



WORDS BY THE WATER

The Drury Lane Books Newsletter

Vol. 27, May 2022



Our founder Joan Drury passed away in 2020, and the bookstore ownership passed to her children, Kelly & Kevin Kager. In March, Kelly sat down to write to our wonderful community of readers.

Today, I was sitting outside on the deck for the first time, enjoying the sunshine and watching the snow melt. It has been a very snowy and cold winter in Cook County this year, and I am eagerly awaiting the first glimpse of my snowdrops as the days lengthen. There are pussywillows in the woods and you can hear creeklets running under the snow. Spring is definitely on the way, although I fully expect more snow before we're done.

It's hard to believe that we're entering a second spring without Mom. It frequently still feels so immediate, her passing. Most of my life I worked with Mom, in one way or another, from when I was a kid and helped stuff bills into envelopes (at a penny a pop) for the garbage company, to being the managing editor at Spinsters Books, to the onsite manager at Norcroft: a Writing Retreat for Women, and through all of that functioning as her editor. The only place I did not work with Mom was at the bookstore, because by the time the bookstore opened, I was out west working as a whitewater raft guide, and then working for the National Park Service, which I still do today. It is strange to be working at Drury Lane Books without her. But Kevin and I can think of no better tribute to her memory and her

love of words and reading and writing than to continue the bookstore as the second-generation owners.

We grew up in a highly literate family, and I don't just mean our immediate family, but aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents—everybody read books, owned books, bought books, shared books. Mom started reading to us before we spoke. We probably held books almost before we held anything else. While we received Christmas presents from Santa Claus, we also received presents from WICWAB, which stands for What Is Christmas Without A Book. These presents were, needless to say: books. Books were not dreaded obligatory gifts—but gifts to be celebrated. And as we grew older, they were gifts to be curated to give to others. I know I spend inordinate amounts of time reading about books, reading reviews of books, or listening to reviews of books in an effort to find the absolutely perfect book for each of my family members. Kevin and I have spoken about the joy of a new horde of books, how you must read the back covers, the inside covers, and just bask in their presence while deciding which one to read first.

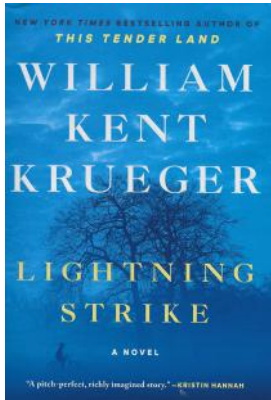
We want Drury Lane Books to feel this way: a horde of books to bask in; to read the back covers; the inside covers; to speak with the staff members or other shoppers about; before selecting a new delight for yourself or as a gift for a loved one.

Can't travel to the bookstore as often as you'd like?

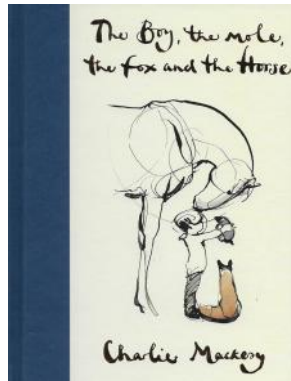
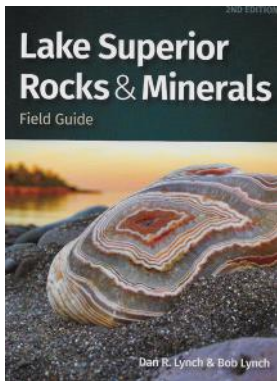
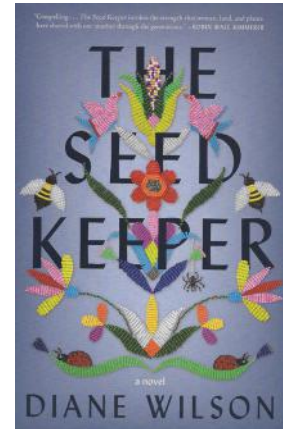
- Order online 24/7 - Ship to you - Free pickup at store.
- Keep in touch on Facebook or Instagram. we post about upcoming events, what we're reading, and yes, photos of the lake.
- Living offline? Call 218-387-3370 to order books or gift certificates.

Bestsellers 2022

FICTION



The Night Watchman Louise Erdrich
Firekeeper's Daughter Angeline Boulley
Iron Lake (20th Anniversary) William Kent Krueger
Lightning Strike William Kent Krueger
The Seed Keeper Diane Wilson
The Overstory Richard Powers
Still Life Louise Penny
The House in the Cerulean Sea TJ Klune
Trees of Minnesota Field Guide Stan Tekiela
Finding the Mother Tree Suzanne Simard
Wolf Kill Cary J Griffith
Circe Madeline Miller

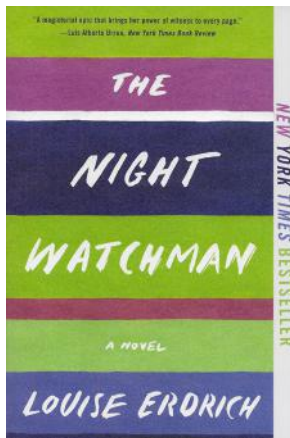
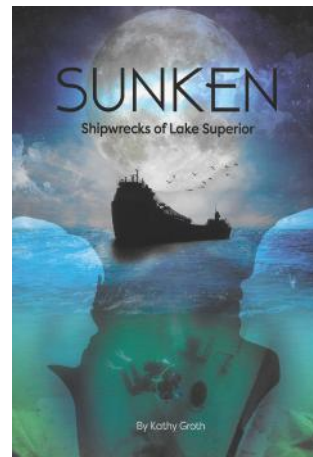


NON-FICTION

Walking the Old Road Staci Lola Drouillard
Her Island: The Story of Quetico's Longest Serving Interior Ranger Joe Friedrichs
Braiding Sweetgrass Robin Wall Kimmerer
North Shore Coloring Book Mike Klein
Brilliant Maps for Curious Minds Ian Wright
Lake Superior Rocks and Minerals Dan R. Lynch
Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times Katherine May
The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse Charlie Mackesy

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Sunken: Shipwrecks of Lake Superior Kathy Groth
Ice Cream and Fish Linnea Ljosenvoer & Iris Works
Rock Collecting for Kids Dan R. Lynch
Dog Man: Mothering Heights Dav Pilkey
Antler, Bear, Canoe Betsy Bowen
We Are Water Protectors Carole Lindstrom
Goodnight Loon Abe Sauer
Ending: The Last Katherine Applegate
Rowley Jefferson's Spooky Stories Jeff Kinney
Hush Hush, Forest Mary Casanova
Seven Ways to Trick a Troll Lise Lunge-Larsen & Kari Vick



“When he needed to calm his mind, he opened a book. Any book. He had never failed to feel refreshed, even if the book was no good.”

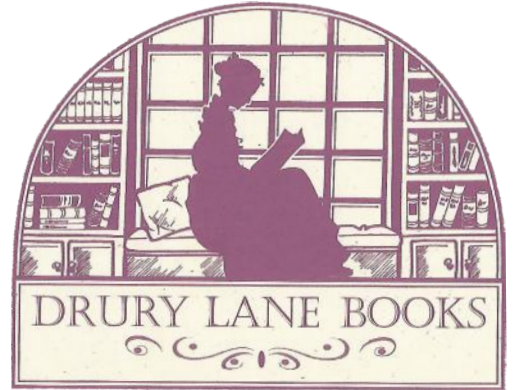
—Louise Erdrich, *The Night Watchman*

Celebrating 20 years of Drury Lane Books!

On June 15th, 2002, Joan Drury opened a new bookstore in the little cottage on the East Bay in Grand Marais.

The little cottage itself was built as a residence around 1905, and was a retail space from the 1950's on, housing a gift shop, a shoe repair shop, and then Sivertson's Gallery until Joan Drury purchased the property in 2002. You can read more local history in Eugene Glader's meticulously researched book *Downtown Grand Marais!*

Joan had a clear vision for the little bookstore. All new books, and only books. A section dedicated to our many Minnesota authors of both fiction and nonfiction. A focus on women writers, writers of color, and LGBTQ writers. Above all, a focus on "excellent books", as she put it. Books we love, we return to, we share with others.



TOP SELLERS IN 2002

Those Jordan Girls Joan Drury

A Country Doctor's Casebook

Roger MacDonald

Dads & Daughters Joe Kelly

Prodigal Summer Barbara Kingsolver

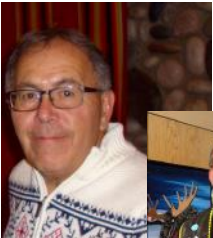
As Good a Lover as Any Tree

Kay Grindland

In 20 years, we've employed over 25 wonderful booksellers. Long time managers Lee Stewart and Bruce Stahl established the store as a gathering place for readers and writers. Gwen Danfelt has been manager since 2015, assisted by Jane Gellner and other local booklovers. We are thrilled to see how the pandemic and other societal changes have brought about a resurgence of reading, and renewed support for independent bookstores. We are also pleased to see the publishing world promoting more diverse voices; we've come a long way since 2002.

Your loyalty and enthusiasm for our little bookstore has allowed us to not only survive in recent years, but thrive. Thank you!

Author Talks 2022



Sat. June 11, 6 pm

Thomas Peacock

The Fire and Walking Softly
and

Sam Zimmerman

Following My Spirit Home



Friday, June 24th, 6 pm

Staci Droiullard

Seven Aunts



Sat Oct 22, 6 pm

Peter Geye

The Ski Jumpers

Children's Story Hour

Saturday at 11 AM

Outside on the bookstore lawn

(canceled in poor weather, call ahead)

Memorial Day to Labor Day

Kevin Kager, our co-owner and long time story reader, is sure to have kids (and adults) laughing and cheering to his read-aloud antics with favorite picture books!

Special guest author:

Sat July 23, 11 AM regional author Yvonne Pearson will read her children's books aloud, teach kids how to make a loon call, and answer questions about being an author!

"When I get a little money, I buy books; and if any is left, I buy food and clothes."

—Erasmus

Staff Recommends

“Close your eyes and visualize the best possible outcome. When it’s not looking, grasp it by the neck and fling it into reality.”

—*Becoming Duchess Goldblatt*

GWEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS



1619 Project: A New Origin Story

by Nikole Hannah-Jones and the New York Times Magazine

What American History! Each essay takes us to a different aspect of our nation, from Democracy or Music to Sugar or Capitalism. I have read a fair bit about racial history and race issues in our society, but this book ties it together, fills in the gaps, and helps me understand our complex world today so much better! We are a great nation with a very human (read: flawed and self-motivated) history, and we need a fresh understanding of it.

Becoming Duchess Goldblatt

by Anonymous

How does a massively popular (and truly loved) made-up Twitter personality come into being? The witty and endearing Duchess Goldblatt was created by the author in her time of loneliness, and her tweets interspersed throughout the memoir will make you see the good in social media. The author makes us her friend and confidante through a terrible life transition (abrupt divorce, loss of friends, single parenthood) that somehow is refreshing and funny. I devoured it in two days while on vacation. Such good writing!



SARAH'S RECOMMENDATION

Things to Look Forward To

by Sophie Blackall

As we've been moving through the last couple years we have felt immense gratitude, and also loss, uncertainty fatigue...and sometimes it's a downright slog. When I saw Sophie's book, *Things to Look Forward To*, with its red fabric spine and gold shellac print, I held on tight; I had found a treasure. There are 52 short pieces about these joy-giving things such as writing a letter, watching a flock of birds, and painting silly faces on eggs. The

sometimes whimsical, tender, and often relatable stories come off the page with the accompanying paintings. I'm going to keep Blackwell's book on my table for a while both as a source of comfort and inspiration.

JANE'S RECOMMENDATION

The Thursday Murder Club

by Richard Osman

Osman's plotting is both deft and daft in equal measure; and the key members of the over-60s murder squad, Elizabeth, Red, Joyce, and Ibrahim are up for solving a murder or two. Or was there three? I fell in love with this quartet and their amazing sleuthing abilities! All I can say is I hope there are many more adventures to come.



AUDREY'S RECOMMENDATION

The Cat Who Saved Books

by Sosuke Natsukawa

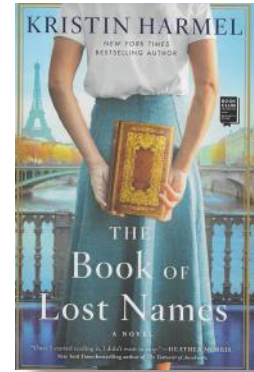
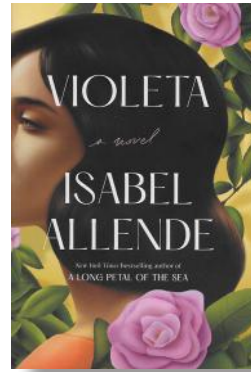
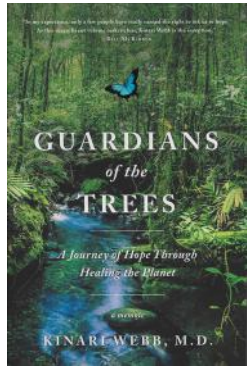
The Cat Who Saved Books... a novel by Sosuke Natsukawa is a whimsical book translated from Japanese. I absolutely adore cats and books, so it was a thrill to find this treasure about a cat that requests help from a teenager to save books from abusive and negligent owners. Rintaro Natsuki is an introvert who has found his life in books at his grandfather's second-

hand bookshop. After his grandfather passes and Rintaro must liquidate all the books, a cat appears to him. In their adventures Rintaro experiences fantasy, his first love, and the remarkable talking cat. This light novel is "purrfect" for a read between more intense books.

What Book Groups in Cook County are Reading

“There’s really no such thing as the ‘voiceless’. There are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard.”

—Arundhati Roy



801 BOOK CLUB

The Overstory Richard Powers

The Firekeeper's Daughter

Angeline Boulley

How Much of These Hills is Gold

C Pam Zhang

AVID READERS

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

Kim Michele Richardson

Braiding Sweetgrass Robin Wall Kimmerer

The Book of Lost Names

Kristin Harmel

THE BOOK TROUTS

The Girls in the Stilt House Kelly Mustian

Rules of Civility Amor Towles

The Book of Form and Emptiness

Ruth Ozeki

BOOKS THAT BIND

Gilead Marilynne Robinson

A Children's Bible Lydia Millet

Fly Away, Peter David Malouf

HOVLAND BOOK GROUP (open to public)

Guardian of the Trees Kinari Webb

The Other Einstein Marie Benedict

Violeta Isabel Allende

NO GUILT BOOK GROUP

The Song of Achilles Madeline Miller

The Count of Monte Cristo

Alexander Dumas

The Shortest Day Colm Toibin

SHAKESPEARE READERS GROUP

(open to public)

Reading *Romeo and Juliet*

WEST END BEER AND BOOK POSSE

This is Your Mind on Plants Michael Pollan

How to Change Your Mind Michael Pollan

Bewilderment Richard Powers

WEST OF EDEN BOOK CLUB

Educated Tara Westover

The Last Bookshop in London Madeline Martin

Northwest Angle William Kent Krueger

WHOLE LOT OF WOMEN WINE AND WORDS

The Beekeeper of Aleppo Christy Lefteri

Normal People Sally Rooney

Hamnet Maggie O'Farrell

DRURY LANE BOOK GROUP

Our monthly book discussions are open to anyone! Join us any of the following Sundays at 5 PM.

May 15 – *The Lincoln Highway* Amor Towles

Jun 19 – *The Things We Cannot Say* Kelly Rimmer

Jul 17 – *The Unseen* Roy Jacobsen

Aug 21 – *Pride: A Pride & Prejudice Remix* Ibi Zoboi

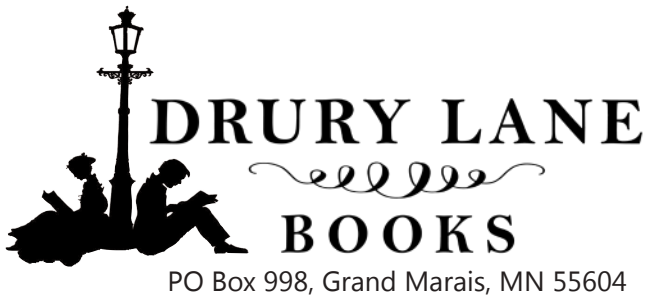
Sep 18 – *Homegoing* Yaa Gyasi

Oct 1 – *All That She Carried* Tiya Miles

Nov 20 – *The Sentence* Louise Erdrich

Dec 18 – *Dictionary of Lost Words* Pip Williams

Looking to dive back into a classic? Retired English professor and bookseller Mary Ellen leads a classics book group, contact the store to join!



OPEN YEAR AROUND

Mon 10-5
Tues 10-5
Wed 10-5
Thurs 10-5
Fri 10-5
Sat 10-5
Sun 10-4 (May - Dec)

*“You think your pain and your
heartbreak are unprecedented in the
history of the world, but then you
read.”*

--James Baldwin