

Paradise. Read. Repeat.

*A Newsletter from
Books & Books @ The Studios*

December 2017

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George Cooper & Judy Blume, Co-founders

Mia Clement, Manager

Emily Berg, Asst. Manager & Art Supplies Buyer

Robin Wood, Asst. Manager & Social Media Director

Receive future newsletters and other store information by email – sign up for our email list.

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Introducing the B&BKW Virtual Book Club



*Store Founder Judy Blume first started recommending **Stephen Florida** back in July.*

One of the things we all enjoy most about being booksellers is talking to people about books. So now we're starting the B&BKW Virtual Book Club to foster more engaging, smart, enjoyable conversations about books.

Our book club will be an online opportunity to interact with us and each other about interesting books. Sometimes we might pick a hot new book that everyone is buzzing about, but other times we hope we'll surprise you, encouraging you to pick up a book you might not otherwise read.

Our small core staff, Judy, George, Mia, Emily and Robin, are devoted readers, but we have very different reading tastes. Our first book club pick – **Stephen Florida by Gabe Habash** – is that rare book that all five of us read and enjoyed. Store co-founder Judy Blume has been recommending *Stephen Florida* for months, but assistant manager Emily Berg wrote the first staff recommendation, so she gets the pleasure of introducing the book to all of you inside this newsletter.

Join the book club by reading the book and sharing your thoughts on social media. Purchase the book in store or online and get 20% off through Jan. 11 (Online use coupon code **BC20** at checkout).

Follow us on social media and look for the hashtag: #bbkwbookclub on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Every week, we'll post new book club content – and we hope you'll join in with pictures, tweets and comments of your own. We'll wrap up and hold an open "meeting" via Twitter chat in January. Watch for details online and plan to join us.

Don't miss our great lineup of author events, details and dates at
<http://booksandbookskw.com/event-directory>

A Note from Judy Blume

Hello friends,

I have a confession to make – I've never belonged to a book club. Maybe because I was busy writing books. Maybe because I loved to read so much I wanted to savor what I was reading, not talk about it. But since we opened Books & Books KW, I find I love talking about books with our staff and customers.

There's nothing as exciting as discovering a new talent, a fresh, original voice, and sharing that with everyone who comes into the store. And so, fueled by the enthusiasm of Mia, Emily, Robin, and George, I say, *let's do this!* Robin and Emily will tell you more. I'll just add, I'm thrilled by our first selection. And glad that customers who drop in from all over the world to chat about books can be a part of our club. I hope they'll come to love Key West as much as those of us lucky enough to live here.

For now, wishing you and yours joy and peace this holiday season, with plenty of time to read.

Love,

Judy

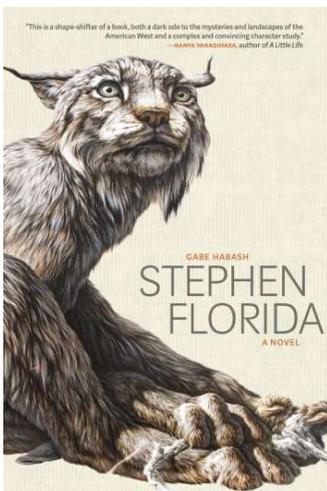
Foxcatcher meets *The Art of Fielding*, **Stephen Florida** follows a college wrestler in his senior season, when every practice, every match, is a step closer to greatness and a step further from sanity. Profane, manic, and tipping into the uncanny, it's a story of loneliness, obsession, and the drive to leave a mark.

Jacket copy from **Stephen Florida**

B&BKW Book Club pick: Stephen Florida

Each of us is drawn to books for different reasons: it's got a great cover, it's by an author we love, or maybe we see the possibility of ourselves reflected in the main character.

I rarely choose a book based on its cover and I knew nothing of this debut author. For the life of me, I can't tell you what drew me to a novel about the eponymous 20 year-old college wrestler in North Dakota. The cover is remarkably beautiful so maybe that was it. Perhaps it was the word "Florida" (although, to be forewarned, it has nothing to do with our whacky state). Whatever it was, I'm glad *Stephen Florida* by Gabe Habash found its way into my hands.



You'll be hard pressed to find a more compelling character than Stephen. He's funny, intelligent, intense, and, to be honest, a little frightening. The book follows him as he strives, obsessively to win the Division IV championship in wrestling his senior year of college. Habash creates such a complex and beautiful story with Stephen that I would be willing to read him doing just about anything.

This book is dark, funny, sad and hopeful. It may not be like anything you've ever thought about reading before, but I promise it will make you feel something. However you end up interpreting the journey of Stephen Florida, you will certainly have an opinion and we can't wait to hear what it is.

~ Emily Berg, Assistant Manager

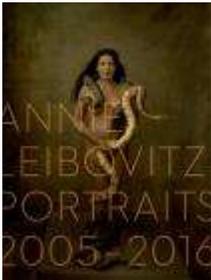
Books Make Great Gifts



The holiday season is the bookstore's opportunity to get all dressed up and show off its festive side. Along with our usual art supplies, vinyl records and bookish swag, we increase our gift selections. This year we're featuring great paperweights, necklaces made from classic library card stamps, a line of mini-clocks in the shape of mixers, robots and biplanes, puzzles and many other delightful gifts. But the books are still the stars of the show.

From great reads that we think will appeal to just about anyone, to beautiful art books, you'll find something for everyone – and maybe a few things you can't resist for yourself. And we're happy to wrap and ship.

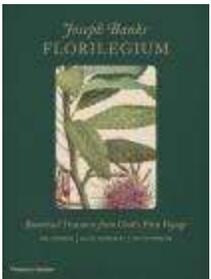
Here are just a few of the books we're recommending for the discerning and hard-to-shop-for:



Annie Leibovitz: Portraits 2005-2016 (Hardcover)

By Annie Leibovitz
\$89.95

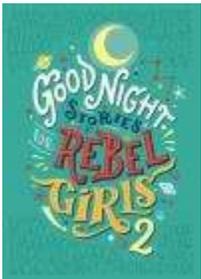
Annie Leibovitz: Portraits 2005-2016 is the photographer's follow-up to her two landmark books, *Annie Leibovitz: Photographs, 1970-1990* and *A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005*. In this new collection, Leibovitz has captured the most influential and compelling figures of the last decade in the style that has made her one of the most beloved talents of our time. Each of the photographs documents contemporary culture with an artist's eye, wit, and an uncanny ability to personalize even the most recognizable and distinguished figures.



Joseph Banks' Florilegium: Botanical Treasures from Cook's First Voyage (Hardcover)

By David Mabberley, Mel Gooding
\$85.00

Joseph Banks accompanied Captain Cook on his first voyage around the world from 1768 to 1771. A gifted and wealthy young naturalist, Banks collected exotic flora from Madeira, Brazil, Tierra del Fuego, the Society Islands, New Zealand, Australia, and Java, bringing back over 1,300 species that had never been seen or studied by Europeans.

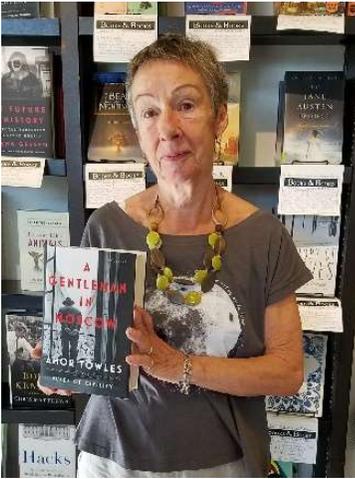


Good Night Stories For Rebel Girls 2 (Hardcover)

By Elena Favilli, Francesca Cavallo
\$35.00

"Good Night Stories For Rebel Girls 2" is the sequel to the sensational New York Times bestseller, and the most crowdfunded book of all times. The authors, Francesca Cavallo and Elena Favilli, will take you and your kids on an empowering journey through 100 new bedtime stories, featuring the adventures of extraordinary women from Nefertiti to Beyoncé. The unique narrative style of "Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls" transforms each biography into a fairy-tale, filling the readers with wonder and with a burning curiosity to know more about each hero. Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls 2 boasts a brand new graphic design, a glossary and 100 incredible new portraits created by the best female artists of our time.

Meet Our Volunteer – Anna Barfield



Anna Barfield has been volunteering since before the store opened in February 2016. Unlike most of us, volunteers and staff alike, Anna has a background in bookselling, having worked in a radical, feminist bookstore in her native London in the 1980s. It was an interesting, engaging job at a time when there were a lot of conversations going on about gender and race and identity. “I loved it,” Anna said, adding that she only left the job when she had the opportunity to move to Paris.

Nowadays, Anna and her partner Janet split their time between Key West and London. They have been regular visitors since 1994 and put down roots in 2000. They were drawn to the sunshine and warm winter weather, as well as to the island community’s open and accepting culture.

The couple use their regular trips between Key West and London to see the world. This spring they plan to return to the United Kingdom via Los Angeles, taking a four-month boat trip that will stop in Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia and South East Asia, before cruising up the Thames and returning them to their home city. “I like the image of sailing into London as people would have done 100 years ago,” Anna said.

Anna is pictured with Amor Towles’ *A Gentleman in Moscow*, her pick for one of the best books of the year. Despite the fact that the protagonist is restricted to the hotel he lives in, you get a sense of Russia at that time, Anna said. His heart is open and that allows him to make a new life for himself despite his circumstances. “It’s a book to give,” Anna said.

Our volunteers, more than 50 and counting, are one of the key benefits of our nonprofit status, helping the store to survive and grow despite the ultra-competitive retail environment. No experience required, our volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds. If you are interested in volunteering, inquire in person, or email us at booksandbooks@tskw.org.

About Books & Books @ The Studios

We’re Key West’s locally-owned, nonprofit, independently-minded neighborhood bookstore. Affiliated with Miami-based Books & Books, one of the nation’s great independent bookstores, our store is part of The Studios of Key West, a non-profit arts center and cultural organization.

Join our Book Lover’s loyalty program

Get a discount on every book you purchase and show your support for Books & Books @The Studios. The annual membership is \$25.00 and it’s good in store or online. Discounts for a full year from your date of enrollment. Makes a great gift!

- 10% savings on every book
- Annual 20%-off storewide sale
- Email Bulletins with exclusive discounts on in-demand books

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