



Convenience

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The Browser

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DECEMBER 2018

Back Room/Front Page: Busy, busy

Well, we've kicked off the holiday season with Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, and it looks like the predictions are true that it will be a very busy shopping season this year. Thank you all for your support! We look forward to serving you for many years to come.

You'll notice that our event calendar is a little light this month and that is by design. While authors love to do book events in December because the store is so much busier, we realized that it was actually making it more difficult for customers to shop, with essentially 25% of the store inaccessible to browsing and purchasing during an author event. We've made a few exceptions for Iowa authors who are visiting from out-of-town for the holidays, so stop by and show them some love if you're in the area.

Holiday Happenings in Beaverdale on Saturday! We'll be open until 8:00 for the festivities, which include a storytime with Santa. This has become one of our favorite traditions at the store.

Our **Holiday Catalogs** are here, and the store is stocked with all kinds of books for your gift list. In addition to our catalog display, we have plenty of bestsellers, holiday-specific books for kids and adults, many Iowa and Midwest titles. If we don't have it in the store, we can special order for you and usually have the book here in 2-3 business days. And we're happy to recommend titles if you're stumped.

Speaking of recommendations, **Hunter** will be on Iowa Public Radio's *Talk of Iowa* on Monday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m. Listen to him talk about his favorite books for 2018.

Thanks for reading,
Alice

November Best Sellers:

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

1. *Becoming*, Michelle Obama
2. *The Wonky Donkey*, Craig Smith
3. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid #13: Meltdown*, Jeff Kinney
4. *Hope Never Dies*, Andrew Shaffer
5. *Almost Everything*, Anne Lamott
6. *Red and Lulu*, Matt Tavares
7. *Storm Lake*, Art Cullen*
8. *The Travelling Cat Chronicles*, Hiro Arikawa
9. *The Mukluk Ball*, Katharine Johnson
10. *Santa Bruce*, Ryan T. Higgins

*Iowa Author!

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Saturday, December 1

4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Beaverdale Shop Hop

Details on Page 2

Friday, December 7

6:30 p.m.

Book Signing

Connie R. Meester

Valorie Broadhurst Woerdehoff

Tsugigami

Tuesday, December 18

6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Audrey Mackaman

Camellia in Camelot:

A Dog in King Arthur's Court

Monday, December 24

WE WILL CLOSE AT 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25

CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

Thursday, December 27

SEASON OF STORY

Monday, December 31

WE WILL CLOSE AT 5:00 p.m.





**Saturday
December 1
4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Stop by during the Beaverdale Shop Hop
and see what we have for you!**

Free Eat Sleep Read tote bag with purchase

Santa Storytime at 6:15

**Jewelry Trunk Show with Beaverdale resident Mary Nelson of Pauline's Jewelry Box
(jewelry crafted from vintage items)**

Sale items will be 50% off

At the Gallery



**Monday, December 3
6:30 p.m.**

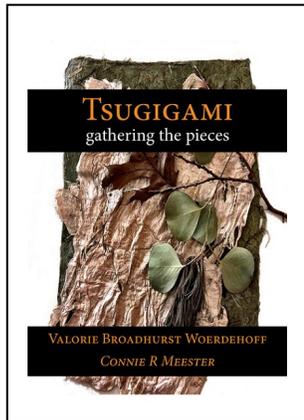
Deadly Ground

by Thomas W. Starbuck

218 5th Street, West Des Moines
<http://www.artisangallery218.com/>



**Friday
December 7
6:30 p.m.**



Book Signing

**Connie R. Meester and
Valorie Broadhurst Woerdehoff**

Tsugigami

In *Tsugigami*, a selection of linked verse, we hear the voices of two women whose remarkable writing partnership spans the breadth of 24 years. Working in collaboration, they explore everything from the mundane to the majestic. Grounded in a sense of place and mindful of our relationship to nature, they take us on a journey of love, loss, family, and transitions, from childhood memories and current events, to ghosts and dreams.

About the Authors...

Connie R Meester was raised in Perry, Iowa, where several generations of her family have resided. For 30 years, she lived in Dubuque, where she raised three children. She left Dubuque in 2005 and lived in Attleboro, Mass., eventually migrating to a log cabin on an Iowa lake, before settling in residence with Jim Giles, her life partner, in Des Moines. She graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor's of Art degree, emphasis in Special Education, and pursued graduate work at the Pacifica Graduate Institute in Mythological Studies and Depth Psychology, additionally, receiving a Certificate in Advanced DreamTending, with a vision toward the arts. Her poetry, including haiku, has earned her numerous awards and been published widely in juried literary journals and anthologies.

Valorie Broadhurst Woerdehoff was raised in Northern California, served in the U.S. Navy and has since held professional roles, primarily in higher education, for over 30 years. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Writing and a Master of Arts degree in Theology, both from Loras College, Dubuque. The mother of five children and grandmother of eight, she is married to Tom Woerdehoff and has for the last nearly 35 years called Dubuque home. Over 250 of her poems, including numerous haiku, senryu, and rengay, along with articles have been published in magazines, juried journals, and anthologies. Her writing garnered a grant from the Iowa Arts Council and has earned awards in local and national competition.



2018 Holiday Catalog

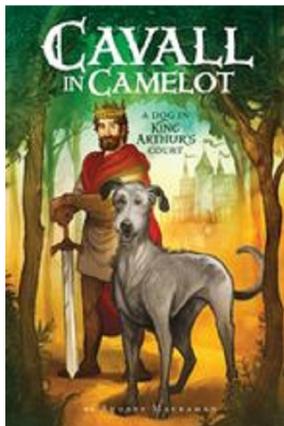
Check out our beautiful readymade catalog packed full of books to help make your holiday shopping easier!

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!

**Tuesday
December 18
6:30 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Audrey Mackaman

Cavall in Camelot: A Dog in King Arthur's Court

Follow Cavall as he embarks on a quest that will put the unbreakable bond between a dog and his person to the ultimate test. When Cavall and his older brother, Glessic, leave the comfort of their simple barn to join the lavish court of Camelot, Cavall wants nothing more than to prove he's a good dog to the great knights and dogs of the castle—especially to King Arthur. But Gless says only the best dogs are worthy of greatness, and Cavall has never been as strong, brave, or fast as his brother. Meanwhile, malevolent forces lurk in Camelot, and Cavall must figure out how to protect his person. To make matters worse, Arthur's mysterious nightmares are threatening to shake his grip on reality and undermine his authority as king. To fight back against the dangers of the dream world, Cavall will need help from some loyal hounds and the enchanting, sometimes frightening creatures who call themselves the fay. In this captivating debut from Audrey Mackaman, Cavall will have to prove not only that he can be a good dog for his person, but that he is capable of a greatness all his own.

About the Author...

Audrey Mackaman grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, reading fantasy novels and hoping someday to write her own. Now she lives on Whidbey Island in Washington, where she helps aspiring authors with their books while writing the adventures of Cavall in Camelot. Audrey is an animal lover who volunteers at animal shelters and dog sits whenever she can. Her clients' pooches were the inspiration for Cavall and the rest of the dogs at Camelot. Cavall in Camelot is her debut novel.

The writers Group and most book clubs will be taking the month off to celebrate the holidays. Check our website to see January dates and book selections.

**Environmental Book Club
Saturday, December 15 @ 10:00 a.m.**
The Water Will Rise
by Jeff Goodell

Connect with us!



OVER
2200
LIKES!



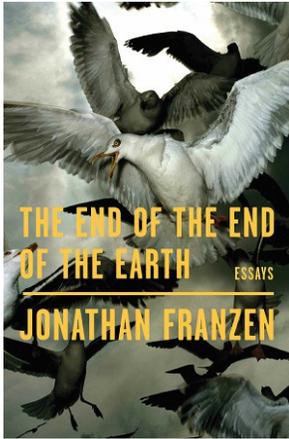
OVER
2300
FOLLOWERS!

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



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

THE END OF THE END OF THE EARTH by Jonathan Franzen



A sharp and provocative new essay collection from the award-winning author of *Freedom* and *The Corrections*

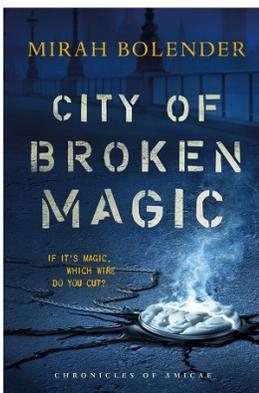
The essayist, Jonathan Franzen writes, is like “a fire-fighter, whose job, while everyone else is fleeing the flames of shame, is to run straight into them.” For the past twenty-five years, even as his novels have earned him worldwide acclaim, Franzen has led a second life as a risk-taking essayist. Now, at a moment when technology has inflamed tribal hatreds and the planet is beset by unnatural calamities, he is back with a new collection of essays that recall us to more humane ways of being in the world.

Franzen’s great loves are literature and birds, and *The End of the End of the Earth* is a passionate argument for both. Where the new media tend to confirm one’s prejudices, he writes, literature “invites you to ask whether you might be somewhat wrong, maybe even entirely wrong, and to imagine why someone else might hate you.” Whatever his subject, Franzen’s essays are always skeptical of received opinion, steeped in irony, and frank about his own failings. He’s frank about birds, too (they kill “everything imaginable”), but his reporting and reflections on them—on seabirds in New Zealand, warblers in East Africa, penguins in Antarctica—are both a moving celebration of their beauty and resilience and a call to action to save what we love.

Calm, poignant, carefully argued, full of wit, *The End of the End of the Earth* provides a welcome breath of hope and reason.

Jonathan Franzen is the author of five novels, including *Freedom* and *The Corrections*, and five works of nonfiction and translation, including *The Kraus Project* and *Farther Away*, all published by FSG. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the German Akademie der Künste, and the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

CITY OF BROKEN MAGIC by Mirah Bolender



Mirah Bolender's fast-paced, adventure fantasy debut, *City of Broken Magic*, features a bomb squad that defuses magic weapons.

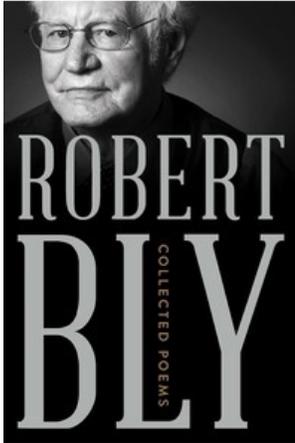
i09—Best of November Science Fiction and Fantasy
SyFy—Best of November Science Fiction and Fantasy
Kirkus SFF—Best of November Science Fiction and Fantasy

Five hundred years ago, magi created a weapon they couldn’t control. An infestation that ate magic—and anything else it came into contact with. Enemies and allies were equally filling.

Only an elite team of non-magical humans, known as sweepers, can defuse and dispose of infestations before they spread. Most die before they finish training. Laura, a new team member, has stayed alive longer than most. Now, she’s the last—and only—sweeper standing between the city and a massive infestation.

Mirah Bolender graduated with majors in creative writing and art in May 2014. A lifelong traveler, she has traveled and studied overseas, most notably in Japan, and these experiences leak into her work. *City of Broken Magic* is her debut fantasy novel. She currently lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

COLLECTED POEMS
by Robert Bly

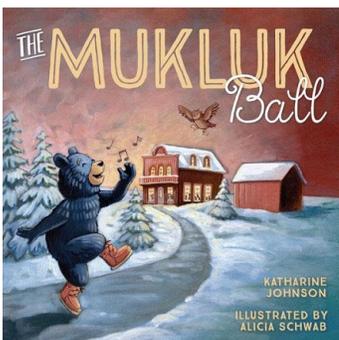


Gathering more than sixty years of poetry, *Collected Poems* showcases the brilliant career of a "great American transcendentalist" (*New York Times*).

An extraordinary culmination for Robert Bly's lifelong intellectual adventure, *Collected Poems* presents the full magnitude of his body of work for the first time. Bly has long been the voice of transcendentalism and meditative mysticism for his generation; every stage of his work is warmed by his devotion to the art of poetry and his affection for the varied worlds that inspire him. Influenced by Emerson and Thoreau alongside spiritual traditions from Sufism to Gnosticism, he is a poet moved by mysteries, speaking the language of images. *Collected Poems* gathers the fourteen volumes of his impressive oeuvre into one place, including his imagistic debut, *Silence in the Snowy Fields* (1962); the clear-eyed truth-telling of his National Book Award-winning collection, *The Light Around the Body* (1967); the masterful prose poems of *The Morning Glory* (1975); and the fiercely introspective, uniquely American ghazals of his latest collection, *Talking into the Ear of a Donkey* (2011). A monumental poetic achievement, *Collected Poems* makes clear why poets and lovers of poetry have long looked to Robert Bly for emotional authenticity, moral authority, and artistic inspiration.

Robert Bly is the author of numerous poetry volumes, as well as works of nonfiction and translation. His honors include the Poetry Society of America's Frost Medal and the National Book Award. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

THE MUKLUK BALL
by Katharine
Johnson
Illustrated by
Alicia Schwab



Karhu the bear lives in the piney north woods near the bustling burg of Finn Town. When he sees a billboard advertising Mukluk Ball: Come One, Come All, he wants to go! Unfortunately, a few obstacles stand in his path. First: he needs to buy a pair of mukluks, soft leather boots perfect for dancing. Karhu brings his innate skills to the town's summer festival. He sells freshly picked blueberries and comforting bear hugs to earn enough for this essential purchase.

Next: he needs to learn how to dance. Luckily, talented friends like Millie the square dancer and Mary Ann the librarian and Inga the folksinger agree to teach him. Soon he can polka and chachacha and boogie-woogie. And then, the most vexing hurdle of all: with the dance set for January, Karhu needs a surefire way to wake up from his long winter's nap. Here, his friend Zazaa the owl swoops in to offer a solution. Will the Mukluk Ball live up to Karhu's dreams? The warmth and music and fellowship filling Finn Town Hall might just make for the best night of this bear's life.

Katharine Johnson wears mukluks all winter in Cloquet, Minnesota; her stories have been published in magazines and anthologies.

Alicia Schwab has been drawing and dancing her whole life. She is the illustrator of *Good Grief* and *Great Group Skits*.