



Ann Arbor Independent Booksellers Association

A community rooted in books

March Newlsetter

March Book Event Highlights

Tuesday, March 7th: Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* at 7:30 pm, Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St. Books for this event will be provided by Literati Bookstore.

Through (at least) Thursday, March 9th: *I Am Not Your Negro*, a documentary on James Baldwin's unfinished last book, at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St.

Friday, March 10th: Joy Harjo, poet, author, and performer at 6 pm, at the Michigan League Ballroom, 911 N. University. Books for this event will be provided by Literati Bookstore.

Friday, March 17th: Jennifer Granick, author of *American Spies: Modern Surveillance, Why You Should Care, and What to Do About It* at 7 pm, Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Ave.

Wednesday, March 29th: Feminist Book Club at Literati at 7 pm, 124 E. Washington. March's selection: Yewande Omotoso's *The Woman Next Door*. (15% off when you mention the book club.)

For more March events, please visit our all-inclusive calendar [here](#).

A Unique Event for Kids

For almost ten years, the Crazy Wisdom Tea Room has been putting a unique spin on children's storytime with their highly successful seasonal Fairy Tea events. I recently connected with tea room manager Jessica Meyer to learn more about them.

Rachel Pastiva: What is a Fairy Tea, and what can participants expect out of attending one?

Jessica Meyer: The Fairy Tea is a whimsical family event open to the community, prepared and hosted by the baristas in the Crazy Wisdom Tea Room. They last about an hour and a half, and over the course of the tea, guests are offered special treats, and a small, curated menu of our teas; storytime with a fairy; and a fun activity in our community room -- usually a magic show with local magician Joshua Wilde. All tea room staff dress as fairies, complete with wings, and participants are encouraged to dress up in fairy attire as well.

Rachel: What age range are Fairy Teas geared towards?

Jessica: Most of the children who attend a Fairy Tea are between three and seven, and the atmosphere and tempo of the event cater to that age range. We do have younger guests as well, and they are welcome, too!

Rachel: How often does Crazy Wisdom Tea Room host Fairy Teas, and how much do they cost?

Jessica: Fairy Teas are hosted three times a year, in October, February, and May. Tickets are \$11, and may be purchased on the Crazy Wisdom website, starting one month before the upcoming event. Children 18 months and younger are free.

Rachel: When is the next Fairy Tea taking place?

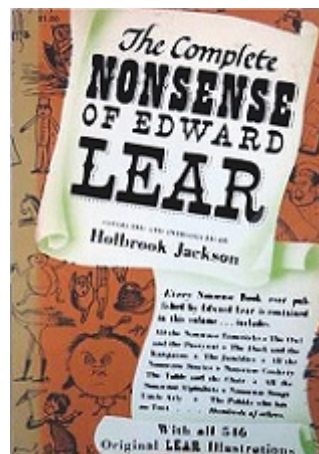
Jessica: Our next Fairy Tea will be a special Mother's Day tea on May 14th,

with a single seating at 1 pm. Tickets may be purchased online [here](#).

[Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room](#) is located at 114 S. Main St.



The Book That Changed My Life



I first encountered *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear* in 1967. Had it been nothing more than a weirdly illustrated bundle of limericks, it probably wouldn't have made such a profound impression on my ten-year-old brain. What riveted me were the nonsense songs and stories, nonsensical recipes for impossible-to-prepare

entrees, and three surrealistically drawn portfolios of nonsense botany. To me this all seemed like an attractive alternative to a violent and irrational world full of embittered, miserable adults. Lear seemed to be urging his readers to find within ourselves a deeply personal creative alchemy, capable of transforming Weltschmerz into whimsy. Thenceforth, my role models became the Akond of Swat, the Yonghy Bonghy Bo, and the Dong with a Luminous Nose.

Whenever I revisit my trusty one dollar “Dover Edition designed for years of use”, I realize all over again how a chance encounter with *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear* inspired me to become who I’ve been morphing into ever since. Edward Lear’s unconventional approach to reality has seen me through all kinds of challenges, in a world that today seems more nonsensical than ever.

--arwulf arwulf

media consultant and freelance writer

A Book Scavenger's Dream



It's a beautiful, cool, crisp, and sunny morning, and I'm on my way to the ReUse Center in search of books.

The ReUse Center got its start in 1996 when the movement to create places for the community to donate and shop at a nonprofit was beginning to really take off. Ann Arborites find their way to the store on Industrial to poke around for all kinds of good things from building materials to household goods and yes, to books.

By the time I arrive, the place is hopping with people milling around looking for a good find. There are about 15 people in the book section – people filling bags, adults and kids looking at titles, showing them to each other and then putting them in their 'take home' pile, and

people reading. According to general manager Chris Lounsberry, the books at the ReUse Center attract many kinds of book lovers. "All sorts of people come through here for books. We get a lot of local book dealers that like to come through and dig for treasure. We also have teachers that come in to stock up on children's books for their classroom. Lastly, we have regular customers that come in looking for a good deal on a lot of books." Fiction and children's books are their biggest sellers.

It's clear to see that the ReUse Center books are so popular because of the breadth of their selection, coupled with very reasonable prices. "We accept all kinds of books. We have a huge variety of both soft and hardcover fiction and nonfiction. We also take in magazines and comic books," says Chris. "The majority of our books are priced between 25 cents and \$1.50, so you can grab quite a few for not a lot!"

I decide to walk into the back where the furniture is and to my left I notice a gentleman hunched over a desk with a lamp and surrounded by books. Here I had found the mastermind of the ReUse Center book section – Emerson. This is the person who goes through the books that are brought in and decides what to keep and what to donate elsewhere. Emerson has an easygoing smile and I'm sure has a ton of stories to tell. He has been sorting books for the center for ten years. "It's like Christmas everyday I come into work," he says, grinning. "What do you want people to know about the books here?" I ask. "That we have good books. Lots of good books." He smiles.

I walk back to the book section and pick out three books for \$2. I am happy.

--Kay Marsh, with the help of Shelby Taylor

The ReUse Center is located at 2420 S. Industrial Pkwy and is open Mon–Fri, 10 a.m.– 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.– 3 p.m. Learn more about the ReUse Center at recycleannarbor.org/divisions/reuse-center/about.

Snapshot of the Past

On the Shelf

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Local independent bookstores ad, Agenda, 1997

Courtesy of [AADL's Old News site](#)

Our Neighbors Up North

Outside of authors like Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje, Alice Munro and Robertson Davies, just to



The Dry, Jane Harper
Flatiron Books, \$25.99

Two things to keep in mind when reading *The Dry*:

1. It's an awesome book to read in the cold, cold winter, as it's set in the burning draught of Australia as meticulously delineated by Jane Harper.
2. If you start reading it early in the evening, forget about getting any sleep. You won't be able to put it down.

This is a wonderful first novel, featuring Melbourne financial detective Aaron Falk, who has returned to his tiny hometown of Kiewarra for the most tragic of reasons: his boyhood friend, Luke, has apparently killed his wife and toddler son in a murder-suicide. Aaron has gotten a note from Luke's father demanding his attendance at the funeral. As he arrives, it's like he's walking into a terrible steam bath. Harper wraps the suffocating heat around him like a blanket and he's plunged into the tiny church

name a few, most of us know very little about Canadian books and writers. Follow our link to [Canada Books](#) and discover a whole world filled with wonderful podcasts of interviews with authors and reviews of books that excites Canada. March 23 - 30 begins the annual Canada Reads competition which is absolutely wonderful to watch and/or listen to. Watch your world expand.

Giving Back



In honor of Women's History Month, Vault of Midnight will be donating the profits from sales of the amazing *Bitch Planet Vol. 1* to Planned Parenthood for the entire month of March.

Have you read *Bitch Planet*? If not, you have to as soon as possible. Kelly Sue Deconnick and Valentine De Landro's dystopian, sci-fi, non-

where the funeral is being held, surrounded by his long ago neighbors and frenemies.

Kind of like the frog in the water that's boiling but doesn't realize it until it's too late, Aaron eases back into Kiewarra despite some terrible past memories and the fresh new grief of losing his old friend Luke. In a room over the pub he's visited by the local cop in charge, who asks him to unofficially look into the case with him, as he feels something is off.

Unlike many contemporary detective novels, neither Aaron nor the local, Raco, are the tormented type. Yes, Aaron has some baggage that makes him a bit standoffish, but he and Raco are both at heart good, decent men who want to discover the truth because that's what's right. This is almost a western, and they may as well be wearing the white hats of the good sheriff.

This novel is far from corny, however, and Harper uses the setting—the dry, hot landscape—to her advantage as she tells her story, winding it in as part of her plot. That's a trick only some of the very best writers can pull off (Kent Krueger and Julia Keller both come to mind) and Harper is a very powerful writer. As she interweaves the past and present, creating an incredibly painful backstory, she's also laid the groundwork for a true mystery with a solution that is a surprise in one way and in another way, it's not, as she's set it up so well.

compliant masterpiece has never been more urgent or prescient.

[Vault of Midnight](#) is located at 219 S. Main St.

For more information on the independent bookstores in Ann Arbor, be sure to visit our website at a2books.org

I often feel mysteries can get away with just a good story and decent characters. That's a *good* read. When all the elements—prose, plot, setting and character are present—that's a *great* read. *The Dry* is a great read. Don't miss it.

--Robin Agnew, co-owner of Aunt Agatha's



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