



Sunriver Books & Music

February 2017

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Saturday February 18th at 5PM Kathleen Dean Moore will give a presentation on her debut novel, *The Piano Tide*, along with pictures and banjo music. It should be a very entertaining presentation!

Nora arrives in Good River Harbor, the last stop on the Alaskan ferry, with her piano and her secrets, accompanied by Chum, a large, loyal dog. It seems like the right kind of place for someone who loves the wilderness and craves solitude. There are fewer than 50 people clinging to the mountainside and living on the docks over the water. Grizzlies rule on the land and Killer Whale fish in the harbor. The mountains, the huge old trees, and the sea grant for free the kind of million dollar views that make a person feel awed by nature.

She arrives on the piano tide, a tide high enough, to bring her piano from the ferry across the water to Green Cove and the small cottage she has taken. Tick, a bear of a man with a wild red beard, takes charge of helping her move the piano, the menfolk of the town are soon heavily invested in assisting with the task because that is what you do for each other in such a small hamlet.

Nora's intention is to keep a low profile, enjoy the quiet, play her piano, and leave her neighbors to lead their lives as best they can. It is a resolution challenged by Axel Hagerman, the guy who pretty much runs the town. Not an unusual occurrence in a small town, to have a man who owns most of the assets and runs the place as he sees fit. Axel is not a bad man, he loves his wife and daughter fiercely, but he thinks nature is

there for his use, and he is not a man to cross. Not if you want to live comfortably in Good River Harbor. He fished and ran a cannery until there were not enough fish left to sustain such activities, logged the spruce and the cedar, now he has turned his attention to the water from a stream, the habitat of salmon.

Tick has lived his whole life in Good River Harbor; he doesn't yearn for any other place, just to be able to make a living for his wife Annie and sons, young Tommy and teenage Davey. He has fished, logged, worked as a carpenter, but the work ran out. The boys are real charmers. Tick tries to get along and stay on good terms with Axel, despite his son's affection for Axel's daughter (unpopular with her father) and Nora's outrage over the salmon habitat.

The village looks to Axel as the main employer, generally respecting his ability to see potential and seize the initiative to make a dollar. His various enterprises have employed many of them from time to time. Getting along with Axel can lead to a paycheck in good times, and most of his neighbors find no reason to quarrel with him.

Always on the lookout for new business opportunities, Axel gets the bright idea of capturing bears for use in a tourist attraction to entertain the tourists who come on the ferry for a brief visit. There is no reason to see them get back on board without spending a few dollars; he can charge a pretty penny for his bear viewing attraction. This time Axel's plan to make nature pay is the spark that ignites consequences, leading those around him to question what is worth protecting, and how far they are willing to go to save what they realize they cherish. Before it is all over, Axel, Nora, and everyone else will have choices to make about what they stand for, what they are willing to risk, and what really matters. The story is filled with entertaining and endearing characters, especially Tick's two sons. There is humor, a sense of community, and wonder at the beauty of nature. The Alaskan setting comes to life in this big hearted story about a village of quirky characters that come together when it matters most.

Please call 541-593-2525 or e-mail 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 April 29th 2017 at 5:00 PM *New Hikes in Southern Oregon* by Bill Sullivan (slide show)

Saturday May 6th 2017 *Curious Gorge* by Scott Cook (slide show)

Saturday June 24th 2017 *Dragon Springs Road* by Janie Chang

Saturday August 12th, 2017 at 5:00 PM *The Case of the Reborn Bhagwan* by Bill Sullivan

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 sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Space may be limited for some events.

Check sunriverbooks.com for changes or additions to the schedule.

Staff Recommendations, new releases.

Rachel Kelley Recommends.



The Bear and The Nightingale by Katherine Arden. Russian winters are long and cold. Young Vasilisa doesn't mind however, enraptured by old fairytales of spirits and demons. Vasilisa grows up with these tales and the traditions that honor the spirits that keep the careful balance of life in the Russian wilderness. When her mother dies, her father brings home a new wife – a harsh, city-bred woman who abhors the traditions and tales of Vasilisa's youth. But when the family stops their honoring of traditions in lieu of the stepmother's demands, crops begin to die and the dark creatures of the world grow ever closer to their doorstep. Vasilisa must make a choice to rebel her stepmother's requests, keeping to her traditions and beliefs, or to acquiesce. This book is beautifully woven with a captivating setting, and a strong young woman who must rise against forces both personal and supernatural.

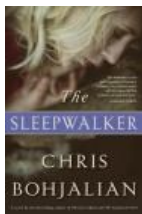
Deon Recommends.



Lillian Boxfish Takes A Walk by Kathleen Rooney. Nothing will describe this story quite as well as the sheer joy of reading it! New Year's Eve 1984, Lillian takes a walk around Manhattan, stopping at places of significance to stroll down memory lane. Lillian at age 84 is still vital and great company. It is a pleasure to spend time with her remembering the past as she acknowledges the present. Lillian arrived in New York in 1926, finding employment as a copywriter for R.H. Macy's; by 1931 she was the highest paid woman in advertising and was beginning a successful career as a poet too. The highest paid woman, because in 1931 a woman, even a very talented woman, would not be paid the same salary as a man. As Lillian walks through the night, from 1984 to 1985, she revisits other years in her memory, times of joy and trial. There are so many things I enjoyed about Lillian; her belief in herself, audacity, interest in both the natural and cultural world of her neighborhood, and her joy in walking. Lillian relishes her independence, is actively involved in life, and resists her son's plea to move out of the city. Kathleen Rooney was inspired to write ***Lillian Boxfish Takes A Walk*** by the life of Margaret Fishback, who did achieve the status of highest paid woman in advertising and a popular author of poetry. This is a book that makes you want to fly to New York with a copy clutched in your hand to retrace Lillian's walk and think about this lovely, inspiring story!



The Dark Room by Jonathan Moore. Inspector Gavin Cain and his partner, Grassley are in a cemetery a couple hours south of San Francisco at midnight. They are overseeing the digging up a casket, it was deemed less disturbing to the recently bereaved to do this when the cemetery was empty, thus midnight. Before they are finished Cain's superior, Lieutenant Nagata, calls telling him a helicopter is on the way, she is pulling him off this case for something more sensitive. Cain is not pleased, it has taken him weeks to set up the exhumation, and Grassley is new to homicide. Nevertheless Cain is soon flying back to the city, landing in Civic Center Plaza where Lieutenant Nagata is waiting to take him to the mayor's office in City Hall. Mayor Castelli is charismatic, overly fond of bourbon, crazy rich, and being blackmailed. Cain tries to avoid the assignment by pointing out his area is homicide, not blackmail. Nagata remains firm, the mayor wants Cain. There is no appeal for money, the blackmailer requires something else. Four pictures arrived with a letter, the pictures are disturbing, the letter threatens there will be more pictures and public exposure unless the mayor commits suicide. Castelli swears he has no knowledge of the woman in the pictures. Cain will be paired with FBI Agent Karen Fisher; he is to find the girl while the FBI takes care of the rest. There is a lot I liked about ***The Dark Room***. The writing is crisp and Moore uses the settings beautifully. The way the San Francisco police work in the story feels realistic. However, the characters are what really shine. Cain is a likeable guy, serious and thoughtful about his job, caring toward his damaged lover, Lucy, and respectful of those around him. Jonathan Moore did something admirable with Cain. He allowed him to see women as people, not romantic or lustful objects. He collaborates with FBI Agent Fisher treating her as a valued colleague, giving credit for her intelligence and being friendly but not in any way showing inappropriate interest. Cain is encouraging in a professional manner to Officer Chun, commending her for being a go getter, cautioning when more experienced advice is needed, relating to her as a member of his team not a potential conquest. He is faithful to and supportive of Lucy, showing strong feelings and thus making her an integral part of his life. Agent Fisher is highly competent, serious about her work, and able to be caring while remaining very much a professional. What a breath of fresh air! It would be a pleasure to read more stories paring Agent Fisher and Inspector Cain, they make a good team.



The Sleepwalker by Chris Bohjalian. Lianna, 21, and Piage, 12, feared something awful had happened when they wake up to discover their mother, Annalee Ahlberg, not in the house. The night before was the first time in years their father, Warren Ahlberg, was absent from the home overnight. He was attending an academic conference, the type of activity he missed participating in but gave up because of Annalee's dangerous nocturnal wanderings. Lately her sleepwalking seemed to be somewhat under control, so it was decided it would be okay for Warren to try traveling to conferences again. Now Annalee is missing, anything may have happened. Years back Lianna pulled her mother off the bridge railing over the Gale River during one of her night time excursions. There is no knowing what she may have done or where she may have gone while in the grips of a sleepwalking episode. Annalee is a stunningly beautiful woman, tall, lean, with miles of long blond hair. Within hours police and volunteers are searching for her, but their efforts bring no reward. Warren and his daughters are worried sick and devastated as time passes without resolution. Detective Gavin Rickert continues to take an interest in Annalee's case. He also takes an interest in Annalee's daughter, Lianna, an interest reciprocated by the young woman. Lianna is attracted to Rickert, but he knows an unsettling amount about Annalee and her family. This page turner with twists and turns that kept me guessing also made me curious about sleepwalking. People can do quite a surprising range of things while in this altered state: leave their homes and travel distances, drive cars, have sex, move furniture, step into thin air.

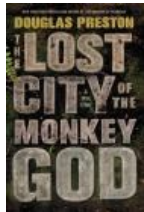
Deon recommends.



The Midnight Cool by Lydia Peele. Billy Monday is one of literature's great characters! As a teen he fled the poverty and hunger in Ireland for what he hoped would be an easier life in America. The streets here are not paved with gold; Billy found life was still hard. Eventually he carved out an existence for himself, partnering with Charles as horse traders. Charles believes he should have led a different life, and he has a tendency toward admiration for those living in wealth and comfort. Billy knows they are all just people, as likely as anyone to cheat and steal, possibly even more prone to it. Charles' belief in the upstanding qualities of the wealthy leads him to make a disastrous purchase. Leland Hatcher is filthy rich; he agrees to sell Charles a magnificent black horse, **The Midnight Cool**, for a ridiculously small sum. While the sum might be small compared to the value of such a horse, it is all Billy and Charles have, they will be tied down in Richland Tennessee until and unless they can calm and train the beautiful, violent black mare, by no means an easy or safe task. Charles was cheated on the purchase, but he still refuses to see Leland as a swindler. Staying in one place leaves the pair open to another danger, Charles falls for Leland's daughter, the independent minded Catherine. WWI is coming; the war effort needs mules to send to Europe. The men switch from trading horses to trading mules. Charles begins to see the possibility of achieving a life of comfort, one different from Billy's wandering ways. Billy isn't the least enthralled by the "upper classes", he is an original, putting his faith in the animals. The man has an uncanny ability to understand his equine charges, treating them with kindness. Beautiful writing is married to a story of greed, corruption, the tragedy of war, and the cost of longing.



Different Class by Joanne Harris. Roy Straitley, the marvelously quirky classics master from **Gentlemen & Players**, is back with another delightfully devious tale. St. Oswald's school for boys is reeling from the disasters of last year, poor exam results, and suffering financially. It is time for drastic action, a "super" headmaster is brought in to clean up the place, clear out the deadwood, come up with some zippy new ideas to attract paying students and in general get St. Oswald's back on track. One of his ideas (horrors!) is to combine with the local girl school. Straitley's position is precarious. For thirty years he has taught the boys at St. Oswald's, the institution is more than a job, it is his home and his avocation. But times have changed, people are more into gadgets, electronics, technology and far less involved with Latin, ancient history, contemplation. Everyone expected Straitley to be retired by now, but what would he do? His whole life is wrapped up with St. Oswald's and his boys. Attending the first meeting held by the new "super" headmaster, Straitley is disturbed to find the man was once one of his boys, and not at all one of his favorites. Twenty four years ago when a scandal erupted at St. Oswald's and a teacher, a friend of Straitley's, was jailed, the new headmaster was right in the thick of things. The other main character's story is told through a series of journal entries written as letters to Mousey. It is clear this character has some serious issues. As the story progresses it becomes evident just how disturbed and dangerous he may be. Superb characters, an intelligent yet deadly plot, and brilliant writing make this a must read!



Lost City of the Monkey God by Douglas Preston, best known for his Gideon Crew series and his Agent Pendegrast series written with Lincoln Child. But he also writes non-fiction books and articles for National Geographic. **Lost City of the Monkey God** is the account of Preston's participation in a scientific expedition to discover a city lost for 500 years in the Honduran jungle. Using the advanced technology of lidar, they could fly over the jungle with the machine pinpointing areas of interest rather than blundering about in the thick underbrush in the hopes of making a discovery. The images revealed several areas of interest, one being a sprawling city waiting to be discovered. The machine does not make it all smooth going, boots on the ground to physically assess the discovery are necessary, all the machine does is eliminate the time spent flailing around in the jungle trying to find the site, the rest of the discovery process is hands on. Preston and the team were flown close to the site, where they would camp in the jungle and evaluate the discovery. This is a jungle that had not been exposed to humans in centuries. The animals were not used to humans, so were interested and not as fearful or cautious as animals who know the danger of our species. Some of these animals were dangerous themselves, deadly Fer-de-Lance snakes were abundant. There were other dangers; rumor had it a curse had been placed on the site. It was a rumor that proved to be true for the members of the expedition, many of the group, including Preston, came down with a mysterious, incurable disease. There was also scientific controversy. This was a huge discovery! An ancient city, an intact site, undiscovered for centuries with many artifacts. Controversy erupted within the academic community. Other scientists attacked the group's findings, expressing the opinion that using lidar was not good science; the discovery had to be made entirely by going laboriously through the jungle. This is a fascinating account of a major discovery, the perils attendant, the rewards of discovery, and all that followed.



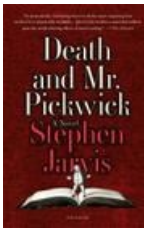
The Second Mrs. Hockaday by Susan Rivers. Major Hockaday wasn't looking for a bride the day he met Placidia, he was at her father's farm to buy a mule. The Major was a man with responsibilities, an officer in the Civil War, a widower with a small child, and a farmer with 300 acres under his care. The two men were talking when Placidia rode by on Banjo, a horse her father maintained only the devil could ride. The Major was much older than the rambunctious teenaged girl, but something about seeing the way she handled the horse, the fire in her eyes, and the way she knew things about the animal, well it just seemed right, fated, to the Major. He asked her father for Placidia's hand, and although she was young to marry, she left the next day with the Major. It will be two years before the Major returns from the fighting, in the intervening time a lot will have happened with Placidia. She will have learned to run a farm, come to see her Southern heritage as something different than she thought, become a mother to his son, and be accused of murdering a child she gave birth to while he was far away, not possible to have been the father. Much of the story is told in a series of letters. The author was inspired to write this novel by a real incident.

Book Club hours have changed, Book Club now begins at 6:00 PM on Mondays.

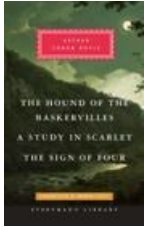
This month we are concentrating on Charles Dickens, he was the rock star of his generation. People would stand in long lines overnight to purchase tickets for his events. Dickens came from a middle class family that lived above its income resulting in a stint in debtor's prison. Young Charles was taken out of school and put to work, ten hours a day, in a boot blacking warehouse. This background gave him an understanding of the working class and solidarity with their plight. Despite the obstacles in his path, Dickens rose to prominence as an author of great talent.



February 6 the Classics and Fiction Book Clubs combine to discuss *The Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens. This is the book that started it all; Dickens was only 24 when he wrote *The Pickwick Papers*. In fact he was not even the main inspiration for the publication. Robert Seymour was a talented, popular artist. He wanted to put humorous stories to some of his illustrations, the publisher, Chapman and Hall, hired Dickens who was starting to be noticed writing articles under the pseudonym Boz. The illustrations Seymour had in mind were sporting scenes, young Dickens did not know much about the sporting world, and instead he envisioned a club dedicated to exploring life where the character would travel around London and England having the opportunity to get into all kinds of humorous situations meeting various quirky characters. The publisher liked this concept so changes were proposed to the illustrations and creative control was wrested from Seymour and given to Dickens. Depressed, Seymour committed suicide; Hablot Browne was eventually chosen as illustrator, a good fit for Dickens. The story was serialized, the first few serializations did not sell well, then the public got a taste for Dickens writing and the rest is history. It took off, trouncing the competition, with eager readers waiting for each new installment. The book club should have a good time reading about Pickwick's adventures as he travels about with his trusty valet Sam.



February 27 the Mystery Book Club discusses *Death and Mr. Pickwick* by Stephen Jarvis. Setting the record straight and giving Seymour credit is the theme of *Death and Mr. Pickwick*. While it is true that Seymour was first in the game and came up with the first seven illustrations, it was Dickens and the 700 pages of literature thereafter that made it famous. Reading *Death and Mr. Pickwick* will be much more fulfilling if you read *The Pickwick Papers* first. Jarvis' story imagines two researchers attempting to discover why Seymour committed suicide and along the way giving a look at the publishing industry, English society, and the phenomenal success of *The Pickwick Papers*. The controversy over how much Seymour contributed and how the young genius Dickens usurping creative control affected him are at the center of the story. It is not a traditional mystery but does have an element of the detective story in the two researcher's investigation of the clash between young Dickens and the established artist Seymour. Although Dickens plays a bit the role of villain, this story will appeal most to Dickens fans and it is full of history about the beginnings of this brilliant author. We return to more traditional mysteries next month.



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

Please note, hours for Book Club have changed, book club begins at 6:00 PM.

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

March 6, 2017 *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle **Themed to Doyle & James Mystery Book Club**

March 20, 2017 *The Ambassadors* by Henry James **Themed to Doyle & James Classics Book Club**

March 27, 2017 *The Fifth Heart* by Dan Simmons **Themed to Doyle & James Fiction Book Club**

April 3, 2017 *Unstoppable* by Bill Nye **Non-Fiction Book Club**

April 10, 2017 *Mycroft Holmes* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar **Mystery Book Club**

April 17, 2017 *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi **Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea Selection Fiction Book Club**

May 8, 2017 *The Atomic Weight of Love* by Elizabeth Church **Fiction Book Club**

May 29, 2017 *Mississippi Blood* by Greg Iles **Mystery Book Club**

June *Death Comes To The Archbishop* by Willa Cather **Classics Book Club Themed Month New Mexico**

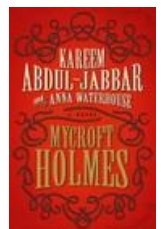
June *Biting the Moon* by Martha Grimes **Mystery Book Club Themed Month New Mexico**

June *The Wives of Los Alamos* by Tarashea Nesbit **Fiction Book Club Themed Month New Mexico**

July *The Lake House* by Kate Morton **Mystery Book Club**

July *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway **Classics and Fiction Book Clubs**

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