

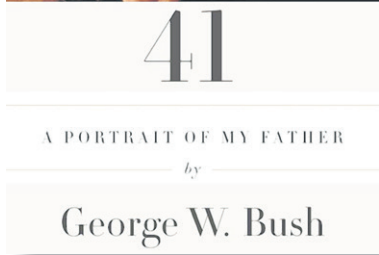
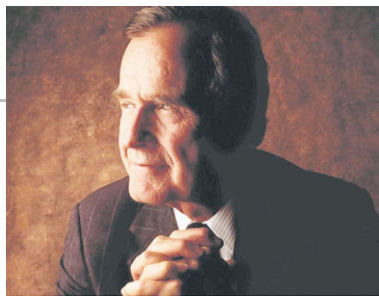
HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN



9

SHOPPING
DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY BIBLIOPHILES



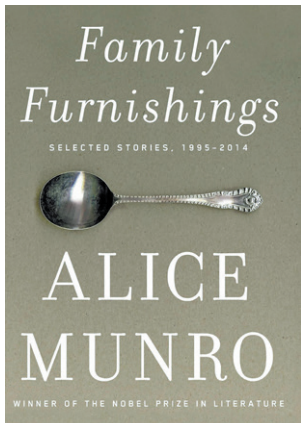
▲ **Presidential fodder**
Maybe there's a political junkie or a history buff on your list. If so, then maybe *41: A Portrait of My Father* by George W. Bush is a good grab. The 43rd president pens a personal biography about his father, George H.W. Bush, the 41st president of the United States. **Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Amazon, Target, Costco, Walmart**, and other retailers. 304 pages, **\$14**.

In some ways, book lovers are easy to buy for because you figure a book is a book is a book, right? Well, it all depends. Some bibliophiles read anything they can get their hands on. Others might stick to a certain genre such as mysteries, science fiction, young adult, chick lit, and so on. Your favorite reader might read e-books on a Kindle or a similar device. Others might prefer audiobooks. There really is a lot to decide. Hopefully, this list of book-related gifts will help you with your decision.

— BOB CUNNINGHAM
BLADE STAFF WRITER



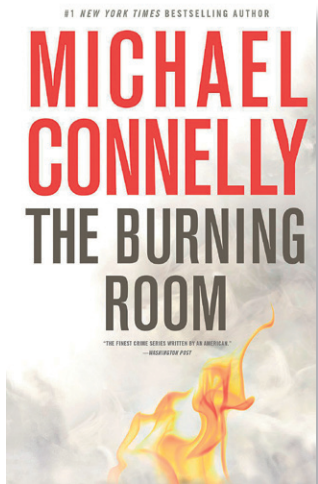
▲ **Go-to authors**
Stephen King, J.K. Rowling (as Robert Galbraith), and Walter Mosley each published books this year. These authors have a large following and for good reason: They are some of the best writers around. Be sure to pick up King's *Mr. Mercedes* and *Revival*, Rowling's *The Silkworm*, and Mosley's *Debbie Doesn't Do It Anymore* and *Rose Gold* for the book aficionado in your life. Just be sure to get a gift receipt. **Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Amazon, Target, Walmart**, and other retailers. Prices vary.



▲ **Short stories**
Canadian author Alice Munro has few peers when it comes to writing short stories. *Family Furnishings: Selected Stories, 1995 to 2014* is her first publication since winning the Nobel Prize in Literature last year. *Family Furnishings* contains 24 tales which will be devoured by the literature fan in your life. **Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Amazon, Target, Walmart**, and other retailers. 640 pages, **\$30**.

Year's best

My two favorite books of the year are *Those Who Wish Me Dead* by Michael Koryta and *A Better World* by Marcus Sakey. Both are can't-put-down thrillers by young, yet proven masters of the craft. *Those Who Wish Me Dead* (400 pages, **\$26**) is a great way to warm up while waiting for summer's return. *A Better World* (390 pages, **\$14.95**) has a sci-fi twist that is sure to broaden the book's appeal. **Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Amazon**, and other retailers.

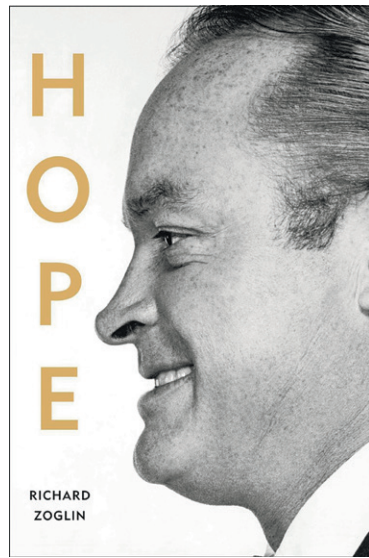


Audiobooks

Sometimes, we are just too busy to sit down and read a book. Audiobooks are a nice way to enjoy a book in the car or at the gym. Often times, the narrator is the draw. We hear that a great story combined with an outstanding voice actor is a sublime way to experience a book. Titus Welliver is the star of the new *Bosch* TV series, based on Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch bestsellers. Welliver also lends his voice to Connelly's *The Burning Room* (10 hours, 11 minutes, **\$28**). **Amazon.com, bn.com, booksamillion.com, itunes.com**. If you're looking for a classic, Colin Firth performs *The End of the Affair* by Graham Greene, which is free with an **Amazon Audible** trial (**\$14.95** a month).

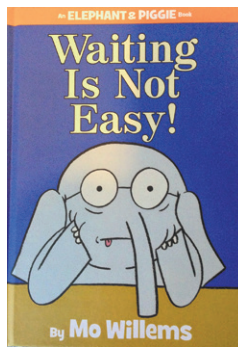
Ohio funny man

Bob Hope lived to be 100, so there's a lot of ground to cover on the life of the iconic comedian who grew up in northeast Ohio. *Hope: Entertainer of the Century* follows his rise to the top, from the vaudeville stage to TV, films, supporting the troops, and beyond. **Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Amazon, Target, Costco, Walmart**, and other retailers. 576 pages, **\$30**.



Children's books

You never really know which book will catch a child's fancy. A safe bet, however, is the Elephant and Piggie series by Mo Willems. His latest, *Waiting Is Not Easy* (**\$8.99**), surely will be a hit with the young readers on your list. For that matter, any of the books in his wildly popular series will be a winner. **Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Amazon, Target, Walmart**, and other retailers.



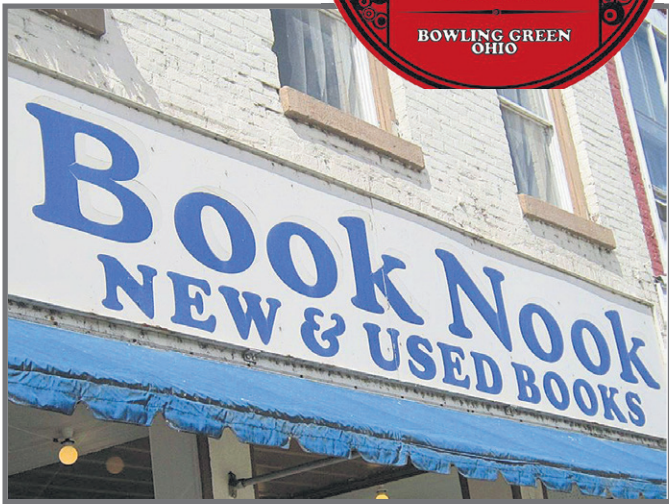
Kindle Voyage Touch

▲ Now that e-readers are a part of the book experience, each year we are introduced to the latest and greatest. This year, it's the **Kindle Voyage Touch Screen with Light**. Never mind that you can't get an e-book signed by your favorite author, e-readers do have their place when it comes to portability — you can take your whole library with you, wherever you go. The Kindle Voyage boasts a sleek design, new touchscreen features, an improved display, and a light. **Amazon.com**, **\$199** to **\$269**.



Gift cards

▲ One could argue that gift cards are the safest way to land the perfect gift for the book lovers on your list. You likely don't know what they've already read and there are new books coming out all the time. So, when Nick Hornby's *Funny Girl* and Dennis Lehane's *World Gone By* will be published in the new year, your book buddy can read one of his or favorites on your dime. **Amazon.com, bn.com, booksamillion.com**, or any local retailers. Prices vary.



Buy local

▲ Make sure you check your list twice for local book stores. There are plenty that come to mind, including **Book Nook**, 42 S. Monroe St. in Monroe, and **Grounds for Thought**, 174 S. Main St. in Bowling Green. The *American Chillers* and *Michigan Chillers* (**\$5.99**) series are a popular purchase for young readers at Book Nook by Michigan author Christopher Wright, better known as Johnathan Rand. Think *Scooby-Doo* in book form. Grounds for Thought boasts having the most used books on its shelves of any store between Columbus and Ann Arbor, so there's bound to be a book on your list.

Prices and availability subject to change.

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