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# The Browser

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**JANUARY 2021**

## Back Room/Front Page: One for the books

It's time for those "Year in Review" segments that pop up on our screens and newsfeeds, as if we need the reminder. But seeing 2020 in the aggregate, month by month, makes me wonder: 1) how we ever made it through, and 2) grateful that we did.

Sadly, not everyone did make it through, and most of the social, economic, and political issues that dominated the headlines this year are still with us and will likely be around for some time. In our little corner of the world, we've noticed that one thing has been constant – the ability of books to offer comfort, enlightenment, and discovery. In the early days of the pandemic, it seemed people were seeking escape through fiction, travelogues, humor, cooking – anything for a distraction. During the summer months, in the wake of the Black Lives Matter marches, sales of antiracist titles surged as folks were looking to educate and inform themselves. And one of our top holiday books this year was *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse*, with its message of hope and kindness. The power of books cannot be underestimated.

A huge **THANK YOU** for all your support this year, especially during these past two months. November and December were crazy; there were some glitches up and down the supply chain and shipping channels, and shopping by phone and email had its challenges. But you took our message to heart and shopped locally and early! We missed the hustle and bustle of the in-store traffic, but are looking forward to welcoming you back into the store as soon as it is safer for our staff and customers. We're hopeful that will be soon. We have some work to do to transform our distribution/shipping center back to an actual bookstore again, but when the time comes, we'll be ready. Happy 2021, and we can't wait to see you!

Thanks for reading and stay safe,  
Alice

**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](mailto: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**

## December Best Sellers

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

1. *A Promised Land*, Barack Obama
2. *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse*, Charlie Mackesy
3. *The Heart Hungers for Wildness*, Diane Glass\*
4. *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, Isabel Wilkerson
5. *The Vanishing Half*, Britt Bennett
6. *The White Man Who Stayed*, James A. Autry \*
7. *Classic Restaurants of Des Moines and Their Recipes*, Darcy Dougherty Malsby\*
8. *The Best of Me*, David Sedaris
9. *Ready Player Two*, Ernest Cline
10. *Daylight*, David Baldacci

\*Iowa Author!

