Notes From the NEIBA Advisory Council

By Meg Wasmer, Cabot Street Books & Cards, Beverly MA

Romance Twitter's been kind of intense lately. I know this because I get weekly updates from my bookseller Julie, an avid romance reader. This week I learned that you have to pay to be considered for a Rita award (Apparently this is the Romance equivalent of The Hugo, also learned this week), but Rita's are also peer reviewed so your judging body is also made up of people who have paid money to be considered for an award. Romance Twitter, I've been informed, has a lot to say about this. Shortly before The Ritas were the hot topic, there was a bit of a frenzy when a romance author (who shall remain nameless here) pretty much told her entire Twitter following that they should just shop online because indie bookstores hate Romance. So, yeah, Romance readers are wildly passionate about their genre.

These weekly updates have really made me aware of how I, the buyer for my store, was neglecting and entire genre's readers. We had a half dozen Romance titles in store, all marked as Julie's Staff Pick and all displayed in Fiction or Science Fiction. I realized that I was committing the same slight to Romance that I often accuse more 'literary' stores of doing to Science Fiction and Fantasy. I was hiding behind 'It doesn't sell well here' because I didn't care to carve out the shelf space or back list budget for an entire genre because it wasn't important to me personally.

Over the past several weeks Julie and I have worked together to curate a quality, diverse selection of Romance titles. We've faced out and Julie has written a talker for each one, on the two bestselling shelves in the store. It's a still a little early for traceable data, but the initial response has been really positive and I'm really looking forward to earning the trust of our Romance readers the same way we've cultivated a great Science Fiction and Fantasy community.
Remember how tasty that ice cream was at the NEIBA Annual Meeting last year? Remember how good it felt to win Binc’s “Share the Good” campaign contest? (Read: remember how good it felt to best our friends at SIBA?) Let’s do it again, shall we? Please share this link far and wide, and let’s make it our business to engage every level of NEIBA bookseller in this cause. For the price of a latte every month, we can all become Binc sustaining donors and ensure that they’re able to continue their wonderful work helping members of our community in times of need. Thanks in advance for your help...and save me an ice cream sandwich!

~ Beth

Become a monthly sustaining donor [HERE]

Here is what’s happening at NEIBA bookstores!

NECBA Meeting
NECBA Meeting
May 2, 2019
Candlewick Press, Somerville MA

How are books made and how can we handsell them? Join NECBA at Candlewick HQ on May 2nd! Candlewick will present a morning intensive on how books are made, from start to finish. After a lunch break, NECBA will discuss overcoming handselling biases in a conversation led by the Windows & Mirrors team. Send your frontline booksellers or anybody interested in how books are made and sold.

DETAILS

NEIBA Best Sellers
for the week ended
Sunday March 31, 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. The American Agent New
   Jacqueline Winspear, Harper, $27.99, 9780062436665
3. Daisy Jones & The Six
   Taylor Jenkins Reid, Ballantine, $27, 9781524798628
4. Circe
   Madeline Miller, Little Brown, $27, 9780316556347
5. Unto Us a Son Is Given
   Donna Leon, Atlantic Monthly Press, $26, 9780802129116
6. There There
   Tommy Orange, Knopf, $25.95, 9780525520375
7. Gingerbread
   Helen Oyeyemi, Riverhead Books, $27, 9781594634659
8. Run Away
   Harlan Coben, Grand Central, $29, 9781538748466
9. The Island of Sea Women
   Lisa See, Scribner, $27, 9781501154850
10. Sing to It: New Stories New
    Amy Hempel, Scribner, $25, 9781982109110
11. The Old Drift New
    Namwali Serpell, Hogarth, $28, 9781101907146
12. Black Leopard, Red Wolf
    Marlon James, Riverhead Books, $30, 9780735220171
13. The Silent Patient
    Alex Michaelides, Celadon Books, $26.99, 9781250301697
14. The Age of Light New
    Whitney Scharer, Little Brown, $28, 9780316524087
15. The River
    Peter Heller, Knopf, $25.95, 9780525521877

HARDCOVER NONFICTION
1. Becoming
Michelle Obama, Crown, $32.50, 9781524763138
2. Educated
Tara Westover, Random House, $28, 9780399590504
3. Bad Blood
John Carreyrou, Knopf, $27.95, 9781524731656
4. Dreyer's English
Benjamin Dreyer, Random House, $25, 9780812995701
5. Women Rowing North
Mary Pipher, Bloomsbury, $27, 9781632869609
6. Say Nothing
Patrick Radden Keefe, Doubleday, $28.95, 9780385521314
7. Mama's Last Hug
Frans de Waal, Norton, $27.95, 9780393635065
8. The Uninhabitable Earth
David Wallace-Wells, Tim Duggan Books, $27, 9780525576709
9. Doing Justice
Preet Bharara, Knopf, $27.95, 9780525521129
10. The Hidden Life of Trees
Peter Wohlleben, Greystone Books, $24.95, 9781771642484
11. The Library Book
Susan Orlean, S&S, $28, 9781476740188
12. Shortest Way Home: One Mayor's Challenge and a Model for America's Future
Pete Buttigieg, Liveright Publishing, $27.95, 9781631494369
13. First: Sandra Day O'Connor
Evan Thomas, Random House, $32, 9780399589287
14. Horizon
Barry Lopez, Knopf, $30, 9780394585826
15. The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up
Marie Kondo, Ten Speed Press, $16.99, 9781607747307

**TRADE PAPERBACK FICTION**
1. A Gentleman in Moscow
Amor Towles, Penguin, $17, 9780143110439
2. The Tattooist of Auschwitz
Heather Morris, Harper, $16.99, 9780062797155
3. The Immortalists
Chloe Benjamin, Putnam, $16, 9780735215092
4. The Lost Girls of Paris
Pam Jenoff, Park Row, $16.99, 9780778330271
5. Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine
Gail Honeyman, Penguin, $16, 9780735220690
6. The Woman in the Window
A.J. Finn, Morrow, $16.99, 9780062678423
7. The Huntress
Kate Quinn, Morrow, $16.99, 9780062740373
8. The Power
Naomi Alderman, Back Bay, $16.99, 9780316547604
9. Pachinko
Min Jin Lee, Grand Central, $15.99, 9781455563920
10. Less
Andrew Sean Greer, Back Bay, $15.99, 9780316316132
11. The Friend
Sigrid Nunez, Riverhead Books, $16, 9780735219458
12. An American Marriage
Tayari Jones, Algonquin Books, $16.95, 9781616208684
13. Milkman
Anna Burns, Graywolf Press, $16, 9781644450000
14. A Place for Us
Fatima Farheen Mirza, SJP for Hogarth, $17, 9781524763565
15. Conversations with Friends
Sally Rooney, Hogarth, $17, 9780451499066
TRADE PAPERBACK NONFICTION
1. Born a Crime
   Trevor Noah, Spiegel & Grau, $18, 9780399588198
2. My Own Words
   Ruth Bader Ginsburg, S&S, $18, 9781501145254
3. Sapiens
   Yuval Noah Harari, Harper Perennial, $22.99, 9780062316110
4. White Fragility
   Robin DiAngelo, Beacon Press, $16, 9780807047415
5. The Soul of an Octopus
   Sy Montgomery, Atria, $16, 9781451697728
6. Killers of the Flower Moon
   David Grann, Vintage, $16.95, 9780307742483
7. The Collected Schizophrenias
   Esmé Weijun Wang, Graywolf Press, $16, 9781555978273
8. I'll Be Gone in the Dark
   Michelle McNamara, Harper Perennial, $17.99, 9780062319791
9. Hillbilly Elegy
   J.D. Vance, Harper, $16.99, 9780062300553
10. Just Mercy
    Bryan Stevenson, Spiegel & Grau, $16, 9780812984965
11. Pleasure Activism
    Adrienne Maree Brown (Ed.), AK Press, $20, 9781849353267
12. The Stranger in the Woods
    Michael Finkel, Vintage, $16, 9781101911532
13. Man's Search for Meaning
    Viktor E. Frankl, Beacon Press, $10.99, 9780807014295
14. You Are a Badass
    Jen Sincero, Running Press, $16, 9780762447695
15. Fly Girls
    Keith O'Brien, Eamon Dolan/Mariner Books, $15.99, 9781328592798

MASS MARKET
1. Dune
   Frank Herbert, Ace, $9.99, 9780441172719
2. Good Omens
3. Slaughterhouse-Five
   Kurt Vonnegut, Laurel Leaf, $7.99, 9780440180296
4. 1984
   George Orwell, Signet, $9.99, 9780451524935
5. The Name of the Wind
   Patrick Rothfuss, DAW, $9.99, 9780756404741
6. American Gods
7. The Catcher in the Rye
   J.D. Salinger, Little Brown, $8.99, 97803167669488
8. Foundation
   Isaac Asimov, Spectra Books, $7.99, 9780553293357
9. The Left Hand of Darkness
   Ursula K. Le Guin, Ace, $9.99, 9780441478125
10. A Game of Thrones
    George R.R. Martin, Bantam, $9.99, 9780553593716

CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED
1. Make Way for Ducklings
   Robert McCloskey, Puffin, $7.99, 9780140564341
2. Hello Lighthouse
   Sophie Blackall, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, $18.99, 9780316362382
3. Goodnight Moon
   Margaret Wise Brown, Clement Hurd (Illus.), Harper, $8.99, 9780694003617
4. The Good Egg
   Jory John, Pete Oswald (Illus.), Harper, $17.99, 9780062866004
5. Pat the Bunny  
Dorothy Kunhardt, Golden Books, $9.99, 9780307120007  
6. Good Night, Gorilla  
Peggy Rathmann, Putnam, $7.99, 9780399230035  
7. I Want My Hat Back  
Jon Klassen, Candlewick Press, $8.99, 9781536207576  
8. We Are the Gardeners New  
Joanna Gaines, Julianna Swaney (Illus.), Thomas Nelson, $19.99, 9781400314225  
9. The Wonky Donkey New  
Craig Smith, Katz Cowley (Illus.), Scholastic, $7.99, 9780545261241  
10. The Very Hungry Caterpillar  
Eric Carle, Putnam, $10.99, 9780399226908

**CHILDREN’S INTEREST**

1. On the Come Up  
Angie Thomas, Balzer + Bray, $18.99, 9780062498564  
2. The Iliad  
Gareth Hinds, Candlewick Press, $16.99, 9780763696634  
3. Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry New  
Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Norton Young Readers, $11.95, 9780393356502  
4. New Kid  
Jerry Craft, Harper, $12.99, 9780062691194  
5. Internment New  
Samira Ahmed, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, $17.99, 9780316522694  
6. Once & Future New  
Cori McCarthy, Amy Rose Capetta, jimmy patterson, $18.99, 9780316449274  
7. The Hate U Give  
Angie Thomas, Balzer + Bray, $18.99, 9780062871350  
8. Sisters New  
Raina Telgemeier, Graphix, $10.99, 9780545540605  
9. Dear Evan Hansen New  
Val Emmich, et al., Poppy, $18.99, 9780316420235  
10. Because of the Rabbit New  
Cynthia Lord, Scholastic Press, $17.99, 9780545914246

**CHILDREN’S SERIES TITLES**

1. Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild  
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9781338236576  
2. Big Nate: Payback Time!  
Lincoln Peirce, Andrews McMeel, $9.99, 9781449497743  
3. Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas  
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9780545935173  
4. The 104-Story Treehouse: Dental Dramas & Jokes Galore! (The Treehouse Books, #8)  
Andy Griffiths, Terry Denton (Illus.), Feiwel & Friends, $13.99, 9781250301499  
5. Dog Man New  
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9780545581608  
6. Supernova (Amulet, #8) New  
Kazu Kibuishi, Graphix, $12.99, 9780545828604  
7. The Lost Heir Graphic Novel (Wings of Fire)  
Tui T. Sutherland, Mike Holmes (Illus.), Graphix, $12.99, 9780545942201  
8. Dog Man Unleashed  
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9780545935203  
9. Dog Man and Cat Kid New  
Dav Pilkey, Graphix, $9.99, 9780545935180  
10. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown  
Jeff Kinney, Abrams, $13.95, 9781419727436
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