauntings that stalk us and the uncanny power of story. GennaRose Nothercott's **Thistlefoot** is an enchanted, rollicking adventure, a story of family heritage and earthy magic steeped in Slavic traditions and Jewish myth. Nothercott's imagination and lyrical prose create an immersive modern fantasy filled with eccentric characters – a fabulous, weird, wonderful read. \$28

* Joanne Bagniewski's **The Modern Bestiary: A Curated Collection of Wondrous Wildlife** is a quirky collection of Earth's most compelling animals. While it mirrors medieval encyclopedias of incredible beasts, this unique and charmingly illustrated book features 100 stranger-than-fiction *real* animals. Organized by the elements Earth, Water, and Air, this delightful volume introduces both unfamiliar creatures, like deep-sea harp sponges who catch prey in their barbs and digest them whole, as well as more familiar ones like the cicadas who emerge from the ground in noisy broods every thirteen or seventeen years. A fascinating collection of unbelievable – and deliciously horrific – creatures. \$29.95

Lily Bartels
Book buyer

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Open Door staff favorites

* ***The Dictionary of Lost Words***, Pip Williams. Based on actual events, this novel is a tribute to the real women whose work on the Oxford English Dictionary was largely ignored. Young Esme ventures from the world where her father and other men worked on the OED, to search for words neglected and ignored by men. She develops a plan for an alternative dictionary of words used by women and “common folk.” Set against the backdrop of the women’s suffrage movement and WWI, this novel is a thought-provoking and delightful celebration of words. Janet \$17

* ***The Silent Patient***, Alex Michaelides. Murder, love, betrayal, and revenge! What more can you ask for in a thriller? Did Alicia kill her husband, the love of her life, or was it a stranger she insists was in the

house? And why can’t or won’t she speak? It all comes together with a twist that I did not see coming. Will you? Ellen \$17.99

* ***Father of the Rain***, Lily King. The author creates a portrait of a flawed yet charismatic man and the daughter who sacrifices her own wants and needs to try to please him. Wonderfully absorbing and at times intense, this novel reminds us of how complicated love and relationships can be. Karen \$17

* ***Mary: An Awakening of Terror***, Nat Cassidy. I could not put this book down. I’m not usually a fan of horror, but the character of Mary was so complex, so sympathetic, so delightfully snarky, I kept turning the pages long after I should’ve turned out the lights. A wickedly sharp look at how society views (or ignores?) “women of a certain age.” A perfect read especially as a spooky autumn approacheth ... Tara \$21.99

* ***Secret Keeper of Jaipur***, Alka Joshi. In this sequel to *The Henna Artist*, Lakshmi arranges for young Malik to intern at the Palace of Jaipur. This return to favorite characters spins a suspenseful tale of ambition and love. Loyalties are tested as Lakshmi and Malik work to uncover the cause of the collapse of the new lavish cinema building. Master storyteller Joshi again gives a look into India of the 1950s with lavish and rich detail. Janet \$17.99

* ***The Overnight Guest***, Heather Gudenkauf. I usually don’t read thrillers but that is what’s great about being in a book club, which is how I came to read this title. A crime writer is writing her new book while knowing that a murder took place in the same house decades ago. This story has you thinking that all the wrong people have committed the unthinkable. Vicki \$16.99

* ***Horse***, Geraldine Brooks. Beginning before the Civil War and spanning several generations, Brooks’s new novel chronicles the enduring relationship between a horse that becomes a legendary racing champion and the young enslaved man who is present at the horse’s birth, trains him, communicates with him, and maintains the closest of bonds

with him. But this is much more than a story about a horse. Transitioning to modern times, Brooks weaves a horse portraitist, an art historian, and an anthropologic scientist into her story. One of my personal ten best books. Kathy. \$28



New gifts

We always have something new in the gift gallery! Come in for a relaxing shopping experience.

* Pamper yourself with **home spa treatments with accessories** from Spa Sisters and **facial sheet masks and rollers** from ESW Beauty.

* You must see our cozy **comfortable socks** with unique packaging from DOIY/Eat My Socks.

* We welcome Bella Cucina – delicious **pestos, spreads, and culinary salts**.

* You’ll love our **scarves, hats, and gloves** from new and returning favorite companies.

We are happy to assist you in creating the perfect gift basket!

Karen Monaco-Haber
Lil Bertalan
Gift buyers

Dear friends,

We hope you all had a fantastic summer, reading lots of great books. Next time you are in the store, let us know what you loved reading!

A big thanks goes out to all of you who chose kids’ books to donate for the SICM Summer Meal sites. This is such a great program for city kids!

In light of the growing concern about book banning across this country and the recent attack on author Salman Rushdie, we will create a special display for Banned Books Week, September 18-24. The American Booksellers for Free Expression (ABFE) and independent booksellers across America strongly condemn book banning and offer support to schools and libraries. We want you to know that we support your freedom to read.

Check out the calendar on page 3 and our Facebook page to keep tabs on exciting authors visiting the store this fall. See you soon!

Janet Hutchison
Owner



Fall books for children

Fall brings beautiful new picture books celebrating bookstores, brave boys, grandparents and grandchildren, and terrific new books for older readers about a student quest to save a teacher's job, a robot – with feelings – on Mars, and a secret laboratory devoted to insects, plus many more. Available now or as noted.

* ***Goodnight, Little Bookstore***, Amy Cherrix, E.B. Goodale. Join the Little Bookstore's friendly staff as they end another busy day of browsing and book-matchmaking. Part lullaby, part love story, this beautifully pitched bedtime book gives a nod to classics as it champions the independent spirit of local bookstores. Of course, we love it! 2-5 \$17.99

* ***Finding Fire***, Logan S. Kline. After a hard rain douses the family fire, a brave young boy sets out to find fire for his family before the cold season sets in. Upstate NY artist Kline has crafted a dramatic tale told almost entirely through beautifully detailed illustrations. *Don't miss his book signing Oct. 22!* 4-8 \$18.99

* ***A Grand Day***, Jean Reidy, Samantha Cotterill. Whether planting a garden, having a picnic, or baking, any day spent together is sure to be *grand*. Grandparents and grandchildren of all family configurations celebrate togetherness in all kinds of joyful variety. Stunning diorama illustrations. 4-8 \$18.99

* ***Playing through the Turnaround***, Mylisa Larsen. Fifth period is the best time of day at Connor U. Eubanks Middle School,

because that's when Mr. Lewis teaches Jazz Lab. So his students are devastated when their beloved teacher quits abruptly over budget cuts. The students hatch a plan: stop the cuts, save their class. Soon their quest snowballs into something that affects the entire middle school, but the adults still won't listen. How can the students make themselves heard? 8-12 \$16.99 October

* ***A Rover's Story***, Jasmine Warga. Meet Resilience, a Mars rover determined to live up to his name. Res was built to explore Mars, *not* to have human emotions. But as he learns new things from the NASA engineers who assemble him, he begins to develop human-like feelings. Maybe there's a problem with his programming... Then comes launch day. As Res navigates the dust storms and giant cliffs of Mars, with the friendly drone helicopter named Fly, millions of people on Earth watch his progress. Will Res have the determination, courage – and resilience – to survive? 8-12 \$17.99 October

* ***The Big Dreams of Small Creatures***, Gail Lerner. Ten-year-old Eden's life is upended when she saves a paper wasp's nest from destruction and discovers she and the haughty wasp queen can talk to each other. Their first conversation leads Eden to a secret laboratory devoted to the peaceful coexistence of human and insects – and whose ancient secret could spell the end for all insects on earth. Meanwhile, there's a nine-year-old aspiring actor and bullied fourth-grader named August who

is after that secret. The writer and director of "Blackish" offers a whimsical tale where two unlikely allies must band together to defend the insect world from the worst enemy of all – humans. 10+ \$18.99 October

Calendar

Saturday, Sept. 17, 1-2:30 pm:
Mark Teague will sign ***King Kong's Cousin***.

Saturday, Sept. 24, 1-2:30 pm:
David Pietrusza will sign ***Roosevelt Sweeps Nation: FDR'S Landslide and The Triumph of the Liberal Ideal***.

Sunday, Sept. 25, 1-2:30 pm:
Shaun Evans will sign ***Better Together: A Memoir Of Persistence, Inclusion, and a Family's Power to Overcome***.

Saturday, Oct. 15, 1-2:30 pm:
Joseph Bruchac will sign ***A Year of Moons: Stories from the Adirondack Foothills***.

Saturday, Oct. 22, 1-2:30 pm:
Logan S. Kline will sign ***Finding Fire***.

Saturday, Nov. 5, 1-2:30 pm:
John Gray will sign ***Chasing Rome: A Novel***.

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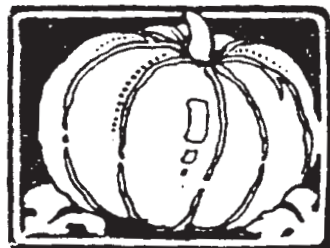
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Ways to save at The Open Door

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:

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- * Reading groups, save 15%.
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- * And a great selection of Bargain Books every day!

Complete details available in the store.

Art contest for kids!

It's time for our twenty-sixth 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. 14-21.

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.