

BOOK BAG

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February 2015

Merri Dee book signing

Denise I. O'Neal

Television and radio personality Mary F. Dorham, known in the media world as Merri Dee, holds a discussion on her memoir *Life Lessons on Faith, Forgiveness and Grace*, 6 p.m. Feb. 5 at Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State.

The iconic Chicagoan talks about her upbringing on city's South Side to becoming her success in the media world and beyond. Dee is best known for her long-time relationship with WGN-TV, which spanned more than a decade.



WGN-TV anchor Micah Materre joins in the event, presented by the library's African American Services Committee, which is part of CPL's Black History Month observance.

A true mover and shaker Dee has crossed paths with numerous celebrities who are mentioned in the book along with a forward by singer Nancy Wilson as well as comments from Chicago's own Ramsey Lewis, Herb Kent and former mayor Richard M. Daley.

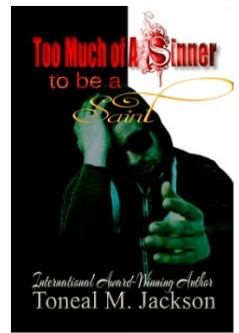
Dee, now a motivational speaker, philanthropist and current state president of the Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will sign copies of her book, which will be available for purchase during the event. chipublic.org

Local author inspires others

Denise I. O'Neal

What does it take to become a successful author and entrepreneur in the book world?

Author Toneal M. Jackson, founder of Authors Promoting Success (APS), shares the secrets of how to write, promote and sell a book during the "Being a Authorpreneur:



How to Succeed in the Book Business" workshop, 7 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, 1250 W. 119th.

Inspired by life's experiences the motivational speaker and successful author, who also hosts relationship seminars, will focus on perfecting the craft of writing a book and how to gain the necessary exposure and the experience to succeed in the literary business.

In addition to her seminars and inspirational speaking engagements Jackson offers an array writing, editing and publishing services.

Jackson's newest book: *Too Much of a Sinner to be a Saint* is due out soon. Preorder [here](#).

Jackson has plans in the works to open an APS bookstore in Ford City in 2015. Tickets are \$10. [eventbrite](#)

February 2015 Releases:

Almost Dead, T.R. Ragan (Lizzy Gardner series): Feb. 3

American Murder Houses: A Coast-to-Coast Tour of the Notorious Houses of Homicide, Steve Lehto (Non Fiction): Feb. 3

At Wolf Ranch, Jennifer Ryan (Montana Men): Feb. 24

Beastkeeper, Cat Hellisen (Fantasy): Feb. 3

Better When He's Bold, Jay Crownover (Welcome to the Point series): Feb. 3

Breakout, Kevin Emerson (Young Adult): Feb. 24

Bridged, Kendra Elliott (Mason Callahan series): Feb. 10

City of Savages, Lee Kelly (Thriller): Feb. 3

The Glass Arrow, Kristen, Simmons (Fantasy): Feb. 10

Hero, Samantha Young (Romance): Feb. 3

I Am Radar, Reif Larson (Thriller): Feb. 24

I'll Meet You There, Heather Denetrios, (Contemporary): Feb. 3

The Last Time We Say Goodbye, Cynthia Hand (Contemporary): Feb. 10

Rebellion, Stephanie Diaz (Extracted series): Feb. 10

The Return, Jennifer L. Armentrout (Titan, new series): Feb. 17

The Ruby Circle, Richelle Mead (Bloodline series): Feb. 10

Salt & Stone, Victoria Scott (Fore & Flood series): Feb. 24

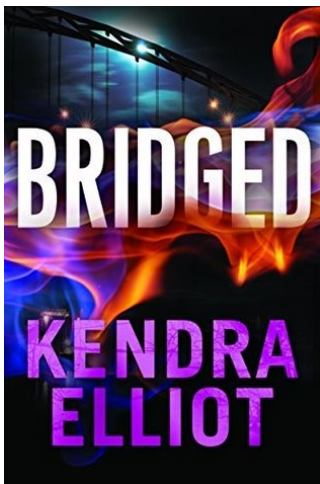
Scripted, Maya Rock (Thriller): Feb. 24

Shutter, Courtney Alameda (Horror): Feb. 3

Soulprint, Megan Miranda (Sci-fi Thriller): Feb. 3

Suckers, Z. Rider, (Vampire): Feb. 17

The Third Twin, C.J. Omololu (Suspense): Feb. 24



Comic corner:

Boom's explosive new comic series:

Boom! Studios debuts the Cluster series, a gritty sci-fi offering with a retro feel reminiscent of the "Dirty Dozen," from Ed Brisson

(writer), Damian Couceiro (artist) with cover art by James Stokoe. Cluster #1 available Feb. 4. **boom-studios**



DC Comics:

Scott Lobdell, Fabian Nicieza, Pascal Alixe and Tom Raney's New 52! Superman comic (pictured 52



ArtFX figure) has the man of steel sporting a new metallic look to his silvery-blue and golden-red costume. The superhero also has a menacing scowl and more beefed up bod.

dccomics

Action Lab Entertainment:

Hero Cats (Vol. 1) out Feb. 4. **actionlab**



EVENTS: Geeks Inc. Comics Mighty

Con Comic Book show returns 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 28 to the DuPage County, 2015 Manchester. **geekinccomics**

Book it:

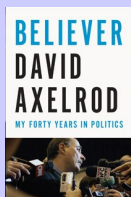


Dr. West in the house

Author and activist Dr. Cornel West holds a discussion 11:15 a.m. Feb. 22 at Faith Community of Saint Sabina, 1210 W.78th. **randomhouse**

Axelrod tours Chicago

David Axelrod, political consultant and former senior strategist for President Obama, discusses his book



Believer: My Forty Years in Politics, 11:30 a.m. Feb. 16, Union League Club, 65 E. Jackson. **randomhouse**

Children's event

Anderson Bookshop's 13th Annual Children's Literature Breakfast, 8 a.m. Feb. 21, Bobak's Signature Events, 6440 Double Eagle, Woodridge. **andersons**

Photo op

Photojournalist Art Shay talks about his works 6 p.m. Feb. 26, Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State. **publib**

Writing workshop

Chicago Writers' "The Art of Revision: The End is Just the Beginning, 6:30-9 p.m. Feb. 11, 826CHI, 1276 N. Milwaukee; \$40 before Feb. 4; \$50, after. **chicagowriters**

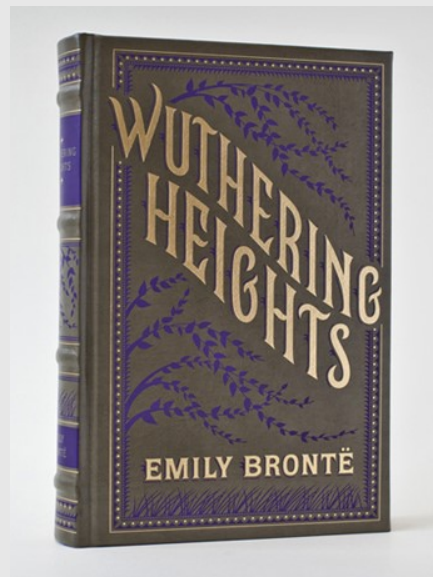
The Classics Revisited:

By Diane L. LaFonte

Wuthering Heights

Widely acclaimed and accepted as being one of the great romantic Victorian novels Emily Brontë's, first and only novel, *Wuthering Heights* is surprisingly one of the most complicated and challenging to read and follow.

Brontë's tale of star-crossed lovers Catherine and Heathcliff, whose doomed love affair remains one of the most haunting love stories in all of literature, was met with mixed reviews by critics when first received. In fact, the narrative first published in 1847, was panned by critics for its "coarseness and confusion."



Disjointed and chronologically difficult to follow it would take the pen of sister Charlotte to catapult the book to a higher status.

Wuthering Heights, like her sister Charlotte Brontë's novel, *Jane Eyre*, is steeped partly in the Gothic tradition of the late eighteenth century, which made use of supernatural encounters, crumbling ruins, moonless nights and grotesque imagery in an attempt to create effects of mystery and fear. Unlike her more talented sister, who edited Emily's original work and managed to have a second edition printed, Emily would not witness the book's success having died shortly after writing the original.

Set on the Yorkshire moors the book focuses on the inhabitants of two estates, Thrushcross Grange and Wuthering Heights. It opens with a man from Thrushcross Grange seeking refuge at Wuthering Heights during a snow storm, where he is greeted by an odd assembly of characters, including the dark and brooding Heathcliff.

Offered Cathy's former bedchamber, he falls asleep, only to be awakened by what he believes is a nightmare in which he witnesses a ghost entering through the window. The author leads readers to believe it is Catherine's restless spirit, which is said to haunt the moors.

Crying out in fear, the man awakens Heathcliff who believes it was his beloved Catherine's spirit that entered the chamber. Obsessed with waiting her return he sends the visitor to another room, setting up the book's narrative.

Continued on back

Upon the man's return to Thrushcross he relates the strange occurrence, inquiring about the family at Wuthering Heights. The housekeeper of Thrushcross, who was the former servant at Wuthering Heights, begins the tale of how thirty years earlier, the master of Wuthering Heights brought home an orphan, who was rebuked by the son and heir to the estate, while befriended by the wild-spirited daughter of the manner, Cathy.

When the master of Wuthering Heights died, Heathcliff, was banned to the servant quarters by the new heir, creating a secondary conflict that continues through the book leading to Heathcliff eventually acquiring Wuthering Heights after paying off debts accrued by the reckless owner.

As for the main conflict—the love/hate relationship between Cathy and Heathcliff—Bronte paints two very like, but different personalities, both passionate, headstrong and longing to be in a world they don't fit with Heathcliff accepting his position and Cathy longing to be on the other side. The rift in their relationship comes after Cathy is injured while spying on the occupants of Thrushcross during a ball. Too hurt to return to Wuthering Heights, Cathy is invited to stay at the manner to recuperate where she gets acquainted with Edgar Linton who falls in love with the reckless beauty. After an extended stay Cathy, returns to Wuthering Heights accompanied by Edgar, introducing yet another conflict—an ongoing adversarial relationship between Edgar and Heathcliff.

And while Edgar can give Cathy all she has longed, her heart belongs to Heathcliff, which is where the book begins to unravel as an epitome of star-crossed love—the relationship is doomed not by ill fate like, but rather one another's flaws—Cathy's self-centered motives and Heathcliff's hot temper. The couple's continued separations eventually leads to Cathy marrying Edgar as retaliation for Heathcliff running away, doing so after overhearing Cathy's declaration "it would 'degrade' me to marry Heathcliff."

Analyzing Cathy's character it's obvious her choosing Edgar represents the mind set of a woman during the era the book was written, their aspiration to moving up in social class and being revered by a respectable gentleman a woman's top priority.

Although Cathy and Heathcliff's passion for one another is the central story, with Cathy at one point declaring "I am Heathcliff," it was hard to find compassion for the characters, who by their own doing were left broken shells teeter-tottering between love and hate. However, it is easy to understand Bronte's voice given how little women were free to make their own love match during the period, perhaps that is the story. And then, Bronte's message might have been as simple as her book is complicated—true love survives the test of time even if it is two foolish hearts whose spirits are united in eternal love.

Whatever the message intended *Wuthering Heights* has managed to captivate, inspire and entertain generations of readers and will no doubt continue to do so as evident with the many adaptations that continue to surface.