



Sunriver Books & Music  
December 2013  
Newsletter  
[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)  
541-593-2525



*Happy Holidays!*

Dr. Sue Dougherty is one of my heroes, a woman with too many talents to mention. We are honored to have her photographic art exhibited at Sunriver Books & Music. Considering her deep connection with the animal world, it is not surprising that her photography featuring birds and animals catch their spirit in ways that touch you as you gaze at the images. View her art and you will see what I mean. Pictures of owls are so intense you can see individual feathers and she has caught the image so clearly it seems as if the owl is looking out of the picture straight at the viewer. A shot of an elephant's eye within the folds of grey skin seems to be connecting with you in a visceral way. A brightly colored mountain bluebird emerges from its hole in the rough bark of a tree in Shevlin Park. Vividly colored trout are pictured moving through water with the look of an impressionist painting. Her landscapes convey a deep reverence for nature. I am awed by the talent in these gorgeous works of photographic art. For the holidays she has reduced prices. Prints formerly \$175 are \$150, formerly \$150 are \$105, and formerly \$100 are now \$85. Give someone a special gift this year, one that embodies the wonders of nature, you could not do better.



The out of doors has always been one of Dr. Dougherty's passions. She rises early to spend hours staking out a tree to catch the perfect shot of a mountain bluebird. She is an avid runner, kayaks and canoes, and enjoys camping. Accompanying her on many of her outdoor adventures are her dogs, Bodie and Andy.

Dr. Dougherty is also a brilliant, caring board certified internist in veterinary medicine. If your companion animal is ever facing a difficult medical challenge, have your vet refer you to Dr. Dougherty. She has brought Flashman through many a difficult time. He is with us today because of her diligence and good care, we hope she keeps him with us for a long, long, long time. Dr Dougherty's whole staff is wonderful. Kat and Kena sat with Flashy and I when he was in distress because they really care. Rhonda, Kristin and Kristin are all gentle, kind souls. I have seen Dr. Dougherty cuddling and comforting the animals she treats, she is not only an exceptionally competent doctor, she is also a very loving friend to her furry patients. Her husband, Dr. Mark Parchman, is a board certified surgeon. Flashman and Lucy Barr are both able walk due to his skill. He is one of the kindest, gentlest men I have ever met. Their clinic is Bend Veterinary Specialists 541-312-2114, I am very fond of them all.



Chris Merideth is a remarkable young man; a trained forester and a gifted craftsman. Being a bit obsessed about books, it is not surprising that I am quite picky about bookcases. Chris crafts great custom bookcases. He has designed and built several for me; I am delighted with their quality. An oak bookcase in the Mission style is pictured on the left. The price is dependent on the difficulty of the design and the size of the bookcase. Mine have ranged between \$500 and \$700. See another style at Sunriver Books & Music.

Ponderosa Pine are beautiful. Chris has been a treasure in helping to keep the Ponderosa Pine on our piece of Sunriver in good condition. I value his expertise and appreciate his work. Chris is also very willing to take on projects. Our French Doors face south right into any storm, for years they would leak in winter. Chris fixed them after others had failed. He approaches his work with common sense, starting with the least costly alternative. Reach Chris Merideth at 541-647-0203.



There are people who make you feel good about the world's prospects, everyone I have mentioned on this page falls into that category. Good people who care about their actions. It is not a bit surprising that Chris's wife is also quite wonderful. Dr. Wendy Merideth is a gentle, caring veterinarian at Sunriver Veterinary Clinic 541-593-8128. She is a beautiful woman who just glows from the inside. We feel privileged she is right here in Sunriver! She is so very kind and caring with her patients.

### Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday February 15th 2014 at 5:00 PM **Hall of Secrets** by Cate Campbell

Saturday March 15th 2014 **The Free** by Willy Vlautin

Saturday March 29th 2013 at 5:00 PM **Worthy Brown's Daughter** by Phillip Margolin

Saturday April 12th 2014 at 5:00 PM **The Dismal Science** by Peter Mountford

Saturday May 10th 2014 at 5:00 PM **Oregon For The Curious** by William Sullivan

Saturday May 17th 2014 at 5:00 PM **The Three Emperors** by William Dietrich

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.

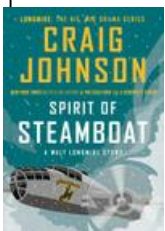
## Holiday Gift Ideas.

Give a book that embodies the spirit of the season.

**A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens follows Ebenezer Scrooge as the coldness of his heart is laid bare to him. The spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future illustrate the cost of his miserly heart and the fate that awaits him if he continues to be so uncaring to everyone. Clearly by ignoring the needs of others, by becoming bitter and grasping, he robs himself of happiness. **A Christmas Carol** celebrates the belief in merriment and fun, urging you to enjoy life. Dickens' entertaining story is perfect for putting you in the holiday spirit. There are the usual delightfully unforgettable characters you would expect from a Dickens novel. This story has been continuously in print since it was first published in 1843, it is every bit as relevant and enjoyable today. It is beautifully illustrated and would make a fine gift.



**The Spirit of Steamboat** by Craig Johnson opens on Christmas Eve. Sheriff Walt Longmire is indulging his tradition of reading **A Christmas Carol** on the holiday when he is interrupted by a woman looking for the former sheriff. The story goes back in time to 1988, Walt's first year as Sheriff, when a tremendous storm forces down a medevac helicopter. A horrific accident has left a little girl clinging to life by a shoestring, if she does not get to the burn center in Denver soon she will perish. The storm raging across Wyoming makes it impossible for any of the small planes at the Durant airport to attempt the flight. A relic from WWII is the only plane heavy enough to battle the elements, if anyone can be found to fly it. Former Sheriff Lucien Connelly was a Doolittle Raider, once again he steps into the breach, willing to put his life on the line to save another. There is a wonderful line in the book when Walt explains why he will climb into that plane with Lucien: "...it's a question of what you have to do, what you have to live with if you don't." Reading this story in any season is a real treat. It is even more so during the holidays, bringing us back to the meaning of the season and causing us to reflect on what is truly important in the lives we live.



Pens make wonderful intimate gifts. Every time they are touched, the memory returns of the giver, bringing joyful memories. We carry a variety of gorgeous pens from Acme Studio's lively, often whimsical, designs priced from \$75.00 to Montegrappa of Italy's sensuous, beautiful works of art priced into the thousands. Pictured is one of my favorite of the Acme Studio line, Dogs by the artist Nancy Wolf (there is a cat pen too) and the Best of Luck Italian Style with Delta's Lucky Pen priced at \$395.00 for the rollerball and \$550.00 for the fountain pen.



### Gifts

*that keep giving through time are special. Pens bring a memory when they are touched and can be used for many years. Books are special gifts too. Reading the two titles listed above could become an annual tradition. Our Book of the Month Club is another gift that keeps on giving throughout the year.*

Be nice to yourself, purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription and receive a surprise book every month. Make the readers on your gift list happy, purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription for them too and every month will be a little bit like the holidays when they open a package with a new book to discover. This is a great way to find a new author to enjoy. It is important to us that the Book of the Month Club selections are wonderful books. I take choosing the month's books very seriously and enjoy spending time deliberating over the choices, trying to pick the best books for you. Past selections have included **Housekeeping** by Marilynne Robinson, **Sweet Thursday** by John Steinbeck, **Let The Northern Lights Erase Your Name** by Vendela Vida, **The Folded Earth** by Anuradha Roy and **Sunnyside** by Glen David Gold. What will 2014 bring? Purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription and enjoy the surprise every month. If you are using the Book of the Month Club subscription as a Holiday Gift, may we suggest adding on the two titles listed above, **Spirit of Steamboat** by Craig Johnson (signed by the author) and **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens? Delight the readers on your gift list! Book of the Month Club subscriptions for the year 2014 with the books picked up in the store costs \$179.82 or \$203.82 mailed in the USA. Add both **Spirit of Steamboat** and **A Christmas Carol** for \$39.99 or \$41.99 mailed in the USA. The first six months of 2014 cost \$88.93 picked up in the store, \$100.93 mailed. The first 3 months of 2014 is \$44.94 picked up in the store or \$50.94 mailed in the USA.

### Craft Fair at Sunriver Books & Music!

*Crafts handcrafted in Central Oregon make wonderful gifts!*

Prior to the Fiction Book Club meeting from 6-6:30 on Monday December 9th and again from 3-5 PM on Saturday December 21st Marlene Gaidosh and Kat McCliskey will have their creations displayed. Marlene makes wonderful knit scarves, I have two and they are absolutely sumptuous. Kat makes whimsical wreaths and gifts for the furry members of the family too. Our cats are dreaming of her catnip sachets. These gifts are not only attractive, but also created right here in Central Oregon!

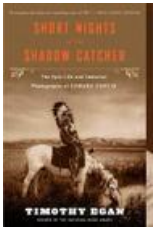




*For the furry member of your household we have an array of dog collars, leashes, Planet Dog toys, and Sweet Potato Chews. Flashman, our CFB, is modeling a couple of the Holiday design collars.*

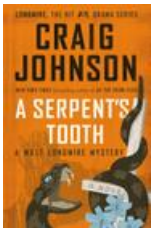


Another great combination for Holiday gift giving would be to combine one of the Acme Studio pens featuring a Frank Lloyd Wright design, for \$75 with either **Loving Frank** by Nancy Horan or **The Women** by T.C. Boyle. The pens pictured are Playhouse and Home & Studio, the Frank Lloyd Wright pens come in a special box, also pictured.

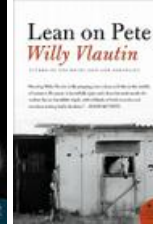
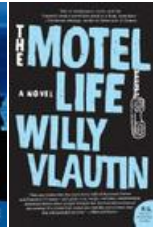
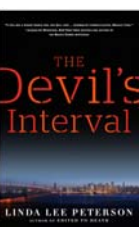
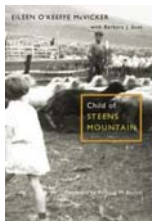


The Non-Fiction Book Club enjoyed a discussion of **The Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life & Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis** by Timothy Egan in November. Curtis' amazing photography changed the image of Native Americans. This book coupled with a calendar for 2014 featuring Curtis' photography would make a lovely gift.

**Books signed by the author make great gifts!**



We have signed copies available of all the titles in Craig Johnson's popular Walt Longmire series set in Wyoming including **The Serpent's Tooth**, **Cold Dish**, and **The Spirit of Steamboat**. We have signed copies of **The Devil's Interval** by Linda Lee Peterson and **Blood of Lorraine** by Barbara Corrado Pope. Signed copies are available of Diane Hammond's **Hannah's Dream** and **Friday's Harbor**. Much of the detail between the Killer Whale and its rescuer in **Friday's Harbor** comes from Diane's husband Nolan's experience working with Keiko at the Newport Aquarium. Willy Vlautin's **Motel Life** is now a movie with great critical reviews, we have signed stock of the book along with **Northline** and **Lean on Pete**. If you prefer non-fiction we have signed stock of **Massacred for Gold** and **Breaking Chains** by Greg Nokes, both set in the Northwest. We also have stock of Eileen O'Keefe McVickers memoir of growing up on the side of Steens Mountain in the early 1900's, **Child of Steens Mountain**.



**Shop Local This Holiday Season!**

**Avoid the hustle & bustle of the big box stores. Purchase your gifts at locally owned, independent shops in Sunriver Village then relax with a tasty meal at one of the great Sunriver restaurants. I shop Sunriver Village for every gift giving occasion and enjoy purchasing from people I know in a friendly, relaxing environment.**

**December 27– January 3**

**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!

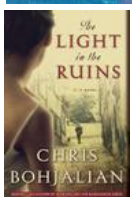
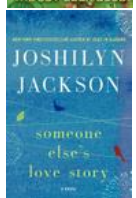
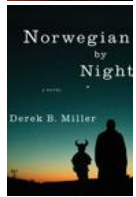
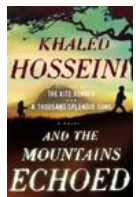
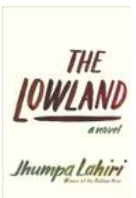


## Top Ten Lists

Every year we reflect on the books that have been the best of the year. Here are our selections for the best of 2014.

### Top Ten Fiction

1. ***A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*** by Anthony Mara is a haunting story set in Chechnya. Akhmed peers through his window as Russian soldiers come for his neighbor, He waits until the Russians have departed to venture forth searching for his neighbor's daughter. He will take the young girl to the closest town where the last remaining doctor in the lone hospital is sleeping on a blood splattered gurney. He will prevail on this woman to take in and protect the young girl. Like all momentous actions, this one will bear consequences. What shines through is the quiet nobility of the characters and how they struggle to bravely do what is right even when they are afraid. .
2. ***The Gods of Heavenly Punishment*** by Jennifer Cody Epstein tragically links 3 lives in this beautifully written, haunting story of wartime Japan. Cam Richards adores his wife Lacy, he has everything to live for when he climbs into the cockpit of his plane heading toward Tokyo on a daredevil fire bombing raid. Yoshi is in Tokyo when those planes reach their target. . Billy is an occupation soldier in Japan with his camera and his secret.
3. ***The Lowland*** by Jhumpa Lahiri follows two brothers. Subhash is dutiful and obedient. Udiayan tests every boundary, full of a fearless zest for life. In the 1960s Udiayan is drawn into the Naxalite movement, a spectacular failure, attempting to lift the masses out of poverty. Subhash travels to a remote corner of America to study. A tragedy changes everything.
4. ***And The Mountains Echoed*** by Khaled Hosseini is the powerful story of a brother and sister torn asunder. Abdullah's love for his sister was so great he walked for miles and gave away his shoes in trade for the feather of a peacock, a beautiful feather to add to little Pari's collection. Eking out an existence in a poor village on dry, unforgiving ground surrounded by jagged mountains, they have few resources and many challenges.
5. ***Norwegian by Night*** by Derek Miller is a wonderful story! Sheldon Horowitz is in his 80's, bereft over the death of his wife, burdened by guilt over his son's death in Vietnam, and weighed down by the memories of his service during the Korean War. His granddaughter persuades him to leave New York and live with her in Norway. Although the country is relatively crime free, things get way out of control leaving behind a dead woman and an octogenarian New York Jew on the lam with a traumatized, silent young child dressed as a Jewish Viking. Sheldon will flee across a landscape unfamiliar to him, with a language he does not understand, being pursued by dangerous men intent on doing him harm.
6. ***The Valley of Amazement*** by Amy Tan takes on the perilous territory of mothers and daughters in this epic story of three generations. In 1905 Shanghai, Violet is the pampered daughter of Lulu, an American proprietress of a high end house of courtesans. Lulu has a secret past, Shanghai erupts in Revolution and she flees. Violet is forced to become a "virgin courtesan" sold to the highest bidder. The story spans 50 years of China during a time of great change.
7. ***Someone Else's Love Story*** by Joshilyn Jackson is one of those rare books you will not want to end. Shandi, an unwed mother to a 3 year old genius, is working hard to finish college. Shandi stops with her son at a convenience store, with spectacularly bad timing. She is involved in a hold up gone wrong, stepping right into someone else's love story. There are so many layers to this charmingly entertaining story! It is a story sure to make you think and laugh.
8. ***The Light In The Ruins*** by Chris Bohjalian begins in 1955; a woman in an apartment in Florence will open her door to a killer. The secrets of the past may be intruding on the present. Bohjalian goes back into the years of WWII skillfully, presenting Italian soldiers in Mussolini's army, Partisans, and Germans as complex characters. There can be good or bad on either side.
9. ***White Dog Fell From The Sky*** by Eleanor Morse is set in South Africa during 1976, when it was easy for a black man to run afoul of the authorities. Isaac, a young medical student, witnesses the murder of his friend by authorities, now his life is in jeopardy and he must flee into neighboring Botswana leaving his family behind. Isaac meets two special beings in Botswana; white dog and Alice Mendelssohn. Luminous writing, a poignant story, and moments of grace mark this story.
10. ***The Golem and the Jinni*** by Helene Wecker is the unlikely story of a friendship in 1899 New York between two mythical creatures, a Golem made of clay and a Jinni born of fire. Both creatures must learn to live as humans in order to survive, it does not come easily. They meet by chance and begin walking the city at night, where they discover that because of their strange situation they can talk to each other in ways they could never disclose to others. You will root for them when inevitably they must face the evil that men do.





## 2013 Top Ten Non-Fiction

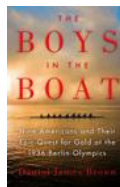
**1. *Countdown*** by Alan Weisman is a sobering and detailed account of the problem of world overpopulation and the attendant effects of environmental degradation and loss of habitat sustainability. Through a series of visits to various countries, Weisman looks at each area's ability to cope with its unique situation through religion, governmental organization, demographics or environmental circumstances. Whether we have reached a tipping point of no return on being able to solve the population problem is uncertain but this book is a wake up call urgently demanding everyone become aware of the dire consequences of inaction.



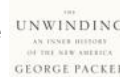
**2. *Five Days at Memorial*** by Sheri Fink. Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005 creating a large scale disaster with stories of horrible life and death situations epitomized at Memorial Medical Center. With the floodwaters rising and no power, the remaining medical staff faced the tragic decision of who to save and who were destined to die. Combining the pulse-pounding narration of the disaster as it unfolded, with a discussion of medical ethics during a crisis, Fink shows that the story of the dying patients and the end of life treatment they received is part of a national dialog that is needed to understand human nature during a crisis and how to be better prepared when disaster strikes.



**3. *Boys in the Boat*** by Daniel James Brown. The events of the 1936 Olympics is usually told with the oversized story of how Jesse Owens led the entire U.S. Olympians over Adolf Hitler and the Nazi team, thus showing the folly of Aryan superiority. A less well known story is of the triumph of the University of Washington's rowing crew over elite and British Universities and later the race for the gold in the Olympic finals. Brown focuses on Joe Rantz, a hard luck teenager who overcomes a lack of family and prospects, an enigmatic coach and an eccentric boat builder who bring together a collection of young kids whose modest working class backgrounds belie a molding of commitment, dedication and the will to win. A heartwarming story with historic ties to the Northwest, it shows what working together both figuratively and literally can do to overcome the most daunting of odds.



**4. *The Unwinding*** by George Packer is a masterpiece about the unraveling of the fabric that has held America together since the 1960's and is slowly but surely destroying the economic, political and social institutions of our Republic. Winner of the 2013 National Book award, he showcases several people and their circumstances to illustrate the tragedy that is hollowing out the middle class in America. As the social fabric is frayed, he focuses on several public figures to show both the good and the bad as a way to gauge how Americans are left to fend for themselves and we are in danger of coming apart at the seams. A must read for anyone hoping to make sense of what went wrong and hope for a better future.



**5. *Command and Control*** by Eric Schlosser is a comprehensive and frightening collection of stories about the mishandling and accidents that have plagued the military's nuclear arms. Focusing on the "Damascus incident" in 1980, a simple act of a dropped tool during maintenance of an ICBM nearly caused a large part of Arkansas to become incinerated. Revealing how vulnerable we were during the early part of the cold war is disquieting and the confidence we have today in our control over nuclear forces is not compelling. This book is a wake up call to give an honest assessment of the wisdom of having such a destructive force being so dangerously mishandled and ripe for a national catastrophe.



**6. *My Beloved World*** by Sonia Sotomayor is a revealing and uplifting memoir. Sotomayor tells of her troubled upbringing living in the housing projects of the Bronx, her alcoholic father dying when she was 9, and a mother who was determined that her children grow up with a love of learning and a desire to see them go to college. Sotomayor doesn't stray away from discussing her personal issues either: chronic diabetes and bouts of unconsciousness or her divorce and childlessness. Her most lively writing is at Princeton and Yale where she excelled academically. Sotomayor is a product of affirmative action, something she is proud of. She proves that long hard work alongside more wealthy students is rewarded equally. This is an inspiring look at what can happen, if given the opportunity and hard work, great things can be achieved.



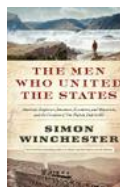
**7. *Bully Pulpit*** by Doris Kearns Goodwin shows the interplay among political rivals each with different politics, temperament and personality style. *Bully Pulpit* is a revealing look at Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft his close friend and eventual successor. With very different personalities Roosevelt and Taft were products of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century faced with many of the same problems that face us today: a beleaguered middle class, wealthy elites with outsized power over money and politics, and what the role of government should be. By using the "Bully Pulpit" along with alliances with influential writers, authors and journalists Roosevelt and Taft were able to enact sweeping legislation that benefits us to this day. If only there were this kind of political force today that could do as much, we would be so much better off than we are.



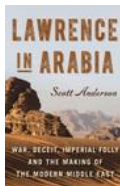
**8. *The Men Who United the States*** by Simon Winchester. A spirited discussion is occurring today over the size and scope of the role of government as it relates to most American's lives. More or less government and how should it regulate life in the U.S.? Winchester's fascinating look at the very early part of our shared history examines several examples of how our country benefited and was united by many explorers, inventors and politicians for the common good. Told in the form of five different sections each focusing on a different technology and time period that would transform and shape each era as the nation grew from a rural backwoods to a modern technological leader in the world. This is great history writing at its best.



**9. *Lawrence in Arabia***. Many books have been written about T.E. Lawrence, the shy Oxford scholar who headed an Arab army and rode into history. Anderson takes a different tact and tells his story in the context of three main characters, a German spy, and Jewish agronomist, and an American oil executive as they and Lawrence intersected with the political and social engineering going on in the Middle East. There are several themes that were very much in play at the time: discovery and exploitation of oil, Arab dislike of imperial meddling leading to jihadism, and Arab-Jewish conflicts all of which have present day parallels.

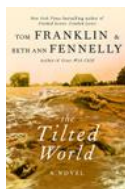
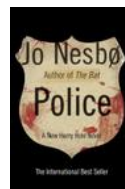


**10. *Wilson*** by A. Scott Berg is a definitive biography of the 28<sup>th</sup> President drawing on new material. He started his political career at age 55 and 2 years later was elected president. After sending troops to the WWI, he became a champion of a peace process that ultimately ended in failure. While many of the world's problems can be traced back to the Paris peace conference of 1919, Wilson believed that a lasting peace could be achieved through the League of Nations. He suffered a stroke while barnstorming the country to promote his vision.. His wife took over his duties and was part of a conspiracy to keep his condition from the public. He died three years later a broken man.



## 2013 Top Ten Mystery

- 1. *A Serpent's Tooth*** by Craig Johnson has Sheriff Walt Longmire's figuring out what to do with Cord, a "lost boy" ejected from a rogue polygamous Mormon splinter group. Henry Standing Bear and Walt cross state lines to try and find some answers at a heavily armed Mormon compound while Cord discovers movie DVDs and is inspired to try his hand at horse rustling. Cord is soon joined by his self-proclaimed protector, Orrin Porter Rockwell, Man of God, Sun of Thunder blessed by Joseph Smith himself. Walt is having a little trouble with Orrin's identity, Joseph Smith having gone to his greater reward well over a century ago. As Walt edges closer to the truth, things turn deadly and the climax will take your breath away.
- 2. *Police*** by Jo Nesbo is one of his spine tingling best. Katrine walks down a dark hallway, will she survive to reach the exit? Maybe yes, maybe no. He keeps you on the edge of your seat. ***Police*** opens with a man being guarded round the clock in an out of the way room in a hospital with a policeman at the door. The man is in a deep coma with the secrets of many slumbering within. A maddeningly elusive killer is targeting cops, recreating the murders they failed to solve with the officer in the role of victim.
- 3. *Cuckoo's Calling*** by J.K. Rowling tells a complicated mystery with well-developed characters and a deft touch. If you are looking for body count and a blistering pace, skip on down to ***Carrion Birds*** or ***Alex***, here the focus is on the story and the words. Rowling develops her complex cast as she lays out the elements of an intricate, clever mystery. I enjoyed the writing style very much and liked the protagonists; I hope she makes this a series.
- 4. *Eva's Eye*** by Karin Fossum is an intriguing mystery. Who can resist a detective who takes his dog along for the ride when he goes to questions suspects? I liked this character; his forthrightness, kindness, and perseverance in pursuit of the truth. Don't offer him easy answers; he will do what it takes to put together the pieces of the most complex puzzle. This is the first in an excellent series set in Norway. Like Nesbo's Norwegian series, we had to wait until 2013 for the release of the first.
- 5. *The Tilted World*** by Tom Franklin and Beth Ann Fennelly is set around the 1927 Mississippi Flood, the most dangerous in US history with walls of water surging forth carrying the power of Niagara Falls, leaving a path of devastation in its wake. Add a couple missing revenuers, a beautiful bootlegger, and a dishonest future politician for a page turner that will keep you guessing.
- 6. *The Andalucian Friend*** by Alexander Soderberg. It is hard to tell the good guys from the bad in this elaborate, entertaining mystery. Sophie is a widowed single mother working as a nurse and living a quiet life when she meets Hector. She likes the patient with the dark eyes and courtly manner. It is quickly apparent that Hector is heavily involved in seriously illegal, not to mention dangerously violent, pursuits. The cops are keen to bring the mobster down and eager to use law abiding Sophie in their game. But who is really the bad guy and who the good? You might find yourself rooting for charming Hector, to the devil with the rules.
- 7. *The Carrion Birds*** by Urban Waite is a taut, violent mystery with an intelligent, nuanced plot and flawed but intriguing characters. What would you do for your brother? Tom took a tragic action that cost him his career and his peace of mind for his brother Ray. What would you do to avenge your dead wife? Ray gave up his way of life, his child, and his home to become a hired gun in the aftermath of his wife's death. It has been a long time; Ray is coming back to Coronado, New Mexico. His return sets in motion cataclysmic events that leave no one untouched.
- 8. *Missing Italian Girl, A Mystery In Paris*** by Barbara Corrado Pope is the latest entry in her historical mystery series featuring Bernard and Clarie Martin. I liked the historical detail and focus on the role of women. Pope really captures the feel of Paris in 1987. Bernard is pre-occupied with his new position as an attorney representing unions at a time of upheaval. Clarie gets involved in solving a mystery when the charwoman at the school where Clarie teaches beseeches her for help in finding her missing daughters.
- 9. *Bad Monkey*** by Carl Hiaasen is a blend of chaos and humor. Yancy, a Key West cop, is in trouble over assaulting his girlfriend's husband with a home cleaning appliance. A fisherman snags a human arm; the Police Chief just wants it to go away. Yancy is curious about who was attached to the appendage and what might have happened to him. Adding to Yancy's trouble is the new house next door. I really feel for Yancy, I also live next door to an unattractive gargantuan edifice constructed with no sensitivity to either aesthetics, the community or the environment. Like the house next door to mine, the new house next door to Yancy totally fails to blend into its forest setting. Then there is the monkey, an animal with a serious attitude issue. The action goes all over the place; from Yancy's campaign against his next door neighbor in the Florida Keys, to Miami where he romances a comely coroner, to the Bahamas where his path crosses with the monkey. Hiaasen is shocking and outrageously funny.
- 10. *Alex*** by Pierre LeMaitre is dark and disturbing. Steig Larsson's ***Millennium Trilogy*** marries Gillian Flynn's ***Gone Girl***. There is one type of case Commandant Camille Verhoeven does not take, kidnapping. His pregnant wife, Irene, was kidnapped, no one saw her alive again. Not until the night a woman is snatched off the street, with no leads and no other detective available. Verhoeven knows time is critical as he steps into a role he sought to avoid. Alex's kidnapper is a brutal man, quick to use violence. She is hoisted naked into a cage where he plans to watch her die. Alex is tough, but will she be tough enough to survive the terror and depravation? The pace is fast, the plot intricate. If you liked ***The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*** by Steig Larsson, give this a try.





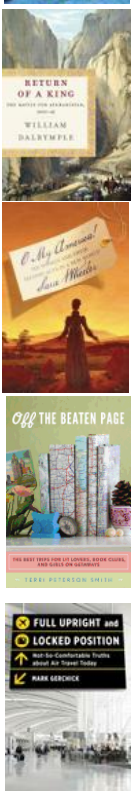
### 2013 Top Ten Travel Essay

1. **Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History Making Race Around The World** by Matthew Goodman. Jules Verne wrote a popular tale about a man circling the globe in 80 days to win a bet. Intrepid reporter Nellie Bly threw her hat in the ring with the declaration that a real woman could beat Phileas Fogg's record. Hot on her trail was magazine reporter Elizabeth Bisland. If you like strong women and adventurous travel this story is a feast.
2. **The Emerald Mile: The Epic Story of the Fastest Ride in History Through The Heart of the Grand Canyon** by Kevin Fedarko is an edge of your seat account of the fastest ride on a raging Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. In 1983 a perfect storm dumped too much water behind Glenn Canyon Dam, they had to let the water through the spillway to save the dam. The river would run free and wild again, if only for a while. Three men went on a rip-snorting, devil mad ride as the white water screamed down the canyon.
3. **The Longest Road** by Phillip Caputo. Pulitzer Prize winner Caputo felt the approach of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and decided on adventure. He would drive pulling an Airstream trailer from Key West Florida to Deadhorse Alaska, a journey of epic proportions, accompanied by his wife Leslie and his two dogs, Sage and Sky. It is a thoroughly enjoyable story of a grand American journey by a gifted author.
4. **Last Train to Zona Verde** by Paul Theroux is a brutally honest account of the author's lifelong love affair with Africa hitting a rocky patch. The years have changed both the country and the man, now in his seventies. As he realizes this trip might be his last to Africa, he mulls over what the future holds for himself and the continent. His accounts of Africa are so vivid, sensing this may be the last, he writes with even more gusto while acknowledging his disappointment in the toll the decades have taken on the land.
5. **On Looking; Eleven Walks With Expert Eyes** by Alexandra Horowitz inspires the reader to walk with awareness; to really see and fully experience the world around us.
6. **All Good Things; From Paris to Tahiti; Life and Longing** by Sarah Turnbull. Aussie Turnbull leaves her newly remodeled Paris apartment to move to an island paradise with her French husband.
7. **Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839-42** by William Dalrymple should be required reading for any world leader foolish enough to contemplate a take over of this rugged country.
8. **O My America!; Six Women And Their Second Acts In A New World** by Sarah Wheeler recounts the travels and opinions of some outspoken women travelers from an era when women's voices were not always heard. Not all of them admired the USA, but they were intrepid, interesting women and it is good to visit them in Sarah Wheeler's book.
9. **Off The Beaten Page: Best Trips for Lit Lovers, Book Clubs, and Girls on Getaways** by Terry Peterson Smith inspires readers to plan journeys around the pages of some of their favorite books.
10. **Full Upright and Locked in Position; Not So Comfortable Truths About Air Travel Today** by Mark Gerchick gives travelers the unvarnished truth about air travel, from safety to regulation to comfort.



### 2013 Top Ten Animal Books.

1. **Chaser** by John W. Pilley tells of a Border Collie with a vocabulary of over a thousand words. Flashman always knew dogs were geniuses, Chaser proves it.
2. **What The Dog Knows** by Cat Warren describes the training of a German Sheppard to be a cadaver dog. It is a fascinating account, focusing on the bond between handler and dog.
3. **Bless the Dogs** by the Monks of New Skete is a heart warming meditation on the wonderful nature of dogs along with beautiful pictures.
4. **Pukkas Promise: The Quest For Longer Lived Dogs** by Ted Kerasote explores ways our dogs might come to lead longer, healthier lives. While I do not agree with all of Kerasote's opinions I feel strongly he is opening a subject that deserves discussion and action.
5. **The Big New Yorker Book of Cats** by the New Yorker Magazine is a large collection of articles and essays by a variety of great authors.
6. **The Cat Whisperer; Why Cats Do What They Do and How To Get Them To Do What You Want** by Mieshelle Nagelschneider attempts to walk you through the thorny negotiations involved in reaching détente with your cat.
7. **Dogtripping: 25 Rescues, 11 Volunteers, and 3 RV's on Our Canine Cross Country Adventure** by David Rosenfelt. Mystery author Roesenfelt travels with his family and 25 dogs from California to Maine. Any guy who rescues 4000 dogs is okay in my book.
8. **The Possibility Dogs; What A Handful of Unadoptables Taught Me About Service, Hope, and Healing** by Susannah Charleston chronicles her difficulty overcoming the emotional damage after a particularly grisly search and rescue mission with her dog Puzzle, her realization of the way dogs help with emotional distress, and then saving shelter dogs who show promise as service dogs.
9. **Decoding Your Dog; The Ultimate Experts Explain Common Dog Behaviors and Reveal How To Prevent or Change Unwanted Ones** by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists is a practical guide to various dog training issues.
10. **Cat Talk** by Patricia MacLachlan is found in the children's section but the art is so beautiful and she has the cat's personality spot on, so it is on our list of favorite animal books. Do not miss her earlier books, **Once I Ate A Pie** and **I Didn't Do It**.

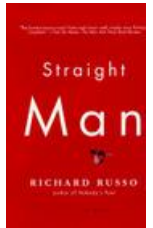


## December 2013 Book Clubs.

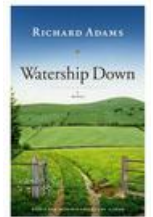
December 2<sup>nd</sup> the Mystery Book Club discusses *The Orphanmaster* by Jean Zimmerman. When I think of Manhattan I picture tall buildings with lots of hustle and bustle, and when I think of American history I picture the Brits, French, and Spanish, I know the Dutch were here but they do not come as easily to my mind. In 1663 Manhattan was known as New Amsterdam, a Dutch trading colony. It was a tense time; the Brits were in the mood to take over the territory and will soon do so. Zimmerman brings a rich abundance of historical detail to her story. Blandine, one of the main characters, made her way against all odds in a man's world. An orphan and a woman, she is now a trader, canny and determined, an unusual role for a woman. When the colony's orphans start to go missing, she takes a personal interest. Blandine is aided in her investigations by Edward, an Englishman and a spy with an agenda of his own. Suspicion is spread around liberally. If you like historic fiction, this mystery is just the ticket.



December 9<sup>th</sup> the Fiction Book Club discusses *Straight Man* by Richard Russo. I first read *Straight Man* over a decade ago, so I knew what was coming, and still the story had me chortling within a few pages. William Henry Devereux Jr. is a difficult man, reluctant to follow the path trod by others, and downright dismissive of rules and those who wield them. My kind of guy, so I can relate to his independent impulses. Hank failed to live up to his earlier promise, as he approaches his half century he is the interim chair of the English Department in a cash strapped Pennsylvania university where he amuses himself by goading his fellow academics into inappropriate and sometimes violent reactions. Really, there is just so much of Hank they can endure before going off the deep end. Possibly what annoys his fellow professors most is his refusal to become involved in university politics, or share their fears over their diminishing futures. On the home front, Hank's father is also a professor, a very successful professor, who was much better at promoting himself than understanding his son. Comic yet nuanced with deeper meaning, the Fiction Book Club will have much to enjoy.



December 16<sup>th</sup> the Classics Book Club discusses *Watership Down* by Richard Adams. Rereading *Watership Down* is like visiting old friends. There is Hazel and her brother Fiver, the seer, trying to lead the clan away from danger. Bigwig, Dandelion and Bluebell believing in Fiver's vision follow him on an arduous journey to their new home. The story is set in the Berkshires with a colony of rabbits. This is not just a cuddly bunny tale; it reflects classic struggles and is told with an almost mythical manner. There is drama, bravery, and evil, all the main ingredients for a great story. The rabbits face a long trek with many dangers before finding home in a new land. This is a perfect selection for the last book club meeting of 2013. I hope you enjoy the story as much as I do.



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

January 6th 2014 *The Syringa Tree* by Pamela Gien [Fiction Book Club](#)

January 13th 2014 *Cuckoo's Calling* by J.K. Rowling [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 3rd 2014 *Malice of Fortune* by Michael Ennis [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 10th 2014 *Molokai'I* by Alan Brennert [Fiction Book Club](#)

February 17th 2014 *Educating Alice* by Alice Steinbeck [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

March 3rd 2014 *Drood* by Dan Simmons [Fiction Book Club](#)

March 17th 2014 *Bleak House* by Charles Dickens [Classics Book Club](#)

March 24th 2014 *Solitary House* by Lynn Shepard [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 7th the Fiction Book Club discusses the Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea selection.

April 14th 2014 In anticipation of World Book Night, *After the Funeral* by Agatha Christie [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 21st 2014 In anticipation of World Book Night, *Where'd You Go Bernadette* by Maria Semple [Fiction Book Club](#)

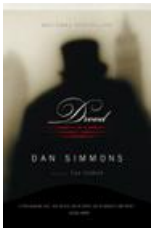
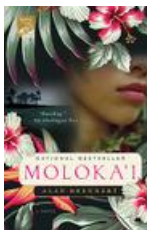
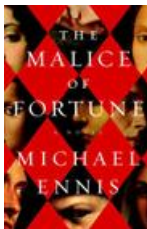
May 5th 2014 *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

May 12th 2014 *The Gods of Gotham* by Lindsay Faye [Mystery Book Club](#)

May 19th 2014 *The Rosetta Stone* by William Dietrich Author led discussion. [Fiction Book Club](#)

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

**Pick up a ballot and vote for your favorites of 2013. Voting closes 12/16/13.**



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