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"I can't be sure that somebody else won't bring something in so I'm taking a lot of messages, phone calls and emails primarily from people who live in town," Reed said. "I take their card information manually. Everything takes very long compared to before."

Reed said she has applied for grants and small business loans so she could re-employ her staff but hasn't received any aid.

Like Emmerling, Reed also has been offering free local book deliveries. She also started a fund in her shop where customers can donate money so Reed can donate books to families who otherwise can't afford to buy books. Like the other shop owners, she's grateful for the support customers have given during the store closure.

"The generosity that I see when people say 'I don't even need books, I just want to support you,' and the looks of people who buy books after I drop them off, is very satisfying," Reed said. "With libraries closed and Amazon deprioritizing books, it's great to be doing something to help during this ordeal."

In addition to her bookstore responsibilities, Reed has a book that is scheduled to be released this June, "Pale Morning Light with Violet Swan."

"I'm trying to save the store, other authors' careers and then I've got my own. What does it mean to have a

book coming out now?" Reed said. "The focus has been the bookstore, even when I leave the store ... And in the midst of all that, is this looming publication of my own book."

Reed has two events scheduled this summer to promote her book. So far, neither has been canceled or postponed.

"I feel fortunate that I didn't have a normal book tour scheduled so I don't have the stress of that," Reed said. "I've been working 10 times as long for a fraction of the income right now."

Astoria

In Astoria, Lucy's Books owner Lisa Reid has had experiences similar to Emmerling and Reed. Reid has been taking phone orders and giving customers recommendations through Facebook and email.

"It took me about a week to figure out how to do it ... These look like services that we'll continue to do even after we get back open," Reid said.

Business for Lucy's has gone down to a few orders a day, Reid said. The decreased business is something she's noticed throughout town, as many stores are currently closed.

"This is a strange situation for everyone in the city and frankly, in the country. Everybody's just doing what they can to make the best of it and keep going. I'm looking forward to when we can get back to normal," Reid said. "At least we can still read in the sunshine."

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Deborah Reed, Cloud & Leaf
Bookstore owner in Manzanita



Lucy's Books in Astoria.

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