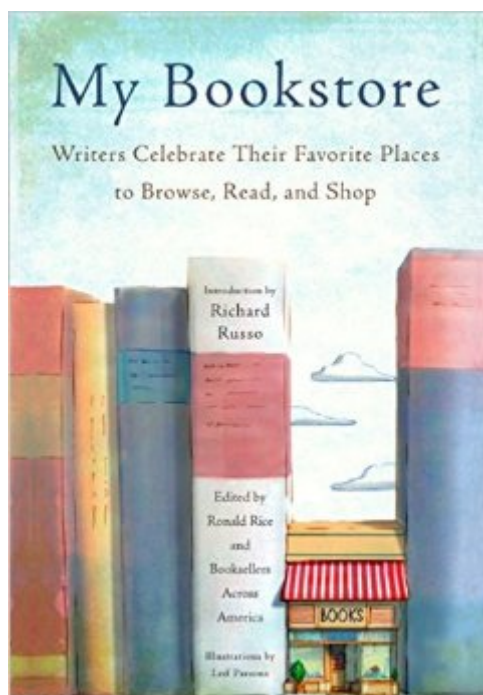


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# My Bookstore: Writers Celebrate Their Favorite Places To Browse, Read, And Shop



## Synopsis

In this enthusiastic, heartfelt, and sometimes humorous ode to bookshops and booksellers, 84 known authors pay tribute to the brick-and-mortar stores they love and often call their second homes. In *My Bookstore* our greatest authors write about the pleasure, guidance, and support that their favorite bookstores and booksellers have given them over the years. The relationship between a writer and his or her local store and staff can last for years or even decades. Often it's the author's local store that supported him during the early days of his career, that continues to introduce and hand-sell her work to new readers, and that serves as the anchor for the community in which he lives and works. *My Bookstore* collects the essays, stories, odes and words of gratitude and praise for stores across the country in 81 pieces written by our most beloved authors. It's a joyful, industry-wide celebration of our bricks-and-mortar stores and a clarion call to readers everywhere at a time when the value and importance of these stores should be shouted from the rooftops. Perfectly charming line drawings by Leif Parsons illustrate each storefront and other distinguishing features of the shops. Contributing Authors and Bookstores Include: Fannie Flagg?Page & Palette, Fairhope, AL Rick Bragg?Alabama Booksmith, Homewood, AL John Grisham?That Bookstore in Blytheville, Blytheville, AR Ron Carlson?Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ Ann Packer?Capitola Book Café, Capitola, CA Isabel Allende?Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA Mahbod Seraji?Kepler's Books, Menlo Park, CA Lisa See?Vroman's Bookstore, Pasadena, CA Meg Waite Clayton?Books Inc., San Francisco, CA Daniel Handler and Lisa Brown?The Booksmith, San Francisco, CA Dave Eggers?Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA Pico Iyer?Chaucer's Books, Santa Barbara, CA Laurie R. King?Bookshop, Santa Cruz, CA Scott Lasser?Explore Booksellers, Aspen, CO Stephen White?Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO Kate Niles?Maria's Bookshop, Durango, CO Ann Haywood Leal?Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT Florence and Wendell Minor?The Hickory Stick Bookshop, Washington Depot, CT Rick Atkinson?Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington, DC Les Standiford?Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL Robert Macomber?The Muse Book Shop, Deland, FL David Fulmer?Eagle Eye Book Shop, Decatur, GA Abraham Verghese?Prairie Lights, Iowa City, IA Charlie Brandt?Chapter One Bookstore, Ketchum, ID Luis Alberto Urrea?Anderson's Bookshops, Naperville, IL Mike Leonard?The Book Stall Chestnut Court, Winnetka, IL Albert Goldbarth?Watermark Books, Wichita, KS Wendell Berry?Carmichael's Bookstore, Louisville, KY Edith Pearlman?Brookline Booksmith, Brookline, MA Mameve Medwed?Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA Henry Louis Gates, Jr.?Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA Simon Winchester?The Bookloft, Great Barrington, MA Nancy Thayer?Mitchell's Book Corner, Nantucket, MA Elin Hilderbrand?Nantucket Bookworks, Nantucket, MA Jeanne

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## Customer Reviews

My love affair with bookstores began when I was about eight years old. I accompanied my mother to a used bookstore to browse and I remember spying an old copy of one of the Nancy Drew mysteries and I've been hooked since, not just on books but the whole experience of browsing in bookstores, book sales, and finding books to fill my ever expanding collection at home. Several decades later, the joy of going into a bookstore and just absorbing the atmosphere is still indescribable and is an experience I will never tire of. "My Bookstore" is an engaging read which allows readers to get a glimpse as to which bookstores 84 well-known authors like to browse in. Every author has his or her particular favorite and though I'm not familiar with all of these authors' works, I can certainly appreciate their love of books, bookstores, and the craft of bookselling. Many of these writers explain that their choice of a favorite bookstore leans heavily on how well-read and

friendly the booksellers are and this is true in my case. Nothing turns me off more than walking into a (usually) chain bookstore and being passed around from one purported bookseller to the next, who has no clue as to where I might find a certain, less popular title (but boy do they know the bestsellers!). No, like most of the writers featured here, my favorite bookstores are those where I can walk in and ask about an old, less familiar title and be directed to it or given helpful hints as to where I might find it. In this digital age, finding hard to come by titles is much easier, but that personal experience of engaging with a bookseller is altogether priceless (though I admit online book shopping has its advantages).

At a time when the indie booksellers are closing without many others replacing them, it is great to read these guides to the different neighborhood Thinking Centers and Info Shops still going strong. I know so many of them from visits in my time trying to place my modest product (visited almost all of these stores and more than 2,000 booksellers in the US and Canada in all!), and there was not one I did not love whatever their always reasoned response to my entreaty. From my own local Portland's Powell's, the most voluminous and in many ways the greatest bookstore in the English speaking world to some tiny ones like my town's Artifacts--Good Books and Bad Art where I volunteer without pay, I always assumed that like me, the founder had entered the world of books as a calling to educate and serve fellow readers who might come to share their own love of Truth and scrupulous factuality; I may be mistaken, but I cannot remember being shown I was ever wrong about that much. Many of these stores, like Artifacts, have to sell "rubber chickens" to be able to get \$4 Grapes of Wrath to high school kids, and many have suffered outright attack by predatory chains and now uncaring price cutters, but they soldier on as long with new enthusiasm every morning to spread their love of books and of reading. They, WE, believe that good reading makes good thinking and we can make the world better by means of the only tool that has been successful in improving thinking for the last 500 years. (A customer at Artifacts, Kelli, said, "There's a reason they burn books you know.") I bought this book as soon as I heard about it--couldn't get it fast enough.

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