



## FIREHOUSE BOOKS

*Books, books everywhere...*

Walk into Firehouse Books and one thing is obvious, its proprietor has a genuine love for books. Shelves are overflowing, books are piled knee-high, and there is not a single flat vacant surface. Drawers of 50-cent books are crammed into corners. Walking around this tiny store, books of course proven to be more worthy of space than people, you need to look down in order to not walk into any of the numerous piles of books. There is even a section of movies in the back, if that is what you prefer!

Looking around the store, there is actually some order to the chaos of paper and words. When you walk in and you can almost smell the words on every page. These books are far from new, but they have been loved, read, and reread over the years.

I could spend hours getting lost in this tiny, crammed store, scanning the shelves for another

by LAUREN JOHNSEN  
design JOJO MATSON  
photo TYLER EMRY

treasure. Small, used bookstores like Firehouse Books, offers unique finds to the book lovers of Ames. Not that the Barnes and Nobles and Books-a-Millions of the world don't

have their treasures, but there is no place like a used bookstore.

The owner of the store, in my opinion, really makes the place unique. She is an older, quirky woman, who

has clearly been an avid reader her whole life. She is also willing to haggle book prices, so get ready to stand your ground here!



photo BRITANY LONG

## CHOCOLATERIE STAM

Do you enjoy delicious chocolates or gelato? Are you looking for a wonderful, thoughtful gift to give you your sibling, parent, grandparent, or significant other? Well then I have a place for you, conveniently located on Main Street. The chocolate shop also has locations around Ames, and a few other states throughout the Midwest.

This shop has everything from finely made chocolates to delicious gelato and baked goods. They also have imported chocolates, chocolate covered goodies, and other delicious items prepackaged for sale. These items would make wonderful gifts for a special person in your life, or even for yourself!

Ancestors of the Stam family have been running a bakery since the early 1800s in the Netherlands. In the early 1900s Jacobus Stam was urged to specialize in chocolate. Four of his five children joined the family business in the late 1930s, each taking on their own branch. One of his sons brought the business to the United States. Ann and Terry Stark bought the Ames location, and are the first nonfamily owners of the store. They are both delightful

individuals, who want to ensure everyone who comes into their store walks out satisfied.

The shop proudly serves European chocolates, not unlike the first chocolates made almost 200 years ago by one man in the Netherlands. The Ames location serves European coffees, teas and a variety of other drinks as well. The gelato and beverages that are served in this store use local dairy products from the Picket Fence Creamery in Woodward, IA.

This small, quaint shop has a variety of seating

options available to students, and makes for a fun afternoon. The chocolates and gelato are delicious and are reasonably priced.

Next time you find yourself downtown, stop in for some tasty chocolates or gelato, I promise it is worth it.



photos JOJO MATSON

## AMES BRITISH FOODS

'Ello poppets! Bloody hell, bollocks, bugger off! Tea and crumpets and all that! "Fred: He can run faster than Severus Snape confronted with shampoo." (I had to quote HP).OK, I promise to never do that ever again. When I decided to look into the Ames British Foods store located near downtown, my clichéd British persona came out. You can all relax, she just skipped across the pond, and I promise she'll never come back!

For those of you who don't know, Ames, IA has a family-owned British Food store, why? Because who doesn't love British food in Iowa? This store was started back in 2008, originally intended to serve the Brits who find themselves living and working in Ames, Iowa. Since 2008 their customer based has grown to the wider population of our town, and they even ship across the continental United States and Hawaii. They have everything from sweets to teas to frozen foods. They even sell clothing and some adorable teapots.

Reasonably priced, with delicious choices, you will have to make multiple trips so as not to blow all of your hard earned cash in one trip.

This store is located on Douglas Avenue, north of Main Street near the corner of Douglas Avenue and 5th. Next time you find yourself downtown, after stopping in for some delicious chocolates, or a good book to bury your nose in, head up to Ames British Food and purchase some delicious British snacks to make your outing complete.



photo JOJO MATSON

