



# Sunriver Books & Music

## February 2016

### Newsletter

[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)  
541-593-2525



Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM Matt Ruff will give a presentation on his latest novel, **Lovecraft Country**. Combining fantasy with a sharp look at the 1950's Jim Crow world this tome is fun to read while also revealing a darker reality. What would it be like to be African-American in the 1950's? Even in the north. It would mean you could not be served in most restaurants, hotel doors would be closed to you, and even if you were a decorated war veteran, like the main character Atticus Turner, you could still be pulled over and harassed (or worse) by any cop with an attitude sitting along a highway. Atticus and his father, Montrose, have a prickly relationship. The two battled over just about everything, from Montrose's obsession with his dead wife's background to Atticus' reading material. Like many young men, Atticus likes Science Fiction, especially the dark work of H. P. Lovecraft, an obscure author who died in penury in 1937. Montrose points out men of color are not treated well in those stories, why pay someone to insult you? Why spend time with the writings of racists? Nonetheless Atticus likes the stories. So father and son are estranged when Atticus receives a letter from Montrose claiming he had discovered the ancestral roots of Atticus' mother. By the time Atticus reaches Chicago (using the Safe Negro Travel Guide published by his uncle George), his father is gone missing. Clues lead Atticus to believe his father is at the mansion of Samuel Braithwaite in New England. Accompanied by his uncle George and a childhood friend, Letitia, Atticus heads out to find his father. Getting there is not easy, there are racist cops and strange spirits right out of the stories Atticus and George are fond of reading. Bizarrely, they are expected when they arrive. But all is not well at the Braithwaite mansion, Montrose is held in chains, and a secret cult is itching to use Atticus in some strange ritual. Blending several genres, Matt Ruff created memorable and likeable characters, with a good story to tell.

Matt's last book, **The Mirage**, was a daring reimagining of history. What if the Twin Towers were not in New York but in Baghdad? 11/9/2001 Christian fundamentalists hijack four jetliners and slam two of them into the Tigris and Euphrates World Trade Centers in Baghdad. The third Jetliner crashes into the Arab Defense Ministry in Riyadh. Courageous passengers bring down the fourth jet before it can reach its intended target, thought to be the Holy city Mecca. In 2009 Homeland Security is dealing with suicide bombers while the Marines are trying to subdue the insurgents wrecking havoc in Virginia. Yet there are nebulous hints that this world is all a mirage. Mustafa al Baghdadi, a Homeland Security Agent, keeps hearing odd stories when he interrogates suicide bombers. All the usual suspects show up: Sadaam Hussein, Bushes 1 and 2, Osama, and there is a marvelous cameo with Lyndon Baines Johnson. Bold, brash and brilliant, **Mirage** turns the world upside down and gives it a good shake. I liked the characters a lot! Mustafa is a sympathetic, intelligent man. Amal is a woman working in a very male dominated society, she is whip smart, an integral part of Mustafa's team but has her own battles to fight. This is the best sort of book, a great story that keeps you turning pages, makes you laugh at times, and definitely makes you think. Matt Ruff's other books include **Bad Monkeys**, **Set This House In Order**, **Fool on the Hill**, and **Sewer Gas & Electric**

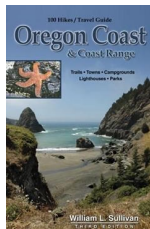
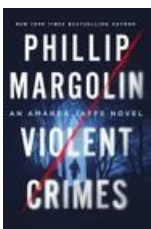
Please call 541-593-2525 or e-mail [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend this free presentation. There will be drawings for prizes and light refreshments.

### Upcoming Author Appearances

- Saturday March 12th 2016 at 5:00 PM **Violent Crimes** by Phil Margolin
- Saturday April 23rd 2016 at 5:00 PM **All The Winters After** by Sere Prince Halverson
- Saturday April 30th 2016 at 5:00 PM **New Hikes On The Oregon Coast**, slide show presentation by Bill Sullivan.
- Saturday July 9th 2016 at 5:00 PM **The Passenger** by Lisa Lutz
- Saturday July 16th 2016 At 5:00 PM **American Copper** by Shann Ray

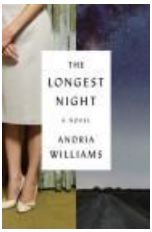
Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes.

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.

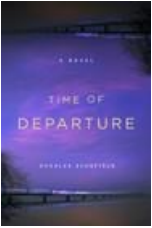


## Staff Recommendations Recent Releases.

### Rachel Kelly Recommends.



***The Longest Night*** by Andria Williams. It's the cold war and nuclear advancements are being made across the country in preparation. Just outside the small town of Idaho Falls, Paul Collier starts up work on a persnickety military reactor. His wife, Nat Collier, is having trouble adjusting to the new town and all of these new Army rules she had thus far been unaware of. A stay at home mother of two young girls, Nat struggles to fit into this community of happy housewives. Paul and Nat's relationship is beginning to crumble underneath the strain of his work and her inability to cope with this lifestyle change. When Paul gets into an altercation with his self-serving boss, he is sent away on deployment from a now-pregnant Nat who is at her wit's end. In their time apart, Nat finds a new friend in young Esrom, furthering the strain on her marriage. All the while their relationship is crumbling, so is the nuclear reactor just outside the remote town. Paul returns just in time for the reactor meltdown and the problems between he and his wife are thrown into stark relief. The story delves into the various relationships between military husbands and their wives at the peak of Cold War tensions, focusing on the pitfalls pretension in this Stepford-like community. Accurate in more ways than one, this novel brings understanding to every character with relatable flaws.

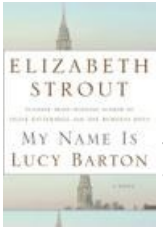


***Time of Departure*** by David Schofield. What begins with an ambitious young female prosecutor, a mysterious cold case, and an intriguing ex-cop who knows too much about both, ends in a series of twists you won't see coming. Claire Talbot has a lot to prove in the masochistic legal world in which she has immersed herself but she puts it all on the line when Marcus Hastings enters her life with an old case that stirs an ominous feeling in the pit of Claire's stomach. Though the string of missing girls occurred before she was born, Claire senses a familiarity with the case, and with Marc that she can't explain. With the ever-infuriating platitude that she will one day understand, Claire begrudgingly follows Marc down a rabbit hole of mystery, phenomena, and romance that will change everything. A wonderful thrill of a book that takes you to unexpected places it will keep you on the edge of your seat to the very last page.

### Nancy Nelson Recommends.



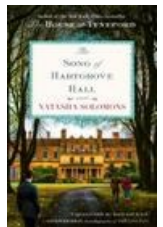
***The Killing Forest***, by Sara Blaedel. It is Louise Rick's first day back to her job as an investigator for the Special Search Agency in Copenhagen, Denmark. When she is given the assignment to locate a missing 15 year old boy, she is happy to take the case. This will also afford her the chance to look into the still unsolved murder of her former boyfriend. The father of the boy is mysteriously reluctant to have the police looking into his son's disappearance. Nearly everyone in the town has little to say about what might have happened, but it seems clear that anyone connected to the boy's family knows something. Eventually signs and facts begin to surface. The town's revered and unholy secrets come out. Special Investigator Rick discovers that the simple case of the missing boy is the key to something much larger and insidious. I found the story rife with Nordic lore, which added to the tension and the interest.



***My Name is Laura Barton***, by Elizabeth Strout. Lucy Barton is in the hospital recovering from a post operative infection. During her nine week stay, her mother visits, sharing with her the news of their home town. Lucy hasn't spoken to her mother for many years, yet still longs for the close relationship that she never had. Growing up in a very poor family, teased and dismissed by her peers at school, she has separated herself from the pain of such a life by focusing on academic excellence, and eventually becoming a writer. Basically this is a story about love, family relationships, and a determination to create a better life than the one from which she came. As she talks about her past and present, she emphasizes the redeeming value of small kindnesses given to her throughout her life. She learns that no matter how many books she may write, she has one story, hers. Lucy Barton's story is intimate, touching, and well written. As she weaves together the pieces of her story of love, loss, and self examination, she ends with this: "All life amazes me". Really good book!

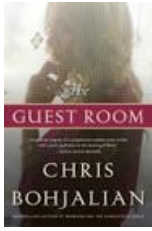


***The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend***, by Katarina Bivald. If you like heartwarming stories with quirky characters, this book will give that and much more. Sara, who lives in Sweden and has spent most of her life reading, has been corresponding with Amy of Broken Wheel, Iowa. Amy invites Sara to come and visit her. When Sara arrives, she is shocked to find that Amy has died. The good folks of Broken Wheel have Sara stay in Amy's house for free, refusing to allow her to pay for anything she may need. Sara feels the need to repay the town for their extraordinary hospitality, so she takes Amy's extensive supply of books and opens a bookstore in town. The tiny population of Broken Wheel is not composed of readers. Nevertheless, Sara and the bookstore have a profound influence that extends past the town limits, and things begin to happen as sleepy Broken Wheel awakens, and the residents discover a new sense of purpose. This is such a delightful book about books and ordinary people living in a tiny town who, when more closely observed, are not really so ordinary after all.



***Song of Hartgrove Hall***, by Natasha Solomons. This book resonates with sensitivity, reaching for the tiny details of music and of life that are at the heart and soul of the story. Harry, the youngest of three brothers narrates, beginning in March 2000, with the funeral of his wife, Edie. In the parallel story, it is 1946, New Years Eve. The three young men have just returned from the war to home, Hargrove Hall. They find the place in ruins, abused and neglected, occupied those years by the British army. When Harry falls in love with his brother's fiancé, Edie, he cannot endure staying, and leaves to pursue his life in music. A tangled web of friendship, love, betrayal and promise ensues with Edie at the core of it. Meanwhile everywhere there is music, which is at the core of Harry's being. More than that even, in beautiful descriptive language it is about family and forgiveness. Wonderful book!!

**Staff Recommendations Recent Releases.**  
**Deon Recommends.**



***The Guest Room*** by Chris Bohjalian. Richard Chapman has it all, a family he adores, a job he relishes, and a beautiful home in an upscale Westchester neighborhood. One lapse in judgment will put it all in jeopardy. Richard's brother is the black sheep of the family, not terribly ambitious, prone to carousing, and allowing his adolescence to last way too far into adulthood. Finally he seems to be shaping up, is engaged to a sweet woman, getting married and settling down. First, there will be a bachelor's party. Richard loves his little brother, so he agrees to host the party in his spacious home. He sends his family to stay with his mother-in-law for the weekend, he has talked it over with his wife and they assume there will be a stripper. With the crowd Richard's little brother hangs with, of course there will be a stripper. While the Chapmans are not enthused about having a stripper in their home, they assume it will all be pretty tame. How wrong they are. This bachelor's party will have nothing tame about it. The strippers, and there are two, are delivered to the home by two Russian handlers. Wild drunkenness will devolve into acts way over the line. Before the night is over the Russians will die, and the strippers will flee into the dark. The story is told through two perspectives, Richard's as his life crumbles around him and Alexandra, one of the strippers, as she runs for her life, attempting to escape the police and her captors. Great story!



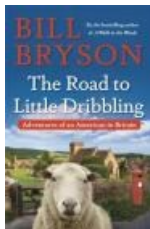
***Angels Burning*** by Tawni O'Dell. Chief Dove Carnahan loves her job; she is top cop in her hometown, lives a quiet life, and wears her fifty years well. Her past gives her some notoriety. Murder is rare in rural Pennsylvania, when Dove was a teenager, her mother, a stunner with poor taste in men, was brutally murdered. It was the most shocking crime in her small town until now. A beautiful young girl has been murdered; her body thrown into a fiery sinkhole to burn. While the State Police will be running the show, (they have the staff and the labs) Chief Carnahan will also be heavily involved. The young girl was ambitious, a high achiever headed to college. Her family is not known for high achievers, they are a clan of rednecks and smalltime criminals. While Dove is involved in the current investigation, the man who served thirty years for killing her mother has been released from prison still swearing he is innocent. Both plot lines are skillfully integrated into the story. Dove is a likeable protagonist. I enjoyed the way the story involved Dove's whole family, and the way she tried to treat everyone with understanding. Tawni O'Dell tells a good story!



***I'm Traveling Alone*** by Samuel Bjork. Another Norwegian author joins the ranks of Jo Nesbo, Karin Fossum, and Camilla Lackberg with a great story translated for its American debut. The body of a young girl found hanging in a tree by a reluctant dog walker sends Holger Munch across Norway to the remote island home of Mia Kruger. It has been a couple years since the fallout from their last investigation resulted in Holger's banishment to Honefoss and Mia's isolation. Holger used to head an elite homicide unit in Oslo, Mia was his best investigator. Now they are needed again. Holger and Mia are interesting and likeable. Their back stories give depth to the characters and contribute to the puzzle. Holger is brilliant; his hobby is figuring out rather tricky math equations. Dedicated to solving the crimes set before him, he has always let his job come first. It cost him a wife and put a sense of distance in the relationship with his daughter. Even now, a decade later, Holger is still not resolved to the divorce. He is not making the same mistake with his granddaughter, Marion. He adores the child and would do anything for her. Mia has her own baggage. She was also brilliant, in a different way than Holger. Highly intuitive, able to see the evil in people, she complimented her boss' style perfectly. Mia left the force, under a suspicious cloud, to live out her days in a drug and alcohol fueled haze until the tenth anniversary of her sister's death. On that day Mia will join her twin. It would take something big to derail Mia's suicide plans. Holger is crossing Norway with just that something; the murder of a child, indications that more will follow, and the need for the best and brightest to stop the killer. Holger is shocked by Mia's condition; the fit cop he knew wasn't involved with pills and booze. Still she has it, that ability to see the things others missed. Soon the team is reassembled, back in Oslo. Will the team be in time to save Holger's granddaughter? Unknown to the cops, the killer has his sights on the one person Holger loves best. The threads of this story go in a million directions, until the author brings them all back together as he reaches the climax, sure to leave the reader breathless.



***Up To This Pointe*** by Jennifer Longo. Harper Scott is dedicated. Since she was a toddler, her driving ambition has been to join the San Francisco Ballet with her best friend Kate. She studied diligently, spent hour upon hour practicing, taught classes to young children in order to afford her lessons, and worked with all her soul toward this one goal. What do you do when your life's goal crashes around you? Harper goes to Antarctica. Through a little deft maneuvering, she scores a student slot as an assistant in a science project. Not that Kate is scientifically inclined, her life is dance. What Kate does have in Antarctica, is the exalted lineage of her ancestor Robert Falcon Scott. There are many things to like about this innovative story. Lots of great detail on Antarctica, including a penguin encounter, Harper's dedication to dance, her love of San Francisco, and the way she matures, finding new meaning in life.



***The Road to Little Dribbling*** by Bill Bryson. From Bognor Regis (its claim to fame the visit of a monarch) to Cape Wrath (cheerful sounding sort of place), Bryson traverses Britain from south to north with his customary wit and keen observance. Obscure bits from history, quirky characters, and off the beaten path places are all right up his alley. Twenty years ago Bryson wrote ***Notes From A Small Island***, it was about time for another of his travel essays about his adopted home. Bryson takes care to visit new places, writing with his usual verve about the travel experience.

## February 2016 Book Clubs.



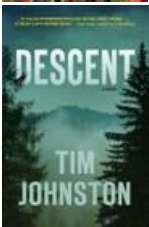
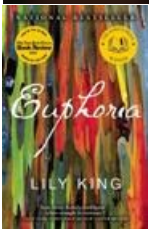
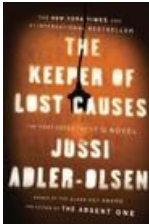
February 1<sup>st</sup> the Mystery Book Club discusses *The Ice Princess* by Camilla Lackberg. Fjallbacka is a picturesque seaside fishing village that has changed as the fishing fleet thinned, young people moved away, and wealthy weekenders pushed the price of charming old homes through the roof (often remodeling much of their history away). Eilert Berg supplements his meager pension from fishing by checking weekly on Alexandra's weekend home. Alex is not one of the regular wealthy investors; she grew up in this home then moved away when still in adolescence. The home stayed in the family after they moved, tended but unused, until Alex made it her getaway place. She likes to know things will be in order when she arrives for the weekend and Eilert welcomes the extra income, plus he likes being needed. It is cold and icy, normal for winter in Sweden, when Eilert stops by for his weekly inspection. Immediately he feels something is wrong. The furnace is off and the house is deathly cold. Eilert goes from room to room checking, putting the bathroom off to last, where he finds Alex frozen in the tub with her blond hair cascading over the edge and the red blood from her wrists pooled on the floor. Shaken by his discovery, he hurries away, encountering Erica Falck out for a walk. Erica summons the doctor, everyone assumes it is suicide. Erica is not easy with the situation, why would Alex commit suicide? She is beautiful, wealthy, successful, married to a handsome man who adores her. Questions mount, Erica is drawn into the investigation as detective Patrick Hedstrom attempts to find answers. Patrick is pleased to be seeing Erica; he has had a crush on her since childhood. Now in their 30's, they are finding out that they quite like each other.



February 15<sup>th</sup> the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses *Countdown* by Alan Weisman, reviewed by Rich Stonehouse. Weisman has written 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 not certain but Weisman's book is a wake-up call that urgently demands that everyone become aware of the dire consequences of inaction and ignorance. This book is highly recommended and should be required reading for all people who have the power to make and influence the necessary changes to the problem of overpopulation.



February 29<sup>th</sup> the Fiction Book Club discusses *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks. In 1665 tailor George Viccars unknowingly carried the plague to Eyam England in a bolt of flea infested cloth ordered from London by his boss Alexander Hadfield. From 1665 to 1666 the bubonic plague would claim 260 victims. Reverend William Mompesson and former Reverend Thomas Stanley persuade the villagers to quarantine themselves to keep the scourge from spreading. Geraldine Brooks uses this real history to craft her remarkable historic fiction on what life must have been like inside the plague village, often using people from the historical record in her story. The story is told through the perspective of Anna, who works at the rectory. Anna's family is one of the earliest hit by the plague. Her confidence in the reverend is strong. She is fond of his beautiful wife, Elinor, who teaches her to read. As the days march on, continuing to claim villagers, they turn on the two women who could help, claiming witch craft. Anna is saddened by the disintegration of her village, but she possesses a strong, persevering spirit. Geraldine Brooks is a Pulitzer Prize winner for *March*, set during the Civil War. She is talented at bringing history into sharp focus.



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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

March 7<sup>th</sup> *Now You See Me* by S. J. Bolton [Mystery Book Club](#)

March 21<sup>st</sup> *Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert [Fiction Book Club](#)

April *The Keeper of Lost Causes* by Jussi Adler-Olsen [Mystery Book Club](#)

April *True American* by Anand Giridharadas [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

April Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea selection.

May *Descent* by Tim Johnston [Mystery Book Club](#)

May *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier [Fiction Book Club](#)

June *Time's Witness* by Michael Malone [Mystery Book Club Month Of North Carolina](#)

June *Lookaway, Lookaway* by Wilton Barnhardt [Fiction Book Club Month Of North Carolina](#)

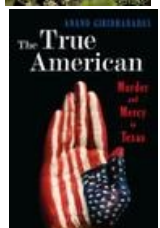
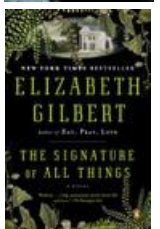
June *Look Homeward Angel* by Thomas Wolfe [Classics Book Club Month Of North Carolina](#)

July *The Last Bookaneer* by Matthew Pearl [Mystery Book Club](#)

July *Under The Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan [Fiction Book Club](#)

July *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson [Classics Book Club](#)

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



If you are involved in a club or gathering that would enjoy using space in Sunriver Village, please remember the Village owners have kindly provided space in the loft area above Sunriver Books & Music. The space is available for uses compatible with the bookstore during Sunriver Books & Music's hours of operation. Using the space is free. To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music.

Sunriver Village is an ideal place to meet. After concluding the day's agenda enjoy a meal at one of the Village restaurants and browse in the many shops.

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