



Sunriver Books & Music

February 2021

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Video introducing Celia linked at sunriverbooks.com!

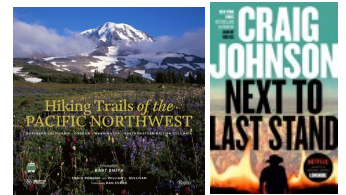
Sunriver resident Marie Bostwick's latest novel, *The Restoration of Celia Fairchild*, releases March 2. March 6 at 5 PM we will have a Zoom event with Marie. More details will be in our March newsletter and at sunriverbooks.com. Marie has a fun to watch video introducing Celia that is linked on our website, sunriverbooks.com. Please help put Marie on the New York Time's bestseller list by pre-ordering her book.



Celia is hoping to adopt a child then her faithless husband leaves and she loses her job as the popular advice columnist, Dear Calpurnia. Barely able to afford her Manhattan apartment, how will she persuade a birth mother to take a chance on a divorced, unemployed writer? A letter brings news, Celia inherited her aunt's home, it should sell for enough to put her on firm financial footing. She travels to Charleston expecting the beautiful home of her memory, not the shambles in need of major repairs she discovers. The situation appears bleak, but Celia has friendships. Some old, some new, and some newly rekindled from her childhood. Together they face the challenges as Celia figures out what is truly important in life and strides forward. A story that will leave you feeling happy.

Video's of both events below are linked at sunriverbooks.com we hope you enjoy them!

Craig Johnson, along with Katee Sackhoff and Lou Diamond Phillips, gave an entertaining presentation on the latest in the Walt Longmire series, *Next to Last Stand*. It includes a video of a chapter of the book being read at the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.



Photographer Bart Smith joined hiking guide authors William Sullivan and Craig Romano for a gorgeous photography book, *Hiking Trails of the Pacific Northwest*, featuring of some of the most spectacular hikes in the region. The gave a presentation with gorgeous photographs included.

An update on protocols in the age of Covid-19.

In the past couple weeks staff members have had to be tested for Covid-19. This was frightening to our staff. With the new more transmissible variant of Covid-19 in Oregon already and expected to be dominant by March, we implemented a few new protocols.

A staff member who was tested for Covid-19 worked behind the counter, so when a test was needed, it also sidelined two more staff members who would have been exposed if the test came back positive. This resulted in the bookstore being shut for a couple days. Therefore, we will now have only one bookseller behind the counter at a time. That way we would not be exposing more than half the staff if someone was infected. We appreciate your patience if this results in the occasional wait at the check out station. We are trying our best.

It has been our goal from the beginning to reduce the risk to our community, customers, staff, and families. This has certainly not been the most economically feasible course, but there is no contest in choosing between people's health and the economy. We are just as eager as any of our shoppers (perhaps even more so) to reach a time when everyone has access to a safe vaccine and we can do away with these protocols. Thank you to all of our customers who have cooperated with our Covid-19 measures, it is appreciated. With two vaccines being distributed, two more potentially to start being used soon, there is hope for the future. In the meantime being careful is best.

Black Lives Matter

Our Book Clubs focused in January on reading books related to Black Live Matter. In *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, she mentions the need for "radical empathy", not just imagining what someone may be feeling, but becoming informed about their situation, their challenges and needs. I think that might involve acknowledging heroes. So here are a few of my heroes.

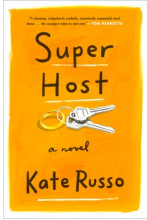


Charles Hamilton Houston was legal council for the NAACP. While it was Thurgood Marshall who argued Brown vs Board of Education before the Supreme Court, it was Houston who came up with the strategy of desegregating the schools.

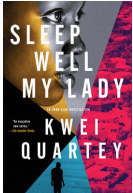
Walter White was Executive Secretary of the NAACP. He was crazy brave. Light complected, he traveled the south investigating lynching. Once barely making it out of town when his cover was blown.

On January 6, 2021 Officer Eugene Goodman lures angry white terrorists away from the Senate chamber at enormous personal risk.

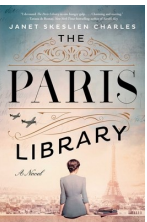
New Releases.



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



Sleep Well My Lady by Kwei Quartey. Emma Djan always wanted to follow in her father's footsteps as a homicide cop. Circumstances denied her that ambition, now she is a PI and glad to have the job. Lady Araba learned to sew from her Aunt Dele, she took that knowledge and a love of art into fashion design, becoming successful and wealthy. The money was possibly part of the attraction when talk show host Augustus Seeza courted her. Hard living and free spending were rumored to be causing him financial issues. It was not a match made to succeed, Lady Araba's family was deeply religious and set against the match. Shortly after their breakup, Lady Araba was murdered, her driver the suspect in the crime. A year passes before Aunt Dele, not satisfied with the driver as the killer and suspicious of Augustus, contacts Emma to find out the truth. Quartey's series shows an interesting view of Ghana with a strong female protagonist.



Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles. Anyone who loves books will be delighted by **The Paris Library**!

In 1939 the world is Odile Souchet's oyster. Young, living in the most beautiful city in the world, with a life full of promise. Her ambitions are realized when she secures a position with the American Library in Paris, she is on her way to a bright future. Her father, a formidable man, is not so pleased with her career, he would rather see her married and raising his grandchildren. He begins a program of bringing home prospective men to join their Sunday dinner in hopes of having his way. He hits paydirt with Paul, this one may have a chance at Odile's heart. But note the year, 1939, soon Nazis will have control and with them they will bring a moral rot to the city on the Seine. The American Library will be a ray of hope in a time of peril.

In 1983 Montana, Lily, a young school girl, knocks on the door of her neighbor, the enigmatic Mrs. Gustafson, a French war bride who has remained aloof from the community. Lily's move is a bold one, no one visits the widow Gustafson, her excuse is needing help for a school report on France. Lily's exuberance will pull Mrs. Gustafson out of her isolation and when Lily desperately needs a friend and mentor, Mrs. Gustafson will fill that role.

This lovely story introduces characters the reader will care about, making moral choices that have consequences. The depiction of the library and the courageous activities undertaken by the librarians during WWII are made more realistic from the author's experience as programs director at the American Library in Paris. This is a great book club selection with lots of historic detail and many issues to discuss.



Shadows of the Dead by Spencer Kope. Magnus "Steps" Craig is one of the FBI's star trackers. Magnus has a secret advantage, known only to those closest to him. In childhood he nearly perished, actually dying for pivotal moments. Ever since he sees the shadows of people's passing, a track, if you will, of their essence guiding him to their whereabouts. It is a rare form of synesthesia incredibly handy in finding his quarry. A woman is abducted, two men were involved. She was not the first victim, just the one fortunate enough to be rescued. After a high speed chase, she is discovered in the car's trunk. On gaining consciousness in the hospital ICU she reveals shocking information; there is a second man involved and she is victim number 8. Kope uses his northwest setting beautifully in this taut thriller, and gives a likeable FBI agent as his lead.

Now Available in Paperback.



The Red Lotus by Chris Bohjalian has twists and turns that will keep you guessing until the dramatic end!

Alexis and Austen had more of a meet quirky than meet cute. She was the emergency room doctor when he came in with a bullet wound suffered while playing darts at a bar. One of the patrons brandished a gun and started shooting, Austen was accidental collateral damage. His wounds were not severe, there was a definite attraction, and it turns out they work in the same hospital. Austen is a money man, not involved in the medicine.

Months later Alexis is thinking this is a man she could spend her life with. They are on a biking vacation in Vietnam when things spin out of control. Austen took a solitary ride, away from the rest of the tour, to the sites where his uncle was killed in battle and his father wounded, a pilgrimage. Alexis waits, at first patiently knowing he is a strong rider, then passing time becomes sinister. What happened? Why isn't he here?

Austen's ride did not end well, two armed men stepped into the road and his plans are shattered. As Alexis searches for Austen, it soon becomes apparent he was keeping secrets and telling lies. What was Austen really doing in Vietnam? Have his actions got him killed and left Alexis in jeopardy?

Now Available in Paperback.



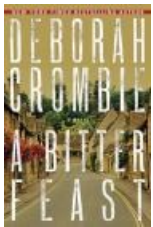
Agent Running In The Field by John Le Carre. Nat is an aging spy with three passions, the work he loves, his family, and badminton. His wife, Prue, a respected attorney, has stood by him through all his faraway postings, staying home raising their daughter and building a solid career.

Now back in London, at 47 Nat is afraid he will be put out to pasture. He thrives in the field, has let his work take him away from his family for years as he concentrated on Russia. It was dangerous work that he thought relative to Britain's national security. Work he was good at, but 47 is getting long in the tooth for running field agents and dodging the other side.

He goes in for what he fears will be his dismissal, or relegation to a boring desk job, only to find he is being offered a substation, Haven, to run. Admittedly it is not a highly regarded substation, rather the opposite, but at least he is still in the game. He has one sharp agent, Florence, who has found an in to the dealings of a Ukrainian oligarch. Nat and Florence put together a proposal that could turn into a major operation if the higher ups give the green light.

Nat works off the tension playing competitive badminton with a young opponent, Ed. The younger man is good, but Nat has been the club champion for ages, he still has the moves. After their games they repair to the club bar where Ed fumes about his frustrating job, the idiocy of Trump, and Brexit. Harmless blowing off of steam Nat thinks. But things are about to go haywire.

Le Carre infuses this tale of an aging spy involved in way more than he anticipated with humor and a good dose of anger at our current political situation.



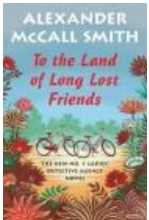
A Bitter Feast by Deborah Crombie. Fans of Louise Penny, Martin Walker, and Donna Leon will find much to enjoy in Deborah Crombie's fine series featuring Detective Inspector Gemma James and Scotland Yard Detective Superintendent Duncan Kincaid. A nice juicy mystery is always enhanced in this series by the caring of this couple for their family.

Detective Sergeant Melody Talbot has hesitated to invite her fellow detectives into her personal life, fearful they would regard her differently if they realized her family's wealth and social standing. Her mother, Lady Adelaide, is putting on a charity luncheon in their Cotswold home to be catered by Viv Holland, a talented chef from the local pub. Melody puts aside her reticence and invites her boss, Gemma, along with her family to spend the weekend.

Gemma, her four-year-old daughter Charlotte, and Melody drive down together arriving first to be greeted by their hosts and two enthusiastic dogs. Duncan was following closely behind, then the boys, Toby and Kit, would come the next day with family friend Doug Cullen. But Duncan doesn't arrive as expected. He shows up hours late, explaining he was involved in a car accident, both occupants of the other vehicle perish.

From there things get complicated. There is something dodgy about one of the bodies in the other car. Soon after another death occurs. Duncan and Gemma pitch in to help the local detective solve the murders.

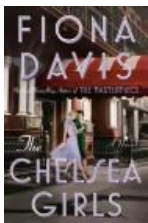
Great rural setting, an adorable Border Collie, and likeable characters. Gemma and Duncan's son Kit is thrilled to help Viv in the kitchen, assisting a real chef fuels his interest in cooking, cool kid. This is one of those series where you look forward to every entry because the characters come to feel like good friends.



To the Land of Lost Friends by Alexander McCall Smith, Precious Ramotswe, the No. 1 Lady Detective in Botswana, is surprised to see an old friend, Calvinah Ramoroka, among the guests at a wedding. The two women reconnect over a lunch date and Calvinah tells Precious of her sadness at the recent changes in her daughter, the two hardly speak anymore. Seeing her friend's distress, Precious of course wants to get to the bottom of this change in behavior to reunite mother and daughter.

Grace is not satisfied with submitting a report exonerating a husband from his wife's suspicion that he was cheating on her. Despite their surveillance showing nothing shady, Grace wants to dig further.

And their assistant Charlie would like to wed his girlfriend, Queenie-Queenie but he doesn't have the money for a bride price. Queenie-Queenie has an idea that might get Charlie into hot water. The characters and their striving to do right make this series a real charmer.



Chelsea Girls by Fiona Davis. Hazel Riley and Maxine Mead meet in WWII Italy where they are with the USO entertaining the troops. Maxine, a fiery redhead, is destined for stardom; Hazel is generally the understudy. After a rough beginning the two women become fast friends, Maxine tells Hazel stories about her life in the Chelsea Hotel and encourages her writing.

After the war, Maxine heads to LA and stardom while Hazel moves into the Chelsea Hotel where she finds a welcoming artistic community. Hazel writes a play being produced on Broadway; Maxine returns from Hollywood to star. Just when things were coming together for the women, McCarthy's red scare put the brakes on. Want to keep working in theater, then give up names of your fellow thespians to McCarthy's hateful committee. Friends turn on friends and careers are ruined as people are afraid to confront the hatred of McCarthy's actions. The suspicion and futility of the era are portrayed in a plot that has twists that keep the reader guessing.

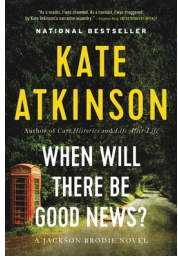


Hollow Kingdom by Kira Jane Buxton is truly an original take on the dystopian novel.

A plague is afflicting humans, they are going barmy, falling apart, turning cannibalistic, and dying off. S.T., a tame crow, is determined to save Big Jim, the foul-mouthed human who raised him and taught him his vocabulary. S.T. is loyal and affectionate.

Accompanied by loveable Dennis, not the smartest dog on the planet, S.T. ventures out into the changed city trying to understand what went wrong and find a solution. Other animals are not so sure humans are worth saving. Their effect on the planet has caused considerable damage. Nonetheless S.T. and Dennis are doing their best. The story travels all over Seattle, and has a unique, humorous take on the apocalyptic novel

February is a great month for Book Clubs! Still chilly out doors and dark early, an evening inside with a good book can be relaxing. Boy Howdy, do we ever need relaxing. 2020 seems like it lasted a least a decade, 2021 was welcomed with relief. Thus far, 2021 has not achieved my hope for kinder and gentler. I hope for better things from the rest of 2021!

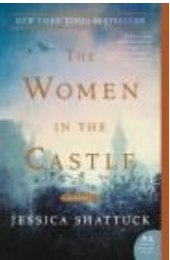


February 8 Mystery Book Club discusses *When Will There Be Good News* by Kate Atkinson. Dr. Joanna Hunter is living the good life, a beautiful house in an upscale neighborhood, a career she is good at, a handsome husband, baby son, and devoted German Shepherd dog, Sadie. It looks like a rosy life from the outside, but there is sadness in Joanna, she was marked by her past. When Joanna was six years old, walking along a country road, she witnessed her family being slaughtered. Her mother, baby brother, sister, and the family dog, all dead. Joanna's father was not present thus survived. Joanna doesn't like to talk about the past, but its mark is clear in the occasional sadness of her gaze.

Reggie has her own secret tragedies. She lives alone, is sixteen but looks about twelve. Her brother Billy took to a life of crime early and enthusiastically. Reggie knows nothing about babies, but interviews for a position caring for Dr. Hunter's baby. Amazed that she got the job, Reggie loves the baby and Dr. Hunter, they are the family she wished she had. So, she does not tell Joanna about her tragedies because she would do anything not to increase the looks of sadness that come over Dr. Hunter unbidden and unexplained.

Jackson Brodie is in several of Kate Atkinson's books and I hope she continues writing about him because he is one of my favorite characters! Jackson has been a lot of things; soldier, cop, private investigator. He likes women, he truly does, he just has trouble understanding them, although heaven knows he tries. When events intersect in the lives of these characters, Jackson will be there, a bit beaten up, but willing to give his all to see that good people are protected from evil.

Strong female characters are generally found in Kate Atkinson's writing. She is best known for her literary fiction; *Life after Life*, *Transcription*, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* and others.



February 22 Fiction Book Club discusses *Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck. What was it like in Germany, a country renowned for its Universities, rule of law, and well-educated populace as a hate monger came to power? How did the citizens react, what were their personal consequences, and how did they attempt to heal from the horror after defeat? In rich prose, Shattuck explores these questions through the lives of three women.

Marianne von Lingenfels was of the upper class, her husband held a responsible position in government. As the story opens on November 9, 1938, she is helping his aunt, the Countess von Lingenfels, put on a soiree at the family castle. The night is significant, known as Kristallnacht, when violence against the Jewish population erupted and a brave few pledged opposition to the evil that was consuming their nation. Marianne will return to the castle a widow, her husband executed for his part in opposing Hitler. There she will seek out the widows of others who gave their lives trying to stop the evil regime.

Benita grew up in a village, not a member of the hoi polloi, a pretty girl who by chance met and married Marianne's best friend who was also executed for his part in the plot against Hitler. After the executions, Marianne first finds Benita's son, Martin, then discovers Benita in very poor condition, bringing her to the castle to heal.

Ania is found in a refugee camp with her children. The three women and their children form a matriarchal family, innovating ways to survive as Germany plunges deeper into chaos.

Their bonds strengthen as they help each other and reach out to others in need. Each woman has strengths and weaknesses of her own; each came to this situation in a different way giving the reader a broad look at the experiences of Germany's civilians during war years under the mad rule of Hitler. They will face choices and challenges that test them both during and after the war. Marianne's sense of moral certainty will cause her to take actions with far reaching consequences, teaching her that life is lived in the grey zone and attempts to interpret it in shades of black or white can be harmful.

The story culminates in 1991, having shared with the reader not only the experiences of the war years, but also the aftermath.

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

Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held via Zoom. On Mondays at 6 PM.
Times and dates are tentative due to current situation.

March

March 8, *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* by John le Carre. [Mystery Book Club](#)

February, *Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck [Fiction Book Club](#)

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

Digital Audio Books.

Sunriver Books & Music offers digital audio books through Libro.

Sign up at libro.fm/sunriverbooks Sunriver Books & Music's logo should appear on the top right corner of the site. Here is a brief description of Libro and their terms.

- Libro.fm works with all major publishers and has a catalog of over 100,000 audiobooks, including New York Times bestsellers.
- Audiobooks can be purchased individually or through a monthly membership program.
- Over 100,000 titles • First month/audiobook for FREE
- \$14.99 monthly fee (one audiobook/month) • 30% off additional audiobooks and audiobook gifts

For our customers who enjoy audio books as well as reading, we hope you find Libro a good source.