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CELEBRATING THE 2018 OHIOANA AWARDS!

It was a perfect night for readers to gather and celebrate Ohio’s great books and writers. The 77th annual presentation of the Ohioana Awards took place Thursday, October 18, in the beautiful Atrium of Ohio’s historic Statehouse. It was a wonderful evening of good food, good people, and good times.

First presented in 1942, the Ohioana Awards are the second oldest, and among the most prestigious, state literary prizes in the nation. The inaugural winner was James “Scotty” Reston, who went on to win two Pulitzer Prizes. Since then, there have been few major Ohio authors who have not been honored with an Ohioana Award. Many distinguished non-Ohio authors have also been recognized for their books on Ohio subjects.



The 2018 Ohioana Award Winners (l to r): Ruth Awad, Celeste Ng, Ohioana Executive Director David Weaver, Tamara Bundy, Brian Alexander, Sally Derby, and Deanne Stillman.

The Director’s Chair

Dear Friends,

It’s another autumn in beautiful Ohio. With it comes many wonderful literary events around the state, including our own Ohioana Awards, which took place on October 18. It was a night to remember, as you can see from our cover story!

We’ve proudly taken part in two other major events since then: the 12th annual Books by the Banks—Cincinnati Regional Book Festival on October 20 and the Pickerington Public Library’s popular Teen Book Fest on October 27. Coming up: the 31st annual Buckeye Book Fair in Wooster on November 3. For people who like to give books as presents, it’s a shopper’s dream!

And speaking of shopping, did you know that you can now support the Ohioana Library when you shop online? See page 14 for more information.

As noted in our story on the Ohioana Awards, our October 18 event also marked the kickoff of Ohioana’s 90th anniversary year,

Ohioana Director David Weaver served as emcee for the program. Dan Shuey, president of the Ohioana Board of Trustees, welcomed the audience and noted that the occasion was doubly significant: not only for presenting the Ohioana Awards, but also marking the official start of the library's 90th anniversary year.

The ceremony began with the awarding of the 29th Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant to Christopher Alexander Gellert of Shaker Heights. A competitive award for Ohio writers age 30 or younger who have not yet published a book, the Marvin Grant has helped launch many successful authors, including 2015 Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Doerr. Gellert, who currently lives and studies in France, appeared on video. His parents, Juliet Kostritsky and Brad Gellert, accepted the grant on his behalf. Christopher's prize-winning story, "Why Cleveland?!" is featured in the fall issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*.

The presentation of the Ohioana Book Awards followed:

Juvenile Literature: Sally Derby, *A New School Year*
Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature and Readers' Choice:
 Tamara Bundy, *Walking with Miss Millie*
About Ohio or an Ohioan: Brian Alexander, *Glass House*
Poetry: Ruth Awad, *Set to Music a Wildfire*
Nonfiction: Deanne Stillman, *Blood Brothers*
Fiction: Celeste Ng, *Little Fires Everywhere*

All the Ohioana Book Award winners were present for the ceremony, and afterward signed copies of their books, which were available at the event thanks to the Statehouse Museum Shop.

The event drew a full house. Among the guests in attendance were Ohio Poet Laureate and past Ohioana Award winner Dave Lucas, who presented the book award in poetry, and former Columbus Mayor Greg Lashutka and his wife, Catherine Adams, who were guests of award sponsor Tom Dailey and the Tom E. Dailey Foundation.

The Ohio Channel streamed the awards ceremony live, and the program is now airing statewide via cable on public television stations. It can also be viewed on The Ohio Channel's website at ohiochannel.org.

Our thanks to all who attended, and a special thanks to the sponsors and contributors whose generous support made the event possible. Finally, thanks and congratulations once again to this year's winners!

which you'll be hearing more about in the weeks and months ahead.

One of the highlights will be the 2019 Ohioana Book Festival, presented for the first time at the event's new home: the beautiful main branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Being at CML's recently renovated and expanded facility will help make the festival bigger and better than ever. Mark your calendars now to join us there on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

Finally, as Thanksgiving is just around the corner, may I say how truly grateful all of us at Ohioana are for wonderful friends like you. Ninety years of collecting, preserving, and celebrating Ohio literature—it wouldn't be possible without you. *Thank you.*

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

CALLING ALL OHIO AUTHORS!

Ohioana is now taking applications for Ohio authors interested in participating in the 2019 Ohioana Book Festival. For details and an application, visit www.ohioana.org.

The Ohioana Library Association thanks the following groups
for their generous support of the 2018 Ohioana Awards:

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TRANSITIONS

Ohio, and Ohioana, lost one of its most illustrious historians with the passing of George Knepper at age 92 on October 20. George was a long-time friend and supporter of Ohioana, a trustee emeritus of our board, and a two-time Ohioana Award winner, including the 1990 Career Medal for his lifetime achievements as a writer, teacher, and historian. Two years later, he won the Ohioana Book Award for *Quilts in Community: Ohio's Traditions*.

Earlier this fall, Ohioana welcomed two new members to its board of trustees. Brian M. Perera of Columbus was named by Governor John Kasich in September to a two-year term as one of the board's four gubernatorial appointees. Perera is Assistant Vice-President for State Government Relations at The Ohio State University.

Also in September, Governor Kasich reappointed Carol Garner of Mount Vernon for a four-year term.

At Ohioana's annual meeting on October 18, Ellen McDevitt-Stredney of Columbus was elected as a new member of the Ohioana board of trustees. McDevitt-Stredney is a writer for Ologie, a Columbus-based marketing and branding agency. Re-elected at the annual meeting were trustees Gillian Berchowitz of Athens, Louise Musser of Delaware, John Sullivan of Plain City, and Jacqueline Vaughan of Dublin.

Elected as officers for 2018-20 were Daniel Shuey (President), John Sullivan (Vice-President), Bryan Loar (Secretary), and Jay Yurkiw (Treasurer).

Congratulations to all these new and returning trustees, and our thanks for their dedicated service.

COMING SOON

I, Too, Sing America: The Harlem Renaissance at 100 Ends January 20, 2019, Columbus Museum of Art
The exhibition, curated by two-time Ohioana Award-winning author Wil Haygood, is the centerpiece of a community-wide celebration of the Harlem Renaissance's impact on African American literature, music, and art, with events taking place throughout Central Ohio. For more information, visit <https://cbusharlem100.org>.

Buckeye Book Fair November 3, 2018, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Fisher Auditorium, Wooster
The 31st annual book fair is a great chance to get a jump on holiday shopping, with more than 100 authors and illustrators. For more information, visit www.buckeyebookfair.com.

Brews + Prose November 13, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Market Garden Brewery, Cleveland
R.O. Kwon (*The Incendiaries*) and Huda Al-Marashi (*First Comes Marriage*) read from their works for the popular literary series, now in its seventh season. For more information, visit www.brewsandprose.com.

Ohioana Book Club November 14, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – noon, Ohioana Library, Columbus
The book for November is 2018 Ohioana Award winner *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

An Evening with Jorma Kaukonen November 15, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Gramercy Books, Bexley
The profoundly influential guitarist of the rock bands Jefferson Airplane and Hot Tuna and 2010 Ohioana Award winner shares his new memoir, *Been So Long: My Life and Music*, filled with tales of the road, the stage, and a life made of music. For more information and tickets, visit www.gramercybooksbexley.com/event/songwriter-spotlight-evening-jorma-kaukonen.

Thurber Prize for American Humor December 5, 2018, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Columbus Athenaeum, Columbus
The event celebrating America's highest prize for humor returns to Thurber's hometown. For more information and tickets, visit www.thurberhouse.org/thurber-prize-event.

NEW BOOKS

The following books arrived at the Ohioana Library in August and September. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

About Ohio/An Ohioan

Bir, Sara. Photography by Melanie Tienter. *Tasting Ohio: Favorite Recipes from the Buckeye State*. Farcountry Press (Helena, MT) 2018. HC \$29.95.

Uncover Ohio's scrumptious culinary secrets in 100 recipes from the Buckeye State's best chefs—from summer succotash, savory goetta, and cracker-crust walleye to butternut squash bisque, hazelnut brownies, and buckeye pie. Clear, easy-to-follow recipes are complemented by mouthwatering color photographs of every dish. Sample Ohio's finest foods in your home kitchen.

Congdon, Jane. *How the Wild Effect Turned Me Into a Hiker at 69: An Appalachian Trail Adventure*. Bettie Youngs Books (Online) 2018. PB \$21.95.

Record numbers of women were taking to the trails after reading Cheryl Strayed's best-selling memoir *Wild*. Like many others, Jane had little hiking experience, yet she spent seventeen weeks on the Appalachian Trail. Jane logged nearly 1,200 miles hiking with partners, alone, and with a glass good-luck charm named Ms. Rabbit. This is her fascinating and humorous account of life in a land of bears, wild pigs, volatile weather, primitive conditions, trail town stops, and the personalities she met along the way—and how a long-distance hike changed her perceptions of both Mother Nature and human nature.

Gamble, Terry. *The Eulogist*. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2019.

From the author of *The Water Dancers* and *Good Family* comes a novel set in Ohio in the decades leading to the Civil War that illuminates the immigrant experience, the injustice of slavery, and the debts human beings owe to one another, witnessed through the endeavors of one Irish-American family. Cheated out of their family estate in Northern Ireland after the Napoleonic Wars, the Givens family arrives in America in 1819. But in coming to this new land, they have lost nearly everything. Making their way west, they settle in Cincinnati, a burgeoning town on the banks of the mighty Ohio River whose rise, like the Givens' own, will be fashioned by the colliding forces of Jacksonian populism, religious evangelism, industrial capitalism, and the struggle for emancipation. As the years pass, this family of immigrants, initially indifferent to slavery, will actively work for its end—performing courageous, often dangerous, occasionally foolhardy acts of moral rectitude that will reverberate through their lives for generations to come.

Haygood, Wil. *Tigerland: 1968-1969: A City Divided, a Nation Torn Apart, and a Magical Season of Healing*. Alfred A. Knopf (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$27.95. 1968 and 1969: Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy are assassinated. Race relations are frayed like never before. Cities are aflame as demonstrations and riots proliferate. But in Columbus, Ohio, the Tigers of segregated East High School win the baseball and basketball championships, defeating bigger, richer, whiter

teams across the state. Now, Wil Haygood gives us a spirited and stirring account of this improbable triumph and takes us deep into the personal lives of these local heroes: Robert Wright, power forward, whose father was a murderer; Kenny Mizelle, the Tigers' second baseman, who grew up under the false impression that his father had died; Eddie "Rat" Ratleff, the star of both teams, who would play for the 1972 U.S. Olympic basketball team. We meet Jack Gibbs, the first black principal at East High; Bob Hart, the white basketball coach, determined to fight against the injustices he saw inflicted upon his team; and the hometown fans who followed the Tigers to stadiums across the state. And, just as important, Haygood puts the Tigers' story in the context of the racially charged late 1960s. The result is both an inspiring sports story and a singularly illuminating social history.

Herbert, Jeffrey G., and Julie M. Ross. *Hamilton County, Ohio Roman Catholic Baptism Records 1850-1859: Part 1: A-L*. Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. PB \$25.00.

This index contains the names of over 42,300 Roman Catholic baptisms recorded in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio between January 1850 and December 1859. The source materials for this work are the microfilm copies of original baptismal registers which were kept by the individual parish churches and are stored at the archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This index contains baptismal records of all twenty-five existing Roman Catholic churches in Hamilton

County, Ohio between January 1850 and December 1859. Due to the size of the publication, it has been divided into two books. Part 1 covers the last names beginning with the letter “A” through “L”, and Part 2 covers the last names beginning with the letter “M” through “Z”.

Herbert, Jeffrey G., and Julie M. Ross. *Hamilton County, Ohio Roman Catholic Baptism Records 1850-1859: Part 2: M-Z*. Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. PB \$25.00.

This index contains the names of over 42,300 Roman Catholic baptisms recorded in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio between January 1850 and December 1859. The source materials for this work are the microfilm copies of original baptismal registers which were kept by the individual parish churches and are stored at the archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This index contains baptismal records of all twenty-five existing Roman Catholic churches in Hamilton County, Ohio between January 1850 and December 1859. Due to the size of the publication, it has been divided into two books. Part 1 covers the last names beginning with the letter “A” through “L”, and Part 2 covers the last names beginning with the letter “M” through “Z”.

Quinones, Sam. *Dreamland: The True Tale of America’s Opiate Epidemic*. Bloomsbury Press (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$18.00.

In 1929, in the blue-collar city of Portsmouth, Ohio, a company built a swimming pool the size of a football field; named “Dreamland,”

it became the vital center of the community. Now, addiction has devastated Portsmouth, as it has hundreds of small rural towns and suburbs across America—addiction like no other the country has ever faced. How that happened is the riveting story of *Dreamland*. With a great reporter’s narrative skill and the storytelling ability of a novelist, acclaimed journalist Sam Quinones weaves together two classic tales of capitalism run amok, whose unintentional collision has been catastrophic. The unfettered prescribing of pain medications during the 1990s reached its peak in Purdue Pharma’s campaign to market OxyContin, its new, expensive—and extremely addictive—miracle painkiller. Meanwhile a massive influx of black tar heroin—cheap, potent, and originating from one small county on Mexico’s west coast, independent of any drug cartel—assaulted small towns and midsized cities across the country, driven by a brilliant, almost unbeatable marketing and distribution system. Together these phenomena continue to lay waste to communities from Tennessee to Oregon, Indiana to New Mexico. Introducing a memorable cast of characters—pharma pioneers, young Mexican entrepreneurs, narcotics investigators, survivors, and parents—Quinones shows how these tales fit together. *Dreamland* is a revelatory account of the corrosive threat facing America and its heartland.

Ross, Aimee. *Permanent Marker: A Memoir*. KiCam Projects (Dayton, OH) 2018. PB \$18.95.

Aimee Ross was living a perfectly normal life raising three kids, married to her high school

sweetheart, and teaching at her high school alma mater. Life was perfect—right until it wasn’t. Unhappy in her marriage, Aimee asked for a divorce. Three days later, she suffered a heart attack at age forty-one. Five months after that, she survived a near-fatal car crash caused by an intoxicated driver. Her physical recovery took months and left her body marked by scars. The emotional recovery, though, would take longer, as Aimee sought to forgive the man who almost killed her—and to forgive herself for tearing apart her family. Aimee Ross writes with candor, wit, and humor as she finds the power in her story and chronicles her transformation into the woman she was always meant to be.

Nonfiction

Macy, Beth. *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America*. Little, Brown and Company (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$28.00.

Beth Macy takes us into the epicenter of America’s twenty-plus year struggle with opioid addiction. From distressed small communities in Central Appalachia to wealthy suburbs; from disparate cities to once-idyllic farm towns; it’s a heartbreaking trajectory that illustrates how this national crisis has persisted for so long and become so firmly entrenched. Beginning with a single dealer who lands in a small Virginia town and sets about turning high school football stars into heroin overdose statistics, Macy endeavors to answer a grieving mother’s question—why her only son died—and comes away with a harrowing story of greed and need. From the introduction of OxyContin in 1996, Macy parses how America

embraced a medical culture where overtreatment with painkillers became the norm. In some of the same distressed communities featured in her bestselling book *Factory Man*, the unemployed use painkillers both to numb the pain of joblessness and pay their bills, while privileged teens trade pills in cul-de-sacs, and even high school standouts fall prey to prostitution, jail, and death. Through unsparing, yet deeply human portraits of the families and first responders struggling to ameliorate this epidemic, each facet of the crisis comes into focus. In these politically fragmented times, Beth Macy shows, astonishingly, that the only thing that unites Americans across geographic and class lines is opioid drug abuse. But in a country unable to provide basic healthcare for all, Macy still finds reason to hope—and signs of the spirit and tenacity necessary in those facing addiction to build a better future for themselves and their families.

Macy, Beth. *Truvine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South*. Little, Brown and Company (New York, NY) 2016. HC \$28.00. The year was 1899 and the place a sweltering tobacco farm in the Jim Crow South town of Truevine, Virginia. George and Willie Muse were two little boys born to a sharecropper family. One day a white man offered them a piece of candy, setting off events that would take them around the world and change their lives forever. Captured into the circus, the Muse brothers performed for royalty at Buckingham Palace and headlined over a dozen sold-out shows at New York's Madison Square Garden. They were global superstars in a

pre-broadcast era. But the very root of their success was in the color of their skin and in the outrageous caricatures they were forced to assume: supposed cannibals, sheep-headed freaks, even "Ambassadors from Mars." Back home, their mother never accepted that they were "gone" and spent twenty-eight years trying to get them back. Through hundreds of interviews and decades of research, Beth Macy expertly explores a central and difficult question: Where were the brothers better off? On the world stage as stars or in poverty at home?

Parr, Patrick. *The Seminarian: Martin Luther King Jr. Comes of Age*. Lawrence Hill Books (Chicago, IL) 2018. HC \$26.99.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a cautious nineteen-year-old rookie preacher when he left Atlanta, Georgia, to attend divinity school up north. At Crozer Theological Seminary, King, or "ML" back then, immediately found himself surrounded by a white staff and white professors. Even his dorm room had once been used by wounded Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. In addition, his fellow seminarians were almost all older; some were soldiers who had fought in World War II, others pacifists who had chosen jail instead of enlisting. ML was facing challenges he'd barely dreamed of. A prankster and a late-night, chain-smoking pool player, ML soon fell in love with a white woman, all the while adjusting to life in an integrated student body and facing discrimination from locals in the surrounding town of Chester, Pennsylvania. In class, ML performed well, though he demonstrated a habit of plagiarizing that continued

throughout his academic career. But he was helped by friendships with fellow seminarians and the mentorship of the Reverend J. Pius Barbour. In his three years at Crozer between 1948 and 1951, King delivered dozens of sermons around the Philadelphia area, had a gun pointed at him (twice), played on the basketball team, and eventually became student body president. These experiences shaped him into a man ready to take on even greater challenges. Based on dozens of revealing interviews with the men and women who knew him then, *The Seminarian* is the first definitive, full-length account of King's years as a divinity student at Crozer Theological Seminary. Long passed over by biographers and historians, this period in King's life is vital to understanding the historical figure he soon became.

Stockwell, Mary. *Unlikely General: "Mad" Anthony Wayne and the Battle for America*. Yale University Press (New Haven, CT) 2018. HC \$35.00.

In the spring of 1792, President George Washington chose "Mad" Anthony Wayne to defend America from a potentially devastating threat. Native forces had decimated the standing army, and Washington needed a champion to open the country stretching from the Ohio River westward to the headwaters of the Mississippi for settlement. A spendthrift, womanizer, and heavy drinker who had just been ejected from Congress for voter fraud, Wayne was an unlikely savior. Yet this disreputable man raised a new army and, in 1794, scored a decisive victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, successfully preserving his country and President

Washington's legacy. Drawing from Wayne's insightful and eloquently written letters, historian Mary Stockwell sheds light on this fascinating and underappreciated figure. Her compelling work pays long-overdue tribute to a man—ravaged physically and emotionally by his years of military service—who fought to defend the nascent American experiment at a critical moment in history.

Tekulve, Susan. *Second Shift*. Del Sol Press (Washington, DC) 2018. PB \$12.99.

In this collection of twelve essays, Susan Tekulve explores the tasks we perform that earn us more than a paycheck. Tekulve's topics include the gathering of secret family stories; surviving a night of haggis and Scottish whisky; mothering a musician son; facing down two teenage gunmen; and caring for a dying mother. The key word in this collection is *memory*. Whether investigating common occurrences or making narrative sense out of events for which there are very few words, these essays remind us that memories, and shaping them into stories, are the best kind of work.

Fiction

Felver, Brad. *The Dogs of Detroit: Stories*. University of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2018. HC \$21.95.

Winner of the 2018 Drue Heinz Literature Prize for short fiction. The fourteen stories of *The Dogs of Detroit* focus on grief and its many strange permutations. This grief alternately devolves into violence, silence, solitude, and utter isolation. In some cases, grief drives the stories as a strong, reactionary force; yet in other stories, that grief evolves quietly over long

stretches of time. Many of the stories also use grief as a prism to explore the beguiling bonds within families. The stories span a variety of geographies, both urban and rural, often considering collisions between the two.

Flower, Amanda. *Flowers and Foul Play: A Magic Garden Mystery*. Crooked Lane (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$26.99.

Florist Fiona Knox's life isn't smelling so sweet these days. Her fiancé left her for their cake decorator. Then, her flower shop wilted after a chain florist opened next door. So when her godfather, Ian MacCallister, leaves her a cottage in Scotland, Fiona jumps on the next plane to Edinburgh. Ian, after all, is the one who taught her to love flowers. But when Ian's elderly caretaker Hamish MacGregor shows her to the cottage upon her arrival, she finds the once resplendent grounds of Duncreigan in a dreadful shambles—with a dead body in the garden. Minutes into her arrival, Fiona is already being questioned by the handsome Chief Inspector Neil Craig and getting her passport seized. But it's Craig's fixation on Uncle Ian's loyal caretaker, Hamish, as a prime suspect that really makes her worried. As Fiona strolls the town, she quickly realizes there is a whole bouquet of suspects much more likely to have killed Alastair Croft, the dead lawyer who seems to have had more enemies than friends. Now it's up to Fiona to clear Hamish's name before it's too late in *Flowers and Foul Play*, USA Today bestselling author Amanda Flower's spellbinding first *Magic Garden* mystery.

Flower, Amanda. *Premeditated Peppermint*. Kensington Publishing (New York, NY) 2018. Advance Readers' Copy (ARC).

Christmas is Bailey King's favorite time of year. For her first Yuletide in Harvest, Ohio, the former big-city chocolatier is recreating a cherished holiday treat: peppermint combined with molten white chocolate. But her sugar high plummets when her former boyfriend walks into the candy shop she now runs with her Amish grandmother. New York celebrity chef Eric Sharp and his TV crew have arrived to film an authentic Amish Christmas. Bailey's not about to let her beloved town—and Swissmen Sweets—be turned into a sound bite. Unfortunately, she gets more publicity than she bargained for when Eric's executive producer is found strangled to death—and Eric's the prime suspect. With Bailey's sheriff deputy boyfriend out to prove Eric's guilt, her bad-boy ex tries to sweet-talk her into helping him clear his name and rekindle their romance to boost ratings for his show. Now, between a surplus of suspects and a victim who wasn't who she seemed, Bailey's edging dangerously close to a killer who isn't looking to bring joy to the world—or to Bailey—this deadly Noel.

Goble, Steve. *The Devil's Wind: A Spider John Mystery*. Seventh Street Books (Amherst, NY) 2018. PB \$15.95.

1723—Spider John, longing to escape the pirate life he never wanted, has an honest seafaring job at last, aboard a sailing vessel, and is returning to his beloved Em and their child. But when Captain Brentwood is murdered in his cabin, Spider's plans are

tossed overboard. Who killed the *Redemption's* captain? The mysterious pirate with a sadistic past? The beautiful redhead who hides guns beneath her skirt? One of the men pining for the captain's daughter? There are plenty of suspects. But how could anyone kill the captain in his locked quarters while the entire crew was gathered together on the deck? Before he can solve the puzzle, Spider John and his ex-pirate friends Hob and Odin will have to cope with violence, schemes, nosy Royal Navy officers, and a deadly trap set by the ruthless pirate Ned Low.

Huber, Anna Lee. *Treacherous Is the Night: A Verity Kent Mystery*. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2018. PB \$15.95.

It's not that Verity Kent doesn't sympathize with those eager to make contact with lost loved ones. After all, she once believed herself a war widow. But now that she's discovered Sidney is very much alive, Verity is having enough trouble connecting with her estranged husband, never mind the dead. Still, at a friend's behest, Verity attends a séance, where she encounters the man who still looms between her and Sidney and a medium who channels a woman Verity once worked with in the Secret Service. Refusing to believe her former fellow spy is dead, Verity is determined to uncover the source of the spiritualist's top secret revelation. Then the medium is murdered—and Verity's investigation is suddenly thwarted. Even Secret Service agents she once trusted turn their backs on her. Undaunted, Verity heads to war-torn Belgium, with Sidney by her side. But as they draw ever closer to the danger, Verity wonders if she's

about to learn the true meaning of "till death do us part."

Markley, Stephen. *Ohio: A Novel*. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$27.00.

Since the turn of the century, a generation has come of age knowing only war, recession, political gridlock, racial hostility, and a simmering fear of environmental calamity. In the country's forgotten pockets, where industry long ago fled, where foreclosures, Walmarts, and opiates riddle the land, death rates for rural whites have skyrocketed, fueled by suicide, addiction, and a rampant sense of marginalization and disillusionment. This is the world the characters in Stephen Markley's brilliant debut novel, *Ohio*, inherit. This is New Canaan. On one fateful summer night in 2013, four former classmates converge on the rust belt town where they grew up, each of them with a mission, all of them haunted by regrets, secrets, and lost loves. There's Bill Ashcraft, an alcoholic, drug-abusing activist whose fruitless ambitions have taken him from Cambodia to Zuccotti Park to New Orleans and now back to "The Cane" with a mysterious package strapped to the underside of his truck; Stacey Moore, a doctoral candidate reluctantly confronting the mother of her former lover; Dan Eaton, a shy veteran of three tours in Iraq, home for a dinner date with the high school sweetheart he's tried to forget; and the beautiful, fragile Tina Ross, whose rendezvous with the captain of the football team triggers the novel's shocking climax. At once a murder mystery and a social critique, *Ohio* captures the fractured zeitgeist of a nation through the viewfinder of an

embattled Midwestern town and offers a vision for America at the dawn of a turbulent new age.

Matthews, Olivia. *Peril & Prayer: A Sister Lou Mystery*. Kensington Publishing (New York, NY) 2018. Advance Readers' Copy (ARC). This year's Advent retreat has been booked for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Hermione of Ephesus at the pastoral Briar Coast Cabin Resorts in New York. But when the combative Sister Marianna practically loses her religion arguing over minor details with resort co-owner Autumn Tassler, Sister Louise "Lou" LaSalle blessedly steps in as peacemaker. Only days later, Autumn is found strangled in her office, and hot-headed Sister Marianna becomes the sheriff's deputies' prime suspect. They believe her missing scarf may be the murder weapon, but Sister Lou believes Sister Marianna's being framed. If she has a prayer of keeping Sister Marianna out of prison, she'll need to once again put her faith in her nephew Chris LaSalle and reporter Shari Henson to help her solve the case. As the trio tries to cross suspects off the list, Sister Lou has no choice but to stick her neck out if she's going to unveil who was desperate enough to resort to murder.

Montgomery, Jess. *The Widows*. Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2019. Advance Readers' Copy (ARC).

Inspired by the true story of Ohio's first female sheriff, *The Widows* by Jess Montgomery is a powerful debut about two women's search for justice as they take on the corruption at the heart of their community. Kinship, Ohio, 1924: When Lily Ross learns that her

husband, Daniel Ross, the town's widely respected sheriff, has been killed while transporting a prisoner, she is devastated and vows to avenge his death. Hours after his funeral, a stranger appears at her door. Marvena Whitcomb, a coal miner's widow, is unaware that Daniel has died, and begs to speak with him about her missing daughter. From miles away but worlds apart, Lily and Marvena's lives collide as they realize that Daniel was not the man that either of them believed him to be—and that his murder is more complex than either of them imagined.

Otis, Abbey Mei. *Alien Virus Love Disaster: Stories*. Small Beer Press (Easthampton, MA) 2018. PB \$16.00.

These short stories put humans under an alien microscope and under government control, place kids from the moon into a small beach town, and then the shove the rest of the town under the microscope as they react in ways we hope they would, and then, of course, in ways we'd hope they wouldn't. Otis has long been fascinated with using strange situations to explore dynamics of power, oppression, and grief, and the twelve stories collected here are at once a striking indictment of the present and a powerful warning about the future.

Pepper, David. *The Wingman: A Jack Sharpe Political Thriller*. St. Helena Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. PB \$14.53.

Veteran Midwestern reporter Jack Sharpe has made it big thanks to the deep-rooted voter-fraud conspiracy he uncovered in *The People's House* (the first of the series). Sharpe catches a whiff that

something rotten is taking place in the Democratic presidential primary, and ultimately discovers an elaborate scheme to put a corrupt and dangerous politician in the nation's highest office by any means necessary. Dark money, drone technology, paramilitary government contractors, neglected veterans, kompromat—we see these issues in the news every day. But in *The Wingman*, David Pepper shows that if shadowy entities with enough incentive and resources were to connect and exploit these issues, the American people would be largely powerless to stop them. Jack must risk his life and reputation to get to the bottom of the story before the disturbing plot he and his team have uncovered becomes reality.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Day of Atonement: The Protective Detective Series*. Strebtor Books (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$15.00. The second in *Essence* bestselling author Yolonda Tonette Sanders's *Protective Detective* series featuring Troy Evans, this suspenseful novel shows the devastation domestic violence can cause and how sometimes, mistakes of the past cannot be undone. For over thirty years, Detective Troy Evans has been haunted by the disappearance of Elana Campbell. The younger sister of his best friend, eight-year-old Elana stormed out of the house one August afternoon and that was the last they saw of her...until her body was found several weeks later off the Texan highway in a place known as the Killing Fields. With no suspects or leads, the Campbells hire private investigator B.K. Ashburn, and Troy heads back to his hometown of Houston to assist with the case.

While there, he reluctantly begins to build a relationship with his father, whom he's spent his entire life hating. Meanwhile, Troy keeps running into dead ends on Elana's case, except for a gut feeling that Elana's disappearance all those years ago had to do with a member of her own dysfunctional family. As Troy and B.K. begin to dig into the pasts of the Campbells' relatives, they uncover painful secrets that could destroy relationships. And when the culprit is finally revealed, the discovery will leave everyone wondering if perhaps some mysteries should remain unsolved.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *In Times of Trouble*. Strebtor Books (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$7.99.

Divorced, single-mother Lisa Hampton has been able to start a new life after a scandalous incident that forced her to relocate to Ohio. Thanks to her job, she has the opportunity to rub shoulders with some of the wealthiest and most influential people in the state. Lisa's biggest issue nowadays is her rebellious teenage daughter, Chanelle. Other than the stress of dealing with Chanelle, life couldn't be any better for Lisa. She is best friends with Isaac and Olivia Scott, the most influential and powerful couple in the state. If she isn't hanging with Olivia, Lisa is spending time with her new beau, minister Eric Freeman. His prayers and words of encouragement have helped her weather the storms in her life. Lisa looks forward to the possibility of a future with Eric, though his expectations may be more than she can handle. When Chanelle accuses the Scotts' son of rape, Lisa discovers how quickly her friends become foes as Olivia and Isaac use their wealth, prestige,

and power to manipulate justice. And just as things seem to be going smoothly for Lisa and Chanelle, Olivia makes one last destructive move that threatens everything they hold dear.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Secrets of a Sinner*. Harlequin Kimani Press (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) 2008. PB \$6.99.

Natalie Coleman has always done whatever she needed to survive—even if it meant stealing another woman's husband or trading her favors for money. But now, with a steady job, a rekindled bond with her grandmother, Big Mama, and a promising new relationship, Natalie finally feels her life getting back on track. Handsome, smart and sexy, Troy Evans is everything Natalie hoped to find in a man, and things quickly get serious—too serious for Troy. Devastated by his rejection, Natalie returns to the Mississippi home she ran from years ago.

There, with Big Mama's help and wisdom, she confronts the painful events of her past, finding comfort in the faith of those around her. And as old wounds heal and the burden of long-buried secrets is lifted, Natalie realizes that God has led her home to show her that with love, prayer, and a willing heart, every sinner can be saved, and every life redeemed.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Shadow of Death: The Protective Detective Series*. Strebtor Books (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$16.00.

The third in the new detective series that started with *Wages of Sin* and *Day of Atonement*, this thrilling page-turner explores what happens when homicide detective Troy Evans is framed for the murder of his ex—and the secrets that got him

there. A devoted husband, father, and detective, Troy will do anything to protect his family...including kill. In a fit of rage, he threatens the life of an ex-girlfriend when she attempts to cause trouble in his marriage. Little does Troy know, his words are caught on tape and will eventually come back to haunt him. When Troy's ex mysteriously disappears, he is convinced that she staged her disappearance to get back at him for his rejection, and his assessment seems plausible—until her body is discovered. Soon, Troy becomes the prime suspect in the murder investigation. And as secrets of the past begin to surface, they threaten to destroy more than his reputation; his marriage is at risk too, and ignoring the problem won't make it go away. Now on the opposite side of the law, Troy works diligently to find out who has gone to such great lengths to set him up. With a cloud of suspicion hanging over his head, Troy must prove that he's neither a cheater nor a murderer. If he fails, he could permanently lose his badge, his freedom, and his family.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Soul Matters*. Warner Books (New York, NY) 2005. PB \$13.95.

Infidelity and deceit threaten a Christian family when they are forced to face the lies that are creating mistrust, disorder, and tension in their lives.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. *Wages of Sin: The Protective Detective Series*. Strebtor Books (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$15.00.

Troy Evans believes in God, but he's seen enough evil on his job to shake his faith. Nonetheless, his loyalty to his family never wavers, and he would do anything to

protect them—one of the reasons he is a workaholic. Natalie loves her family, but she's becoming increasingly frustrated with Troy's job. His schedule is often hectic and unpredictable, and she's also helping her best friend deal with some serious issues—and struggling to come clean about a secret she's hiding from Troy. While Natalie deals with her issues, Troy spends the majority of his time searching for a serial killer who abducted and murdered several women without rhyme or reason. Desperate to stop the murderer before more women die, he works diligently, but the killer always seems to be one step ahead of him. Then Troy comes to the awful realization that he and the killer have something in common—something that instantly sets him on a mission to end the terror...or die trying.

Thorndike, John. *A Hundred Fires in Cuba*. Beck & Branch Publishers (Burlington, VT) 2018. PB \$15.00.

In the spring of 1956, a young American photographer falls in love with a Cuban line cook at New York's Waldorf Astoria. They have a ten-week affair that ends when immigration agents arrest and deport him, and by then Clare Miller is pregnant. Few Americans know the name Camilo Cienfuegos. All Cubans do. In real life he was the most charismatic of Fidel Castro's commanders—until his small plane vanished only months after Fidel came to power. In *A Hundred Fires in Cuba*, Clare must choose between the stable Cuban businessman she has married and her first love, Camilo. Though a true revolutionary, Camilo likes to dance and drink. He likes women, and too many women like him. His courage is legendary, yet when he

comes to visit Clare he's afraid of his own daughter. Clare worries that he'll never be a good parent, but she can't resist him.

Woolard, Jim R. *Raiding with Morgan: A Novel of the Civil War*. Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$24.00.

Pursued by the Union army, Morgan's Raiders blazed a trail of destruction unparalleled in Civil War history. Only a handful of Morgan's men lived to tell the tale. For seventeen years, Ty Mattson never knew if his father survived the Mexican War. But when he receives news that his father is alive—and he's joined the Confederate forces of General John Morgan—Ty leaves home to enlist with the Raiders. Owen Mattson turns out to be everything Ty imagined he would be: a good man, a true mentor, a great soldier. But a Confederate assassin's bullets nearly divide father and son yet again. From the blood-soaked chaos of Morgan's devastating defeat at Buffington Island to the harsh brutality of a Union prison, Ty Mattson will do whatever it takes to fight and survive. For his father. For the love of a beautiful woman. For the life and the land he treasures.

Woolard, Jim R. *Riding for the Flag: A Novel of the Civil War*. Pinnacle Books (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$7.99.

America, 1861. Battle lines have been drawn between the North and the South, pitting state against state—and brother against brother. For the three young sons of Ohio State Senator Clay Bell, the Civil War would change not only their lives, but the destinies of future generations. Jacob Bell, the eldest, defies his father's wishes to run

the family law practice and enlists in Ohio's Volunteer Calvary, a decision that wins him the love of an officer's daughter—and the hatred of a dangerous childhood rival. Judah Bell, the middle son, avenges a brutal Union attack on his uncle's horse farm in Kentucky by joining legendary Lexington Rifles—even if it puts a half-breed Cherokee girl and his own family honor at risk. Jarrod Bell, the youngest, lands a job as a cub reporter for the Cincinnati *Times-Ledger*, determined to learn the truth behind his brother's seeming betrayal—even if it leads him into the bloodiest of battles.

Poetry

Collins, Martha. *Night Unto Night: Poems*. Milkweed Editions (Minneapolis, MN) 2018. PB \$16.00.

How can one reconcile the irreconcilable? In this companion to *Day Unto Day*, Martha Collins finds common ground between contradictions—beauty and horror, joy and mortality, the personal and the political. Like its predecessor, *Night Unto Night* begins with time. Its six sequences, each written in one month a year over the course of six years, bring together the natural and the all-too-human. Red-winged blackbirds and the death of a friend. The green leaves of a maple tree and drones overseas. A February spent in Italy and the persistence of anti-immigrant rhetoric. Dissonance is a permanent state, Collins suggests, something to be occupied rather than solved. And so this collection approaches its transcendence in the space between these seeming contrasts—and in the space between stanzas, sequences, days, and months.

Demaree, Darren C. *Bombing the Thinker*. Backlash Press (Gardena, CA) 2018. PB \$10.00.

Bombing the Thinker is the eighth book of poetry by the well known and award winning Darren C. Demaree. It is a rumination on middle America as told through the thought of the sculpture "The Thinker," originally named "The Poet," by Auguste Rodin. "The Thinker" Demaree is speaking from is one of the twenty-seven Rodin supervised casts that sits outside the Museum of Modern Art in Cleveland, Ohio. He documents all that he has seen and experienced around him, such as war, protest, anguish, love, and ordinary life. It is a book that archives time as seen through a fixed art form, as well as a man.

Demaree, Darren C. *Two Towns Over*. Trio House Press, Inc. (Ponte Vedra Beach, FL) 2018. PB \$16.00. A collection of poetry about addiction and Ohio. The winner of the Louis Bogan Award from Trio House Press.

Fix, Charlene. *Taking a Walk in My Animal Hat*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2018. PB \$16.00.

Poems that take the reader on a journey into the lives of pets and other animals as well as connect the animal nature of humans with the animals themselves.

Ramspeck, Doug. *Black Flowers*. Louisiana State University Press (Baton Rouge, LA) 2018. PB \$18.95. In dark, lyrical verse, *Black Flowers* follows a speaker from childhood into adulthood as he navigates the animistic world of crows, conjurings, and winter snows. Doug Ramspeck guides readers through the brutality and

beauty found in the natural world: the moonlight, “marrow-white, severed, falling bodily / to grass, the hours as permeable as clay” and “dust lifting across the road / as though to form a human shape.” By juxtaposing euphony and clear, startling imagery, Ramspeck’s novelistic new collection molds the landscape to reflect the speaker’s memories and the challenges of growing up in a dysfunctional family. In the tradition of William Wordsworth, *Black Flowers* brings the flourishes of the Romantics to the grit of the present day.

Young Adult & Middle Grade

Philips, L. *Sometime After Midnight*. Viking (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.99.

Late one night in a dingy Los Angeles club, Nate and Cameron meet and discover they have much more in common than their love of an obscure indie band. But when Nate learns that Cameron is the heir to a soul-sucking record label—the very one that destroyed his father’s life—he runs away as fast as he can. The only evidence of their brief but intense connection is the blurry photo Cameron snaps of Nate’s Sharpied Chuck Taylors. When Cameron’s sister Tess—a famous model and socialite—posts the photo on Instagram for her legions of fans, the internet just about breaks with the news of this modern fairy tale. “Anyone know the owner of these shoes?” she writes. “My Prince Charming brother is looking for his Cinderella!” But while the viral sensation begins to bring the pair back together, their own demons and pasts might get in the way of any happily ever afters.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Harbor Me*. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$17.99. Jacqueline Woodson’s first middle-grade novel since National Book Award winner *Brown Girl Dreaming* celebrates the healing that can occur when a group of students share their stories. It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for “A Room to Talk”), they discover it’s safe to talk about what’s bothering them—everything from Esteban’s father’s deportation and Haley’s father’s incarceration to Amari’s fears of racial profiling and Ashton’s adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.

Children’s

Bonilla, Lindsay. Illus. by Cinta Villalobos. *Polar Bear Island*. Sterling Children’s Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$16.95. “Welcome to Polar Bear Island. NO OTHERS ALLOWED!” Parker is the mayor of this peaceful, predictable island, and he wants to keep it the way it is. But Kirby, a penguin, thinks the place is paradise, and she wants to stay. Parker says no, but the other polar bears love Kirby, and soon they’re begging Parker to let her move in. Will Parker agree and make the island fun for EVERYONE?

Cotter, Bill. *Don’t Touch This Book!* Sourcebooks Jabberwocky (Naperville, IL) 2016. Advanced Readers’ Copy (ARC). Although a purple monster named

Larry is very clear that readers should NOT touch his book, he eventually invites kids to join in the fun by wiggling their fingers, walking like a robot, and more.

Mora, Pat. Illus. by Raúl Colón. *Bookjoy Wordjoy*. Lee & Low Books, Inc. (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.95.

Whether we are collecting words, reading favorite books in the library, celebrating holidays, writing poems, sharing secrets, or singing a jazzy duet, words and books can take us on wonderful adventures and bring us joy. Poet Pat Mora has brought together a collection of her poems that celebrates engaging with words and books in all these ways and more. Vivid illustrations by Raúl Colón bring the poems to life and interpret the magic of the language with captivating images in a style influenced by Mexican muralists. Together the poems and illustrations inspire creative wordplay in readers of all ages.

Sherbin, Jan. With photos by the Cincinnati Zoo. *Hip, Hippo, Hooray for Fiona! A Photographic Biography*. Insights Productions (Cincinnati, OH) 2017. PB \$25.99. On a cold winter day, a premature hippopotamus is born at the Cincinnati Zoo. The baby is way too small to live. Her keepers refuse to let her die. They work day and night to keep her alive. Thanks to the expertise, devotion, persistence, and creativity of zoo staff, adorable Fiona does survive. She lights up the Internet with her personality and will to live. She becomes the best-known and best-loved hippo in the world. This is the real story of Fiona’s very first days, from the day she is born until her keepers see she will be just fine, and from

her first spring and summer, when she learns to be a hippo, meets her parents, and meets her fans. A portion of proceeds from sale of this book goes to the Cincinnati Zoo to help it continue its outstanding work.

Woodson, Jacqueline. Illus. by Rafael López. *The Day You Begin*. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2018. HC \$18.99.

National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson and two-time Pura Belpré Illustrator Award winner Rafael López have teamed up to create a poignant yet heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art remind us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes—and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.



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