



Sunriver Books & Music

December 2022 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



We wish you joy in the Holiday Season. May the time be filled with moments of grace that will become treasured memories.

Consider shopping locally at Sunriver Village for your holiday gifts this year, avoid the hustle, bustle, and bumper car traffic of Bend. Sunriver Village has a diverse selection of shops with staff ready to help you find just the right gift. The Wooden Jewel has a dazzling display of artistic jewelry, 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, 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



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

Holiday gift giving is fun, finding just the right book for someone you care about is a pleasure. For the readers on your list a **Book of the Month Club** subscription will give them a gift every month! Is there anything better than opening a surprise book and delving into the story? Every month brings a surprise book. Readers on your gift list will be delighted! Every month will feel like the holidays with a new book to discover.

Be nice to yourself too, purchase a **Book of the Month Club** subscription and receive a new book every month. It is a great way to find new authors to enjoy and enjoy a surprise every month. Read a story you might otherwise not have read, find an undiscovered treasure.



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 **City of Women** by David Gillham, **Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk** by Kathleen Rooney, **Travelers** by Regina Porter and **Storyteller** by Pierre Jarawan. Every one of these books I read and enjoyed, I selected them with the hope that you would enjoy them too. What will 2023 bring? Purchase a **Book of the Month Club** subscription and enjoy the surprise.



Picked up in the bookstore the first six month of 2023 costs \$103.94 and all of 2022 costs \$205.88. Mailed in the USA the first six months of 2023 subscription costs \$121.94 and a subscription for all of 2020 costs \$241.88.



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.

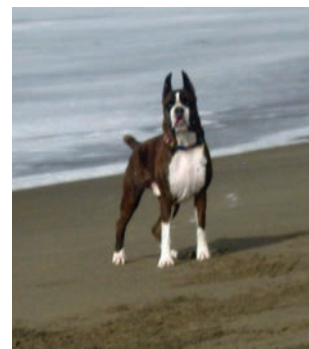


Pens make great gifts! Pictured is Playhouse By Frank Lloyd Wright from Acme Studio for \$95.00. Add a journal for a special gift To be treasured.

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 for the Top Ten Fiction of 2022 (plus one)

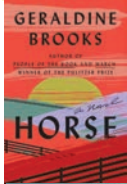


Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver pays homage to Charles Dickens' David Copperfield with the story of young boy's life growing up dirt poor in Appalachia. Demon is the spitting image of the father he never met. He came into this world with few advantages, born to a single mother with limited prospects. His fortunes rise and fall as his circumstances change.

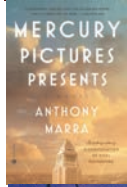
Like Dickens, Kingsolver uses pathos and humor to illustrate the challenges a child faces born into poverty, exposed to the foster system, and living in a community battling oxycontin addiction. That said, this is not a solely grim book, it is often downright joyful. ***Demon Copperhead*** is a character who will delight and amuse you, a young man you will be rooting till the end.



Fencing With The King by Diana Abu-Jaber is an open-hearted view of Jordan under King Hussein (who really was a fencing partner with Diana Abu-Jaber's father). Amani is Jordanian American, she doesn't know much about the history of her Jordanian roots. When her father gets an invitation to return to Jordan for the King's 60's birthday and a fencing exhibition, she persuades him to accept and take her along. Once there she discovers long buried secrets. There is swashbuckling adventure, an exotic location, and an engaging story. I loved every minute!



Horse by Geraldine Brooks is set in three eras, using many real historic figures including a remarkable horse. In the Civil War era black trainers of considerable skill worked with the horses in their master's stables. Lexington was a race horse capable of amazing speed. His trainer was devoted to him, the war would put horse and man in danger.



In 1954 Martha Jackson ran a New York gallery specializing in modern art, nonetheless she is captivated by an old painting of a horse. Current day the skeleton of the horse is at the Smithsonian. It will bring together the manager of the department, Jess, a woman from Australia, and Theo, a graduate student studying American Art History. At its heart this is a story about the way people are judged on the color of their skin, not the content of their character.

Mercury Pictures Presents by Anthony Marra begins in Italy as the Brown Shirts are roaming the streets and it is dangerous to question authority. Maria is a little girl when her father is locked up as an enemy of the state and she flees with her mother to Los Angeles. She carries guilt over her role in her father's fate.



As a young woman she takes employment with Mercury Pictures, rising to do the work of producer although the title and salary are elusive. The story takes in McCarthyism, WWII, and Hollywood's role in the war effort. A rousing, good story set in interesting times and told with humor and skill.



Last Chairlift by John Irving is a story for book lovers, filled with references to books. Adam is born into a family of competitive skiers. His mother goes off to a competition in Aspen Colorado and comes back pregnant and minus a trophy. She is too diminutive to reach the speeds needed for winning in the slalom. Instead she takes work as a ski instructor and raises Adam who staunchly refuses to show any talent or inclination for the sport his family excels in. From 1941 to current day, the story covers a lot of territory.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus is a comedic novel that will make you laugh, it is also an excellent story of the way a patriarchal society held women back in the 1960's.

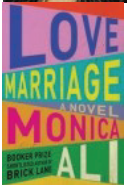


Elizabeth Zott's goal was to be a successful chemist, being female put barriers in her way. As a lab assistant, her male colleagues are always willing to take credit for her ideas. She agrees to host a TV cooking show, but insists on doing things her way. Humor ensues.



Shrines of Gaiety by Kate Atkinson is set in 1920's London, when the populace was ready to put the horrors of war behind them and kick up their heels in speak easies and gambling establishments. Nellie Coker carved a successful place for herself in this world of nightlife. She is determined to better the position of her six children. All is not smooth sailing. As the story opens she is being released from prison, with reporters there to record the moment she reunites with her brood. Nellie's enemies would take her down, but she will not make it easy. She learned to be a hard woman when the chips are down.

Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell is set in Italy between 1544 and 1561, a time when women did not have control over their lives. Lucrezia di Cosimo de Medici d'Este, Duchess of Ferrara was married off to Alfonso II d'Este, Duke of Ferrara because he needed an heir and her father judged the match advantageous. Not much is known about the life of the real Lucrezia. O'Farrell does right by her with a story allowing her to shine, even as she is in danger from the man who should have been her protector.



Love Marriage by Monica Ali is about family secrets and their affect. Yasmin is following in her father's footsteps, becoming a doctor. She is recently engaged to Joe, also in medical school. The cloud on her horizon is the upcoming dinner where her traditional immigrant family will meet Joe's feminist mother, things could go awry. This is a delightful comedy with teeth, as Yasmin discover her beliefs about family are built on lies.



Small World by Jonathan Evison. Assembling a dazzling array of characters, Evison takes the reader across the USA from the time railroads were first being built hurtling on to present day. Quick snapshots keep the reader interested as the story switches between characters and their descendants. Connecting them loosely by the onward expanse and running of the railroad.



Remarkable Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt is a charming story! An irresistible Octopus, Marcellus, in an aquarium along the Washington coast, is a main character!. If you have read Sy Montgomery's wonderful ***Soul of an Octopus***, you will enjoy him. Tova, a widow cleans the aquarium after closing, and Cameron, a young man from California is having difficulty succeeding. Great fun to read!

Deon's picks for Top Ten Mysteries of 2022 (Plus one)



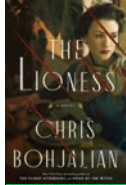
Hell and Back by Craig Johnson opens with Sheriff Walt Longmire awakening covered in snow laying on a road in Montana outside the ruins of a notorious Indian boarding school with no recollection of who he is or why he is there. As Walt puzzles out his identity and purpose, Henry Standing Bear and Vic are desperately searching for him, fearing he is in trouble and time could be short. Walt is facing his greatest challenge, something pure evil is out there, and it wants him. Native American legend and history feature strongly in the story.



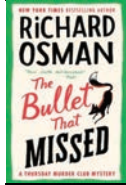
Murder at Black Oaks by Phillip Margolin, the latest in the Robin Lockwood series, is pure fun to read. It has everything! A gothic mansion, an exact replica of a cursed European mansion with a violent history built in 1682, sits on a lonely mountainside above a mental asylum. The occupant is Francis Melville, a wealthy retired lawyer, confined to a wheelchair. He wants Robin to meet with him, at his home about a subject he will only disclose to her in person. Years ago, when he was a hotshot assistant DA, he put Jose Alvarez away for murder. Robin needed an interesting case, this more than fills the bill.



The Accomplice by Lisa Lutz has one of the strangest “meet cutes” in literature. Luna is serious and secretive, Owen a golden boy, witty and social. They make an odd couple, but establish a friendship that lasts for decades, always just good friends. The downside? People seem to end up dead around them. When Owen’s wife Irene is murdered, things start to unravel. It does not escape the notice of the investigating officers that others in their circle have met suspicious ends. Written with Lutz’s wit it is fun to read and has lots of unexpected twists and turns.



Lioness by Chris Bohjalian is a thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat! In 1964 Katie Barstow, a Hollywood mega star, marries and takes her closest friends and associates along on a honeymoon photo safari to Africa. Although the Congo is experiencing violence, neighboring Tanzania is considered safe and Katie has longed to see the Serengeti. Nine of them will go on a luxury safari that quickly turns from celebration to horror as armed men storm the camp, killing anyone in their way, and taking the entourage captive. Who will survive? Read it and see!



The Bullet That Missed by Richard Osman continues with the gang from ***The Thursday Murder Club***. They meet Thursdays to choose and solve cold cases, the chosen case is of Bethany Waites, a local investigative journalist at the top of her game, whose car went over a cliff. She was in the midst of an explosive investigation, now some powerful people want to keep whatever happened to her and who done it unresolved. There is also fall out from their last case in ***The Man Who Died Twice***, Elizabeth is being black mailed to commit a murder, she certainly has the skill, but will she pull the trigger.



The Twist of a Knife by Anthony Horowitz continues his series with Anthony himself playing Watson to PI Hawthorne's Sherlock. This time with a surprising new twist! Anthony has written a play, it had a nice run in the country, and is having an opening night in London. An exciting time for Anthony, but the evening is spoiled by a malicious critic. Next morning she is found murdered, Anthony's finger prints on the murder weapon and no alibi. His only hope is Hawthorne! Unfortunately he had just informed Hawthorne he was finished with their collaboration. Will Hawthorne save him now?



Run, Rose, Run by Dolly Parton and James Patterson is a treat for anyone who likes Dolly Parton! An aging country music legend, Ruthanna, takes AnnieLee, a talented young singer, under her wing. AnnieLee has a secret, something from her past that could get her killed. She is unwilling to reveal her troubles, until they catch up with her!



The Maid by Nita Prose. Molly Gray finds social clues baffling, is prone to blurting out the wrong thing at inopportune times. Molly works as a maid in an upscale hotel catering to the hoi polloi. She likes her job, enjoys bringing order to the rooms, lining up all those little shampoos and such in an organized row. She is surprised to find one of the guests murdered in a penthouse when she goes to clean the room. The police get involved, as they usually do in murder, Molly finds herself facing trouble way outside her normal duties.



Blackwater Falls by Asuma Zehan Khan is set in a small Colorado town where the Sheriff is slow to react when girls go missing in the immigrant population. The murder of Razan, an attractive teenager and bright student, attracts official notice. Lieutenant Waqas Seif and Detective Inaya Rahman are brought in from Denver to solve the case. The tensions between the immigrants and the rural locals, especially a motorcycle riding Christian church, make this an interesting stories about the collide of cultures and how to foster understanding. Good book.



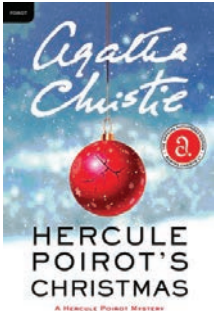
Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. Olivia left Boston with her baby when her husband turned out to be more thug than Prince Charming. She returned to her small hometown of Adams New Hampshire and life as a bee keeper. Asher grew into a sensitive intelligent young man with a good future before him. Lily's mother, a forest ranger, brought her daughter to Adams, moving far away from Lily's father who would not accept his child for who she needed to be but insisted on trying to make her fit his mold. Senior year they fell hard for each other, a fairy tale high school romance. Until there was a break up, shortly thereafter Lily was dead and Asher on trial for her murder. Did he do it?



Razzmatazz by Christopher Moore continues with the characters from ***Noir***. This is a detective novel as only Christopher Moore could write it, in other words, hilarious. In 1947 Captain James Dunne has taken over San Francisco's Vice Squad and is intent on shutting down Jimmy's Joynt, owned by Sammy Two Toes' pal, Jimmy Vasco. Jimmy would like Sammy to make Dunne go away, permanently, a task a bit beyond his tool box. When some of Jimmy's people are murdered, Sammy feels pressured to take action. His friend Eddie “Moo Shoes” Shu needs Sammy's help for his uncle Ho who is in a spot of bother about a missing dragon statue relic prized by the tongs. And Stilton, Sammy's girl, is up to something on the qt. Sammy doesn't know what, but it has him nervous.

Sunriver is beautiful in the Holidays! Sunriver Village and the Resort go all out to decorate in the spirit of the Holidays. Traffic is much easier than in Bend where I can attest there can be an unfortunate tendency on the part of the traffic to play bumper cars, doesn't work out so well and can add to stress. Why not avoid all the hustle and bustle of driving north when you can enjoy great food in a wide choice of restaurants, beautiful surroundings, and a variety of shops eager to help with your Holiday shopping. Take it easy this year and support the local community, spend the Holidays in Sunriver! Shop local!

Winters are a great time to enjoy evenings reading by the fire with a cup of cocoa. Then discuss the book at Book Club with other passionate readers. Our Book Clubs meet in person and via Zoom. Just email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com letting me know which discussion you would like to attend. Everyone is welcome.



Mystery Book Club meets in person Monday December 5 and via Zoom Wednesday December 7 at 6 PM to discuss **Hercule Poirot's Christmas** by Agatha Christie.

Colonel Johnson, Chief Constable of Middleshire is of the opinion that Christmas is a time of good cheer, a time when crimes are less likely, at least the crime of murder. Hercule Poirot, who knows a good deal about murder, disagrees. He is of the opinion that Christmas is a time when emotions are running high, families who are apart much of the year assemble, old grievances come to the fore and the pressure can build to the point of murder. Their Christmas Eve discussion is interrupted by, of course, a case of murder.

Simeon Lee is a disagreeable old man, horribly wealthy, with a tendency to use his money as a cudgel to get his way, just the sort to collect enemies. He has assembled his family at Gorsten Hall, each harboring a trove of secrets and desires (mostly desires for the old man's money) and each seething with resentments. Simeon is alone in his room with the door locked, when a horrible racket occurs, the family breaks the door in finding the scene of a desperate fight and the old man,

alone, dead.

Hercule Poirot is known for his ability to solve the most difficult cases, this is right up his alley! A man murdered while alone in a locked room, a manor house full of suspects, each with a secret, and a clever killer intent on avoiding detection. Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot stories are great fun to read.



Fiction Book Club meets in person Monday December 12 and via Zoom Wednesday December 14 at 6 PM to discuss **The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig.

Nora Seed is in a bad way when the story opens. As a young girl her future was full of bright promise, by her mid thirties she is alone, working in a dead-end job and regretting the opportunities not seized, the people she let down. Things are about to get worse. When she is let go from her job and suffers a personal loss, it is just too much, the last straw.

Nora Seed wants to die. She doesn't want to let anyone else down anymore, least of all herself. She takes steps to achieve that goal, but instead of finding herself dead, she arrives at **The Midnight Library**. In this strange place, between life and death, a library is full of books with the lives Nora could have led if she made different choices. She can try them on, see if the choice she didn't make would have been better, or worse. She can try to fix the choices she regrets.

One of my favorite poems is Robert Frost's **The Road Not Taken**. It concludes thusly. *Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.* What if you could go back to that divergence in the road, go the other way? Nora is about to find out.

The Midnight Library is a perfect book for the Holiday Season, it is a story that leaves you feeling good, glad you read it.

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.

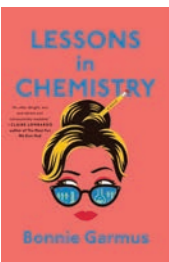
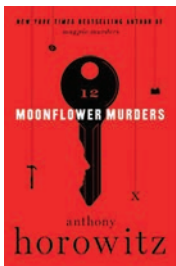
Hooray for 2023, A New Year brings new possibilities!

January

January 5 via Zoom & January 12 in person, **Moonflower Murders** by Anthony Horowitz, **Mystery Book Club**

January 19 via Zoom & January 26 in person, **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus, **Fiction Book Club**

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



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