



Sunriver Books & Music  
December 2012 Newsletter  
[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)  
541-593-2525



*Happy Holidays!  
May you experience peace and joy this holiday season and throughout 2013.*



Local artist Kris Moore will be at Sunriver Books & Music on Saturday December 15th from 3:00 to 6:00 PM and Sunday December 16th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Kris is a very talented artist. Her art is on display at Sunriver Books & Music. She has kindly agreed to give a demonstration of her painting. Stop by and watch Kris create art before your very eyes. She has an impressive portfolio of work that would make excellent holiday gifts. Her images are full of the grandeur of Central Oregon. Hanging one of Kris Moore's paintings on your walls will be a constant reminder of how special it is to live surrounded by all this beauty.

Come meet Kris and view her paintings. She is one of the nicest people I know, very easy to talk with, and exceptionally intuitive.

#### Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday January 12 at 5:00 PM **Life Among Giants** by Bill Roorbach

Sunday April 21st at 5:00 PM **100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon** by Bill Sullivan

Saturday May 4th 2013 at 5:00 PM Jane Kirkpatrick

Sunday May 5th 2013 at 11:30 Jane Kirkpatrick's Newberry Habitat for Humanity Walk

Watch our website, [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com), for more information on upcoming authors as they are scheduled.

Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may be limited for some events. Check our web site, [Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com), for changes and additions.



This Holiday Season may we urge you to consider shopping locally?

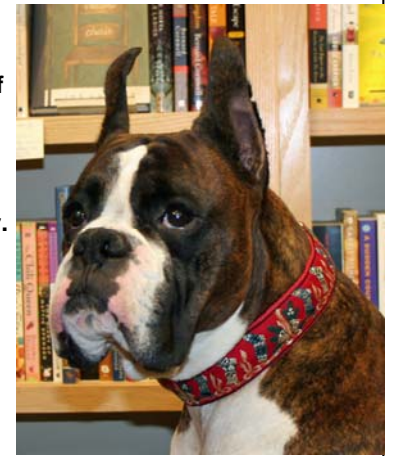
Sunriver Village has undergone much improvement, the buildings are looking quite attractive and the Village owners have all sorts of activities planned for the Holiday Season from strolling carolers to afternoons with Santa. All of the shopkeepers are prepared to welcome you warmly and we all have many nice things that would make wonderful gifts. We know you want Sunriver Village to look attractive and nice, that's what we want too. No matter what the Village owners do to make the buildings look great and no matter what the shopkeepers do to have great merchandise on hand, the Village will not thrive if the community goes elsewhere to shop. Stores with no customers is not a good equation, the math does not work. I have shopped for Holidays and gift giving occasions at Sunriver Village since moving to Sunriver. I enjoy the benefits of buying locally. Sunriver Sports has wonderful outdoor clothing, they have supplied many of my gifts. Flashman enjoys his Zukes treats from Sebastian's. My Mom



stays warm and toasty in the alpaca sweaters from Signature Imports. The Oregon Store has beautiful Pendleton blankets Fred's Flyfishing store has outdoor clothing for fishing or everyday wear. There are many more interesting, shops in Sunriver too!



At Sunriver Books & Music in addition to books we have a variety of puzzles, games, beautiful journals, travel gear, and dog toys. Flashman is usually wearing one of the collar lines we carry from snazzy dress collars hand-sewn in the Pacific Northwest to more rugged collars in colorful designs of Guatemalan fair traded fabric sewn in Idaho. Flashy is pictured in Holiday designs, they are bright and cheerful.



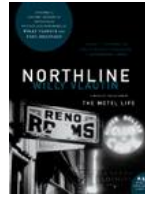
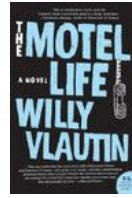
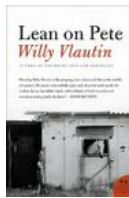
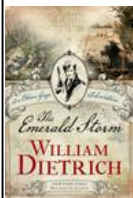
Our sumptuous line of gorgeous pens make fantastic gifts. We carry Montegrappa and Delta handcrafted in Italy, Namiki hand crafted in Japan, Monteverde hand crafted in the USA, and Acme Studio designs. Pens are wonderfully intimate gifts. Every time they are used, they will be reminders of the occasion and the giver. Pens bring a lifetime of memories. Passion by Delta in rollerball at \$275.00 is pictures below, also available in a Fountain Pen at \$425.00. Our pens are priced from \$74.99 to \$1,450.00 and above.



Acme Studio's whimsical **Dogs** design by Nancy Wolfe is available in rollerball for \$74.99. **Cats** is available too.



Books signed by the author are a very special gift. We have stock signed by a variety of Authors. ***Emerald Storm*** by William Dietrich, ***Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving*** by Jonathan Evison, ***Lean on Pete***, ***Motel Life***, and ***Northline*** (including a CD of beautiful music) by Willy Vlautin, ***Wilderness*** by Lance Weller, and ***Quilt by Association*** and ***Quilt Before The Storm*** by Arlene Sachitano.



***A Book of the Month*** subscription is a great gift idea. It will be appreciated by the readers on your gift list and don't forget to give yourself a subscription too! Sign up for ***Book of the Month*** subscription to receive a surprise book every month! Holidays can be stressful, look forward to 12 months of great reading. Give a gift subscription and spread the joy of reading to your friends and family.

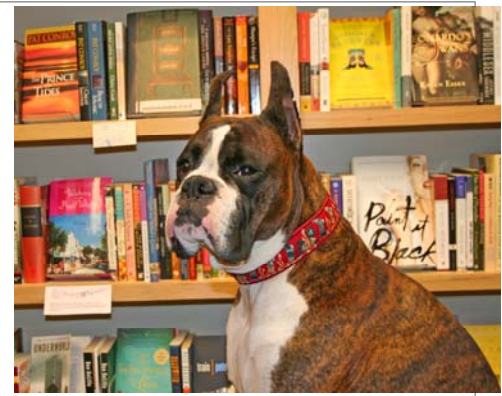
***A Book of the Month*** subscription for the first quarter of 2013 costs \$45.99 picked up in the store and \$51.99 mailed in the US. The first 6 months of 2013 cost \$91.98 picked up in the store or \$103.98 mailed in the US. The whole year of 2013 is \$182.82 picked up in the store or \$206.92 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book.

I enjoy selecting the books for you and take seriously my obligation to discover books that will engage the reader. In the past we have featured ***That Old Ace in the Hole*** by Annie Proulx, ***A Guide To The Birds of East Africa*** by Nicholas Drayson, and ***Children and Fire*** by Ursula Heigi. What will 2013 bring? Subscribers are welcome to share comments on [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com).

- December 26– January 2
- Share the Holiday Spirit! Donate a book to Three Rivers School!

Flashman recommends igniting a passion for literature!

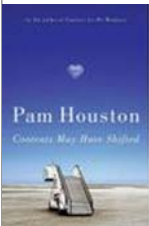
It is hard for school districts to find the funds to keep their libraries and classrooms thriving with good literature. Help fuel the school children's passion for reading. Buy any book in the children's section at 35% off, we keep the book and deliver it to Three Rivers School with your name & address. The first child to read the book will write you a thank you note, thereafter the book is available for the Three Rivers students. A \$19.99 book would cost you \$12.99, a \$16.99 book will be \$11.05, a \$12.99 book becomes \$8.44, \$9.99 reduces to \$6.49, and \$6.99 is just \$4.54. It is not expensive to spread the joy of reading!



Top Ten Lists For 2012!

Compiling a Top Ten list for the year and reflecting on the year's books is one of my very favorite activities. 2012 has been a challenge! There have been so many good books! If you enjoy reading, 2012 has been an embarrassment of riches, every month brings more beautifully written books. Narrowing all 2012 has to offer to 10 per category has been hard choosing what to leave out.

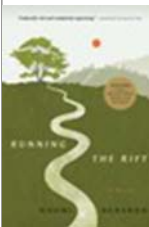
2012 Top Ten Fiction.



1. **Contents May Have Shifted** by Pam Houston is told in a series of vignettes that take the reader careening around the globe; hiking in the high country, rafting rivers, dealing with faithless love, finding strength in the loyal bonds of friends, and discovering happiness too. The shifting stories range in setting from Bhutan to Bend Oregon. The vignettes are the linked stories of a life. They give brief glimpses into the cares and pleasures of a woman facing the sorts of challenges that pepper her lifetime. She struggles with a love that cannot be true, discovers a love that might be true but has complications, hops planes to fantastic destinations, walks on the wild side, and shares with the reader her adventurous nature and wry sense of humor. She has a cadre of friends, funny and wise, who give an outstanding example of the value of friendship. The format is daring, vignettes of a life, but ultimately a lot of fun to read. It works; the reader is carried through the story gleefully by the narrator. All the short episodes add up to an interesting life, one the reader is happy to have experienced vicariously.



2. Jonathan Evison's **Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving**, is daring, original, and full of heart. Fortune has not smiled on Benjamin lately; he is almost down to his last dollar when he takes a job as a caregiver for Trevor, a 19 year old kid confined to a wheelchair. Benjamin, formerly a stay at home Dad until tragedy ended his marriage, has been out of the job market for quite a while, now caregiving is the best he can do. Slowly he forges a relationship with Trevor until it is far more than a job. Their prickly beginning morphs into a friendship and inspires an audacious adventure. Evison is brilliant at bringing the reader to care about Trevor and Benjamin, to root for them as they navigate the hazards and joys of life. Wickedly funny, edgy, and heart-warming, this is a book that will surprise you.



3. **Running the Rift** by Naomi Benaron is fabulous storytelling! Jean Patrick Nkuba's wants to believe his father's words, that Hutu and Tutsi can live in peace. His father is a teacher, a man who hopes for a bright future for his children. Death claims Jean Patrick's father unexpectedly, leaving the family bereft in a climate of escalating tribal tensions with the dream of peace fading fast. Jean Patrick wants to run; he has legs that fly and hopes for Olympic Gold. But he is the wrong tribe at a very dangerous time. Benaron has managed the formidable accomplishment of writing a beautiful, haunting story of family, of a young boy's coming of age, of the power of striving to be the best, and of redemption. It is a hopeful story despite the rampaging grim reaper that defiled Rwanda. **Running the Rift** deserves our attention.

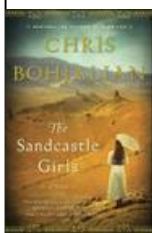


4. **In One Person** by John Irving is one of the most important books I have read on a subject that bears notice. Why do we make it so hard for each other? Why do we put people in boxes, dictate what they are by the vagaries of their sexual orientation? Am I defined by being a straight female? I don't think so. I am so much more than that. And so are the characters in Irving's brave book. Billy, the bi-sexual narrator of the story, comes of age in a small Vermont town where he grapples with his sexual identity and feels the disapproval of his once loving mother. Billy travels, falls in and out of love, and grows older. He matures into the kind of person who would be a wonderful friend, someone thoughtful and understanding. A plague hits the gay community, good people dying cruel deaths in staggering numbers, with Billy there to bear witness to the waste. Billy is a likeable narrator and Irving's trademark humor is not absent from this poignant story. There is a line in the book that feels so right. "...please don't put a label on me – don't make me a category before you get to know me!"



5. **Truth Like The Sun** by Jim Lynch proves he has the magic, it is magnificent. Seattle is one of the world's most beautiful cities and **Truth Like The Sun** reads like a love song to the spectacular, jaw dropping beauty, the vitality, the over the top outrageous glory of the place. The 1962 World's Fair put the spotlight on Seattle, a city so overwhelmingly gorgeous it dazzles no matter which direction you look. Roger is in love with this glorious city, the World's Fair is his creation. He hangs out with Elvis, greets Prince Phillip, and chats up LBJ. Roger is an idea man, a promoter, bursting with dreams for his city and the energy to make them come true. Fast forward to 2001 and Roger is still in love with his city, but he knows it could be so much more! He is tired of being the power behind the throne; he steps out front and center in a run for mayor. Helen was hired by the Seattle PI, the Pulitzer fuels her daydreams. Taking down charismatic Roger just might be her ticket to the big time. He cannot be squeaky clean after forty years making back room deals in city politics. Roger's closets have to house a few skeletons and Helen intends to find them, in whatever sorry form available.

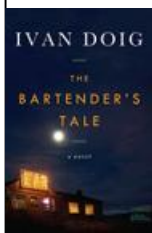
## 2012 Top Ten Fiction Continued.



6. **The Sandcastle Girls** by Chris Bohjalian. Evil thrives in dark and secret places, spots where the world has turned away and forgotten. In 1915 there were many distractions, a world war was raging. While attention was focused elsewhere, the Turks unleashed horrific cruelty and death on the Armenians. A young American, Elizabeth Endicott, travels to Aleppo, Syria to work with Armenian refugees. Her life will never be the same. Armen has lost everything a man holds dear, his family destroyed in the Genocide. He befriends the young American, moved by her zest for life and commitment to helping his people. In 2012 Laura Petrosian, a novelist, begins to research her Armenian heritage. These are characters you will root for, full of spirit and a desire to make a difference.



7. **Beautiful Ruins** by Jess Walter is absolutely brilliant. Pasquale Tursi takes over his late father's dream of turning their sleepy little inn into a tourist destination for Americans. Nestled at the edge of the Cinque Terre, his village is tiny, remote, and difficult to reach. His farfetched dreams seem to be coming true when a beautiful blond movie actress arrives. It is 1962 and two Titans are setting the world aflame with their passion while portraying another pair of doomed lovers, Anthony and Cleopatra. Pasquale's blond might douse the flames of Burton and Taylor's red hot love affair. Fast forward to present day Hollywood where a young screenwriter is trying to pitch a storyline to legendary producer Michael Deane's beautiful assistant. But Deane's past is about to catch up with him as Pasquale travels from Italy to Hollywood in search of the actress who changed everything so long ago. Jess Walter is pitch perfect in this beguiling story that spans decades and continents. He uses his settings brilliantly, from Italy to Scotland to Seattle to Sandpoint Idaho. Jess Walter's talent is High Octane



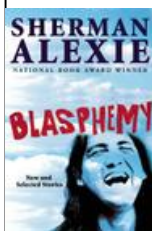
8. **The Bartender's Tale** by Ivan Doig. Rusty spends his first six years being tormented by his obnoxious cousins while living with his aunt in Arizona. Rusty's origins are a bit murky. His father is charismatic Tom Harry, a bar tender par excellent in Gros Vetre Montana. But the only thing Rusty knows about his Mom is that she is gone. Tom rescues Rusty from his spiteful cousins and he settles into a bachelor's life with his dad in a big old house behind the bar in the remote Montana town. It is a pretty good life, uncomplicated and harmonious, father and son looking out for each other. All goes swimmingly until Rusty turns twelve and Proxy, an old flame of Tom's, hits town with her teenage daughter. Is the daughter Rusty's sister? And what will happen now to Rusty's idyllic life with Tom? Ivan Doig's lyrical prose, wry humor, and rich storytelling are a treasure.



9. **Telegraph Avenue** by Michael Chabon. Chabon is able to keep a dozen intricate plot elements in the air as gracefully as a juggler, bringing them all home safely in the end. Archy and Nat run a record shop on **Telegraph Avenue**, a place where the community stops to swap tales. They have fallen on hard times as the economy in general and music in particular take a nose dive with big chain stores ruling the day. Their wives, Gwen and Aviva, are partners too, midwives in great demand for their superior care and skill. Archy and Nat's record shop is in imminent peril from the new Dogpile megastore opening down the street by former NFL superstar Gibson Goode. Just when things are looking dark for the guys, a delivery goes terribly awry for their wives. Archy has a few added complications; his father is the unreliable, recovering addict, and former kung Fu movie star, Luther Stallings. Oh, and Archy and Gwen are expecting their first child. All this comes together in the most entertaining and satisfying bouillabaisse of stories, many ingredients and a fine flavor.



10. **The Snow Child** by Eowyn Ivey is one of the most assured debut novels I have read. Haunting and beautiful, it updates a Russian fairytale to 1920's Alaska. Mabel and Jack tried to come to terms with being childless. They left their boisterous family behind on the east coast for the quiet loneliness of remote Alaska. Creating a farm out of this unforgiving land is a tough job for the young; it is hard, weary going for middle aged Mabel and Jack. Grasping for a moment of joy out of the first snowfall of the year, they build a snow girl in the yard. The next morning the snow is gone, but a blond girl, like a snow sprite, is glimpsed near the trees. They come to love the young girl as their own child; fairy tales are not without danger.

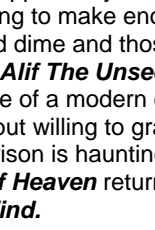
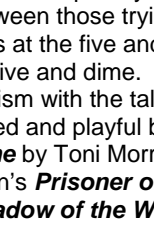
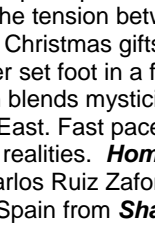
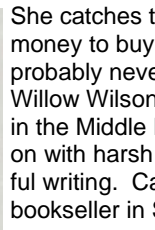
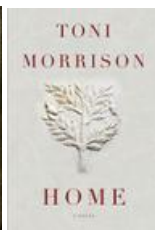
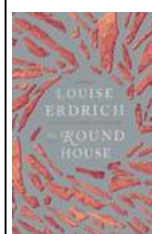


11. **Blasphemy** by Sherman Alexie combines 16 new stories with 15 favorites; this is a full and inspiring display of the prowess of an incredibly talented author. Sherman Alexie has such a clear, strong voice. His work is full of the pain, joy, suffering, and celebration of Native American culture. And he is fun to read! He gives the reader a blazingly straight on view of Native life while at the same time suffusing his work with humor that touches the tragedy of the human condition. From **The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven** to **War Dances**, the body of work in **Blasphemy** is wide ranging, wildly entertaining, and heartfelt. He broke my heart with **Reservation Blues**, one of his early novels, and it has never mended. I could not compile a list for 2012 without including his latest book. Read it, weep, laugh, and understand.


I hope you will forgive me for presenting a Top 11 rather than a Top Ten. May I mention a few others very worthy of attention? I had more fun reading **Where'd You Go Bernadette** by Maria Semple, than any other book this year. it was a hoot! If you

have spent time in Seattle, it is a must read. Hilary Mantel won her second Man Booker Prize for **Bring Up The Bodies**, the middle book in her trilogy on the life of Thomas Cromwell, King Henry VIII's very adept fix it man. The writing is clever, well paced, and focuses on the King's estrangement from Anne Boleyn, her unfortunate end, and the rise of Jane Seymour. Mantel is the third novelist to win two Man Booker prizes. Louise Erdrich's National Book Award winning novel, **Round House**, is set on the reservation and tells the story of a woman brutally raped, her husband, the judge, whose laws would not bring justice for his wife, and their teenage son shorn of his innocence. **Flight Behavior** by Barbara Kingsolver bestows a moment of grace when a young woman discovers a meadow blazing with the glory of millions of fiery orange butterflies filling the sky. Kingsolver's novel


shows how our perceptions are shaped by opportunity and place,. She catches the tension between those trying to make enough money to buy Christmas gifts at the five and dime and those who probably never set foot in a five and dime. **Alif The Unseen** by G. Willow Wilson blends mysticism with the tale of a modern day hacker in the Middle East. Fast paced and playful but willing to grapple head on with harsh realities. **Home** by Toni Morrison is hauntingly beautiful writing. Carlos Ruiz Zafon's **Prisoner of Heaven** returns to the bookseller in Spain from **Shadow of the Wind**.




## 2012 Top Ten Mystery.



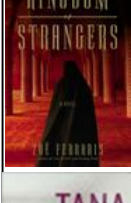
1. **As *The Crow Flies*** by Craig Johnson is the latest in the Walt Longmire series. Chief Lonnie Little Bird suggests Walt and Henry check out Painted Warrior as a potential site for Walt's daughter's wedding. Remote but beautiful with painted cliffs and circling crows, it looks promising until a woman flies over the cliff edge clutching an infant, falling not far from Walt and Henry. Dog takes it as his personal responsibility to protect the baby while Walt and Henry catch a killer. The investigation is complicated by overlapping jurisdictions and the fed's ruffled feathers. Tribal Police Chief Lolo Long combines inexperience with a hair trigger temper, not a fortuitous combination in a cop. If the murder is to be solved, Walt will have to give some pretty swift effective Sheriff lessons. Lolo proved her bravery in the Iraq War, but her transformation to police chief is not going smoothly (clearly she missed the old adage about catching more flies with honey). Johnson blends his wry humor with a walloping good mystery.




2. ***Gone Girl*** by Gillian Flynn. Diabolically devious plotting and engaging writing will keep you guessing. Amy disappears on her 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, leaving her handsome husband with his slow southern charm to face the suspicions of police and media. Amy was a beautiful woman, bright and charming. She hated the move from New York to Missouri but times are tough and Nick insisted on returning to his small hometown to help his sister with their ailing parents. Now lovely Amy is gone and the story Nick tells just does not ring true. Can this handsome southern gentleman be a wife killer? Gillian Flynn is a master at taking the reader down unexpected lanes!




3. ***Istanbul Passage*** by Joseph Kanon has labyrinth plot twists, an incredible setting, and brilliant writing. Istanbul has the glamor and intrigue of sitting at the gate between West and East. It is a city full of dark alleys, black water sparkling in city lights at night, and colorful mosques; a visually dazzling place. Leon's wife helped Jews flee the Nazis through the city on their way to Palestine. It was dangerous work that left her catatonic in an expensive care facility. Leon started with delivering packages, as an American businessman he had the perfect cover for going from place to place. Then the packages became people and the game was something more. With the war over his handler in the US Embassy wants him to deliver one more man; it should have been easy and relatively safe. Instead, the night explodes in violence and leaves Leon with dangerous human cargo and no backup in a maze of disinformation and double cross.




4. ***Kingdom of Strangers*** by Zoe Ferraris. A shepherd stumbles on a secret grave concealed by a sand dune with the bodies of 19 brutally murdered women. The Saudi police force is aghast at the discovery and shamed by the knowledge a serial killer hunts in their country, long thought a perversion of the west. The women are all servants from other countries, throw away women with few rights and little protection. Blending a tight plot and a respectful but sharp view of the cultural reality of Saudi Arabia, it is a superb mystery. The lead characters, Katya and Nayir, make you want to keep reading.




5. ***Broken Harbor*** by Tana French is a darkly disturbing Irish mystery with plot twists that will take your breath away. Scorcher Kennedy returns from ***Faithful Place*** and makes you yearn for life to treat him kindly. But of course it doesn't. Broken Harbor is a remote upscale yuppie development that went bust with the rest in the financial crisis. A few occupied homes stand surrounded by skeletons of houses that will never reach completion. It is an eerie place full of disappointed dreams. In one of the houses the dream turned into a nightmare; the father and two children are dead, the kitchen looks like an abattoir, and the mother is clinging to life by a thread. Scorcher's job is to reclaim the top spot in the Murder Squad and find a killer.




6. ***The Gods of Gotham*** by Lindsay Faye. In 1845 New York is just starting its first police department, the Irish potato famine is dumping thousands of poor, starving refugees on the overwhelmed city, and a blazing inferno is about to change Timothy Wilde's life leaving him homeless, without funds, and scarred. With few options Timothy accepts the job his brother engineers for him in the new police force. Returning to his new apartment at night a little girl wearing a night gown covered in blood runs smack into him. He takes the terrified child in to be comforted by his landlady. She tells of a brothel where child prostitutes go missing when a hooded man comes in the night. Timothy is new at policing and not at all sure it is a good fit, but he knows these children deserve justice and he is willing to put everything on the line for them.




7. ***Malice of Fortune*** by Michael Ennis is a moody, tantalizing mystery set in Italy during the days of the Borgias, Niccolo Machiavelli, and Leonardo da Vinci. If you like rich complicated mysteries populated with some of the most fascinating figures in history, this is just the ticket: body parts found in odd places; mysterious victims; Caesar Borgia on the cusp of a deal with the Florentines; crimes that muddle with political maneuvering. It all makes for a fascinating, elegant page turner that keeps you guessing to the very end. A Most Beautiful Deception by Michael Ennis is not to be missed.



8. ***Witness the Night*** by Kishwar Desai. In a remote village in northern India a young girl, beaten and tied to a bed, is found in a smoldering house with the murdered bodies of thirteen relatives. The local police want quick closure and believe they have their culprit. Simran, a social worker, doubts the girl is to blame. She left the same village for Delhi years ago, now she is back to interview the girl and seek the truth. Desai's gives a powerful indictment of the outrages committed against women while also telling a tightly plotted, intricate mystery. Simran is an unflinching, tough, intuitive protagonist.



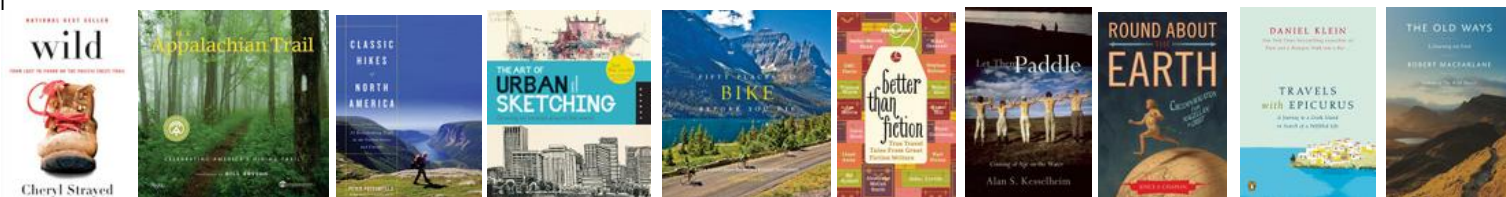
9. ***Elegy for Eddie*** by Jacqueline Winspear. The past comes calling for Maisie when a group of rough men arrive hat in hand to seek help; she will not let them down. These men were her father's friends, fellow produce peddlers driving horse carts through the streets of London. Eddie, the gentlest of souls, has been killed in a tragic accident. But the men don't buy it, they are sure someone murdered Eddie and Maisie is just the person to see the killer does not escape justice. Maisie remembers Eddie well, a quiet man who could gentle any horse with a word or a touch.



10. ***Creole Belle*** by James Lee Burke reveals the evil that men do. Dave is recovering from gun shot wounds in the hospital when he is visited by a troubled young woman. After his release he learns the woman is missing and no one seems to believe she really came to the hospital. Her disappearance may be tied to one of the most powerful families in the area. No matter the odds, Dave and his pal Cleto will do their considerable best to see that evil does not go unchallenged. James Lee Burke can write the most beautiful sentences, he is a real pleasure to read.

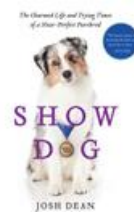
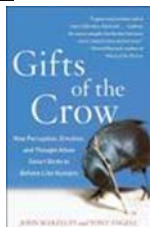
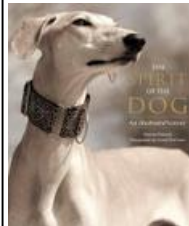
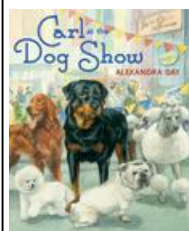
## 2012 Top Ten Travel

1. **Wild: From Lost To Found On the Pacific Crest Trail** by Cheryl Strayed is the story of an epic walk! She set out alone, ill prepared, and woefully inexperienced to hike the Pacific Crest Trail, from California's Mojave Desert to the Bridge of the Gods bordering Oregon and Washington. The story follows Cheryl through California and Oregon as she gets used to her hiking boots, has adventures with the flora and fauna (large bears and irritated fang possessing snakes), makes friends, and comes to grips with her grief over the loss of her mother. Cheryl is a likeable, lively author. She put a lot of miles on those hiking boots.
2. **The Appalachian Trail: Celebrating America's Hiking Trail** by Bill Bryson and Brian King is full of the history of the trail, fabulous pictures, and a map of the full trail. It is the Appalachian Trail's Seventy Fifth Anniversary and this book is a stunner!
3. **Classic Hikes In North America: 25 Breathtaking Treks In The United States and Canada** by Peter Potterfield is a gorgeous picture book and a guide to some of the continent's grandest hikes.
4. **The Art of Urban Sketching: Drawing on Location Around The World** by Gabriel Campanario will inspire you to look at cities and travel in a new way. I enjoyed all the sketches.
5. **Fifty Places To Bike Before You Die** by Chris Santella is full of great pictures and covers grand bike rides from New York City to Viet Nam.
6. **Better Than Fiction** by Don George. Enjoy traveling? Or just reading about far off places and dreaming? This lively collection of travel essays is just the ticket. A plethora of stories, going all over the globe, from such great authors as Alexander McCall Smith, Isabel Allende, Frances Mayes, Jan Morris, and Joyce Carol Oates among many others.
7. **Let Them Paddle** by Alan Kesselheim shares the extraordinary story of this adventurous family celebrating the "birth" river of their three children with long distance paddling trips.
8. **Round About The Earth** by Joyce Chaplin delves into the stories of circumnavigation from Magellan to Nellie Bly to space travel.
9. **Travels With Epicurus** by Daniel Klein reflects on a sojourn in Greece where he meditates on the way he will spend the last part of his life. Klein considers the teachings and advice of Epicurus who believed in living in tune with life's pleasures. Klein wants to know how best to spend the last of his days. For anyone wondering how they will spend their "golden" years, this is a grand book. Written with a sense of humor, and an inquisitive examination of the possibilities, it gives a lot of food for thought.
10. **The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot** by Robert MacFarlane reflects on rambling as the author follows ancient paths across Britain.



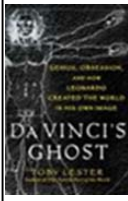
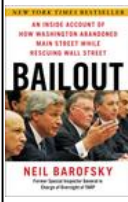
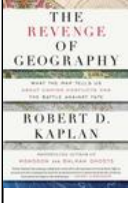
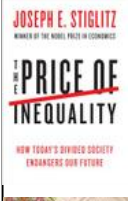
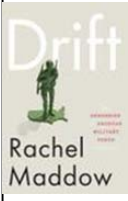
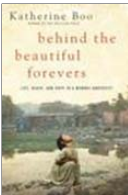
## Flashman's 2012 Top Ten Animals.

1. **Carl At The Dog Show** by Alexandra Day. Carl Rocks!
2. **Spirit of the Dog** by Tamsin Pickeral. Gorgeous pictures and the history of that most beloved creature, the dog.
3. **Majesty of the Horse** by Tamisin Pickeral. Gorgeous pictures in a book that pays homage to the grace, beauty and splendor of the horse.
4. **The Big New Yorker Book of Dogs** by Malcolm Gladwell. Chock full of articles on the dog from a plethora of notable authors including Arthur Miller, John Updike, Roald Dahl, Jeffrey Toobin, and many others.
5. **Show Dog** by Josh Dean brought back memories of Flashman's younger life. The author spends a year following the show career of Jack, an Australian Shepard.
6. **What's A Dog For? The Surprising History, Philosophy, and Politics of Man's Best Friend** by John Homans explores the dog's complex and prominent place in our hearts and homes.
7. **Eclipse** by Nicholas Clee. All but three of the last 50's years Kentucky Derby winners have in common the blood of **Eclipse**, an undefeated stallion of blazing speed.
8. **Love, Life and Elephants** by Dame Daphne Sheldrick is the heartwarming story of a remarkable woman's life in Africa and her dedication to rescuing orphaned elephants. I remember watching a television special on Dame Sheldrick ages back and wanting to know more; this book gives a complete look at a fascinating life. The book is peppered with amusing and endearing stories of the elephants, rhinos and other animals. Flashman is sure he would like elephants given the opportunity.
9. **Paw Prints In the Moonlight: The Heartwarming True Story of One Man and His Cat** by Dennis O'Connor, Richard Morris. Toby Jug had a rough start in life but grew up to be a magnificent Maine Coon Cat living a life full of catly adventure and love.
10. **Gifts of the Crow** by John Marzluff and Tony Angell. Crows are fascinating creatures! They have strong bonds with their mates, can figure out complex problems, and are gifted with a robust curiosity. Marzluff and Angel successfully combine solid research into an entertaining book. We especially enjoyed the chapters on frolic and insight.



## Top Ten Non Fiction.

1. **Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity** by Katherine Boo, winner of the National Book Award, reads like fiction but it is all too true. Annawadi is a slum nestled against the opulence of luxury hotels lining the Mumbai airport, dire poverty living side by side with travelers with wealth and ease. The truly amazing aspect of this book is the common ground built by Boo, a Pulitzer winning journalist, and the people of Annawadi. They allow her to know their deepest thoughts and fears. Families strive to get ahead, neighbor fights neighbor, murder and mayhem happen, and Boo is there to bear witness. It is paced like a thriller, very readable. Boo's intimate portrayal makes you care about the characters.
2. **Short Night of the Shadow Catcher** by Timothy Egan. Edward Curtis aimed his lens and showed the world another truth, a clear vision of Native Americans. He aimed and shot showing us an old woman, the daughter of a Chief, living in squalor taunted by rock throwing white boys south of Seattle. His photography was art, his pictures just as powerful as any painting. Curtis changed public perception of Native Americans, not so many years after official practices that could be called genocide; He showed us a culture and a people deserving respect. Curtis lived rough, traveling far and wide, across a land he loved, to capture ceremonies and customs before they were lost. Egan pays homage to the man and his quest.
3. **Drift** by Rachel Maddow is a balanced look at how easy it has become for the United States to enter into war and to experience the heartache of people who died in wars that did not need to be fought. She gives an account of how the civilian and military establishment sought to expand the use and size of our war making capacity, mostly for purely political and ideological ends. By overriding the will of the public and a lack of congressional will to stand up to presidents, the result has been perpetual war. Maddow sounds an alarm that the Founding Fathers warned us against; a standing army is a threat to freedom and the public must demand the government make it more difficult to go to war unless it is in the country's absolute national interest.
4. **The Black Count** by Tom Reiss. Alexandre Dumas wrote the novels "The Count of Monte Cristo" and "The Three Musketeers" both of which were inspired by his father Alex Dumas. The product of an aristocrat white father and a black slave mother, he was brought to France as a young boy where he was educated and received benefits in society that allowed him to thrive. Joining the French army just before the French Revolution, he shot up through the ranks as he distinguished himself in hard fought battles both military and political. Napoleon's doomed expedition to conquer Egypt brought more military honors and victories to Dumas thus solidifying his stature as one of the army's best generals. Always fearful of Dumas because of his popularity, Napoleon abandoned his army after Nelson's naval victory and fled back to France leaving Dumas to fend for himself.
5. **The Price of Inequality** by Joseph Stiglitz is a comprehensive counterargument to the Democratic neoliberalism and Republican trickle down economic theories that are what passes for mainstream political dialog today. Many economists are describing the present economic morass as due to globalization, deficit spending and a self-replicating meritocracy built on misguided political coddling. The widening wealth gap caused by the outsized exercise of political power by moneyed interests over the legislative and regulatory processes are a violation of moral values as well as a burden to the free exercise of capitalism causing volatility, inefficiency and undermining growth and productivity. Time is running to recognize the peril to our way of life unless comprehensive changes are made to our economic and social systems.
6. **The Revenge of Geography** by Robert Kaplan cites many instances where geography played a major role in the outcome of history and he considers the role of geographical obstacles just as important in the resulting world conflicts as military might, strategy and logistics. While Kaplan was an early proponent of military intervention by the United States in places like the Balkans and Iraq, he came to realize that geographical obstacles and forces, rather than the relative power behind the military adversaries were tremendously more important to the political and military outcomes. Kaplan uses a broad look at how geography will shape the strategic options of the major geopolitical powers in relation to the United States.
7. **Quiet** by Susan Cain reflects on the one third of our population considered introverts; that is people who prefer quiet introspection as opposed to extroverts who thrive on being in crowds and are outgoing and interactive. Cain sees our educational and business environment set up for and rewarding to extroverts. However, there are many ideas and values that are lost by not allowing introverts to effectively participate in these areas. Cain believes the lack of a need for loud, bright stimulation doesn't mean there is something wrong with you. Spending time alone in solitude is a crucial and underrated ingredient for creativity.
8. **Bailout** by Neil Barofsky. As special inspector general overseeing the TARP bailout of the "too big to fail" banking system, Barofsky had a unique take on how the financial institutions created complex financial products and leveraged them to unprecedented levels, leaving the entire world's economy at grave risk of collapse. Barofsky shines a light on how the entire bailout favored Wall Street and left the average homeowner dangling in the wind, left to fend for themselves while wealthy banking conglomerates were saved and in many cases, made stronger at the expense of the American taxpayer. Barofsky chillingly points out that no substantive changes were ever enacted to prohibit this economic catastrophe from happening again. He believes that unless major changes are enacted by Congress, it is inevitable that another even larger economic meltdown will happen again.
9. **Da Vinci's Ghost** by Toby Lester writes of Leonardo Da Vinci's passion to draw a physical embodiment of the perfect man. The drawing Vitruvian Man was derived from the Roman architect Vitruvius who described the ideal human form as "one who could fit inside a circle (the divine) and one that could fit inside a square (earthy and secular)." Using the ideal human body as a way to express universal design, which properties made both the human body and the universe perfect. Architects could then use these principles to design perfect buildings. It wasn't until the 15<sup>th</sup> century that Da Vinci gave physical form to the Vitruvian ideal of man. The tale spans a century that includes Caesar Augustus, book hunter Bracciolini, Brunelleschi and Da Vinci.
10. **38 Nooses** by Scott W. Berg. In 1862 the largest hanging in US history took place in Minnesota, 38 Native Americans sang their death chants as the nooses took their lives. With the Civil War raging in the South, the Dakota War was overshadowed; the nations attention focused elsewhere. Little Crow foresaw the futility of fighting but broken treaties, hardship and hunger forced his hand. Sarah Wakefield, captured in the conflict, urged leniency; she was ignored and vilified. Berg gives a fascinating account of the doomed uprising and the harsh retribution. For a fictional account read ***Night Birds*** by Thomas Maltman.

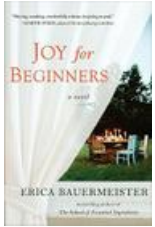


## December 2012 Book Clubs

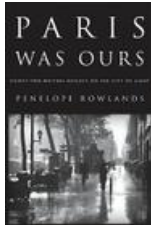


Mystery Book Club meets December 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss **Broken** by Karin Fossum. This is a highly inventive mystery. If you enjoy reading something a bit different, it should intrigue you. A lone woman looks out her window in the night, she sees people standing outside her house, an old man, a woman clutching a baby, and many others, all standing and waiting. "They are patient, their heads are bowed, they are waiting for their stories to be told, and it is I who will tell them – I am the author." This time things are different, when the woman goes to bed, she hears the sound of someone breaking into her house. She lies paralyzed by fear in the quiet of her bedroom. Up the stairs comes one of the men she watched standing outside, he has jumped the queue, desperately eager for his story to be told. As the author creates a world for her character, he becomes more and more real to the reader. Chapters are interspersed where the character, Alvar Eade, and author converse. Alvar, is a good man, pleased with his career in an art gallery and his apartment within easy walking distance of the town. Perhaps he has not fully understood the import of the type of fiction our author writes, for she is an author of crime novels and something upsetting is sure to come his way. Karin Fossum is an award winning Norwegian author; this is a lively, interesting step outside her popular Inspector Konrad Sejer series.

December 10<sup>th</sup> Fiction Book Club discusses **Joy for Beginners** by Erica Bauermeister; a beautifully written story. Kate's victory over the Emperor of Maladies is being celebrated with an intimate dinner party for six of her closest friends. Her daughter put up a brochure in the kitchen about rafting the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Kate's friends encourage her to take her daughter up on the trip, as a grand celebration of her renewed health. She agrees provided each of her guests allows her to choose a challenge for them too. The six women face challenges that ultimately enrich their lives. Each challenge is different and tailored to the unique situation and character of the woman. Divorce has left one friend stuck in the past, she cannot seem to let go and move on. Her ex-husband's books still dominate her book cases. Her challenge is to rid the house of those reminders of her past life so she can get on with her new life. This is the perfect book for the season! It celebrates the bonds of friendship, the accomplishment of surmounting a challenge, and the need to fully engage with life. Erica Bauermeister writes with sensuous, lush prose; her books are a joy to read and this is a heartwarming, life affirming story. Her prior book, **The School of Essential Ingredients**, is also a lovely story, set in a cooking class.



Marlene Gaidosh, one of our book club members, will bring an array of her knitting creations to the December 10th Fiction Book Club. I have a shawl knitted by Marlene, it is not only a beautiful design, it is soft and warm. It is one of my favorites. Take this opportunity to purchase something sumptuous for yourself and do some holiday shopping for a distinctive, useful, and sensuous Holiday gift.



The Travel Essay Book Club meets December 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss **Paris Was Ours: Thirty Two Writers Reflect On The City of Light** by Penelope Rowland. It is dark early in December, what better way to spend a few evenings than reading about the City of Light? Penelope Rowland brought together a diverse group of author's reflections on their relationship to Paris. Diane Johnson muses on the culture, Caroline Weber remembers Frenchmen from her time in Paris as a young, pretty Harvard grad, Joe Queenan also reminisces about his gap year in Paris. David Sedaris talks about the language. Stacy Shiff follows in Ben Franklin's footsteps. Each author brings a different remembrance of Paris, a city that captivates the imagination.

### Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM

#### 2013! Happy New Year!

January 7th 2013 **In The Shadow of Gotham** by Stephanie Pintoff [Mystery Book Club](#)

January 14th 2013 **The Borrower** by Rebecca Makki [Fiction Book Club](#)

January 21st 2013 **Greater Journey** by David McCullough [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

February 4th 2013 **Pride & Prejudice** by Jane Austen [Classics Book Club](#) Jane Austen Month

February 11th 2013 **Death Comes to Pemberley** by P.D. James [Mystery Book Club](#) Jane Austen Month

February 18th 2013 **Jane Austen Book Club** by Karen Joy Fowler [Fiction Book Club](#) Jane Austen Month

February 25th 2013 **Swerve** by Stephen Greenblatt [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

March 4th 2013 **Adios Hemingway** by Leonardo Fuentes Padura [Mystery Book Club](#) Hemingway Month

March 11th 2013 **Paris Wife** by Paula McClain [Fiction Book Club](#) Hemingway Month

March 18th 2013 **Farewell To Arms** by Ernest Hemingway [Classics Book Club](#) Hemingway Month

March 25th 2013 **Moveable Feast** by Ernest Hemingway [Travel Essay Book Club](#) Hemingway Month

April 1st 2013 **Snow Child** by Eowyn Ivey [Fiction Book Club](#)

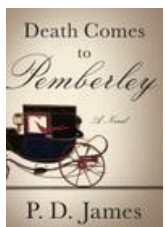
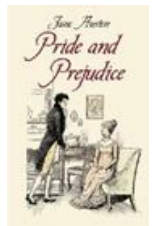
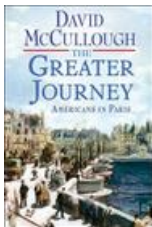
April 8th 2013 **Monstrous Regiment of Women** by Laurie King [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 15th 2013 **My Antonia** by Willa Cather, [Classics Book Club](#) celebrating World Book Night on April 23rd.

April 22nd **Great Divergence** by Timothy Noah [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

May 13th 2013 **Butterflies of the Grand Canyon** by Margaret Erhart [Mystery Book Club](#)

**Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at [Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)**



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