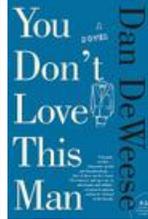




Sunriver Books & Music January 2012 Newsletter Sunriverbooks.com 541-593-2525



Saturday January 28 at 5:00 PM Dan DeWeese will give a presentation on ***You Don't Love This Man***, a charming, humorous tale set in the Pacific Northwest. Paul, an endearingly clueless man, is about to have a very challenging day. It is the day of his only child's wedding, and Miranda's coming nuptials carry all the emotion a father feels on his daughter's wedding along with some additional emotional baggage related to the groom. Grant and Paul go way back, it is taking Paul a long while to wrap his mind around the image of Grant as his son-in-law. The marriage of a child can be stressful but there are a few more stressful surprises in store too. Paul manages a bank, it will be robbed on his daughter's wedding day by the same man who robbed the bank twenty years ago. This causes all kinds of complications. The book opens with Paul as a young father taking Miranda trick or treating on Halloween. In all the confusion and rampant candy lust, she disappears. Paul is frantic to find her, imagining all sorts of unpleasant things that might have happened. Miranda seems to have a talent for disappearing that developed young. She does the same disappearing act on her wedding day, leaving Paul even more confused and worried than usual. As he spends the day trying to figure out

what is going on with Miranda, he deals with fallout from the bank robbery, and reflects on the path his life had taken.

Paul is a nice guy, an ordinary chap who ended up working at the same bank since graduating from college. He is full of all the worries common to humanity. He feels like his ex-wife, Sandra, has a closer relationship with their daughter. It makes him a bit jealous. He is unable to nurture an adult relationship with a woman. His marriage to Sandra disintegrated, but they remain friendly. He is afraid his daughter may be making a mistake in marrying Grant. And he is concerned that his favorite employee, Catherine, wants a transfer to another bank. All this angst is bubbling and boiling as Paul tries to find Miranda.

While the book is a very amusing and an entertaining story, it is also a look at an "everyman" type of character who is not very good at relationships and can be obstinate. As this day takes on greater significance, he keeps making missteps that make it even more tangled and unwieldy than necessary. Like too many of the human race, Paul has difficulty seeing himself as the architect of his own fiascos. Instead he gets angry at the people around him, thinking he is not being treated right. He is not a bad fellow, just has trouble getting it right. The proper thing to say eludes him, and he knows it. He doesn't like being socially inept but seems to lack that inner sense for relating to people in a sophisticated way.

Through all the turmoil this day offers Paul, he starts to get a better sense of himself and of his relationship with his daughter. Blending wry humor with the story of a man's growing self perception, this is an entertaining tale. Paul certainly packs a lot in his daughter's wedding day! Dan DeWeese's event should be lively and interesting, I enjoyed the book and look forward to hearing from the author.

Sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. We will have refreshments and drawings for prizes.

Upcoming Author Appearances

- Saturday February 11th 2012 5:00 PM ***Contents May Have Shifted by Pam Houston!!!!!!***
Tuesday February 14th 2012 **6:00 PM *The Mirage*** by Matt Ruff
Saturday February 25th 2012 5:00 PM ***Until the Next Time*** by Kevin Fox
Saturday March 30th 2012 5:00 PM ***Vanishing Acts*** by Phillip Margolin and Ami Margolin Rome
Saturday May 19th 2012 **7:00 PM *Where Lilacs Still Bloom*** by Jane Kirkpatrick
Saturday June 23rd 2012 5:00 PM ***West of Here*** by Jonathan Evison

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, for changes and additions.

January 2012 brings a New Year for ***Carole's Surprise***, a subscription to a surprise book from Sunriver Books & Music every month. In the past we have featured ***Day After Night*** by Anita Diamant, ***Sweet Thursday*** by John Steinbeck, and ***Out Stealing Horses*** by Per Petterson. Purchase a subscription and discover the next surprise book. ***Carole's Surprise*** is available in the following formats. The first 3 months of 2012 for \$44.99 picked up in the store or \$50.99 mailed in the US, the first six month of 2012 for \$90.98 picked up in the store or \$102.98 mailed in the US or for the year of 2012 \$181.87 picked up in the store or \$205.87 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book. Start the New Year with an interesting surprise book every month, let us pick something intriguing for you.

Book Club's Top Choices from 2011.

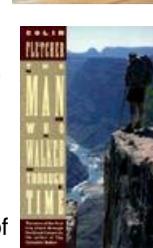
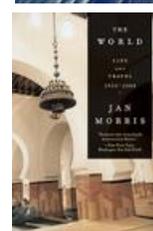
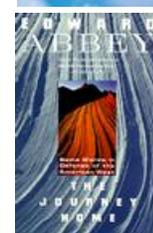
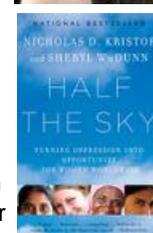
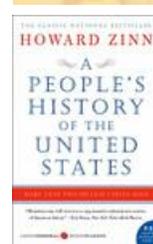
Every year we vote on the favorites of all the book club selections. Here are the winners by category for 2011.

Non Fiction Book Club

1. **The Big Burn** by Tim Egan. This one roars to life from the first page! Pick it up, if you dare. Imagine a fire covering millions of acres, the heat reaching 2000 degrees, whipped into a frenzy by the wind the fire races faster than Secretariat on his best days, flames shooting so high they paint the night red in the next state! Egan makes it so real, you can hear those crackling flames, feel the heat, and see the fire advancing. I had to keep looking up to make sure I was still safe in my chair; his writing is so incredibly vivid. In 1910 the biggest fire in US history turned 3 million acres to cinders. Men died, towns were piles of ash. Egan pays tribute to the heroes and calls out the scoundrels. Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot had plans for the forests; they wanted to preserve them for generations to come. But they had foes, big business saw the forests as opportunity for cash, they tried to cripple the Forest Service, leaving it ill equipped to fight a blaze of such ferocity. Roosevelt would be good to have around today. We need men with his vision and passion.
2. **A People's History of the United States** by Howard Zinn. Anyone interested in history should read this book! It is full of the history of our country, from Columbus's cruel subjugation of the natives on Haiti and Cuba to the violence in Seattle and across the land as the IWW took on the bosses to fight for a living wage and decent working conditions, the Civil War, the struggle for equal rights, both world wars, Viet Nam, and on up to the Clinton years, 9/11, and the Iraq War. Zinn was a bombardier in WWII. One run had him dropping bombs on a small French Village. After the war, being interested in Political Science and History, he went back and interviewed the survivors in that village. He discovered it was a friendly village with some German soldiers who had run away and were waiting out the war. 1000 people died in his bombing run. This sounds like a page out of Joseph Heller's **Catch-22**. Zinn had a questioning nature, a desire to understand the real facts rather than the official line. While he applauds Columbus's audacity, bravery, and determination he does not forgive his brutality, lack of compassion, and genocide. Zinn was a respected professor with an ability to write in clear, concise prose. Facts are power, and this book is full of them.
3. **Empire of the Summer Moon; Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History** by S. C. Gwynne. Hitler was not the first leader to decide on a "Final Solution", in 1871 Civil War Hero General William Tecumseh Sherman sent McKenzie forth to kill Indians with the blessing of President Grant. The Indians were not innocent of mayhem either, fighting to clear their lands of settlers their raiding parties resorted to inhumane torture. The toughest fighters were a band of Comanche known as the Quahadis who avoided contact with whites. Their leader was Quanah, a brash young chief, half white, half Comanche.
4. **Half the Sky** by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Women have it rough; it is a man's world. Every day somewhere in the world something bad is happening to some poor woman. Honor killings when the male members of the family feel their honor has been besmirched. Women are burned alive when the dowry is not considered sufficient, after all the man can just go find another bride and receive another dowry. Genital mutilation, having acid thrown on them, beatings, being captured as sexual slaves forced to work in brothels, and it is happening every day somewhere in the world. Kristof and WuDunn make a case for economically empowering women to change this world order and help move the third world out of poverty. Empowering women through education, giving them the opportunity to be economically viable, and providing safe, responsible medical care can make huge differences in the economic and political reality of their regions. Kristof and WuDunn give information on what is happening today then suggestions on ways to be part of making positive changes.

Travel Essay Book Club

1. **The Journey Home** by Ed Abbey. His best known books are **Desert Solitaire** and **The Monkey Wrench Gang**. Ed Abbey lived life big. He had a passionate love of the wilderness and liked it unspoiled by either governmental interference or development. He saw the land as necessary to the human soul, a place so big and wild it could make us a bit more whole just by standing to pause and look around. Abbey was always best pleased when he could upset some group or political party and the series of essays in **The Journey Home** is a perfect example of this maverick, passionate, reckless, brilliant man's absolute refusal to be pigeon holed or defined. He once said *If my decomposing carcass helps nourish the roots of a Juniper tree or the wings of a vulture-that is immortality enough for me. And as much as anyone deserves.* And that pretty well sums up Ed Abbey's philosophy. He was an original.
2. **The World: Travels 1950-2000** by Jan Morris. If you like to travel, or read about traveling, this is a wonderful book! Jan Morris has been everywhere, she has written beautifully about her travels in many, many books. This book condenses the stories into vignettes of those trips. From accompanying Edmund Hillary on the first successful summiting of Mount Everest to strolling in Venice, Morris explores a variety of experiences and settings. Kyoto, Cape Town, Jerusalem, Atlanta, Addis Ababa, and on into so many marvelous places to intrigue fellow travelers.
3. **The Man Who Walked Through Time** by Colin Fletcher. Seeing the Grand Canyon is an awe inspiring experience, sort of like looking up at all the stars in the night sky, it makes you feel small and insignificant compared to its timeless grandeur. Centuries are before you in those tall walls of colorful rock. Colin Fletcher walked the length of the Grand Canyon below the rim. It is a timeless journey through spectacular terrain.
4. **Skeptical Romancer** by W. Somerset Maugham. An author of enormous talent, Maugham has written some of the best books of his time. In addition to writing fiction with great emotional power, he was also an enthusiastic traveler who spoke several languages, spied for the Brits, and zipped around the globe. **Skeptical Romancer** is a series of vignettes from Maugham's travels to Spain, China, Russia, America, the South Sea Islands, and a few other places. The writing is lovely.



Classics Book Club

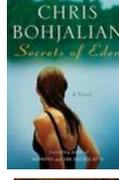
1. **Les Miserables** by Victor Hugo. For the Mystery Book Club members the characters of Jean Valjean and Javert seem familiar, they are inspired by Eugene Francois Vidocq, a convict turned cop and the creator of the Surete de France. Vidocq was the a main character in **The Black Tower** by Louis Bayard. Vidocq inspired Victor Hugo's creation of Valjean and Javert. Jean Valjean's life was brutal; convicted of stealing a loaf of bread to feed his family he is sent away to prison coming out years later a hardened, bitter, dangerous man. The kindness of a good man redeems him. Javert is a police inspector of considerable cunning, his determination makes him a feared hunter of men. Their paths will cross. The story begins in 1815, the year Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo and goes on to the Paris Uprising of 1832. Blending historical fact with a masterful work of fiction, it is a story brimming with good and evil, destiny and despair, cruelty and mercy.
2. **The Razor's Edge** by W. Somerset Maugham. Larry was set to marry Isabelle, go into business, and live an affluent easy life when WWI interrupted his plans. War changed Larry, as war is wont to do with the easy clay of young men's lives. He wanted something deeper; he wanted his life to have a reason beyond buying the toys of the affluent. Larry dropped out; he would spend his life seeking a different way. Isabelle was not willing to give up the trappings of the good life to live in squalor with Larry. This is an amazing novel about choice, purpose, meaning, and betrayal.
3. **Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens. On Christmas Eve in 1812 young Pip stands by the grave of the father and mother he never knew. A wee lad of 7, Pip is easily cowed by an escaped convict who accosts the boy and threatens to rip out his heart and liver. And that is just the beginning of this marvelous tome. Pip's fortunes will rise and fall, from his humble beginnings living with his married sister to the elegance of London high society. Dickens books are stories of great breadth, suffused with humor, and fully invested in an investigation of the human heart.
4. **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by Mark Twain. Huck takes a journey on the Mississippi River, a boyhood adventure. It is a lively yarn of escape, danger, and friendship. But it is also the story of how a white boy, Huck, comes to recognize the valor and merit of Jim, a black man. A white boy bonding with a black man during the time of slavery is powerful stuff. Jim is portrayed as an altogether admirable man, a man of courage, compassion, and kindness. Yes the book uses very bad words about people of color, but if you strip the words from the book you strip the power from the story of their suffering.

Fiction Book Club

1. **Cutting for Stone** by Abraham Verghese. There are many fine novels published every year, but occasionally one stands out as exemplary. **Cutting for Stone** is a masterful epic. Twin boys are born to a nun and a doctor, coming into the world from a womb that should never have given them shelter. Their birth takes the life of the nun; the doctor flees, leaving the babies orphaned in an Ethiopian hospital. Growing up to walk in their father's shoes, the boys become doctors. The story moves back and forth in time and across continents, from India to Ethiopia to New York. The writing is sublime, the story mesmerizing.
2. **The Prince of Tides** by Pat Conroy. This is a quintessential southern writer's story of a dysfunctional family with an abusive father and a sensitive, beaten down, manipulative mother told through the eyes of one of the children. Tom is compelled to reminisce about his family when his twin, Savannah, attempts suicide. Her therapist needs to know where all the family secrets are buried in order to help Savannah. Tom slowly delves into the quagmire of their childhood, revealing the poison at the center. Dripping with southern pathos, gorgeous prose, and wry humor.
3. **Mister Pip** by Lloyd Jones. Revolution comes to a tropical island, all the whites and the teachers flee save Mr. Watts who remains with his wife Grace. He agrees to teach the native children and begins by reading to them from **Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens. As Rebels roam the hills firing guns, the young island children sit transfixed listening to the story of an orphan in long ago London. Matilda is captivated by Pip's story leading to dramatic and unforeseen consequences.
4. **The Postmistress** by Sarah Blake. Set during WWII, this story focuses on the war's effect on regular people rather than on battles. Frankie is a hotshot young reporter working under the legendary Murrow. Reporting from London she sends out over the radio the stories of Europe and WWII. Emma Trask sits with her young husband, Will, listening to Frankie's stories a world away in their little village on Cape Cod. Iris is the postmistress, 40 and single she takes her job seriously. When their lives intersect, the Postmistress must keep a secret.

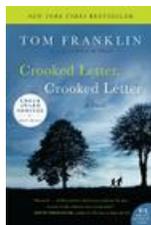
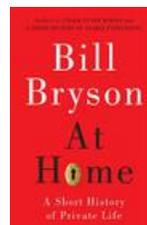
Mystery Book Club

1. **Secrets of Eden** by Chris Bohjalian. As Reverend Stephen Drew lifts Alice Hayward out of the water at her baptism she looks up at him and says "there". She will not survive the night. Reverend Drew's faith will die with her. Heather believes her life is graced by angels; she is famous for writing about her experiences with them. She tries to be Reverend Drew's angel, to comfort him and help him back to his faith. Both want to help Katie, Alice's daughter. Secrets, yes there are secrets.
2. **Stone's Fall** by Ian Pears. Lord Ravenscliff, John Stone, was a circumspect private man and the lynch pin of a financial empire. He fell to his death out a second story window; his well known fear of heights raises red flags for reporter Mathew Brad-dock. With the false foundation of Stone's empire, a misstep could leave the world financial markets teetering on the brink of disaster. Sound familiar? Arms dealers, financial skulduggery, stocks reflecting smoke and mirrors? In the afterward Ian Pears says: "What surprised me most (although perhaps it should not have done) was that however much the world changes, human nature stays the same. The great constant in finance is the tendency of men to become befuddled by their own success, making them willing to take greater risks and eventually be brought down by their own vanity, which can easily overcome the most sophisticated expertise."
3. **The Last Dickens** by Matthew Pearl. Charles Dickens died while in the middle of writing **The Mystery of Edwin Drood**. James Osgood, of Fields & Osgood, sends his clerk Daniel to pick up a shipment from Dickens, hoping it is the rest of the manuscript. The young man dies in the street and the pages go missing. Publishing in the late 1800's was a wild and wooly proposition, whichever publisher managed to grab Dickens' manuscript would have riches, while Dickens' chosen publisher would be out in the cold. Mixing real figures from history within his story, Matthew Pearl takes us searching for Dickens' last manuscript from New York to London.
4. **Six Suspects** by Vikas Swarup, author of **Slumdog Millionaire**. Vicky Rai throws a party to celebrate getting away with murder, literally. Someone shoots the bad boy dead at his own soiree. Police discover six people with guns, but which one shot Vicky Rai? Journalist Advani gives us the lowdown on the suspects ranging from a gangster whose body is regularly taken over by Mahatma Ghandi (really bad for his line of work), a rather dimwitted American, a starlet, a stone-age tribesman, a corrupt politician, and a thief. Who shot Vicky Rai?



January 2012 Book Clubs

The Non-Fiction Book Club welcomes 2012 on January 2nd with a discussion of Bill Bryson's *At Home: A Short History Of A Private Life*. Bryson lives in a big old former Church of England Rectory built in 1851. In his charming but eccentric way he takes the reader on a room by room tour of his abode. And being Bryson, each room he enters offers the opportunity for a digression onto some particularly interesting but arcane historical fact. Bryson is an unlikely combination, both wonderfully funny and amazingly informative. You can learn quite a bit reading a Bill Bryson book, and laugh quite a bit too.



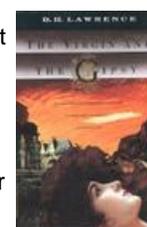
The first Mystery Book Club meeting of 2012 is January 9th for a discussion of *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* by Tom Franklin. Larry was an outcast in high school, one of the dorky kids who were never part of the popular crowd. He is one happy guy when pretty Cindy agrees to go to a drive in movie with him. It will be the last time anyone sees Cindy. Over 20 long years go by, Larry is the town mechanic but shunned by the community. Now another girl has gone missing. Larry is the prime suspect and his childhood friend is the constable charged with investigating the crime. It is time to uncover the painful secrets of the past.



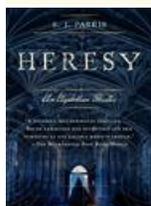
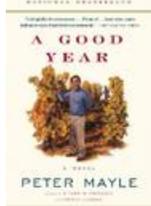
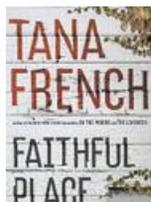
January 16th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses *The Most Beautiful Walk in the World: A Pedestrian in Paris* by John Baxter. Let the author guide you through memorable walks in the City of Light, a city that has been home to many a giant of the literary world. Baxter tells enchanting stories of the literary greats, amusing anecdotes of his life, and gives glorious descriptions of the city walks. He even gives travel trips on Paris at the end. What could be more fun than spending an evening walking around Paris with John Baxter?



The Fiction Book Club discusses *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier on January 23rd. This is historical fiction based on real characters. It could just as easily have been titled remarkable women, the story is about two women and an unlikely friendship set in the early 1800's. The Philpot sisters moved to Lyme Regis when their brother took a wife. He no longer had room for his 3 spinster sisters and remaining in London would be too expensive so they were banished to a smaller, cheaper town. Elizabeth Philpot developed an interest in the fish fossils found on the beach. Mary Anning was a precocious young girl at the time, with an uncanny talent for finding fossils, She had the eye for it, could spot them in the unstable hillsides thereabouts. They were an odd pair for a friendship to form; Elizabeth was middle class with an inquiring mind, good education, and a modest but reliable income. Mary was from the lower class, with a father who saddled the family with ruinous debt, few prospects, and no education. Their common interest in fossils formed a bond. Mary Anning made amazing discovers that started discussions about extinction years before Charles Darwin.



January 30th the Classics Book Club discusses *The Virgin and The Gypsy* by D.H. Lawrence. Yvette and Lucille return reluctantly from school to their father the Rector and their dank, dark home in the rectory. They find life stultifying and yearn for something more. A chance encounter with a gypsy begins a sexual awakening in Yvette. She sees in the handsome gypsy a life with fresh air and freedom, a life totally different from the narrow expectations of her own class.



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

- 2012 February 6th 2012 *City of Fallen Angels* by John Berendt [Travel Essay Book Club](#)
- February 13th 2012 *Faithful Place* by Tana French [Mystery Book Club](#)
- February 20th 2012 *Massacred for Gold* by Gregory Nokes [Non Fiction Book Club](#), **Author Leading**
- February 27th 2012 *A Good Year* by Peter Mayle [Fiction Book Club](#)
- March 5th 2012 *Heresy* by S. J. Parris [Mystery Book Club](#)
- March 12th 2012 *Cleopatra* by Stacy Schiff [Non Fiction Book Club](#)
- March 19th 2012 *Reservation Blues* by Sherman Alexie [Fiction Book Club](#)
- March 26th 2012 *Modoc* by Ralph Helfer [Travel Essay Book Club](#)
- April 2nd 2012 *The Tourist* by Olen Steinhauer [Mystery Book Club](#)
- April 9th 2012 *Enchanted April* by Elizabeth Von Arnim [Classics Book Club](#)
- April 16th 2012 *Room* by Emma Donoghue [Fiction Book Club](#)
- April 23rd 2012 *Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson [Non Fiction Book Club](#)
- May 7th 2012 *Time Was Soft There* by Jeremy Mercer [Travel Essay Book Club](#)
- May 14th 2012 *Arcadia Falls* by Carol Goodman [Mystery Book Club](#)
- May 21st 2012 *The Wedding Officer* by Anthony Cappella [Fiction Book Club](#)
- May 28th *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali [Non Fiction Book Club](#)
- June 4th 2012 *The Emperor of Ocean Park* by Stephan Carter [Mystery Book Club](#) **A Month of New England**
- June 11th 2012 *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo [Fiction Book Club](#) **A Month of New England**
- June 16th 2012 *The Human Stain* by Phillip Roth [Classics Book Club](#) **A Month of New England**
- June 25th 2012 *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick [Travel Essay Book Club](#) **A Month of New England**
- July 2nd 2012 *Junkyard Dog* by Craig Johnson [Mystery Book Club](#)
- July 9th 2012 *Menagerie Manor* by Gerald Durrell [Travel Essay Book Club](#)
- July 16th 2012 *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver [Fiction Book Club](#)

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

