Everything's Not Awesome
Well, I didn’t really intend to start this note off on such a negative note… it’s just this song is stuck inside my head, and it’s been playing over and over since taking my kids to see The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part this President’s Day weekend. The movie itself was bit like the song – catchy, clever, amusing, but sure to get under your skin. I did appreciate that there was a conscious effort this time to give us a more realistic (yet encouraging) message as everything is most definitely NOT awesome right now!

Besides all the obvious not awesome things happening in the world, in my own immediate work life winter weather has been creating havoc with travel and unfortunately prevented me from getting to last week’s AC meeting. And while I’ve read through the meeting notes, it’s just not possible to make up being there in person. I missed the camaraderie of this amazing group of booksellers and publisher reps, the sharing of issues and concerns, what worked and what didn’t in the recent events we attended, the brainstorming of new programs, education and ways to enrich and benefit all the NEIBA members. But most of all I missed the clear excitement and enthusiasm for our work and the belief in making everything better.

I’ve been thinking a lot about the heroes we know, and especially the ones we don’t, who shared that belief and had the courage to do what they could to make their times, their lives and by their actions, our own lives better. Sometimes it takes generations and even centuries
and by their actions, our own lives better. Sometimes it takes generations and even centuries for true change to come. This month has been eye-opening again as the news, the bookstores and the blogs I follow all share and celebrate stories and favorite titles for Black History Month (but thankfully not limited to just this month anymore). I was reminded about a favorite under-the-radar book published last year - *Streetcar to Justice*, about a young woman who pre-dated Rosa Parks by 100 years in the fight against segregation, Elizabeth Jennings. Back in 1854, Elizabeth’s refusal to leave a segregated streetcar in Manhattan set into motion a major court case in New York City. With the support of her family, the African American abolitionist community of New York, and Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Jennings took her case to court. Represented by a young lawyer named Chester A. Arthur (a future president of the United States) she was victorious, marking a major victory in the fight to desegregate New York City’s public transportation.

It’s amazing to think that while Elizabeth was victorious and able to make change in New York City, the fight was clearly far, far from over. If you happen to be interested in learning more about Elizabeth Jennings, check out *Streetcar to Justice*, or listen to author Amy Hill Hearth talking about her on the podcast *Mobituaries, Episode 3: The Forgotten Forerunners*. [https://www.mobituaries.com/the-podcast/](https://www.mobituaries.com/the-podcast/)

Clearly it really helps when you have friends and colleagues by your side, that have your back, when you are striving to make a difference whether big or small. Thanks to all of you working so hard every day to make everything a bit more awesome!

PS: I’ve heard that the best way to get a song out of your head is to share it with someone else, no need to thank me, but here’s the link to *Everything’s Not Awesome*, with just a few of the lyrics below. Hope it gives you a few chuckles. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4BXikJi7c8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4BXikJi7c8)

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Everything's not awesome
Things can't be awesome all of the time
It's not realistic expectation
But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try
To make everything awesome
In a less likely, unrealistic kind of way
We should maybe aim for not bad
'Cause not bad, well that would be real great
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Written by James Rushent, Shawn Patterson, and Jon Lajoie. 2019.
Rhinebeck, NY.

Registration is limited to a total of 24 buyers, or about 12 from each region. First come, first served.

Registration is free, as are the meals during the event. The hotel is $169/night plus tax. Reservation information to follow.

RSVP now by emailing Nan@neba.org
(Open only to NEIBA member stores)

DETAILS

NEIBA
Best Sellers
for the week ended
Sunday February 17, 2019

Based on reporting from the independent booksellers of NEIBA and IndieBound

HARDCOVER FICTION
1. Where the Crawdads Sing
   Delia Owens, Putnam, $26, 9780735219090
2. Black Leopard, Red Wolf
   Marlon James, Riverhead Books, $30, 9780735220171
3. There There
   Tommy Orange, Knopf, $25.95, 9780525520375
4. Circe
   Madeline Miller, Little Brown, $27, 9780316556347
5. Devotions
   Mary Oliver, Penguin Press, $30, 9780399563249
6. The Silent Patient
   Alex Michaelides, Celadon Books, $26.99, 9781250301697
7. Unsheltered
   Barbara Kingsolver, Harper, $29.99, 9780062684561
8. Lost Children Archive New
   Valeria Luiselli, Knopf, $27.95, 9780525520610
9. Love Poems for Married People
   John Kenney, Putnam, $15, 9780525540007
10. The Overstory
    Richard Powers, Norton, $27.95, 9780393635522
11. Bowlaway
    Elizabeth McCracken, Ecco, $27.99, 9780062862853
12. Leading Men New
    Christopher Castellani, Viking, $27, 9780525559054
13. Nine Perfect Strangers
    Liane Moriarty, Flatiron Books, $28.99, 9781250069825
14. The Age of Light
    Whitney Scharer, Little Brown, $14.99, 9780316524087
15. The Reckoning New
    John Grisham, Doubleday, $29.95, 9780385544153

HARDCOVER NONFICTION
1. Becoming
Michelle Obama, Crown, $32.50, 9781524763138
2. Educated
Tara Westover, Random House, $28, 9780399590504
3. Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing As We Age
Mary Pipher, Bloomsbury, $27, 9781632869609
4. Dreyer's English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style
Benjamin Dreyer, Random House, $25, 9780812995701
5. Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat
Samin Nosrat, Wendy MacNaughton (Illus.), S&S, $35, 9781476753836
6. The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up
Marie Kondo, Ten Speed Press, $16.99, 9781607747307
7. Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive
Stephanie Land, Hachette Books, $27, 9780316505116
8. The Library Book
Susan Orlean, S&S, $28, 9781476740188
9. Bad Blood
John Carreyrou, Knopf, $27.95, 9781524731656
10. Leadership: In Turbulent Times
Doris Kearns Goodwin, S&S, $30, 9781476795928
11. Ottolenghi Simple: A Cookbook
Yotam Ottolenghi, Ten Speed Press, $35, 9781607749165
12. Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love
Dhani Shapiro, Knopf, $24.95, 9781524732714
13. These Truths: A History of the United States
Jill Lepore, Norton, $39.95, 9780393635249
14. The Subtle Art of Not Giving A F*ck
Mark Manson, Harper, $24.99, 9780062457714
15. Gmorning, Gnight!: Little Pep Talks for Me & You
Lin-Manuel Miranda, Jonny Sun (Illus.), Random House, $22, 9781984854278

TRADE PAPERBACK FICTION
1. The Lost Girls of Paris
Pam Jenoff, Park Row, $16.99, 9780778330271
2. The Tattooist of Auschwitz
Heather Morris, Harper, $16.99, 9780062797155
3. The Immortalists
Chloe Benjamin, Putnam, $16, 9780735215092
4. Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine
Gail Honeyman, Penguin, $16, 9780735220690
5. An American Marriage
Tayari Jones, Algonquin Books, $16.95, 9781616208684
6. Asymmetry
Lisa Halliday, S&S, $16, 9781501145254
7. The Friend
Sigrid Nunez, Riverhead Books, $16, 9780735219458
8. Less
Andrew Sean Greer, Back Bay, $15.99, 9780316316132
9. The Power
Naomi Alderman, Back Bay, $16.99, 9780316547604
10. Pachinko
Min Jin Lee, Grand Central, $15.99, 9781455563920
11. Milkman
Anna Burns, Graywolf Press, $16, 9781644450000
12. If Beale Street Could Talk
James Baldwin, Vintage, $14.95, 9780525566120
13. I Was Anastasia
Ariel Lawhon, Anchor, $16, 9781101973318
14. The Wife Between Us
Greer Hendricks, Sarah Pekkanen, St. Martin's Griffin, $16.99, 9781250130945
15. Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions
Mario Giordano, Mariner, $14.99, 9781328588784

TRADE PAPERBACK NONFICTION
1. My Own Words
Ruth Bader Ginsburg, S&S, $18, 9781501145254
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<td>George Orwell</td>
<td>Signet</td>
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<td>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</td>
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<td>I Love You, Little Pookie</td>
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<td>Hello Lighthouse</td>
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<td>Simon &amp; Schuster Books for Young Readers</td>
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7. The Wonky Donkey
Craig Smith, Katz Cowley (Illus.), Scholastic, $7.99, 9780545261241
8. Goodnight Moon
Margaret Wise Brown, Clement Hurd (Illus.), Harper, $8.99, 9780694003617
9. Pat the Bunny New
Dorothy Kunhardt, Golden Books, $9.99, 9780307120007
10. The Good Egg New
Jory John, Pete Oswald (Illus.), Harper, $17.99, 9780062866004

CHILDREN'S INTEREST
1. On the Come Up
Angie Thomas, Balzer + Bray, $18.99, 9780062498564
2. The Hate U Give
Angie Thomas, Balzer + Bray, $18.99, 9780062871350
3. New Kid
Jerry Craft, Harper, $12.99, 9780062691194
4. Max and the Midknights
Lincoln Peirce, Crown Books for Young Readers, $13.99, 9781101931080
5. Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry
Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Norton Young Readers, $11.95, 9780393356502
6. Two Can Keep a Secret
Karen M. McManus, Delacorte Press, $19.99, 9781524714727
7. King of Scars
Leigh Bardugo, Imprint, $19.99, 9781250142283
8. Drama New
Raina Telgemeier, Graphix, $10.99, 9780545326995
9. Song for a Whale New
Lynne Kelly, Delacorte Books for Young Readers, $16.99, 9781524770235
10. Dragon Pearl New
Yoon Ha Lee, Rick Riordan Presents, $16.99, 9781368013352

CHILDREN'S SERIES TITLES
1. Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9781338236576
2. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown
Jeff Kinney, Abrams, $13.95, 9781419727436
3. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone New
J.K. Rowling, Scholastic, $10.99, 9780590353427
4. Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9780545935173
5. The Hive Queen (Wings of Fire, Book 12) New
Tui T. Sutherland, Scholastic, $16.99, 9781338214482
6. Dog Man and Cat Kid
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9780545935180
7. Dog Man Unleashed
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9780545935203
8. Narwhal's Otter Friend (A Narwhal and Jelly Book, #4)
Ben Clanton, Tundra Books, $12.99, 9780735262485
9. Crush (Berrybrook Middle School, #3)
Svetlana Chmakova, JY, $11, 9780316363242
10. Mac Undercover (Mac B., Kid Spy, #1) New
Mac Barnett, Mike Lowery (Illus.), Orchard Books, $12.99, 9781338143591