

Messages From Merlin

Volume 2

November, 2000



News

Staff Picks

Reviews

Morgan's Guild

Special Orders

Hamilton's Tail

New Releases

Featured Authors

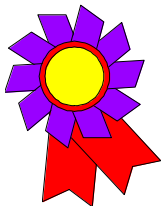
Our Bestsellers

Featured Authors

Every two weeks, we feature a different author with 25% off all titles and have a display of some of the books on the front of the cashwrap. For the current feature, check our website (<http://www.cncbooks.com>) or call us at 330-4111.

I am not a speed reader. I am a speed understander.

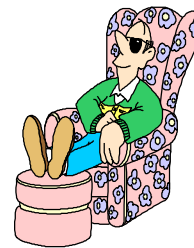
--Isaac Asimov



Our Bestsellers

1. Death on a Silver Tray--Rosemary Stevens
2. Murder with Peacocks--Donna Andrews
3. Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire--J. K. Rowling
4. Forgotten Beasts of Eld--Patricia A. McKillip
5. Murder with Puffins--Donna Andrew
6. The Crossword Murder--Nero Blanc
7. Sing It To Her Bones--Marcia Talley
8. Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone--J. K. Rowling
9. Bogeymen Don't Play Football--Debbie Dadey
10. One For the Money--Janet Evanovich
11. Unbreathed Memories--Marcia Talley
12. Two Down--Nero Blanc
13. Cat on the Edge--Shirley Rousseau Murphy
14. Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets--J. K. Rowling
15. Guilty Pleasures--Laurell K. Hamilton

Pour yourself a cup of coffee or tea, grab that book you've been wanting to read and make yourself comfortable--



you're welcome to stay as long as you like. We won't even complain if you take a nap!

I used to walk to school with my nose buried in a book.

--Coolio

Staff Picks (including some archives)

- Annie-- *Stranger in a Strange Land*--Robert A. Heinlein
The Eye of the World--Robert Jordan
Flights of Fantasy--Mercedes Lackey
Deep Secret--Diana Wynne Jones
Dawn--Octavia E. Butler
The Star Wars Cookbook--Robin Davis
- Lelia-- *Wysard*--Carolyn Kephart
Hangman's Root--Susan Wittig Albert
The Angel and the Detective--Lina K. Pinto
A Dash of Death--Claudia Bishop
Swan Song--Robert R. McCammon
Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder--Joanne Fluke
- Jason-- *The Voyage of the Jerle Shannara: Isle Witch*--Terry Brooks
Guilty Pleasures--Laurell K. Hamilton
A Storm of Swords--George R. R. Martin
Faith of the Fallen--Terry Goodkind
Tailchaser's Song--Tad Williams
The Forgotten Beasts of Eld--Patricia A. McKillip
- Andrew-- *White Jazz*--James Ellroy
My Favorite Horror Story--Mike Baker & Martin Greenberg, eds.
Heed the Thunder--Jim Thompson
Antarctica--Kim Stanley Robinson
The Vintage Bradbury--Ray Bradbury
Dreams of Terror and Death--H. P. Lovecraft



Morgan's Guild

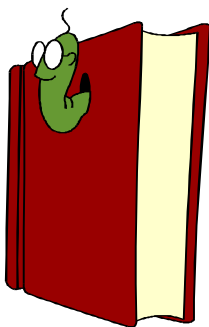
We have two reading groups now, one for mystery and one for science fiction, fantasy & horror combined, and we'd love to have you join one or both.

Lelia's mystery group has been meeting since late August and they meet every three weeks or so. This group decided to select 2 or more authors to read each time (your choice of book by any of the chosen authors). The next meeting is Thursday, November 16th at 7:00PM and the selected authors are Janet Evanovich, M. C. Beaton, Sarah Smith, Lawrence Sanders, J. Robert Janes and Shirley Rousseau Murphy. The December meeting will be on the 14th.

Jason's group had their first gathering on October 19th and elected to concentrate on one author, Mercedes Lackey, for the next meeting on Wednesday, November 15th. They'll meet again on December 7th.

Any books purchased for the reading groups receive 10% discount in addition to your 5% preferred reader discount. Should you pick a book that currently carries another discount, the higher one will apply.

Come join us!!



**"One can't believe impossible things."
"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said
the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it
for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I've
believed as many as six impossible things before
breakfast."**

--Lewis Carroll

A Few Upcoming Releases & Reprints

November and December--

The Cases That Haunt Us-John Douglas
Dancing With Mr. D-Lisa Kleinholz
Darwin's Blade-Dan Simmons
Dead Man Falls-
Death, Snow, and Mistletoe-Valerie S. Malmont
Dinosaurs Ate My Homework-Scott Ciencin
The Diversion (Animorphs)-Katherine A. Applegate
Doomsday Deck (Buffy)-Diana G. Gallagher
Dune House Harkonnen-Brian Herbert
Fuzz-Ed McBain
High Hand-Gary Phillips
Hit List-Lawrence Block
Homicide for the Holidays-Jane Rubino
The Hunted-Elmore Leonard
In Good Hands-Bill James
Jester Leaps In-Alan Gordon
Jigsaw-Ed McBain
Justice Denied-M. Diane Vogt
Killing Cassidy-Jeanne M. Dams
A Kiss of Shadows-Laurell K. Hamilton
Knight Errant-Jane Rubino
L. A. Dead-Stuart Woods
The Last Precinct-Patricia Cornwell
Lieberman's Law-Ed McBain
Loose Cannon-Dean Ing
The Mark: The Beast Rules The World (Left Behind)-
LaHaye & Jenkins
Murder in the Lincoln Bedroom-Elliott Roosevelt
The Mystery of the Crooked House (Boxcar Children)-
Gertrude Chandler Warner
Phule Me Twice-Robert Asprin & Peter J. Heck
The Right to Arm Bears-Gordon R. Dickson
Roses Are Red-James Patterson
Scooby-Doo! and the Masked Magician-James Gelsey
Set in Darkness-Ian Rankin
Shotgun-Ed McBain
Slaves of Obsession-Anne Perry
Spiral-Jeremiah Healy
Stars and Stripes in Peril-Harry Harrison
The Stephen King Universe-Stanley Wiater and
Christopher Golden
Sugarplum Dead-Carolyn Hart
Tropic of Creation-Kay Kenyon
The Truth-Terry Pratchett
Wish You Well-David Baldacci (not a thriller!)
Winter's Heart (Wheel of Time)-Robert Jordan

Adults are obsolete children.
--Dr. Seuss



News

Ever wonder why you sometimes see a book in a store that theoretically hasn't been published yet? That's because occasionally a publisher will release a book for sale before the date that's printed on the copyright page. A good example is Patricia Cornwell's "The Last Precinct" which was released October 16th but has a November publication date.

What do we mean when we speak of "street date"? That's the date the publisher has set for the first day of sales, regardless of the publication date. Most books do not have a street date and can be sold as soon as they're shipped to the bookseller.

Our Christmas tree will be up by the day after Thanksgiving. Help us decorate it---bring in anything you'd like to hang on it (put your name on it if you want it back). Children's handmade ornaments are very welcome!

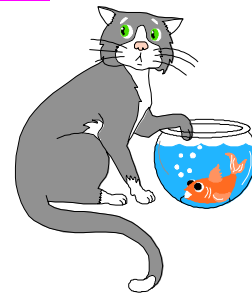
Our Christmas sales start November 24th with 25% off all new hardcover releases and 15% off everything else in the store. We'll also have gift baskets available in December and you can sign up for our Gift Registry---give us your wish list and then tell all your family and friends where to shop for you!



Nobody reads a mystery to get to the middle. They read it to get to the end. If it's a letdown, they won't buy anymore. The first page sells that book. The last page sells your next book.

--Mickey Spillane

Hamilton's Tail

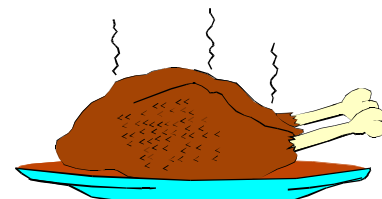


Hamilton is recovering from his two surgeries quite nicely, although he still looks a little peculiar with his various shaved areas. He thanks you all for your kind attentions.

Due to lack of interest, we're discontinuing the children's storytime effective immediately. We'll start it up again next summer, or before then if there's enough demand.

I sometimes doubt that a writer should refine or improve his workroom by so much as a dictionary: one thing leads to another and the first thing you know he has a stuffed chair and is fast asleep in it.

--E. B. White



Happy Thanksgiving!!

Fame is only good for one thing -- they will cash your check in a small town.

--Truman Capote



Reviews

The Good Die Twice Full Moon Bloody Moon by Lee Driver

Lee Driver maneuvers off the mainstream of traditional mystery writing by blending a unique quality of supernatural essence with modern day sleuthing, which should appeal to a broadened genre of readers.

I found myself on a non-stop accelerated roller coaster ride through shady mysteries embedded with unnatural circumstances, dark plots, and witty humor.

Character development is very colorful, yet a bit on the gray side, only giving you enough on the main characters in each book to keep you surmising about their history. Chase Dagger - strong, savvy P.I., with a dark past, Einstein - Chase's witty pet macaw, and Sarah - his innocently naïve silent partner (who happens to be a Native American that can shapeshift at will) and a cast of wonderful backup characters deal with cases above and beyond the call of normality.

The whole of it all meshes together beautifully to keep the reader laughing with glee, suspended in horror, and intrigued with mystery.

- review by Jason

The Giggler Treatment by Roddy Doyle

Laugh Alert!! Seldom do I actually laugh out loud when I'm reading but, not only did I do that with this book, I also had to keep interrupting myself to read a passage to someone else. Have you ever wished something yucky would happen to a grownup who is mean to a child? You know the type, the guy who tells a kid something tastes like chicken when it doesn't. Well, here's where you can find out all about the secret revenge of the Gigglers, small little furry critters who change colors like chameleons.

This is one of those books that are meant for children but appeal to all ages. Silliness runs rampant throughout the story - even the chapter headings are comical - and the illustrations by Brian Ajhar are wonderful. Please, run to your favorite bookstore and buy this book. Buy two so you can give one away!

- Review by Lelia

A great book should leave you with

many experiences and slightly exhausted at the end. You should live several lives while reading it.

--William Styron

Customer Picks

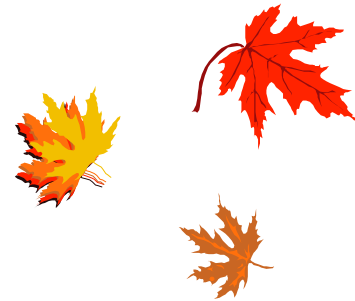
*Pamela- The Haunting of Hill House-
Shirley Jackson*

*We Have Always Lived in the Castle-
Shirley Jackson*

Bill- Forever War-Joe Haldeman

Special Orders

Can't find that great book you read 15 years ago? We'll search for it and then tell you what's available before we order anything. Our fee for this service is 10% of the base cost (prior to the seller's shipping charge), subject to \$1.00 minimum and \$10.00 maximum.



What is the most precious, the most exciting smell awaiting you in the house when you return to it after a dozen years or so? The smell of roses, you think? No, moldering books.

--Andre Sinyavsky

Creatures 'n Crooks Bookshope
9762 Midlothian Turnpike
Richmond, VA 23235
(804)330-4111 (888)533-5303
www.cncbooks.com
info@cncbooks.com

