

Word Search...4th of July Style!

Happy 250th America!

P E N H T R U O F K I S
X H U N A T J R I Y N C
I E L L F L E T R F D E
S L L E B E L E E K E L
L R E I D U T P C D P E
I A E O G S O W R L E B
B C M L Y H H J A L N R
E I Q M K I T U C I D A
R R V X T R M L K R E T
T E R E J S A Y E G N I
Y M T Y T R A P R N C O
V A C A T I O N S Q E N

America
Celebration
Freedom
Hope
Liberty
Party
Vacation

Bells
Firecracker
Grill
Independence
Light
Red
White

Blue
Fourth
Hall
July
Mystery
Sparklers

Complete this puzzle, and drop on by our shop for
20% Off One New Puzzle on our shelves!

(While Supplies Last)

Something Wicked

this way comes... 2026 • Vol. 7 • Issue 2



Upcoming Events At-A-Glance

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July 15th - 18th: \$17.76 Book Deal
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July 22nd: PROMM with James
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July 25th: Reading Log Craft
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August 12th - 15th: Bracelet Week
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August 13th: Indie Author 101
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August 26th: PROMM with Scott
Page 3 for details.

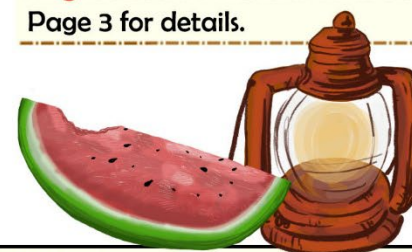
Please Note:

Our shop will be closed
July 4th - 11th, and will reopen
on July 15th.

August 8th:

Our shop will be closed this day.

Did you know that our USED
hardcovers are 50% off?



Special July 4th Wordsearch:

Complete the puzzle, and drop on by our shop for
20% off ONE new puzzle on our shelves! (On the Back Page)

Shop Hours

Wednesday and Thursday 12:30 pm til 6:00 pm
Friday 12:30 pm til 5:30 pm
Saturday 12:00 pm til 5:30 pm
Sunday through Tuesday Closed except for special events.

Newsletter of Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop
6 Clouser Rd • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Phone: 717-795-7470 • www.MysteryBooksOnline.com

NOTE New Email Address: mysterybookshop@proton.me

Author Takeover Events...And Indie Author 101

In our Facebook Group, And Then There Were Mysteries.... we host "AuthorTakeover Events" twice a month.

As a reminder, these online events feature an author who will chat with our readers about their books. Discounts on books will be a part of each of our Takeovers, which is FREE to do.

Pictured below are the authors who will be joining us.



Nancy Basile
July 13th



Annette Dashofy
July 20th

Held on
Mondays from
7 pm - 8 pm ET.

This is the LAST
of our program.

Indie Author 101: August 13th

Starting at 7 pm (\$5 Per Person - Payable at the Door)



Sarah and Sherry Ickes

Wondering what to do after you've written your book? Hear from two local authors who've taken the Indie path and have experience working at our bookshop. We'll be talking about tips on distribution, social media outreach, some things not to do, scams to be careful of, etc. (Light Refreshments)

Please register online, over the phone, or in our shop.

The PA Tea Festival 2026 (Sept. 18th - 19th)



We are delighted to be returning to the Annual PA Tea Festival, held at The Rosemary House in Mechanicsburg. Our Literary Corner hosts author talks at 11 am and 1 pm on both days, and this year's authors are...



Friday at 11 am
Laura Bradford



Friday at 1 pm
Ellen Crosby



Saturday at 11 am
Barbara Early



Saturday at 1 pm
Susan Kimmel Wright

Author talks, held in the Literary Corner, are included in the fee for general admission.

All ticket sales go through The PA Tea Festival and are available starting July 1st.

Some crafting classes and tea tastings have an additional fee.

All information can be found on the organizer's website or at the Rosemary House.

A Few Highlighted Lectures/Classes/Activities: (* means extra cost)

Fri (10 am) - Kombucha Tastings

Fri (12:30 pm) - Bittersweet Brews: Tea, Sugar, and Chocolate

Fri (2 pm) - Craft & Sip: A TeaTime Creative Workshop*

Fri (3 pm) - Tea and Honey Around the World*

Sat (10:15 am) - Garden Tour

Sat (12:30 pm) - The Essential Home Apothecary

Sat (2:30 pm) - Embellish a Tea Infuser or Tea Bag Weight*



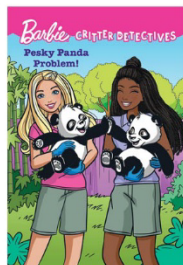
Book Reviews Continued...

Pesky Panda Problem! (Barbie Critter Detectives)

By Molly Hodgin

Type: Young Readers - Paperback

Price: \$5.99



After two baby pandas, Bao and Le, visit the animal sanctuary, Barbie "Malibu" and Barbie "Brooklyn" volunteer their time for Panda Day when the bag of donations goes missing! Fully illustrated by a number of people, this book is a great way to introduce mysteries to a young reader as the two friends work together to solve the case and remain calm even when things don't go as planned.

...Reviewed by Anonymous

Mystery Series Our Readers Can't Get Enough Of...

The Hannah Swensen Mysteries Baking - Cozy
By Joanne Fluke (29 Books)

The Maine Clambake Mysteries Seafood - Cozy
By Barbara Ross (12 Books)

Sean Stranahan Mysteries Fly-Fishing P.I.
By Keith McCafferty (8 Books)

Longmire Modern Western
By Craig Johnson (22 Books)

Hillary Greene Oxfordshire D.I.
By Faith Martin (22 Books)

PROMM For This Year... (\$3 Per Person)

Please register ahead for these events. Starts at 7 pm.

July 22nd: PROMM with James Rada Jr.



Allegany County (MD) hanged its first murderer in 1829. He was the sheriff of the neighboring Washington County, MD. After the mysterious death of his wife, George Swearingen went on the run through the frontier lands of a young country trying to evade capture. Hear the story of how a promising young sheriff became a wanted man in a historical true crime that shows love, power, and money are just as much motives for murder 200 years ago as they are today.

August 26th: PROMM with Scott Mingus Sr.



The funeral train carrying the remains of the slain President Abraham Lincoln passed through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on April 21-22, 1865, on its way to New York City and again on April 28 as it headed west from Buffalo to Cleveland and passed through the Erie region. Tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians passed by the coffin as Lincoln lay in state in Harrisburg and Philadelphia. Massive, untold numbers of residents watched the funeral train slowly steam past their farms, small towns, communities, and whistle stops. Many left personal reminiscences.

Blind Date with a Book is here to STAY!

While our normal deal has gone away for now, you can still enjoy the fun of a "mystery" book at our shop.

Mass Markets are \$3.99

Trade Paperbacks and Hardcover are \$5.99

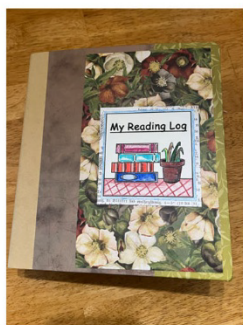
Additional Sales...and Create a Reading Log Craft

July 15th - 18th: \$17.76 Book Deal Week

Buy 4 clearance mass markets for \$17.76 or buy 2 clearance trades/hardcovers for \$17.76. In-store only.

Reading Log Craft: July 25th

Starting at 1 pm (\$20 Per Person - All Supplies Included)



(Craft Example Shown)

Join us for another crafting afternoon as Sarah Ickes leads our readers in a customizable reading log to suit their own bookish needs! All supplies will be included, and the craft will also feature originally designed pages by the instructor, herself! Have any questions? Don't hesitate to ask! (Space Limited)

Please register online, over the phone, or in our shop.

August 12th - 15th: Bracelet Week

Wear your red and black bracelet from one of our off-site events in order to receive ONE FREE ARC without any purchase necessary. In-store only.

August 8th: Our Shop is Closed

We apologize for any inconveniences this may cause, but our shop will be closed on this date. Our online store will still be available; however, please keep in mind that no orders will be fulfilled until after our staff returns. We look forward to seeing you all next week!

Book Reviews Continued...

Detective Beans and The Case of The Missing Hat (Detective Beans 1)

By Li Chen

Type: Graphic Novel (All Ages) - Paperback

Price: \$12.99



Detective Beans is not your everyday young sleuth. Oh, no! He is a feline detective with a love for solving cases...if he had any to file away under "solved," that is. But after his mother walks his friend, Biscuits, home for the night, Beans leaves his trusty hat on the top of his desk before heading off to bed. As the wind blows through his open window, however, Beans's hat is whisked away, leaving him scrambling the next morning to find out just where in the world it went. Because, as we all know, a detective is incomplete without his detecting hat!

Through a bizarre series of mishaps, Beans is taken on an adventure-filled with a magician, gardener, a dramatic singer named Trixie Bluemoon, an ice cream inventor of questionable flavors, underwater fish in suits, and even something awry at an art museum. And all of this brings him to one very important dilemma: what will his mother serve for dinner that evening? (He's secretly hoping that it's pizza).

I thoroughly enjoyed the artistic style of the author/illustrator, Li Chen, and her strong sense of story-building. The ending was so cute and it will be interesting to see when he discovers who is truly leaving the sticky notes on his stuff. There is no telling what is in store for our little hero in the following two sequels to this debut novel!

...Reviewed by Sarah



You've Seen the Movie... But Did You Read the Book?

Three Bags Full | Trade Paperback | \$19.95

The book that "The Sheep Detectives" is based on also has some flipbook action on the corner of the pages!

Book Reviews Continued...

The Griffin Gate (Griffin Gate 1)

By Vashti Hardy

Type: Fantasy (All Ages) - Paperback

Price: \$8.99



To put it bluntly, this book was sooo good! I really enjoyed the story, the characters, the mystery, and the inventive elements used in the fantasy world of Moreland. The family Griffin, who are the wardens...or “peacekeepers” of the land...keep their ancestral map safe within their house. Why is this map so important, you ask? Because it allows their family to step through portals into different towns whenever a call for help comes from a person in distress. And that brings me to our main character named Grace Griffin.

As the youngest in the family, and too young to go on actual missions, she feels a desire to prove herself to her mother, Ann, and her older brother, Bren. Despite everyone feeling that the age rule is there for a reason, including their loyal family friend and robotic blackbird called Watson, Grace decides to take a chance by heading out by herself when a door on the map flashes red. But after she lands in the town of Mudford, things are not as easy she'd hoped they'd be.

I really enjoyed the steampunk vibe to the adventure and I already have the rest of the series on order by Vashti Hardy. I would highly recommend this book for anyone who leans towards whimsical stories with observant main characters. Oh, and there is something special about the spyglass. Shhhh. My lips are sealed...

*This was also my first time reading a book that was dyslexia-friendly, in both the font and the color of paper...and it was different in a good way!

...Reviewed by Sarah

We have all four “Griffin Gate” books on our shelves!

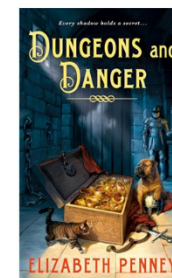
Book Reviews...

Dungeons and Dangers (Ravensea Castle 2)

By Elizabeth Penney

Type: Cozy Mystery - Mass Market

Price: \$9.99



Nora Asquith, her dad, sister, and brother have a fun Viking festival planned at their castle, Ravensea, which has recently been turned into a bed-and-breakfast. The place is already hopping with the hustle and bustle of the fall festival, but add into that a historian, a group of ghost hunters who are his former students, filming being done for an episode of Britain's Got Ghosts, the Red Maiden's possible hidden Viking treasure, and you have one entertaining storyline. Plus a few extra friendly ghosts for good measure!

When a guest is found dead, notes go missing, and others are attacked, Nora and her inner group of family and friends...both past and present... must find the killer before another death occurs, or their business joins the ghosts in history. And what about this possible treasure from long ago?

I thoroughly enjoyed this cozy, as it did a wonderful job at keeping with the pretense set forth by the first installment, while expanding a little more into the ghostly side of things. For those of you who prefer stories set in England, filled with well-developed characters and a dash of ghostly antics, this book is a sure winner!

...Reviewed by Sherry

Our Cozy Night Book Discussion Group is reading this title.

Don't see a book you are looking for on our shelves?

Just ask one of our staff members about ordering it in.
There is no extra fee, and we'll give you a call when it arrives.

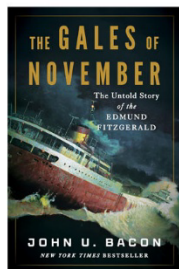
Book Reviews Continued...

The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald

By John U. Bacon

Type: Non-Fiction - Hardcover

Price: ~~\$35.00~~ \$29.99



From the Book: In *The Gales of November*, award-winning journalist John U. Bacon presents the definitive account of the disaster, drawing on more than 100 interviews with the families, friends, and former crewmates of those lost. Bacon explores the vital role Great Lakes shipping played in America's economic boom, the uncommon lives the sailors led, the sinking's most likely causes, and the heartbreaking aftermath for those left behind...

On November 10, 1975, the Edmund Fitzgerald went down in Lake Superior during a violent storm. What caused "the Pride of the American Side" to sink?

The book begins with a brief history of Great Lakes shipping and how lake shipping differs from ocean shipping, then a bit about "the Fitz" itself. Personal accounts of the crew make you feel like you know these brave men. The author gives a detailed account of the disaster and the aftermath.

Many photos are included, along with maps, a list of the 29 crew members (who are still buried in the lake's depths), a glossary, and the words to Gordon Lightfoot's tribute song about the ship and crew.

A great read for everyone, especially those of us old enough to remember the accident and/or the song. *...Reviewed by Sandy*

Have Any Questions About Anything in This Newsletter?
Don't Hesitate to Ask. We Don't Bite...Much... 😊

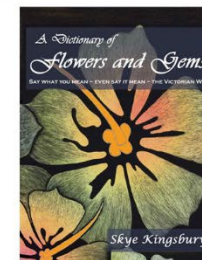
Book Reviews Continued...

The Dictionary of Flowers and Gems

By Skye Kingsbury

Type: Reference - Trade Paperback

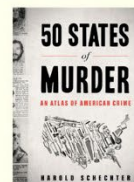
Price: \$22.95



Did you know you can "talk" or "send messages" using different flowers and gems? The Victorians used plants of all kinds to express their feelings to each other. A flower as simple as a rose, means love, but can speak volumes with each different color having a different meaning or perspective of love. This book makes it easy for the user to look up meanings by arranging the text in various lists and I have found it very useful for research.

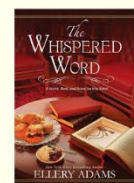
...Reviewed by Sherry

Quick Quotes By Fellow Readers:



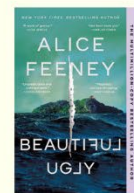
50 States of Murder | Trade Paperback | \$19.99

"If you are into real life crime shows, then, 50 States of Murder is for you. Murder and mayhem; from the earliest days of our nation to present day cases." - Glenda



The Whispered Word | Trade Paperback | \$17.95

"...is the second book in her series of A Secret, Book, and Scone Society. More than a murder mystery, this book is about strong women overcoming adversity and about women friendships. The four women are flawed, but strong, resilient, and very relatable." - Lynne



Beautiful Ugly | Trade Paperback | \$18.99

"I really enjoyed this book! Came into the shop to see if they had any other titles by this author because of how much I liked this story." - Anonymous

Mention this newsletter for 15% off ONE of our "Quick Quoted" books (In-store only).