



Sunriver Books & Music

December 2021 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



May your Holiday Season be Joyful!

Consider shopping locally for your Holiday gifts. Sunriver Village has an array of interesting shops with staff ready and eager to help you find the perfect gift. The Artist Gallery features beautiful works of art by local artists, the Hook & Fly Shop could book an upcoming fishing adventure, they also feature warm Orvis clothing, the Lazy Daisy has all sorts of gift items, The Wooden Jewel has gorgeous jewelry, Sunriver Sports has a selection of athletic clothes, Village Bike & Ski can get you on the slopes or on the bike trails, Tumbleweed Toys is sure to have something to delight the children on your list. It is fun to shop in Sunriver, there are several restaurants with delicious food. At Sunriver Books & Music we have a variety of gift ideas. In Sunriver you do not have to fight traffic and your neighbors are here to help.

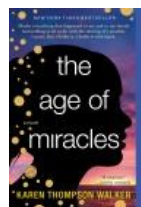
Holiday Gift Ideas From Sunriver Books & Music

Our Book of the Month Club is a gift that keeps on giving throughout the year.



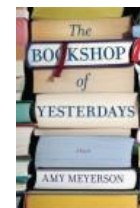
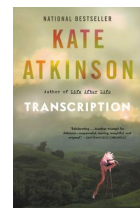
A **Book of the Month Club** subscription continues the pleasure of your gift as every month brings a surprise book. Readers will enjoy your thoughtfulness with the arrival of every book!

Holidays can be stressful, be kind to yourself, purchase a **Book of the Month Club** subscription for yourself too and discover a new book every month!



Selecting the titles for **Book of the Month Club** is an honor I take seriously, I appreciate being trusted to select books for you. Past selections include **Mister Pip** by Lloyd Jones, **Age of Miracles** by Karen Thompson Walker, **Transcription** by Kate Atkinson and **The Bookshop of Yesterdays** by Amy Meyerson. Every one of these books I read and enjoyed, I selected them with the hope that you would enjoy them too. What will 2022 bring? Purchase a **Book of the Month Club** subscription and enjoy the surprise.

Book of the Month Club is a great way to discover new authors, read something you may not have read otherwise, find an undiscovered treasure from a favored author, and enjoy the surprise every month.



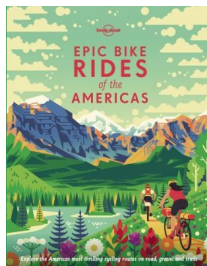
Picked up in the bookstore the first six months of 2022 costs \$101.96 and all of 2022 costs \$198.92. Mailed in the USA the first six months of 2022 subscription costs \$119.96 and a subscription for all of 2020 costs \$234.92.

Games make fun gifts! We carry several. Probably our most popular game is Dog-opoly. There are also opoly game featuring cats, horses, and a variety of other interests. Puzzles are also popular, we carry a variety.



Pens make great gifts! Pictured is Playhouse By Frank Lloyd Wright from Acme Studio for \$95.00.

Add a journal for a special gift
To be treasured.



For the adventurous on your gift list, consider one of Lonely Planet's epic books priced at \$35.00. **Epic Bike Rides of the Americas**, **Epic Bike Rides of the World**, **Epic Drives of the World**, or **Epic Hikes of the**



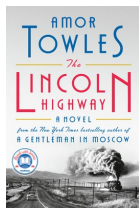
December 27– January 2 Share the Holiday Spirit! Donate a book to Three Rivers School!

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



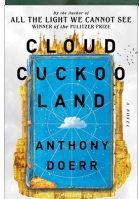
Deon's picks of 2021's Top Ten Fiction (plus 1!)



Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles author of *A Gentleman in Moscow*. Four young men set out on an Odyssey along the historic Lincoln Highway in June 1954. Emmett Watson was just released from juvenile detention following the death of his father. Emmett wants a fresh start someplace new. Billy, a whip smart 8-year-old, easily persuades his big brother Emmett their new home should be in the golden state of California. Duchess and Woolly, fellow inmates, take Emmett by surprise when they show up with their own plans and dreams. I double dare you not to feel for all four of the boys, as life tosses them thither and yon.



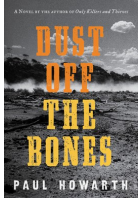
The Magician by Colm Toibin is magic, dark magic, but magic nonetheless. Thomas Mann is one of the most respected authors of the last century, winner of the 1929 Nobel Prize for literature. The death of his father put business men in charge of the family's finances and Mann's future. Thomas wants to be a writer, but his mother and her handlers don't recognize talent in the boy, deciding it best if he takes a position with a respectable firm. Thomas perseveres, writes his book and the rest is history. Toibin gives an intimate portrayal tied to the novels Mann wrote. Book lovers will relish this account of the life of one of literature's greats.



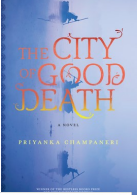
Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr author of *All The Light We Cannot See*, reaches across centuries, anchored by an ancient book written by Diogenes. In a distant future Konstance sits in isolation in a ship headed for a far-off planet inscribing remembered passages from the book. In 2020 Zeno, the 86-year-old translator of Diogenes book, is in an Idaho library with a group of children preparing a play of the story. In 1439 in Constantinople Anna sits by her sister, Maria, in the sewing room where a Nun watches over the orphans as they work from dawn to dusk. In 1453 Omeir is taken along with the two oxen he raised from calves to serve in the Sultan's siege of Constantinople. Infinite possibilities stretch across time into the dreams that bind us.



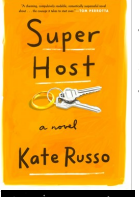
Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead. Ray Carney is a perfect illustration of how family can lead you to trouble just as surely as rain clouds bring rain. Ray's daddy danced on the wrong side of the law and inspired in his son a determination to be nothing like his father. Ray runs a furniture store, along with other assorted items, he is flexible about the provenance of some of his stock. The dodgy stuff comes from his cousin Freddie who gets Ray involved in all sorts of difficulty, think mob guys and dirty cops. Ray is a family man with a wife and children he loves dearly. This is a romp of a book, a lively story of 1960's New York.



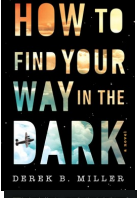
Raft of Stars by Andrew J. Graff is set in Wisconsin. Ten year old Fisher "Fish" Branson and Dale "Bread" Breadwin have a close friendship forged over summers Fish spends with his Grandfather. They hang out together, riding bikes, doing boy stuff, but Fish doesn't come into Bread's home. Until one day, knowing his friend is facing another beating, he steps inside with tragic consequences. The two boys flee, heading into the dark forest that stretches all the way to the Canadian border. Fish's grandfather and mother, the town Sheriff, the ancient deputy, the Sheriff's might be girlfriend all set out to find the boys. This is a story with a lot of heart, darkness but humor too.



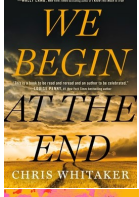
Dust Off the Bones by Paul Howarth. Two teenaged boys follow a prominent rancher and Inspector Edmund Noone of the Queensland Native Police (a man to be feared) participating in the massacre of Aborigines suspected of murdering their parents. Katherine Sullivan, just a few years older than the orphaned McBride boys, is a young widow attracted to Billy. Tommy fled, he works cattle stations accompanied by Arthur, an Aborigine who worked on their family ranch. Billy avoids dealing with the trauma and guilt, Tommy cannot escape it. Howarth explores the history of Australia's frontier injustice and a quest for honor.



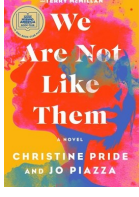
City of Good Death by Priyanka Champaneri. Pramesh is a kind man, with a good life caring for pilgrims staying at his hostel who come to die in an auspicious place, a city on the shores of the Ganges that promises a good death for Hindus. Pramesh is always ready with the right comforting word, careful of the rituals to be honored. He adores his wife, Shobha, and daughter, Rani, feeling blessed with good fortune. Then a man who died under suspicious circumstances is pulled from the river, a man who is the spitting image of Pramesh. It was not a good death and it carries Pramesh back to the village of his youth, where he was best friends with his cousin Segar. A place and a man he left behind long ago. It is time to confront his past.



Super Host by Kate Russo is her debut novel. Bennett Driscoll was quite the star of the art scene, earning major dollars. That was a long time ago. Now, his marriage failed, he lives in a tiny studio in the backyard of the house purchased in his heyday, renting out his home as an Airbnb and living on the rent which does not go far. He loves painting, works intensely creating paintings no one wants to buy. He genuinely likes women, but is hopelessly confused by them, adores his daughter, and is kind to strangers. Humorous, insightful, and full of life, this bright story follows Bennett as, spurred on by women, he finally confronts what derailed his former sweet life and how he will have to face up to reality, take the bull by the horns, and regain himself.



How to Find Your Way in the Dark by Derek Miller author of *Norwegian by Night*. Sheldon is a child when tragedy strikes. His mother and aunt die in a fire. Driving home from the funeral a man with a mustache forces them off the road and his father dies in the crash. Moved in with his staid uncle and two rambunctious teenage cousins, Sheldon grows up developing a unique perspective on justice. Miller deftly infuses humor in the story while also exploring serious issues of war and anti-Semitism.



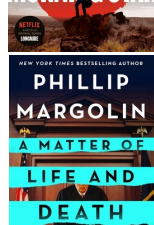
We Begin At the End by Chris Whitaker. Meet the Outlaw Duchess Day Radley, she is 13 and fierce in the protection of her little brother Robin and gorgeous damaged mother Star. Powerful is way too small a word for this amazing novel where even the villains break your heart with their tortured humanity. Duchess holds her head up and gets on with the business of caring for her little clan, defending Robin from the casual cruelty of children, trying to mend her fragile, broken mother. Tragedy and humor blend, in the best of ways in this beautifully written novel.

We Are Not Like Them by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza. Jen and Riley have been besties since they were little. Riley strives to succeed as a TV journalist, the anchor chair her goal. Jen is finally pregnant, totally absorbed in the coming birth of her first child. Jen is white, married into a family of cops. Riley is black. An unarmed black teenager is shot, Jen's husband is one of the cops involved. Riley is the journalist assigned to the story. Too many black boys and men have died in similar circumstances. This book is a good choice for book club discussions on an important topic.

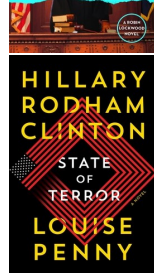
Deon's picks of 2021's Top Ten Mystery Novels.



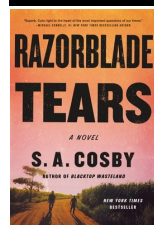
Daughter of the Morning Star by Craig Johnson is the 17th in the New York Times bestselling Longmire series that inspired the hit TV Drama. Sheriff Walt Longmire and Henry Standing Bear travel from Wyoming to Lame Deer Montana in an effort to aid Tribal Police Chief Lolo Long who is worried about her niece Jaya, a star on the Lame Deer High School Basketball team. Jaya's sister disappeared while driving home from Billings Montana about a year previous, since then Jaya has been receiving threats. Lolo worries there may be a connection.



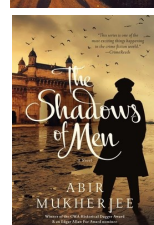
A Matter of Life and Death by Phil Margolin is set in Portland Oregon. Robin Lockwood is tough as nails, and she needs to be, in her latest case defending a boxer who has all the evidence stacked against him! The DA has a wheelbarrow full of evidence, all pointing to her client's guilt. But Robin believes Joe Lattimore when he says he didn't kill Judge Anthony Carasco's wife. Joe Lattimore was homeless and living rough with his wife and child when he was recruited for a job that would put a roof over their heads. Taking that job is the first step down a slippery slope into a living nightmare that might just conclude with the death penalty. Robin teams up with Amanda Jaffe, a dream team of defense lawyers. Can they find a way to prove Joe's innocence despite the mountain of evidence against him?



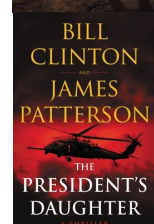
State of Terror by Hilary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny is an edge of your seat page turner! The scary part of this excellent thriller? It feels so plausible. Terrorist bombs start going off on buses in major European cities. The United States has just changed administrations, a new president replaces the least qualified or competent president in our history. Departments are riddled with cronies of the former president and are lacking in capable, experienced people qualified to face such a challenge. A foreign service officer, Anahita Dahir, specializing in Pakistan receives a strange message, at first thought by her superior to be spam. It will turn out to be important, but the young woman has secrets of her own.. Secretary of state Ellen Adams flies around the globe trying to unravel the plot as the stakes keep getting higher. There is a scene between the secretary of state and the president of Russia that I believe Clinton enjoyed writing.



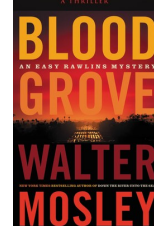
Razorblade Tears by S.A. Cosby is a powerhouse story of regret and retribution. Ike, a black former gangbanger, and Buddy Lee, a redneck white guy, are ex-cons. Ike got out, promised his wife he would go straight, and kept his word. He built a successful landscaping business. Buddy Lee not so much. He lives in a rented wreck of a trailer house in a rundown trailer court eking out a living as best he can. Neither man was pleased when their sons married, the math on that match didn't work for them in so many ways. As the story opens, their sons have been murdered. Ike and Buddy Lee never meant the estrangement from their sons to last, both men thought there would be time for rapprochement. Ike and Buddy Lee have skills most people lack, they were hard men unafraid to do what needed to be done. As they join together in an uneasy partnership to bring justice to the killers, they start to question their beliefs about each other and their sons. The way these two men begin to understand the world in new ways is the heart of this story.



The Shadows of Men by Abir Mukherjee is set in 1923. Tensions between Moslem and Hindu are almost at the flash point. Sergeant Surendranath Banerjee is surprised when called in to Lord Taggart's office without his superior officer, Captain Sam Wyndham. He has never been so summoned in the past. A prominent Moslem, Farid Gulmohamed, arrived in Calcutta from Bombay. Lord Taggart would like Sergeant Banerjee to keep an eye on the fellow. There was no way to persuade Lord Taggart that sending a Hindu to shadow a well known Moslem could go spectacularly awry in so many ways. Of course it does, putting Banerjee's very life at risk. One of my favorite characters in the series, Annie, gets in on the action too.



Blood Grove by Walter Mosley is set in 1969. Easy Rawlins is helping out a Vietnam vet who was camping in the hills around the citrus groves just outside LA when he heard a disturbance and discovered a man beating a woman. The young man intervened and fears he may have killed someone. He wants Rawlins to find out what happened. Life has been treating Rawlins better of late, he is in the chips, able to afford an office and staff, living in nice digs, and his adopted daughter, Feather, is growing up to be a lovely young woman. Complications ensue when her white uncle shows up wanting to meet her.

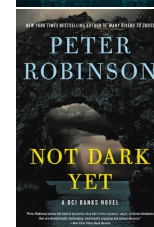


The President's Daughter by President William Jefferson Clinton and James Patterson is high octane action. President Matthew Keating, a former Navy Seal, holds his family and his country sacred. He loses reelection to his Vice-President, Pamela Barnes, there is no love lost between them. Asim Al-Asheed has a score to settle with Keating. He captures Keating's daughter, Melanie, while she is hiking. Keating knows the danger his daughter is facing. He puts together a team and goes after his child. Meanwhile, Melanie is proving to be a troublesome captive, the girl is gutsy! The action does not stop!



A Prince & A Spy by Rory Clements is set during WWII. Cambridge Professor Tom Wilde has been tapped to be part of the USA's new spy shop. Prince George flies off to a neutral country to meet with one of his German cousins, Prince Philippe von Hesse, someone close to Hitler. On the return flight his plane goes down. FDR and Prince George are friends, the president wants to find out if it really was just a crash. Tom is sent to investigate, what he finds will put his life in danger.

The House on Vesper Sands by Paraic O'Donnell is set in 1893 and brings together a group of interesting characters. Octavia Hillingdon is a young journalist, sort of a Nellie Bly type of gal. Inspector Cutter is intelligent and insightful, he does not suffer fools gladly (actually doesn't suffer them at all!). Gideon Bliss is a Cambridge student summoned to London by a message pleading for help from his uncle. A seamstress jumps from the second story window of the home of a wealthy man, a message has been sewn into her skin. Gideon's uncle and a young woman he tried to assist are both missing. The threads of their stories come together with just a wee dash of paranormal and a bit of gothic flavor.



Not Dark Yet by Peter Robinson uses it's Yorkshire setting well. Detective Chief Inspector Alan Banks is investigating the murder of a wealthy developer when his team discovers a video of a rape that took place in the aforementioned murder victim's property. Meanwhile Zelda, a friend of Banks, is searching for the men who abducted and trafficked her when she was in her teens, not a safe endeavor.

December 2021 Book Clubs

December is here and 2021 is soon over, either the slowest or fastest of years. We wish you a Happy Holiday Season. Please consider shopping locally at Sunriver Village, there are a variety of shops with great potential holiday gift ideas.

Two more Book Club discussions this year, then our Book Club members have come up with a fabulous list of books for 2022. The 2022 Book Club selections will be up on our website, sunriverbooks.com in December.

Book Clubs are meeting via Zoom at 6 PM on Mondays. If you would like to attend a discussion, email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com and I will send you the Zoom link the weekend prior to the discussion.



December 13 Mystery Book Club discusses ***The Searcher*** by Tana French. Cal Hooper's 25 years as a big city cop on the Chicago Police force have left him with a skill set, not least of which is the sixth sense that prickles the back of his neck when he is being watched. Cal has left all that behind, or thought he had, purchasing a small dilapidated cottage in the Irish countryside. He didn't have much holding him in Chicago, his divorce left him alone and intent on staying that way for a while.

The dwelling hasn't been occupied in decades, a lot of hard work will be needed to put it right, work that Cal plans doing himself. He isn't used to the Irish vistas that pleasure his eyes, he is used to buildings on the horizon, not a blanket of intense green tucking into the distant hillside. Cal is taking his time, treading gently, in the small village a two mile walk from his home. He wants to get the lay of the land, figure out the ways of his neighbors rather than rushing in like a bull in a shop. Of an evening he will walk in for a pint at the local pub, keeping quiet and observing the way the locals interact. His next-door neighbor,

Mart, stops by to check on his progress fixing up the house while his Border Collie checks out the hedges in Cal's yard. Mart is kind of Cal's guide to the Village, letting him know about the people and their ways.

Did I mention Cal's sixth sense and desire for a quiet life? That sense is telling him he is being watched. It takes him a little while, but soon he catches the person spying on him, a young kid, probably about 12 or 13. Feral and quick to flee, it is clear there is something on the child's mind that forces confronting the fear of a stranger. Something the child wants desperately from Cal. The child's older brother is missing, Cal can't stand by despite his vow that he was leaving that sort of work behind, he is persuaded to search for the missing boy. In so doing, he discovers the dark underbelly hidden beneath the beauty of his rugged rural community.

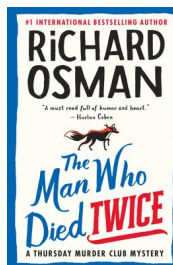


December 20 Fiction Book Club discusses ***The Giver of Stars*** by Jojo Moyes. The Great Depression was a time of horrible deprivation, but it was also a time that called forth leaders who believed in working for the common good, trying to make people's lives better. They were inventive and compassionate in their approach to the problems, sometimes finding little things that grew into actions of great merit. One such initiative, spurred by President Franklin Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, was the traveling library. In this work of historic fiction, a group of women take part in running such a mobile library in Appalachia.

Alice was a bit of an embarrassment to her staid English family, too impetuous, a wild cannon. She is practically under house arrest to keep her from doing or saying anything controversial when fortune smiles on the family. Bennett Van Cleve and his father, wealthy miners from Kentucky, are traveling in England. Bennett is smitten with Alice; an English rose with beautiful skin and a posh accent. She jumps at the chance to escape as a new bride, not realizing she was trading one prison for another.

Bennett's Dad is even more controlling than her English family. When Mrs. Brady, the local organizer, asks for women to ride up into the hills with library books delivering them to people in remote cabins, Alice rebels and volunteers.

Margery O'Hare, the head rider, is tough as nails, from a family of violent bootleggers, definitely not the woman Alice's father-in-law wants consorting with his son's bride. But there she is. As the women start riding into the hills at first, they meet suspicion and hesitance, but then something wonderful happens. The people on their routes begin looking forward to their arrival, keen to discover what new treasures those saddlebags hold. The story takes the reader into the lives of the women, their friendship, commitment, and their ability to come together when they face their greatest challenge.



Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:00 PM

Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held via Zoom Mondays at 6 PM.

Times and dates are tentative due to current situation.

Happy Holidays! A New Year begins!

January

January 17 ***The Man Who Died Twice*** by Richard Osman **Mystery Book Club**

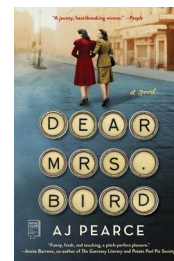
January 24 ***Dear Mrs. Bird*** by A.J. Pearce **Fiction Book Club**

February

February 7 ***Death In A Desert Land*** by Andrew Wilson **Mystery Book Club**

February 21 ***Lincoln Highway*** by Amor Towles **Fiction Book Club**

Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at Sunriverbooks.com



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