



# Sunriver Books & Music

## December 2023 Newsletter

### Sunriverbooks.com 541-593-2525



***It's history, you don't erase it, you learn from it!***

By Mark Skeen.

#### ***May your Holiday Season be Joyful!***

December 9 at 5 PM via Zoom Ted Haynes presents his entertaining Central Oregon Mystery series. Ted is a Central Oregon resident with an appreciation for not only the beauty of the area, but also the myriad unique and interesting places known to locals and frequent visitors. Ted will take us on a tour of the settings in his series and give a snapshot of each book. Sign up for the Zoom event at [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pi21SV0HRjmmmys5uDa06A](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pi21SV0HRjmmmys5uDa06A) or use the link to sign up at [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Audience will be able to submit questions.

There are four books in the series thus far: ***Suspects, The Mirror Pond Murders, Mt. Bachelor Murders, and Pole Pedal Murder***. The fifth, ***The Sunriver Murder***, is due to be released June 2024.

***Suspects*** introduces Dan Martinez, a young lawyer who is at loose ends after losing his job at a Portland law firm. Returning to his parent's Central Oregon home, Dan spends the summer training for a triathlon. Stopping by Candy Winterpol's home, he finds her husband severely injured on the porch steps. Candy has been around since Dan's childhood, now a prominent local artist, she was one of his father's art students. Candy and Dan are prime suspects. As a bright spot to Dan's rather troubling summer, he meets Amy. She is a bit taken aback to be dating a murder suspect, but they get over that initial bump in the road, and marry.

***The Mirror Pond Murder*** has sunny professional prospects for Dan. The Portland law firm is opening a branch in Bend, Dan is offered a position working under Sarah Chatham, a widow in her 60s. A woman's skeleton is found in Mirror Pond, there is a high probability she was Native American. Sarah has represented the tribe for quite a while, she is contacted by Detective Jim Sorenson. The skeleton spent years in the water, catching the killer is going to be tricky. But Sarah and Jim are determined to find justice for the victim.

***The Mt. Bachelor Murders*** involves a murder from 1966 with personal significance to both Sarah and Dan. In 1966 on her 16th birthday Lisbeth Peterson went skiing with her father, Erik Peterson, and friend Sally Paulson. Lisbeth and Sally rode one chairlift, while her father rode another chairlift with a stranger tricked out in the latest skiing gear. The girls were having fun, but when it was time to meet up by the chair lifts, Lisbeth's father wasn't there, not was he likely to ever be there, the ski patrol found him under the snow, murdered. In 2018 Sally Paulson was a widowed attorney best known as Sarah Chatham and Lisbeth Peterson had married Leon Martinez, Dan is their son. Leon thinks he has found the killer and also discovered another murder. Lots of history and intrigue in this mystery set on Central Oregon's iconic Mt. Bachelor that waited over half a century to be solved. Dan and Sarah make a powerful team!

***The Pole Pedal Murder*** takes the reader to one of Central Oregon's most popular events. Pole, Pedal, Paddle races include skiing, bike racing, and paddling, an exciting event even before murder is thrown into the mix! Detective Carl Breuninger is heading back to Bend after delivering Roland Lightfeather to prison when he gets the call from dispatch about a suspicious death. Wendy Whitlock was found by her teenage son hanging in their barn. Her husband and son both vehemently deny Wendy would have committed suicide. A few days earlier, Wendy hired Sarah Chatman to defend her in a tricky negotiation with her employer. Wendy was training for Pole, Pedal, Paddle with a team of women including Amy Martinez, it seems unlikely she would commit suicide while training for the event. And the race is on to find a killer!

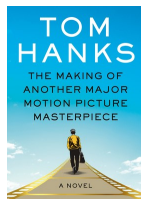
#### ***Holiday Gift Ideas From Sunriver Books & Music***

Shop Sunriver Village this Holiday Season. The Artist Gallery features art by local artists, the Hook & Fly Shop can book an upcoming fishing adventure, they carry Orvis clothing too, Sunriver Sports has a selection of athletic clothes, Village Bike & Ski can get you on the slopes or on the bike trails and outfit you in a warm coat too, Tumbleweed Toys will 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!

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

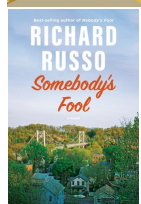
Purchase a ***Book of the Month Club*** subscription for yourself, and for the readers on your gift list. Every month brings a surprise! ***Book of the Month Club*** is a great way to discover new authors, read something you may not have read otherwise, find an undiscovered treasure from a favored author, and enjoy the surprise every month.

A year of surprise books picked up in the bookstore is \$210.97 and mailed it is \$246.97.

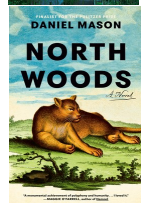


## Our Pick for Top Ten Fiction of 2023.

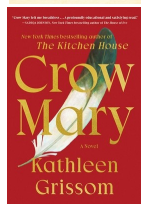
***The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece*** by Tom Hanks employs the making of a movie as the skeleton; from an event affecting the lives of a small town family, to the graphic novel it inspires, to the production of a film, on to the premiere and aftermath. Ultimately the story is about kindness and respect. Hanks tells the backstory of the people involved showing all of them are worthy of respect. On any given day, any one could be vitally important to the project, every one of them deserves kindness. Tom Hanks created a novel that not only entertains, it encourages us to take the time to be nice. Yay Tom!



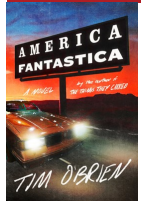
***Somebody's Fool*** by Richard Russo returns to the world ***Nobody's Fool***, and ***Everybody's Fool***. North Bath is being annexed by the larger, more prosperous Schuyler Springs, its police department is being dismantled and Raymer, the Chief of Police, is retiring. The love of his life, Charice, the woman he stupidly told they should have some time apart, is now the Police Chief in the combined departments. A black female police chief is a tough job in a department riddled with white supremacists. Peter, Sully's son, vowed to be nothing like his father. With his son Will, he has done a good job. But he lost contact with his other 2 sons after the divorce. Peter's failing as a father is made evident when his son Thomas shows up. ***Somebody's Fool*** is outrageously funny and filled with heart. I hope Russo writes another North Bath story, I would love to hear what happens with Sully's grandsons!



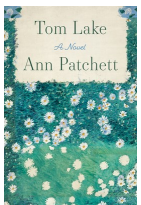
***North Woods*** by Daniel Mason follows the fortunes of a wooded tract of land over centuries. A man and woman, escape from their Puritan community, fleeing north settling in the forested setting. Time passes, different people inhabit the land. Some are good stewards, others are rapacious or neglectful. History flows through the pages, from the young lovers to a kaleidoscope of different people and eras. The land and the people affect each other in good and bad ways. Luminous writing.



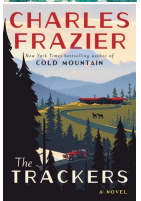
***Crow Mary*** by Kathleen Grissom is based on the life of a real woman who dared to believe in standing up for what was right at a time when justice was in short supply for Native Americans. The daughter of a Chief, taught to ride and shoot by her grandfather, in 1872 she weds a white fur trader, Abe Farwell, and leaves her tribe. At a fur trading post in Saskatchewan Canada a gang of drunken trappers kill 40 Nakoda and take 5 of the women to repeatedly brutalize. Crow Mary goes after them. This is a woman time should not forget! She leads a remarkable life, Grissom tells her story with empathy and respect.



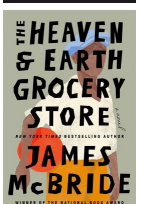
***America Fantastica*** by Tim O'Brien is a brilliant romp across the continent. Bud Halverson's life hasn't turned out as he expected, from being a journalist to managing a JC Penny store, the trajectory seems off kilter. He feels the urge to shake things up. So, after packing a bag the night before, he gets up from his Saturday Kiwanis Club brunch, excuses himself, then strolls across the street to the Community National Bank, armed with a 38 revolver, where he robs the bank and takes Angie Banks, the teller, hostage. In pursuit are, of course, a variety of unlikely characters. And away we go! As a hostage, Angie has a lot of opinions. Packed with pathos and humor, this should be on your must read list!



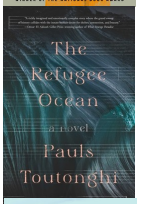
***Tom Lake*** by Ann Patchett. Joe and Lara have 3 grown daughters, Emily, Nell, and Maisie. In the spring of 2020, they are all at the family home in Northern Michigan, helping out with the cherry harvest. They want their mother to tell the story of her youth, when she starred on stage in Tom Lake, her co-star and lover the soon to be famous, Peter Drake. Who could resist such an interesting past in a mother, and they want all of the details. Lara will probably keep a few choice bits as her private memories. This is a heartwarming story, about likeable people, who figured out what was important in life. A lovely story.



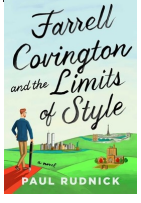
***Trackers*** by Charles Frazier takes place during the Depression when a young artist, Valentine Welch, is given a commission by the WPO to paint a mural on the post office wall in Dawes Wyoming. John Long, a wealthy art collector, former WWI sniper, and aspiring politician, offers to host the young painter at his ranch. When his young wife Eva absconds with a painting and her secrets, Valentine agrees to go after her. The story travels all over the country, from north to south, east to west painting a picture of life in the U.S during hard times, as Eva runs from both her past and her present. Frazier is best known for ***Cold Mountain***.



***The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*** by James McBride is set in Pottstown Pennsylvania in the Chicken Hill neighborhood where the poor Jewish and Blacks live. In the 1920's an ambitious young Jewish immigrant entrepreneur, Moshe, fell in love with the Rabbi's beautiful daughter, Chona, Moshe prospers, owning two theaters that book Jewish and Black bands, while Chona runs the grocery store. Chona is a pistol, she is big on social justice, and not at all pleased with the town's annual parade featuring the Ku Klux Klan. Nate works for Moshe and his wife Addie helps Chona at the grocery store, Nate and Addie take care of their orphaned nephew Dodo. The state wants to send Dodo to an asylum because he is deaf, Chona, who limps from a childhood bout of polio, is outraged. A lively story about, class, prejudice, the power of the state, and the power of the people. Good reading.



***The Refugee Ocean*** by Pauls Toutonghi is set-in two-time frames bound together by music; touched by cataclysmic events. In 2014 Naim Rahil lives in Aleppo Syria, a city at war, where each sound must be examined for danger. Naim is a teenage musical prodigy, in seconds the blast of an explosion alters his future. He travels from a refugee camp to the USA where he must rebuild his life. In 1948 in Beirut Lebanon Marguerite Toutonghi is expected to save the family fortune through the match arranged by her father. She is a young gifted composer dreaming of studying in France. The man she is expected to marry requires a wife to relinquish aspirations of her own, he has no love of music. She meets a young Cuban who loves music, is interested in her thoughts, and not intimidated by a woman with opinions. After a family betrayal, Marguerite boards a ship to Cuba. The characters are likable and resilient. Toutonghi writes in a way that is uplifting, and entertaining. He is a gifted wordsmith.



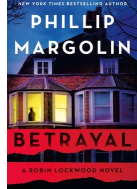
***Farrell Covington and the Limits of Style*** by Paul Rudnick. Farrell Covington is a golden boy, astonishingly handsome, ridiculously wealthy, the son of a powerful family. He is also friendly and kind. Just try to resist all of that! Nate Reminger, a shy Jewish boy, doesn't even try, he succumbs to Farrell's considerable charms feeling amazed to be chosen by such a man. They meet in the library at Yale when both are college students and start a romance that will last lifelong. From 1970's to current day, they face the AIDS epidemic, the changing attitudes toward being gay, the pressures of family, and the tumultuous political landscape of the US. From Manhattan to LA to Rome, their romance spans continents and decades. Spend some time with Farrell and Nate, they will amuse and make you feel good too!



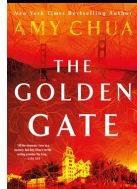
### Our picks for Top Ten Mysteries of 2023.



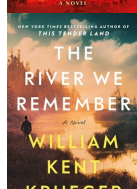
**The Longmire Defense** by Craig Johnson. While searching for a lost motorist in Wyoming's spring snows Sheriff Walt Longmire discovers evidence of a crime committed half a century ago when former Sheriff Lucien Connolly was a young man and Walt's grandfather, Lloyd, was alive. Half a century is a long time, but there is no statute of limitation on murder and Walt's grandfather is a prime suspect. Time has taken care of whatever punishment would be meted out to the killer, however Walt won't let it go, he is intent on finding answers. Oddly enough, without live suspects, the case is still upsetting a lot of people. Some of them are willing to use lethal methods to put a stop the investigation. Lots of action and some great new characters, this book was a joy to read!



**Betrayal** by Phil Margolin. Robin Lockwood financed her law degree from Yale by fighting MMA bouts. She was popular, her fans singing out Rockin Robin as she approached the ring. Wondering how far she could rise in the ranks, she takes a risk, accepting a big fight against Mandy Kerrigan in Las Vegas. Kerrigan, a ferocious fighter, knocks her out, ending Robin's career in the ring. She stayed in law school and became a crackerjack defense attorney. Kerrigan is in Portland for a bout when the Finch family, living by Forest Park, are murdered. She has a known grudge against Ryan Finch and is arrested for the crime, the prosecuting attorney will seek the death penalty. Kerrigan turns to Robin Lockwood for help.



**The Golden Gate** by Amy Chau is a fabulous historic fiction set during WWII in San Francisco and Berkeley. In 1944 Presidential hopeful, Walter Wilkinson, is murdered on the fourth floor of the toney Claremont Hotel. Wilkinson is a wealthy man with plenty of enemies. A decade earlier a seven year old child, Iris Stafford, died under murky circumstances in the Claremont. Her sister Isabella and cousin Cassie, close in age, never got over losing Iris. They are the granddaughters of Mrs. Bainbridge, a wealthy, well connected doyenne. Detective Al Sullivan has an abundance of suspects, but the links to the Stafford girls keep popping up and the District Attorney has a real bee in his bonnet about going after the Bainbridge family. Chau integrates the events and places of the era into the story, it is all fascinating!



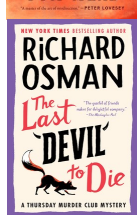
**The River We Remember** by William Kent Krueger is set in Jewell Minnesota during the 1950's when the memory of WWII and Korea is still raw. Sheriff Brody Dern is avoiding the Memorial Day celebrations, or trying to, hanging out with his Golden Retriever and doing his job when he is alerted to the murder of Jimmy Quinn, the body found in a lonely stretch of river. Quinn was a major landowner in the area and truly rotten man. Few will mourn him. Nonetheless the murder has the quiet community in a thither with suspicion quickly falling on Noah Bluestone, a Native American war hero who returned to Jewell with his Japanese wife to settle down on his small farm. Krueger delivers a complex mystery that exposes the attitudes and pain of small town America.



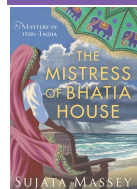
**Crook Manifesto** by Colson Whitehead, set in the 1970's, continues the travails and exploits of Ray Carney and Pepper from **Harlem Shuffle**. Ray's daughter May is obsessed with getting tickets for the upcoming Jackson 5 show. But tickets are not available anywhere! Carney has shutdown the side operations of his business, gone totally legit. He reaches out to his old cop contact, Munson, and it turns out to have been an even worse move than he could have anticipated. Munson has an agenda, he figures Carney could be quite useful. Pepper gets a gig as security for a motion picture being shot in Harlem.



**The Murder Wheel** by Tom Mead, set in 1938, is an extraordinarily clever mystery! A man is shot while riding on a Ferris wheel, his grieving wife arrested for the crime. Edmund Ibbs, a young attorney tasked with representing the young widow, sets out on a series of interviews that poke a hornet's nest of consequences. Placing himself at exactly the wrong place at the wrong time, Ibbs attends an evening magic show where a murder occurs on stage, in a manner that should not have been possible. Ibbs is the only link to the murdered man, thus causing Scotland Yard detective George Floyd to place him under suspicion. Fortunately Joseph Spector, a brilliant magician now retired, is a friend of Floyd's and agrees to help solve a devious locked room mystery.



**Last Devil to Die** by Richard Osman. Stephen's friend, Kuldesh Sharma, is murdered in his car on a lonely road, it appears to be a professional hit. Why would Sharma, an antiques shopkeeper, be a target for assassination? Elizabeth, joined by Ron, Ibrahim, and Joyce, will find the killer of her husband's friend Ibrahim is dispatched to interview crime kingpin, Connie, in prison to find out if she has any useful information, Connie likes to keep up with the goings on in local criminal enterprises. Every mystery involving the **Thursday Murder Club** is a blast.



**The Mistress of Bhatia House** by Sujata Massey. During a lavish fundraiser, there is an accident endangering the life of a child. Sunanda, a servant, heroically saves him thus suffering painful burns herself. Attorney Perveen Mistry is present when the accident occurs. Days later Sunanda is accused of a crime and arrested. Perveen cannot let the woman languish with her wounds in jail, she takes the case pro-bono. This excellent series is set in 1920's India. It is especially relevant considering black robed men, aided by a handmaiden, stripped women of rights over their bodies that had been settled for half a century here in the USA.



**Small Mercies** by Dennis Lehane is set in 1974 Boston. Southie is an Irish American district, the low rent part of town where people live in housing projects, often on the same street they grew up. Mary Pat Fennessy lives just around the corner from her big sister and down the way from her childhood home. On the night Jules, Mary Pat's 17 year old daughter, goes missing, a young Black man, Augustus Williamson, dies on the subway tracks. Was he murdered or was it a tragic accident? Homicide Detective Bobby Coyne intends to discover what happened and if it is not an accident to find the killer. It will not be easy to find justice for a dead young black man in a white working-class neighborhood. Yet Bobby Coyne is not going to give up.



**A Disappearance in Fiji** by Nilima Rao. Akal Singh was a rising star in the Hong Kong Police until something went awry, and he was sent to Fiji where the Inspector General wasn't at all keen on taking in Hong Kong's castoff. Fiji uses indentured Indians to work on the plantations. A delegation is coming to check on the indentured servants., plans are made to have dinners and such, for everything to go smoothly. That is, until an Indian woman goes missing and the local Priest is loudly upset. The Inspector General assigns the case to Akal, with instructions to just make it go away, go talk to people, politely, don't ruffle feathers, keep things calm. That is not how it will go with Akal on the case!

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

It is difficult 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

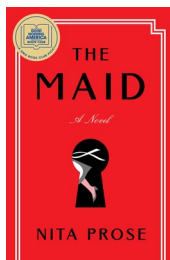
Give a Three Rivers School child the gift of a love of reading, it lasts a lifetime.



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**December 2023 Book Clubs**

Book Clubs are great fun! We have a friendly group of people in our Book Clubs, everyone is welcome. If you would like to attend a discussion, email [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) to sign up. December has major holidays, the days of the Book Club discussions are slightly varied.



Monday December 4 at 4:30 in person and **Thursday** December 7 via Zoom at 6 PM Mystery Book Club discusses **The Maid** by Nita Prose, an interesting story combining unique characters with a clever plot.

Molly Gray has difficulty interpreting the nuances of social interaction, has a tendency to blurt out things obviously true but wholly inappropriate for comment. Until recently her grandmother helped her navigate the ins and outs of human behavior. The two women shared an apartment and were devoted to each other, but her grandmother recently died so Molly is on her own regarding how to comport herself.

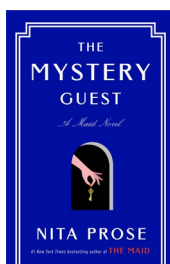
She works as a maid in a toney hotel, the Regency Grand, a job she enjoys. Molly likes order, she likes things clean and tidy, she feels accomplishment in returning a messy room to a state of pristine comfort. She has a friend in the kitchen, Juan Manuel, and a crush on Rodney. Molly has surmised that to most of the guests, the maid is almost invisible. She is good at her job; being a maid doesn't call on her to have a lot of sparkling repartee and she enjoys restoring order.

What her job doesn't prepare her for is murder. The Regency Grand has a lot of well-heeled customers. People important in the financial pages and the society pages of leading newspapers. One of them, Mr. Black, is dead in the penthouse, a room Molly routinely cleans. Discovering him in this condition is way outside Molly's normal duties. Once the police get involved it is clear Molly is caught in troubled waters. This is an absolutely charming mystery; Molly is a delightful character intent on putting things right.



December 11 at 6 PM via Zoom and December 18 at 4:30 in-person **The Reading List** by Sara Nisha Adams will be discussed in Fiction Book Club. Celebrate the joy of the power of reading with an excellent list!

Mukesh, a lonely, grieving widower, and Aleisha, a college student overwhelmed by the responsibility of helping her brother care for their mentally ill mother, bond and heal through sharing books. Mukesh's wife was an avid reader, while he watched documentary programs, she read constantly. His granddaughter is following in her footsteps, always with a book in her hands. Aleisha works at the library, while shelving books she finds a crumpled reading list. Mukesh goes to the library in search of books, to remember his wife and bond with his granddaughter. The first meeting between Aleisha and Mukesh doesn't go well, but soon they are delving into the books on the list. Join them in reading the list.



**Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings**

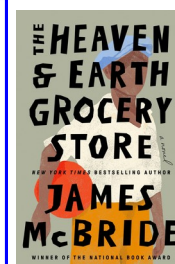
Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held in person at 4:30 & via Zoom at 6 PM on Mondays.

**January**

1-8-24 @ 6 PM via Zoom & 1-15-24 at 4:30 in person, **Mysterious Guest** by Nita Prose, **Mystery Book Club**

1-22-24 @ 6 PM via Zoom & 1-29-24 at 4:30 in person, **Heaven & Earth Grocery Store** by James McBride, **Fiction Book Club**

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



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