

Page by Paige

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Community Librarian

Writers & Lovers by Lily King

Are you a writer? Casey Peabody had been working on her novel for six years. She's mending her heart and piecing her life back together after her mother's sudden death and the end of a love affair. While all of her friends have moved on with successful careers and family life, she's living in Cambridge, Massachusetts, waiting tables in Harvard Square and writing in a tiny rented room. She's emotional and stuck without a plan. When two very different lovers enter her life, is one a better fit than the other? Both are writers and the conversations are engaging and literary. But can she handle her own feelings while balancing the pressure of finishing her book and being in a relationship? How will she move forward?

King delivers a novel filled with hope, friendship and romance. Readers will appreciate the honest struggles of a writer, the publishing world, and finding time to write. Join The Library Book Club to discuss "Writers & Lovers" by Lily King online via Zoom on Wednesday, May 27, at 5:30 p.m. Available now on Hoopla at www.deschuteslibrary.org.

BOOKSTORE: Beloved Sisters shop needs community support

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The GoFundMe page can be found at www.gofundme.com/f/paulina-springs-books-needs-your-help.

The campaign page provides a breakdown of what donated funds will be used for.

"It's basically to cover payroll, occupancy, and liability," he said.

Independent bookstores have been battered over the past decade by changes in reading habits, changes in the publishing industry and the rise of Amazon.com. But quality indies have found niches and some traction in recent years — Paulina Springs Books among them.

As the third owner of the store, Jacobson built on a loyal customer base, both among locals and among visitors, and was moving the store into a new level of success and activity as a cultural hub. It was the headquarters of the Sisters Festival of Books, which had a successful inaugural event last fall. Jacobson announced last week that the 2020 festival set for October would be canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.

Paulina Springs has remained open through the pandemic shutdown, with

a point-of-purchase table at the door. Customers can order books for store pick-up or deliver to their home, but they cannot come in and browse. The "takeout" business has allowed Paulina Springs to "tread water" Jacobson said, but without the prospect of a real summer season, merely treading water will inevitably become slowly sinking under.

The staff remains intact and Jacobson wants to ensure that it stays that way.

"The staff is what makes the store the store, and gives it its character and culture and all that," he said. "I'm really reluctant to change that."

Jacobson acknowledged that there has been a nationwide Save Indie Book Stores campaign, led by bestselling author James Patterson. The campaign has raised substantial funds, but the need is so widespread and acute that no bookstore can count on it as a lifeline.

"I would be surprised if it's even \$1,000 that we get," he said.

Jacobson foresees a restricted level of commerce this summer.

"At best, I imagine being able to have a limited number of people in the store at any one time," he said.

The safety and well-being of staff and customers is the top priority for Jacobson.

"We're committed to following CDC guidelines, even



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Lane Jacobson and Sue Tank manned the "takeout" point-of-sale table at the front door of Paulina Springs Books on Thursday, April 30. The bookstore is seeking direct community support to survive the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

if they're more strict than government regulations," he said.

Browsing the shelves is a key aspect of a bookstore experience, as are events with authors and other types of gatherings, and Jacobson recognizes that those will be limited for the foreseeable

future. He plans on developing some "digital events," perhaps connecting with authors remotely online, and will continue to promote the use of the Paulina Springs' online store.

For more information, visit <https://www.paulinaspringsbooks.com>.

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Visit paulinaspringsbooks.com to support our GoFundMe and see a breakdown of how your contribution will be used to help us serve our loving community for years to come.

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