

Convenience

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The Browser

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JANUARY 2018

Back Room/Front Page: Whew!

So we're winding down our best holiday season ever – thanks to all of our customers who continue to support Beaverdale Books with their purchases! It is a privilege to serve you and we're so glad to be here! December is such a fun time for us here at the store – the days go by so quickly, customers run into friends and neighbors while they're here, we have (and overhear) some great discussions about books, and my favorite part: getting to see what people are getting for presents! It's a hectic time, the store is full of energy, and we love it!

There are some stresses, to be sure, and usually it's hoping that the special order book we promised someone arrives on time and undamaged. But this year things went to a whole new level. From time to time we order books that are print-on-demand, meaning that the book isn't even printed until there is an order for it. Apparently there were A LOT of POD books ordered this year from booksellers all over the country, leading to a massive backup at our distributor. What made this a problem for us was that entire orders we had placed were being held up until the book(s) could be printed. We were not even aware of this until the Thursday before Christmas. After a frantic afternoon of making phone calls to customers, we were somewhat relieved to see we were not alone – the Midwest Booksellers' message boards were exploding, as I'm sure were other ones around the country. But that didn't make things any better for our dear customers; we apologize for any inconvenience and hope that the issue is resolved soon. At any rate, we know now to adjust our ordering to avoid this in the future.

It's a quiet month in terms of author events, which is usually the case in January. It might look like things are slowing down, but book clubs will resume meeting and we'll be busy with inventory, end-of-year financials, and all of that other fun stuff! Meanwhile, stay safe and warm – it's a perfect time to curl up with a book!

Thanks for reading,
Alice

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Sunday, January 7
1:00 p.m.

Meet the Author
Gerald A. Jewett, Jr.
Here's To It!

Sunday, January 14
2:00 p.m.

Meet the Authors
James Han Mattson
The Lost Prayers of Ricky Graves
Theodore Wheeler
Kings of Broken Things

December Best Sellers:

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

1. *Chuck Long: Destined for Greatness*, Aaron Putze*
2. *Everyday Virtues: Classic Tales to Read with Kids*, Jim Autry* and Rick Autry*
3. *Women and the Land*, Barbara Hall* and Kathryn Gamble**
4. *Wonder*, R. J. Palacio
5. *Wapsipinicon Almanac*, Tim Fay*
6. *North Carolina: The First Golden State*, Tricia Martineau Wagner, illustrated by Candace Camling***
7. *Billy Love's Wolfpack*, Jean Wolf Logan*
8. *Obama: An Intimate Portrait*, Pete Souza
9. *Promise Me, Dad: A Year of Hope, Hardship, and Purpose*, Joe Biden
10. *Grant*, Ron Chernow

*Iowa Author!

**Iowa Photographer!

***Iowa Illustrator!





2017 Holiday Catalog

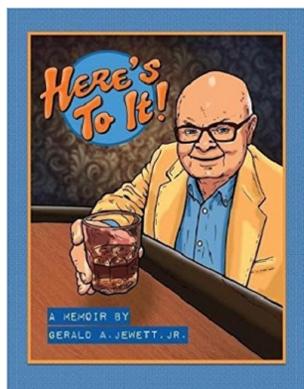
Check out our beautiful readymade catalog packed full of books to help make your holiday shopping easier!

Our winter catalog features a collection of over 100 titles in a wide range of subjects for children and adults. Many titles are of special interest to our Midwest region.

Use your coupon to receive 10% off any title in the catalog!

**PICK ONE UP AT THE STORE TODAY!
GOOD THROUGH JANUARY 31!**

**Sunday
January 7
1:00 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Gerald A. Jewett, Jr.

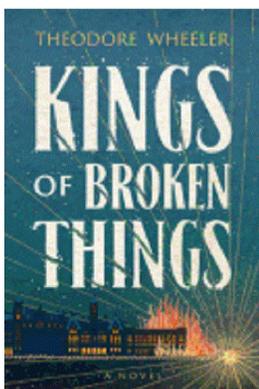
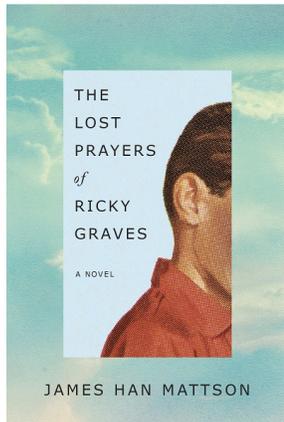
Here's To It!

Hop on board for a most scenic ride along the delightful life road of this 92-year-young author, as recounted to and compiled/edited by his eldest daughter. From trikes and bikes to cars and trains (and yes, there were airplanes!), the reader is treated to an honest peek inside an admittedly whirlwind life path, including the sometimes hilarious and sometimes heart-wrenching outcomes encountered in its many curves and twists along the way. This author and editor have employed an interesting hybrid approach that is also sure to be a genealogical gem because of the fascinating overlooks with commanding views into the lives of noteworthy ancestors who helped provide the drive for this journey. From the very beginning (the author's eventual obituary!) to the very end (his final toast to the reader), *Here's To It!* is a 'biomemorial' that's sure to please.

About the Author...

For years, others had encouraged the storytelling **Gerald A. Jewett, Jr.** to pen a book about his fascinating life. But it wasn't until his eldest daughter offered her writing and editing skills (as a 91st birthday gift) that he decided it was finally time to transcribe the keen memories onto paper. Fourteen months later, 92-year-young "Jerry" became a published author! A retired lumberman by trade, a retired pilot by default, and a never-retired funnyman by choice, tales of his eclectic involvements and escapades over the decades always have a little something for everyone. As of this time of printing, Jerry still lives independently, drives himself to meetings and events around town, travels on occasion, and keeps other residents on their toes in his retirement village.

**Sunday
January 14
2:00 p.m.**



Meet the Authors

James Han Mattson

The Lost Prayers of Ricky Graves

Connection, intimacy, love. Elusive for all of us. An acute longing for them is imprinted on our brains and hearts in our teenage years. Imagine adding the complications of grappling with your sexual identity—and technology, with its ability to isolate us and empower bullies—and you have a situation ripe for drama and, often, tragedy. Sparked by the heartrending case of Tyler Clementi, the eighteen-year-old Rutgers student who was a victim of a horrible act of cyber harassment and humiliation, and in response to the “It Gets Better” campaign,” because in many cases it most certainly does not, James Han Mattson’s *The Lost Prayers of Ricky Graves* (Little A; December 1, 2017), a raw, poignant debut, unravels the mystery of a life in all its glory: despair and regret, humor and wonder, courage and connection.

Told in alternating first-person narratives, interspersed with emails, gay chat-room exchanges, and other fragments of a youth laid bare in the age of social media, Mattson’s *The Lost Prayers of Ricky Graves* opens five months after Ricky Graves killed one of his tormentors and injured another before taking his own life. His sleepy rural community is still in shock and mourning. Ricky’s sister returns to confront a shattered, withdrawn mother and her own guilt over the brother she left adrift. Mark McVitry, the lone survivor of the deadly outburst sparked by his own cruelty, is tormented by visions of Ricky. Corky Meeks, Ricky’s surrogate older brother, grapples with doubts about the fragile boy he tried to protect and inadvertently may have doomed. And Jeremy Little, Ricky’s long-distance internet crush, seeks to atone for failing to hear the cries for help from a friend he never met.

Shocked and grieving in the wake of this tragedy, these characters are forced to face their personal longings and desires, and to search for meaning and some modicum of redemption. Most importantly, they are forced to connect with one another, IRL, and experience real intimacy and love in a world that increasingly gives rise to narcissism and detachment.

An original, timely, and deeply moving debut, *The Lost Prayers of Ricky Graves* grapples with our personal responsibility to others and how technology has shaped our connections for better or worse: necessary reading for everyone navigating life today.

About the Author...

James Han Mattson was born in Seoul, South Korea, and raised in North Dakota. A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and a recipient of the Michener-Copernicus Fellowship, he has taught writing at the University of Iowa, the University of Cape Town, the University of Maryland, George Washington University, and the University of California–Berkeley. In 2009, he moved to Korea to reunite with his birth family after nearly thirty years of separation. He currently lives in Maryland. www.JamesHanMattson.com

Theodore Wheeler

Kings of Broken Things

During the waning days of World War I, three lost souls find themselves adrift in Omaha, Nebraska, at a time of unprecedented nationalism, xenophobia, and political corruption. Adolescent European refugee Karel Miihlstein’s life is transformed after neighborhood boys discover his prodigious natural talent for baseball. Jake Strauss, a young man with a violent past and desperate for a

second chance, is drawn into a criminal underworld. Evie Chambers, a kept woman, is trying to make ends meet and looking every which way to escape her cheerless existence. As wounded soldiers return from the front and black migrant workers move north in search of economic opportunity, the immigrant wards of Omaha become a tinderbox of racial resentment stoked by unscrupulous politicians. Punctuated by an unspeakable act of mob violence, the fates of Karel, Jake, and Evie will become inexorably entangled with the schemes of a ruthless political boss whose will to power knows no bounds. Written in the tradition of Don DeLillo and Colum McCann, with a great debt to Ralph Ellison, Theodore Wheeler's debut novel *Kings of Broken Things* captures the fragility of youth in a time of political and social unrest. As the nature of their morality is challenged, each lost soul must find the balance between finding acceptance and recognizing the sacrifices they must make to survive.



About the Author...

Theodore Wheeler is the author of the novel *Kings of Broken Things* and a collection of short fiction, *Bad Faith*. His work has appeared in *The Southern Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Boulevard*, *Best New American Voices*, and *New Stories from the Midwest*, and has been recognized with an AWP Intro Journals Award, a Marianne Russo Award from Key West Literary Seminar, and a fellowship from Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart, Germany. A graduate of the MFA program at Creighton University, he currently teaches creative writing at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and covers a civil law and politics beat as a reporter.

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OVER
2100
LIKES!



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2300
FOLLOWERS!

Just hit CTRL + click above to like or follow us!

Storybook Time
Every Thursday @ 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 2
Beaverdale Writers Group

Hunter's Picks Book Club
Tuesday, January 9 @ 7:00 p.m.
Salvage the Bones
by Jesmyn Ward

Urbandale United Church of Christ
Monday, January 15 @ 6:00 p.m.
Commonwealth
by Ann Patchett

Environmental Book Club
Saturday, January 20 @ 10:00 a.m.
Cultivating an Ecological Conscience
by Fred Kirschenmann

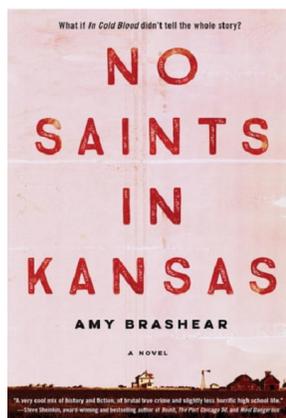
Monday, January 22 @ 6:00 p.m.
Mind-Body-Spirit Book Club
*The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of
America's National Parks*
by Terry Tempest Williams

Tuesday, January 23 @ 7:00 p.m.
Mystery Book Club
Winter's Child
by Margaret Coel



TAKE A LOOK AT OUR HANDSELLING FAVORITES WITH A STRONG MIDWEST REGIONAL APPEAL

NO SAINTS IN KANSAS by Amy Brashear



[A] must read...carefully researched. —The New York Post

"Gripping and fast-paced, this meticulously researched historical fiction will reinvigorate a new generation to Capote and tell another side of the Clutter murders." —The Emporia Gazette

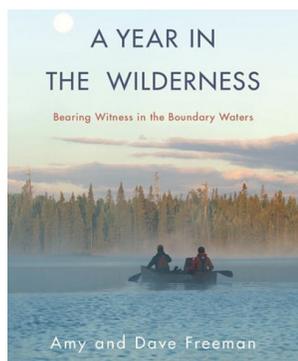
"Brashear's stunning YA novel is as spectacularly written as it is researched. This is definitely one of the most unique YA novels you'll read this year." —PASTE Magazine

A young adult, fictional reimagining of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* and the brutal murders that inspired it. Gripping and fast-paced, this meticulously researched historical fiction will reinvigorate a new generation to Capote.

No Saints in Kansas sees the aftermath of the infamous quadruple murder of the Clutter family through the eyes of a teenage girl who counted Nancy Clutter as a friend.

Amy Brashear was born in Arkansas but spent her elementary school years in Garden City, Kansas, just six miles from Holcomb. Amy heard about the Clutter family murders from a childhood friend, though it wasn't until she read *In Cold Blood* that she finally understood their significance. *No Saints in Kansas* is her debut novel.

A YEAR IN THE WILDERNESS by Amy and Dave Freeman

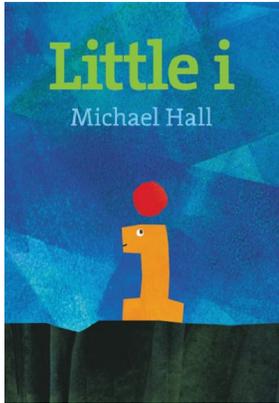


"In this extraordinary book, [the Freemans] have done us all an invaluable service, offering a wonderfully compelling testimony for the value of wild places and the creatures who inhabit them. I urge you to read it, and then to join the Freemans in advocating for the preservation of the Boundary Waters." —Vice President Walter Mondale

When the Freemans learned of mining in the area's watershed, they decided to take action—by spending a year in the wilderness. This book tells the story of their adventure in northern Minnesota: of loons whistling under a moonrise, of mushrooms cooked over a fire, of a pine marten stalking a hare through winter's first snowfall. In visceral language and gorgeous photos, the Freemans show us the value of wilderness and why we must protect it.

Amy and Dave Freeman's expeditions have taken them over thirty thousand miles by canoe, kayak, and dogsled through some of the world's wildest places, from the Amazon to the Arctic. National Geographic named Amy and Dave Adventurers of the Year in 2014 and their images, videos, and articles have been published by a wide range of media sources from the CBC, NBC, and FOX to the *Chicago Tribune*, *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *Backpacker*, *Canoe and Kayak*, and Minnesota Public Radio.

LITTLE i
by Michael Hall

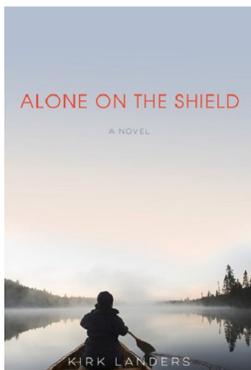


"A wonderfully clever and ultimately triumphant journey of self-discovery...The art, like the text, is bold, simple, and engaging. Brightly colored textured collaged paper makes for the perfect technique to deliver this high-concept tale. Little i may be a mere cutout letter, but his humanity shines through." — New York Times Book Review

When Little i's dot falls off, rolls down a hill, over a cliff, and into the sea, Little i sets out on a journey to rescue it. A charming, suspenseful, and wholly original picture book about the adventure of growing up from the acclaimed and bestselling creator of *Red: A Crayon's Story* and *Wonderfall*.

Michael Hall is an award-winning designer whose work has been widely recognized for its simple and engaging approach. He studied biochemistry and psychology at the University of Michigan and worked in biomedical research for several years before becoming a designer. He is the creator of several acclaimed picture books for children, including *Wonderfall*, *Frankencrayon*, *Red: A Crayon's Story*, *My Heart Is Like a Zoo*, *Perfect Square*, and *It's an Orange Aardvark!* Michael Hall lives with his family in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

ALONE ON THE SHIELD
by Kirk Landers



"Tense and dramatic, absorbing from beginning to end, one of those precious tales that manages to be both a page-turner and a thoughtful novel of great depth and resonance." — Booklist

Alone on the Shield is a story about the Vietnam war and the things that connect us. It is the story of aging Baby Boomers, of the rare kinds of people who paddle alone into the wilderness, and of the kind of adventure that comes only to the bold and the brave.

Kirk Landers launched his professional writing career in the US Army, later entering the special-interest and trade magazine worlds. His magazines won more than a hundred awards for journalistic excellence, and he is a member of the Construction Writers Hall of Fame. He lives in the suburbs of Chicago.