



Sunriver Books & Music

July 2013 Newsletter

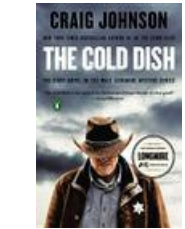
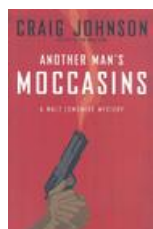
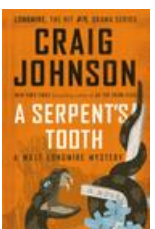
Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Saturday July 6th at 5:00 PM Anna Keesey will give a presentation on **Little Century**. The well written word is a pleasure to read. Last year I had the pleasure of reading **Little Century** when it first released. I just finished re-reading the book; it is just as good the second time. Set in the High Desert of Oregon, the story focuses on hostilities between cattle ranchers and sheep herders with a difference; our main character is a spirited young woman. Esther Chambers travels west from Chicago to be with her last surviving relative, a distant cousin, Ferris Pickett.

The death of her mother after a severe case of the flu has left Esther adrift, feeling the need for family. What does she have left in Chicago? A rented apartment with sad memories. She boards the train expecting to arrive in a verdant, rainy forested land, not realizing Oregon has a dry side. The landscape that greets her is wide open, full of sky and plain with distant mountains and little else. No tall buildings, no verdant forest, just lots of wide open space. Her cousin is looked up to in the community, he is an intelligent, plain spoken man who works hard and strives to do his best. He has a scheme for Esther to homestead a piece of land with a cabin the size of closet. The land has water and would be a nice addition to his sizeable cattle operation. It takes a lot of land to raise cattle in the High Desert, they need water and forage. Sheep are adorably cute, highly efficient grazers who leave little behind. The cattle men think they are vermin, lately come to steal the food needed by cows. Inevitably the two groups come into conflict. They find solutions to their differing ideas and needs about as well as we do nowadays. Conflict ensues. Esther finds herself in the middle of this strife. The story is full of grand characters; Jane the independent school teacher with a secret admirer, Joe Peaslee a war veteran who runs the local store on uncanny intuition, Marguerite a little girl full of mischief, and many others. The writing is excellent, the story gripping, and the setting right here in the High Desert.

Friday July 19th at 5:30 at the SHARC Center **Craig Johnson** will give a presentation on the latest in his Walt Longmire series, **A Serpent's Tooth**. We feel very grateful to Craig Johnson. He continues to visit us and give great presentation even though he has tremendous demands on his time, everyone wants him. Craig is an International Best Seller as well as a New York Times Best Seller. His books have been Indie Next List Picks and won awards in Europe and the USA. The highly successful Longmire TV series on A& E is based on Craig Johnson's books. Craig puts on an excellent presentation; he is the star of our lineup. We appreciate his loyalty and generosity to Sunriver and hope he continues to return to us for many years to come.



A Serpent's Tooth, the latest in the Longmire series, is a prime example of why Craig Johnson's books are so popular. Excellent writing marries an inventive mystery with characters you cannot help but like. Sheriff Walt Longmire's latest puzzle is figuring out what to do with Cord, a "lost boy" ejected from a rogue polygamous Mormon splinter group. Henry Standing Bear and Walt cross state lines to try and find some answers at a heavily armed Mormon compound while Cord discovers movie DVDs and is inspired to try his hand at horse rustling. Cord is soon joined by his self-proclaimed protector, Orrin Porter Rockwell, Man of God, Sun of Thunder blessed by Joseph Smith himself. Walt is having a little trouble with Orrin's identity, Joseph Smith having gone to his greater reward well over a century ago. So his side kick would be aged indeed. Orrin's advanced age aside, he is a great character and the reader will enjoy every page he deigns to occupy. Walt, Henry Standing Bear, and Deputy Vic (short for Victoria) continue the search for Cord's mother, discovering a new Mormon compound run by Roy Lynear in Wyoming and not the least bit welcoming to visiting lawmen. The whole set up makes them uneasy, why do the Mormons need to be armed to the teeth? What are they doing in Wyoming? The remote location in one of Wyoming's less scenic corners offers Vic a perfect opportunity to comment in her salty tongued way on her dismal impression of the passing landscape. As Walt edges closer to the truth, things turn deadly and the climax will take your breath away. I look forward to every one of Craig Johnson's books; this is one of the best.



The Longmire series starts with **Cold Dish**, it introduces the characters. Walt is a big guy who prefers talking his way out of a tough situation to fighting, but if violence is the only reply Walt is well able to answer. Henry Standing Bear is tall, soft spoken, thoughtful, blazingly smart, and a favorite of the ladies. Vic is a transplant from a family of Philadelphia cops. She is street tough, possessed of a razor sharp tongue, and ready to meet all situations head on. The story revolves around four white boys who got off without so much as slapped hands for raping a Native American girl in high school. Now, years later, someone is shooting them dead.

Death Without Company, second in the series, opens with a death in an assisted living facility. The story has ties to the past, a woman hard done by, and the Basque community.

Kindness Goes Unpunished moves the action to Philadelphia where Cady, Walt's daughter, is an up and coming lawyer. Walt wants to meet her new beau. Henry Standing Bear is involved in a photo exhibition so the two men travel together, where they will meet trouble as they always do, side by side.

Another Man's Moccasins finds a dead Vietnamese girl along a roadside in Wyoming with a picture of Walt from many years ago in Vietnam. The story moves back in time to Walt as a young Marine in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

Dark Horse has Walt holding a prisoner he fears is innocent. She was discovered with a gun in her hand, a shot dead husband in her burned out house, and a ready confession. It doesn't add up for Walt, he goes undercover to find the truth. The horse in the story is pretty cool too!

Junkyard Dogs is one of my favorite, and that is saying something because I enjoy them all tremendously. The opening scene is priceless. An expensive new McMansion subdivision looks out to snowcapped mountains and down on a dump. Ozzie wants the dump closed down so he can move some real estate. Add a Romeo and Juliet story for the older set and you have a heady brew of greed, passion, and intrigue.

Hell is Empty lets all the devils loose on a mountain in a snow storm where Walt is following a band of stone cold killers after a hand off of prisoners to the Feds goes tragically awry. Walt climbs alone up the mountainside entering into the circles of hell after armed and deadly men.

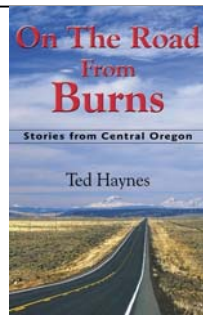
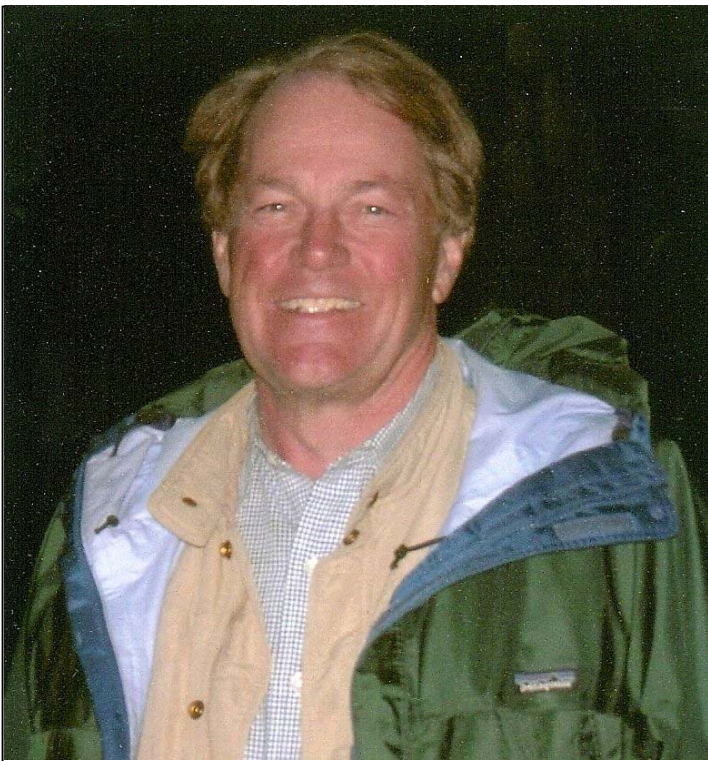


As the Crow Flies introduces Tribal Police Chief Lolo Long. She proved her bravery in Iraq, but her hair trigger temper and inexperience are not ideal in a Police Chief. Walt will have to give quick sheriff lessons if they are to catch a killer.

Wyoming has a wild, starkly beautiful landscape. You can drive for miles and see nothing but distant mountains and wide open spaces. Craig Johnson lives surrounded by this land, he writes so well that you will feel as if you stepped into his part of Wyoming.

Craig Johnson created characters you will want to visit again; they come to feel like old friends. A touch of humor spices each story, for how else would they face the day?

Craig is pictured with Sunriver Police Chief Marc Mills on the left and Black Butte Police Chief Denny Kelley on the right. Pictures of Craig are by Dan and Kim Feer.



Saturday July 27th at 5:00 PM Ted Haynes will give a presentation on his latest book, **On The Road From Burns: Stories from Central Oregon**. If you live in the High Desert or enjoy visiting, this collection will be of great interest. The 16 stories cover over a century, from 1873 to 2039 and vary widely in subject. The opening story, *Bridges*, set in 1911 has a father and son riding from Burns to Redmond to view the construction of a new bridge. The son is on the cusp of manhood and the journey teaches him something about himself, his father, and the possibilities opening in his life. *On The Mountain* is set in 1968, but

could really be from any time. Two climbers look down on their fallen partner and decide if they should rescue, retreat, or go on. Camp Abbott is featured in a story. Another story centers on two couples who buy vacation property in a Central Oregon ranch resort. **Falling Star**, set in 1873, has to do with settlers, Native Americans, and soldiers, a combination that generally leads to conflict. All of the stories focus on the Central Oregon landscape in interesting ways. Ted Haynes was the co-author of the non-fiction history, **Vandervert; the 100 Year History of a Central Oregon Ranch**.

Author events are free; include light refreshments and drawings for door prizes. Sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com, or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. July 19th's event with Craig Johnson will be at the SHARC Center, all other events are at Sunriver Books & Music.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday August 3rd 2013 at 5:30 PM **Make Quilts Not War: A Harriet Truman/Loose Threads Mystery** by Arlene Sachitano

Saturday August 10th 2013 at 5:30 PM **Benedict Hall** by Cate Campbell

Saturday August 31, 2013 at 5:00 PM **Breaking Chains** by Greg Nokes

Saturday September 14th 2013 at 5:00 PM **The Ship In The Hill** by William Sullivan

Check our website, sunriverbooks.com, for more information on upcoming authors as they are scheduled.

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.



Dining With Your Dog in Sunriver.

Sunriver is very dog friendly. We have miles of trails to walk, a river for swimming, and a great village to shop and dine. Sunriver has very nice restaurants that welcome dogs. Our CEO, Flashman loves to dine out.

One of his very favorite restaurants is **The Sunriver Brew Pub**. Karol Cameron, one of the owners, provided the picture to the left of Jasper dining in winter on their deck. In summer they provide water bowls around the deck for thirsty dogs. The food is delicious, the service is friendly, and your dog will love being with you. We have tried most of the menu and been very pleased. They may be the most dog friendly of restaurants

Our favorite place for breakfast is **Café Sintra**. The Eggs Benedict, Oatmeal, Crepes, and everything else on the menu is delicious. They also serve a very nice lunch, I enjoy the salmon and apple pizza. Flashman, our CEO, is pictured at Café Sintra. They have great patio dining, Flashman enjoys being with us. The food is very tasty and the service excellent.

Marcello's has a couple tables on their deck that allow dogs with advance reservations. They make a wonderful risotto. We have tried most of their menu and it is delicious.

South Bend Bistro has a dog friendly deck with advanced reservations. The atmosphere is intimate, the service friendly, and the food is excellent.

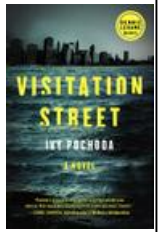
Village Bar & Grill has a huge deck. They are dog friendly and have a tasty menu.

Many of the shops in Sunriver Village are dog friendly too. We welcome dogs at Sunriver Books & Music provided your dog is friendly and housebroken. Please be sure your dog is not aggressive when visiting the village so there are no issues with other diners or shoppers. We love taking our dog with us, being respectful and careful keeps the option open to dogs. One bad incident can ruin it for everyone.



Staff Recommendations Nancy Nelson Recommends

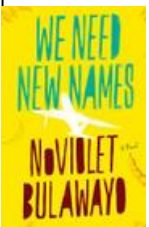
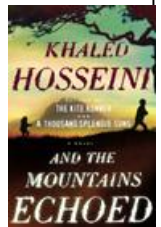
Visitation Street by Ivy Pochoda takes place in the down on its heels Red Hook neighborhood. Teenagers June and Val go out from the Jersey shore in a flimsy pink toy raft. Val is found barely breathing under the pier by the High School music teacher. June has simply disappeared. Investigating officers suspect foul play. It is a watershed event in Val's life; June was a part of every significant moment of her past. Without her friend she is lost. The magic that brings the book to life are the vibrant, diverse residents of Red Hook, all the various ethnic groups cleave to their own while remaining a part of the whole. As the author weaves the story of all the main characters the neighborhood becomes a part of the tale, the way the different groups face their problems, the way life goes on in a neighborhood on the fringes of society. The reader is made to care about all the characters, people we might not give a second thought become important.



Flat Water Tuesday, by Ron Irwin. Rob Carrey is recruited by the rowing coach of Fenton to attend his senior year there. Coach Channing hopes that Rob will become part of the 4 man rowing team, helping the school win against arch rival Warwick School. Rob, however is accustomed to rowing in a single sculling boat, finding it difficult to make the transition to being a team member. Rob's father hopes that the boy's participation will lead to a scholarship to Harvard. Our story begins with a letter of apology to Rob from one of the team members 15 years later. The contents reveal that something bad happened that year at school. The letter writer goes on to say that he is still living the tragedy every day of his life. The teammate has become a recovering alcoholic. Every crew member was affected in a life altering way. As Rob continues to tell the story of that year, he comes intermittently back to the present so that the reader has a sense of what his life has become. At Fenton, we are treated to exhilarating descriptions of the place, the workouts, the tough single minded focus of determination exhibited by each crew member. We go from an innocent youth joining a high school team to the trials and tragedies of life that determine for better or worse the future. An excellent, fully engaging read!

Deon recommends

And The Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini is certain to be one of the big books of the year. Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, can break your heart with a sentence. His latest is the powerful story of a brother and sister torn asunder. Abdullah's mother died giving birth to his sister Pari. The siblings bond was strong and deep, where Pari went Abdullah will be watching. His love for his sister was so great Abdullah walked for miles and gave away his shoes in trade for the feather of a peacock, a beautiful feather to add to Pari's collection. Their father's new wife, Parwana, is not cruel to them, but her love is reserved for her own children, their half-brothers. Eking out an existence in a poor village on dry, unforgiving ground surrounded by jagged mountains, they have few resources. Life is hard. The winters bitter cold and deadly. Parwana's brother Nabi works as a cook in the house of a wealthy couple in Kabul. Circumstances will unfold that rip brother and sister apart. Hosseini has written another powerhouse story that will keep you turning pages.



We Need New Names by NoViolet Bulawayo. This amazing, poignant novel opens with Darling and a group of lively, hungry children stealing away, down lanes they are forbidden to travel, in search of tasty guavas. They live in an African country falling apart at the seams, under thrall to a dictator willing to take the little they have. The children remember better days, days with fathers still home, and food in their bellies, days before the para-military policemen and the violence. Darling has an escape; she immigrates to America to live with her aunt. Like many other immigrants, she finds it difficult to fit into the roiling, not always tolerant, chaos of American life. This is both a moving portrait of a ravaged land and insightful story of the challenge of learning to understand and navigate life in the land of plenty.

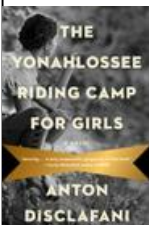
On Sal Mal Lane by Ru Freeman. Moving day on Sal Mal Lane the quiet is broken by the angelic voices of the four Hearth siblings. They are an attractive family; Dad has a job with government so they are on the upper level of the street's inhabitants. Suren is a handsome lad with a gift for music and math, Rashimi is beautiful and intent on doing right, Nihil's main interests are keeping his little sister safe and playing cricket, and Devi, the youngest, has a wild zest for life. Soon the children have acquainted themselves with the denizens of the street, formed allegiances and filled their days with cricket games and music. The lane is full of colorful characters. Sonna Bollings is the bad boy of the lane who hides his loneliness and hurt under a veneer of tough. All these lives on the little street get along despite their differences, until forces outside the lane intrude. Civil War is casting a shadow on the land. Very soon it will matter greatly if the household is Sinhalese, Tamil or Burgher, the religion Muslim or Catholic. What happens when the rhetoric of hate pits neighbor against neighbor? Sometimes something quite miraculous. Sometimes people refuse to succumb to the angry voices. Tragedy visits Sal Mal Lane as the country erupts in violence, but amid the destruction there are also uplifting, hopeful stories too. This is a powerful story, the writing lively and uplifting, and a delight to read.



Sisterland by Curtis Sittenfeld. What would you do if you felt fairly certain a natural disaster was imminent and you knew because of an intuition? Vi and Kate are twins, possessing a sensitivity to phenomena lacking in most. They have been odd since childhood. Kate suppressed her gift (or curse) to lead a normal life as a wife and mother. Vi lives on the outskirts, the edgy bits of society, earning her keep as a medium, channeling the questions and desires of others. When Vi sense an approaching cataclysmic event, her actions have profound effects on both sisters. This is a very readable, entertaining, and thought provoking story. It makes you think about how you would use or ignore these insights. What responsibility would you bear for the consequences? It is also an intimate study of two sisters, their relationship to each other and how these twins chose very separate paths.

Staff Recommendations Deon Recommends

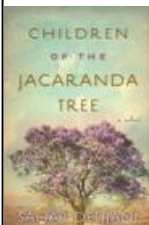
The Last Summer of the Camperdowns by Elizabeth Kelly. Riddle is just 12 years old when she makes the choice that will weigh down her life forevermore. Born into the lap of luxury, her Dad named her James Riddle Camperdown after Jimmy Hoffa. Camp has political aspirations; he is running for office, his reluctant daughter pressed into appearances on the campaign trail. Riddle's Mom is a former movie star, still glamour queen beautiful, with a razor sharp tongue that can leave her opponents in tatters. Mom's interests are horses and dogs. They have plenty room to indulge both passions in a big old rambling house surrounded by acreage by the sea at Cape Cod. It's a pretty good life for a kid, until it goes horribly awry as one misstep leads to another. We all make errors in judgment; usually those made in childhood are not quite so significant. Family secrets compound the tragedy in ways Riddle could not imagine until it is far too late. Kelly is a grand storyteller.



The Yanahlossee Riding Camp For Girls by Anton Disclafani. Thea grows up in a little piece of paradise, living on sprawling acreage, with miles between their spacious home and any neighbor. She was tied to this land and to her family, especially her twin brother Sam. It was a place and a family she thought she would never leave. Thea grew up without other children about except for the visits of her Aunt, Uncle and her cousin George. She rode her pony, was close with her brother, and looked forward to the visits of her cousin, this was her world. But Paradise often seems to include a fall, a serpent in the grass. Thea's world implodes at 15 when her part in a family tragedy renders her an outcast. Driven by her father to ***The Yanahlossee Riding Camp For Girls***, she is left in a cottage dormitory with five other girls. In an instant everything in her life is changed. For the first time, she is not only around other girls but living in a dorm, in close proximity. The landscape is markedly different,

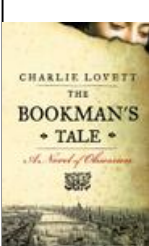
high up in the Blue Ridge Mountains where the seasons change instead of the flat, tropical heat of Florida. The saving grace is the horses, for Thea is fearless on horseback. She finds her way again through her time in the saddle and the friendships she makes with the other students. Nervous, alone, and yearning for home when she arrives, by the time she is reunited with her parents she is no longer a frightened young girl carrying too much guilt, but a young woman ready to face the world. This is the story of her transformation

Good Kings Bad Kings by Susan Nussbaum is a devastatingly poignant yet hopeful story told in shifting perspectives. People living at the edge of society, challenged by physical or mental conditions that make the simplest of actions difficult are often prey to the unscrupulous or uncaring. Nussbaum brings these characters into focus and makes the reader recognize their humanity. The linked episodes can be heartbreaking or quite funny, but always deserving of attention. The story is set in the Illinois Learning and Life Skills Center on Chicago's South Side. Nussbaum's characters engage the reader. Teddy worries about what will happen to him when he reaches 21 and can no longer live at the center. Joanne, the new data entry clerk, befriends the residents and worries about them all. Ricky doesn't understand why the people in charge are not more careful in their hiring and more caring with the youths they are charged with protecting. Yessenia may be in a wheelchair, but she intends to look out for herself and taste life. Each of the characters has a story to tell that adds to the whole and leads to a glimpse of their vulnerability in a system that is stacked against them. Ultimately it will be those most at risk that will stand up against an unjust tragedy and demand change.



Children of the Jacaranda Tree by Shar Delijani. Iran under the Ayatollah was not a place welcoming of differing opinions or attitudes. The prisons were full of the young and the politically active along with the unfortunate caught in the fervor of those newly in power to exert their influence and squash any opposition. Told through linked stories, the novel opens with Azar giving birth to Neda in Evin Prison and comes full circle to end decades later with Neda involved with a political dissident. Each story connects to tell a whole but also stands on its own; Sherida discovering her father had been executed in the prison as a political dissident, Omid witnessing his parents arrest, then years later Omid as an adult remaining in Iran trying to effect change. The author was born in Evin Prison, her personal history lends a strength and passion to the prose of her novel.

Letters from Skye by Jessica Brachmole. In 1912 a young American college student begins a correspondence with a married Scottish poet living on the Isle of Skye. At first the letters are light amusing missives full of hijinks and life. Elspeth finds the letters from her young fan entertaining and David is certainly up to the task, among his adventures was releasing a bag full of wild squirrels into the women's dorm at his college. As time passes the tone changes, David dreads living up to the life his physician father intended. War begins and the world is no longer so carefree. In 1940 Margaret does not understand why her indulgent mother is so dead set against Margaret's romance with a young soldier. When a bomb shatters their apartment building, Elspeth disappears leaving behind a stack of old letters that set Margaret on a quest to discover the secrets of the past and track down her missing mother. This is a charmer, a lot of fun to read and it leaves you feeling good.



The Bookman's Tale by Charlie Lovett. Peter Byerly is a solitary kind of man; his twin passions are his wife and his career as an antiquarian bookseller. Marrying his college sweetheart gave him great joy until she died and ripped the heart right out of him. She was his avenue into the wider world, the woman who walked by his side and helped him navigate interacting with others. On her death, he left North Carolina and holed up in the their English cottage, avoiding all contact until the day he got up the nerve to go into a bookstore, picked up a book from the age of Shakespeare and discovered a painting of his dead wife. How did his wife's image come to be on this ancient painting? Why is it in a book relating to Shakespeare? The Holy Grail of antiquarian bookselling it finding anything written in Shakespeare's hand relating to his plays or sonnets, proving he was the author of the works bearing his name. Peter's quest to discover the origins of the painting lead him onto the trail of the coveted work of William Shakespeare. Are they fake or are they real? As the story unfolds ancient feuds are uncovered and the danger mounts. If you love books, this is fun to read!

Staff Recommendations Deon Recommends



Cinnamon and Gunpowder by Eli Brown. In the mood for something fun? How about a good pirate story? This is just the ticket. Owen Wedgwood lives a soft life, a renowned chef in the employ of Lord Ramsey. He is used to presiding over his sumptuous kitchen in London or traveling with Lord Ramsey around the English countryside to various palatial residences but never to mainland Europe because Owen is subject to hideous seasickness and hates travel on water. Lord Ramsey brings Owen to Eastbourne to cook for a little dinner gathering. Owen is about to undergo a lifestyle change, rather dramatically. The pirate Mad Hannah Mabbot, a deadly redheaded beauty, crashes the party, shoots Ramsey quite dead and absconds with Owen. She offers him a Scheherazade type deal, he does not need to tell any stories, but if he would like to continue keeping life and limb together he will cook a culinary masterpiece every Sunday. Owen almost cries when he first inspects the contents of the weevil ridden pantry and the state of the cramped galley. But failure is not an option, so he best put his scruples about serving the interests of the pirate aside, the alternative does not bear consideration. Over time Owen discovers his revered master, Lord Ramsey, may not have been such an exemplary fellow and Mad Hannah Mabbot may have her good qualities too. Owen's ordeals are fun to read, from his determination to keep his head by turning the ships larder into more edible fare (not as easy or straightforward as it sounds) to his part in a fierce sea battle.

The Last Word by Lisa Lutz continues the saga of the always entertaining Spellmans. At the conclusion of **The Spellmans Strike Again**, Izzy solved her employment issues by outflanking her parental units and securing the majority share of Spellman Investigations. Things are not so tranquil and satisfying as she anticipated being head honcho. Mutiny is afoot. Bills are piling up, the troops are not behaving, and Izzy is nearing her wits end (sometimes not a far journey). If running the agency were not enough of a challenge, the FBI is on her for embezzling funds from Mr. Slayter, her main client and benefactor. She won't need to worry about the bills or the mutiny if she does not figure out why the FBI has her down as a thief and prove her innocence. Razor sharp wit, a plot with a gratifying number of twists and turns, and truly original characters make this one of the most fun series to read. I always look forward to any new entry in the Spellman series, they do not disappoint. Great fun!

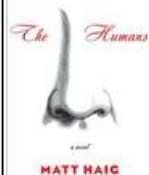


Fin & Lady by Cathleen Schine. Fin is a charmer. The bright eleven year old boy's life changes when his mother dies consigning him to the care of his older half-sister Lady. Fin leaves behind the bucolic Connecticut countryside and his mother's dairy farm with the sweet cows. Fin along with his loyal dog Gus heads to New York City with Lady in her Gharmin Ghia, driving fast, Lady's only speed. Lady is a bright and shining creature, shy of commitment, full of boundless enthusiasms; she is way ahead of her time in 1964 and totally clueless as to how to raise a young boy. Fin's only prior exposure to Lady was six years earlier when Lady left her fiancé standing at the alter and escaped to Capri. Their father followed to bring his erstwhile daughter back to the USA, accompanied by Fin and his mother. Fin was instantly smitten with this magical creature who could defy their formidable father. Lady might be older, but it soon becomes clear that Fin is the protector of his spirited sister, a woman beset by unsuitable suitors and prone to impetuous actions. A lot of history takes place over the course of the story; the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War. Set in Greenwich Village New York and on the mystical isle of Capri, the places become like characters too. This is a delightful story, a comic romp about the bonds between a brother and a sister.

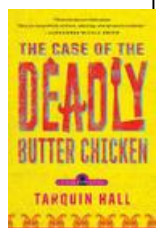
Claudia Silver To the Rescue by Kathy Ebel. Claudia's mother made it clear there would be no welcome mat for her at the family home after graduation; it was time for the fledgling to leave the nest. With nowhere to go she is taken in by the family of her best friend from college, eventually the girls land jobs and find an apartment together. But Claudia is a young woman who lacks boundaries, far too impetuous and easily led astray. She has no resistance to the charms of the opposite sex, making choices that lead to spectacular meltdowns for a number of the characters. She has great intentions, just burdened with more enthusiasm than recommended and less restraint than necessary. When her teenage sister lands on her doorstep frightened, confused, and in need of rescue, Claudia jumps into action, not always the most prudent course, but good intentions abound. There is liveliness to this story that I enjoyed and Claudia has a good heart despite the many errors she makes along the way. She has a distinct voice that makes the story entertaining.



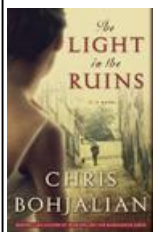
The Humans by Matt Haig. Professor Andrew Martin solved Reiman's Hypothesis, an aged and devilishly difficult problem, and sealed his doom. Higher evolved life forms could not allow earthlings to reach this state of mathematical competence. Professor Martin was dealt with and an alien was sent to earth in his form with instructions to kill anyone with knowledge of the proof of Reiman's hypothesis. Figuring out the way to behave on earth can be confusing; first there is the potentially strong negative reaction to walking along the street unclothed. Then navigating the family relationships of a troubled marriage and a teenage child are probably a bit out of the ken of the average alien. At first he finds the earthlings repulsive but slowly he warms to these odd creatures, so prone to emotional outbursts. He begins to see possibilities in life and have real problems with his superior's directive to kill Professor Martin's family. It is an entertaining story.



The Case of the Deadly Butter Chicken by Tarquin Hall just released in paperback. Tarquin Hall's series set in Delhi featuring detective Vish Puri is a sheer delight. Puri reminds me a bit of Agatha Christie's Poirot, whip smart but with a sense of humor. Puri has something Poirot lacked though, a very involved family. His wife worries about his waist line and his mother will not stop involving herself in his investigations. The elderly father of a top Pakistani cricketer eats poisoned butter chicken, dying at the post match dinner. Puri's investigation will involve the mafia and have roots in the violent cataclysm of the partition of India and Pakistan. In order to solve the case Puri is forced to collaborate with the one person he refuses to work with, his mother. Mothers can be very stubborn. Puri is an amusing, and very effective detective. This series is a lot of fun.

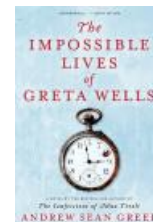


Staff Recommendations
Deon Recommends



The Light in the Ruins by Chris Bohjalian begins in 1955; a woman in an apartment in Florence will open her door to a killer, a monster who cuts the heart out of his victim. Before WWII the Rosati family lived well in their Tuscan estate, Villa Chimera. There were two handsome sons, a beautiful daughter, and a daughter-in-law who gave them two boisterous grandchildren. They were a happy family until the ominous clouds of WWII roll across their serene blue sky. The terror that was to come began the day a German and an Italian officer visited Villa Chimera demanding to see the Etruscan ruins located on the estate. The Germans were moving antiquities from Italy to Germany; the Italian Army had little influence to stop the pillaging by their stronger ally. As the war turns against the Germans, life at Villa Chimera becomes more complicated. Now, a decade later, Francesca Rosati lies dead in her modest apartment, her heart cut from her body. It will be the task of Detective Serafina to discover the identity of this brutal killer. Serafina also bears scars from the war; she fought against the Nazis with the Partisans. The secrets of the past may be intruding on the present. As Bohjalian takes the reader back into the years of WWII, he does so skillfully, presenting Italian soldiers in Mussolini's army, Partisans, and Germans as complex characters. There can be good or bad on either side. This is one of the best works of fiction I have read on WWII with vivid, complicated characters.

The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells by Andrew Sean Greer. What would you do if you could choose the life you lead, pick an altogether new era? That is the choice Greta Wells will face. Depressed after the death of her twin, Felix, from AIDS and abandoned by her long term lover Nathan, Greta undergoes electroshock therapy when all else fails. Something strange happens. She wakes up totally confused. She is no longer in 1985, she has tumbled into 1918. Felix is alive but repressed, Nathan is off in WWI. This new Greta is also being treated by electroshock therapy, with the next treatment she wakes up in 1941, Felix and Nathan are both here but her beloved Aunt Rose is missing, killed in an accident. Each treatment moves her between the three time frames, 1918, 1941, 1985. In each life she will gain someone or lose someone. In 1918 her twin is alive but Nathan is at war, in 1941 she loses Aunt Rose, and in 1985 Felix is gone. Which life will she choose to live? Who will she sacrifice?



Whistling Past the Graveyard by Susan Crandall. Starla lives with her Grandmother, a stern woman determined to raise Starla right so she doesn't take after the mother who abandoned her as a toddler to seek fame as a singer in Nashville. Starla's Dad is a loving man overwhelmed by the thought of rearing his daughter alone; instead he has abdicated all authority to his implacable mother. Starla tries real hard to stay on her Grandmother's good side in order to attend the 4th of July fireworks, her fine intentions go for nothing when she rescues a little girl from the neighborhood bully by smacking him in the nose. She is light years away from her Grandmother's good side. Starla's problems soon escalate; she is not only grounded from the festivities but threatened with reform school. Rather than accepting such a grim fate, Starla hoofs it down the road in the burning heat of a Mississippi summer heading for Nashville Tennessee where her Momma is surely a famous singer by now. Starla doesn't know where to find her Momma, but figures it won't be hard. As the sun beats down on the little girl, she is rescued from heat stroke by a kind hearted black woman. Eula is a compassionate woman, but emotionally damaged. She meant to do Starla a kindness by giving her a ride in the heat. Instead she has put them in mortal danger. Eula has a white baby in the car, a child that is clearly not her own. It is 1963 in the Deep South, not an auspicious time for a black woman to be traveling with two white children.

Transatlantic by Colum McCann travels from America to Ireland and back again the lives of the characters link with each other and the land. McCann twines the lives of his fictional characters with the stories of real figures from history. In 1845 escaped slave Fredrick Douglas comes to Ireland to further the cause of abolition, he speaks eloquently of the moral bankruptcy of owning humans, being treated as a possession, abused with no voice or justice. Conditions in Ireland shock Douglas, famine is raging, and potato blight has left the population starving. He sees the English overlord's indifference to the suffering of the poor and recognizes another form of moral bankruptcy. In 1919 Brown and Alcock will pilot their thin, delicate craft across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to land in an Irish bog. And in 1998 former US Senator George Mitchell crosses the Atlantic in a bid to bring peace to the troubled land.



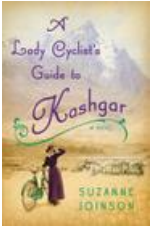
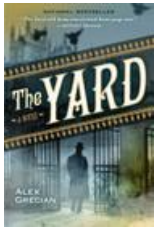
The Dog Who Danced by Susan Wilson just released in paperback. Dog lovers will be delighted. Mack/Buddy is such an endearing canine and this is a feel good story sure to please. Justine's life has been one long run of bad moves. Her stepmom made life miserable. Her teenage marriage didn't last; she set off with a young son trying to make a better life, always looking at the next city down the line. The one constant in Justine's life, the bright spot, is her dog Mack. He is her best friend, her sidekick. Justine's stepmother calls her back home, from Seattle to the East Coast, to be with her dying father. Heading cross country Mack is lost and the magic goes right out of Justine. Ed and Alice know the remarkable dog as Buddy. They have been sad a long time, mourning the death of their child. Buddy brings them back to life.

The Chaperone by Laura Moriarty just released in paperback. Blending fiction and historical fact, Moriarty spins a tale that takes in the many changing mores of the last century and makes it fun reading to boot. Cora Carlisle agrees to chaperone 15 year old Louise Brooks from Wichita Kansas to New York where she will attend the Denishawn dance academy. Young Louise is a handful but she has talent to burn, she is on a trajectory that will make her a star. Cora has her own secrets and reasons for agreeing to accompany the headstrong Louise. Cora is a likeable protagonist, she grows with her challenges and finds a way to make a life that is unconventional but fits. The blending of the real story of silent film star Louise Brooks with the quiet life of her chaperone is well done.



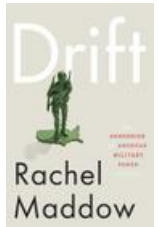
July 2013 Book Clubs.

Monday July 8th the Mystery Book Club discusses **The Yard** by Alex Grecian. Set in 1889, London is still reeling from the horrific killing spree of Jack the Ripper. The crime will not be solved. The Metropolitan Police's spectacular failure is followed by the creation of Scotland Yard's Murder Squad, twelve men to solve the murders in the metropolis. One of their own will be claimed. A detective is killed, his body stuffed in a trunk. The newest member of the squad, Detective Inspector Walter Day, is charged with finding the killer. Dr. Kingsley, a brilliant forensic pathologist, helps the young man navigate the complex case. The fallen detective got too close to the secrets of a depraved mind. Grecian intersperses chapters in the voice of the deranged murderer, revealing a chilling evil that it will take a sharp intellect to vanquish. The period is most interesting and the Murder Squad has characters you will want to read about again soon.



July 15th the Fiction Book Club discusses **A Lady Cyclist's Guide to Kashgar** by Suzanne Joinson. Evangeline and her sister Lizzie are on their way to the Silk Road and Kashgar as lady missionaries under the supervision of Millicent, a zealous woman intent on converting the locals. Evangeline brought along her bicycle, a novelty in 1923. While Lizzie is a true believer, Evangeline is more interested in seeing the world. Soon the women run afoul of local custom and law. In current day Frieda is confused by a letter informing her she is the sole heir of a stranger. She has one week to clean out the mystery person's flat. Aided by Tayeb, a homeless refugee, she delves into the accumulation of a lifetime looking for a connection. This lively story has strong female characters; it is an interesting look at the sometimes volatile intersection of differing cultures.

July 22nd the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses **Drift** by Rachel Maddow. America seems to have drifted away from the ideal, or goal, of a peaceful nation to a country with an agenda of policing the world putting us in a perpetual state of war. Many aspects of this situation are troubling. Certainly the loss of life is dismaying, can we not evolve past the need to settle arguments by killing? Maddow points out that the burden of supplying the soldiers who will fight and die falls disproportionately on one segment of the population. She is ill at ease with the way we are outsourcing the fighting, employing outside contractors who carry weapons in the name of the USA without the oversight of regular military. In WWII, the civilians felt some of the cost of war in rationing. In Vietnam the population was equally at risk of the draft. Maddow makes an interesting point that segregating the cost of the war from the general budget and showing the public their individual cost might bring us to realize the economic burden of armed conflict and question more stridently the policy of constant war that has plagued both major political parties. Maddow also has some scary points to make about the nuclear arsenal. This is a work well worth discussing.



[Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM](#)

August 5th 2013 **The Invisible Ones** by Stef Penny [Mystery Book Club](#)

August 12th 2013 **Beautiful Ruins** by Jess Walter [Fiction Book Club](#)

August 19th 2013 **What It Is Like To Go To War** by Karl Marlantes [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

September 9th 2013 **The Indian Bride** by Karin Fossum [Mystery Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

Sept 16th 2013 **The Ship In The Hill** by William Sullivan, (author led), [Fiction Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

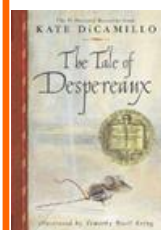
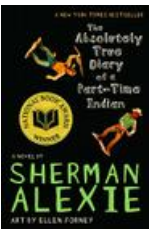
September 23, 2013 **Kristin Lavransdatter** by Sigrid Undset [Classics Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

Sept 30th, 2013 **The Fellowship of Ghosts** by Paul Watkins [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

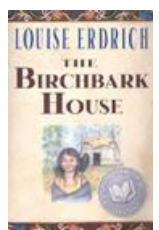
October 7th, 2013 **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian** by Sherman Alexie [Fiction Book Club](#)

October 28th, 2013 **Instrument of Darkness** by Imogen Robertson [Mystery Book Club](#)

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



Sunday July 28th at 2:00 PM the Tweens Book Club discusses **The Tale of Despereaux** by Kate DeCamillo. Despereaux Tilling is a tiny mouse born with ears much too large. His adventurous life takes him from the Castle Library all the way to the chamber of Princess Pea. Despereaux loves to read; principally stories of daring that involve the rescue of beautiful damsels. He falls in love with the princess and faces the wrath of the other mice. Poor Despereaux is sent to the rat dungeon where he is in grave danger. Will he escape? Read the book and find out then come to book club and discuss the story. One thing Despereaux learns is to be true to himself, not to succumb to pressure from his peers. Carol Foisset will lead the discussion. Coming Sunday August 18th at 2:00 PM, a discussion of **Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich.



A Book Of The Month subscription is a great idea! Sign up for a subscription to receive a surprise book every month! The cost for the second quarter of 2013 is \$43.94 picked up in the store and \$49.94 mailed in the US. The last six months of 2013 costs \$90.84 picked up in the store or \$102.84 mailed in the US. The whole year of 2013 is \$182.62 picked up in the store or \$206.92 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book! I enjoy selecting the books for you and take seriously my obligation to discover books that will engage the reader. In the past we featured **Burning Bright** by Tracy Chevalier, **That Old Ace In The Hole** by Annie Proulx, and **A Guide To The Birds of East Africa** by Nicholas Drayson. Purchase a subscription and enjoy the next surprise book.

E-readers are changing the landscape for books, not always in gentle ways. Many Independent Bookstores offer e-books for sale, including Sunriver Books & Music. On the right hand side of our website, sunriverbooks.com, you will find information on buying e-books as well a search feature for e-books and print books. In support of Independent Booksellers publishers sometimes offer specials that we pass onto you. Watch our website to see when they are available. We greatly appreciate your support and hope that you consider your Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating the purchase of an e-reader, please know that Amazon's kindle dictates your e-books be purchased from Amazon while the I-pad, the Sony e-reader, and others allow you the freedom to chose.