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Back Room/Front Page: Interesting times

We hope you're all safe and healthy and have post-derecho power back by now. It's been a challenging week, to say the least.

We're in our sixth month of being closed to the public. We had no idea what to expect when we closed our doors in March, but thanks to your support with email and phone orders, we are able to keep the lights on and provide you with the books you want to read – thank you! We're trying to plan for what fall and winter might look like, and it all depends on the course the virus takes. The City of Des Moines currently has all municipal buildings (including libraries) closed until October 1, and we are following those guidelines.

You will notice that our bestseller list for June and July contains many titles related to the Black Lives Matter and Antiracist movements. We have pledged to donate a portion of these sales to Urban Dreams, and I am pleased to report that we were able to send them a check for almost \$800 this month. We thank YOU for making this possible. We will continue to do this.

We have a few virtual events coming up this month – we're partnering with libraries and local authors and have signed copies of books available to purchase. While virtual events are not the same as personally meeting an author, it is the best thing we have right now, and we're glad we can do this for authors who have worked for years on their books only to get caught up in the pandemic.

Thanks for reading and stay safe,
Alice

June/July Best Sellers:

These were the Top Ten sellers in our store last month - see what everyone's reading!

1. *How to Be an Antiracist*, Ibram X. Kendi
2. *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*, Robin Diangelo
3. *Too Much and Never Enough*, Mary L. Trump
4. *The Room Where It Happened*, John Bolton
5. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-Winning Stamped from the Beginning*, Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi
6. *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*, Layla Saad
7. *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, Austin Channing Brown
8. *The Vanishing Half*, Brit Bennett
9. *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance*, Erik Larson
10. *Untamed*, Glennon Doyle

**We remain closed to
browsing to keep our staff
and customers safe.**

**Books can be ordered by
phone
(515)279-5400
or email
beaverdalebooks@gmail.com**

**Payment can be made at
time of order or pickup.**

**You may pick up your books
contact-free at the store, or
we can deliver them to your
home (within a 5-mile
radius) or ship them to you
(or anyone!) for \$2.00**

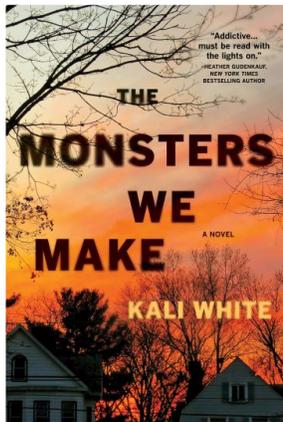
**PICKUP HOURS:
Tuesday – Friday
10:00 – 5:30
Saturday
10:00 – 5:00**

Closed Sunday and Monday



**Check out our
Virtual Events
on the next two
pages!**

**Tuesday
August 18
7:00 p.m.**



Virtual Book Launch

Kali White (VanBaale)

The Monsters We Make

Purchase a signed, first edition from Beaverdale Books and we'll provide you with the Zoom ID and passcode for the event!

It's August 1984, and paperboy Christopher Stewart has gone missing.

Hours later, twelve-year-old Sammy Cox hurries home from his own paper route, red-faced and out of breath, hiding a terrible secret.

Crystal, Sammy's seventeen-year-old sister, is worried by the disappearance but she also sees opportunity: the Stewart case has echoes of an earlier unsolved disappearance of another boy, one town over. Crystal senses the makings of an award winning essay, one that could win her a scholarship - and a ticket out of their small Iowa town.

Officer Dale Goodkind can't believe his bad luck: another town and another paperboy kidnapping. But this time he vows that it won't go unsolved. As the abductions set in motion an unpredictable chain of violent, devastating events touching each life in unexpected ways, Dale is forced to face his own demons.

Told through interwoven perspectives--and based on the real-life Des Moines Register paperboy kidnappings in the early 1980's--*The Monsters We Make* deftly explores the effects of one crime exposing another and the secrets people keep hidden from friends, families, and sometimes, even themselves.

About the author...

Kali White VanBaale is the author of the novels *The Monsters We Make*, *The Good Divide*, and *The Space Between*. She's the recipient of an American Book Award, an Independent Publisher's silver medal for general fiction, the Fred Bonnie Memorial First Novel Award, the Eric Hoffer Book Award for General Fiction, an Iowa Arts Council major artist grant, and the Great River Writer's Retreat. She's also writes and publishes short stories, essays, and articles, and serves as the managing editor of the micro-essay journal *The Past Ten*.

Kali holds an MFA in creative writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She's a core faculty member in the Lindenwood University MFA in Writing Program and regularly teaches writing workshops at various conferences and festivals. In addition to writing and teaching, Kali is an advocate and state lobbyist for mental healthcare reform.

In previous professional lives, Kali was a county case manager for mentally disabled adults and children, a substitute librarian, a gymnastics instructor, a childcare provider, a waitress, a jewelry counter attendant at Target, and spent one winter working on a Christmas tree farm, and one summer detasseling cornfields. She also lived in a remote Hungarian village for several weeks while volunteering on an organic vegetable farm.

Born and raised on a dairy farm in southern Iowa, she now lives and writes on a quiet acreage outside Des Moines with her family and highly emotional dog, Olive.

**Monday
August 31
6:30 p.m.**



Virtual Conversation with...

Jennifer Harvey

Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America

We are partnering with local libraries for this event. Purchase a signed copy from Beaverdale Books and a portion of the sales will be donated to Urban Dreams.

Join us for a Zoom conversation with award-winning author, educator, and public speaker, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Harvey, as she discusses her book *Raising White Kids*. Sure to be relevant and thought-provoking, this is an event created to tackle some of today's tough issues.

Des Moines Public Library, West Des Moines Public Library, and Clive Public Library have come together to offer you this special opportunity to learn from our guest online. Additional support provided by the **Friends of the Forest Avenue Library**.

This program is a presentation. Library staff will monitor the chat and pass as many questions as possible to Dr. Harvey. Disruptive or disrespectful comments in the chat may result in removal from the program.

YOU MUST REGISTER AT <https://dmpl.org/events/raising-white-kids-bringing-children-racially-unjust-america-virtual-conversation-dr> TO RECEIVE YOUR ZOOM INVITATION.

Should we teach white kids to be “colorblind” or to notice race (and if so how)? What roles do we want them to play in addressing racism when they encounter it? How do we do that? Talking about race means naming white privilege and hierarchy. How do we do this honestly, without making children feel bad about being white?

A great deal of public discussion exists about the impact of race and racism on children of color, but meaningful dialogue about and resources for understanding the impact of race on white children are woefully lacking. *Raising White Kids* steps into that void. It offers accessible pathways that point us toward the collective and urgent work of nurturing anti-racism among white children and youth.

About the author...

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Harvey is an award-winning author, educator and public speaker. Her work focuses on ethics and race, gender, sexuality, activism, spirituality and politics—with particular attention to how religion shows up in these dimensions of our shared social life. Her greatest passion and longtime work, however, persistently and pointedly return to racial justice and white anti-racism.

Jen publishes in numerous academic and public outlets. Her essay *Are We Raising Racists?* spent nearly a week on the *New York Times* “ten most read pieces” list. She has written for *CNN*, *Huffington Post*, *Sojourners* online, *The Conversation* and countless other venues.