



Sunriver Books & Music

July 2022 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



*Craig Johnson returns September 18 for
Hell and Back latest in the New York Times Bestselling, Award winning,
Sheriff Walt Longmire Series, inspiration for the hit TV show.*

Craig Johnson has been a loyal friend to Sunriver Books & Music since the beginning. We are grateful to him! And glad he writes such excellent books!

Hell and Back takes Sheriff Walt Longmire into uncharted territory involving Native American history and beliefs. In 1896 in Fort Pratt Montana 30 Native American boys perished in a boarding school fire. It was the practice at the time to take children from their homes on the reservation to boarding schools where they would be stripped of their native languages, customs, and beliefs to learn to live in the "white" world. Walt is looking for answers and thinks he might find them at the site of the school. Thus putting himself in mortal danger. ***Hell and Back*** releases September 6.

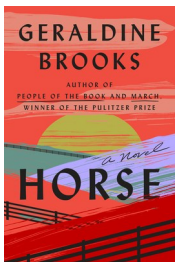
It started with the "Outlaw Tour". In the early days Craig Johnson toured the Independent Bookstores of the west on his motorcycle. The series garnered awards, became New York Times Bestsellers, International Best Sellers and the inspiration for the hit TV series, Longmire. We are proud to be among the first members of the "Outlaw Tour".



Craig and Judy Johnson photo by Brooke Snavely, Craig Johnson and our Flashman photo by Dan Feer.

This is a ticketed event requiring purchase of ***Hell and Back*** to receive a ticket. Contact us for details at sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com.

New Releases.
Staff Recommendations. Deon Recommends.



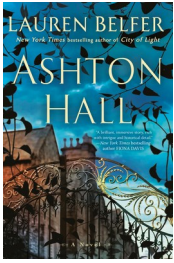
Horse by Geraldine Brooks. If you love history or horses, this is just the ticket! Set in three eras, it tells the story of a black groom, a remarkable stallion, Lexington, and a gifted artist. Tom Scott paints beautiful portraits of race horses. Jarret's father, Harry, was renowned for his prowess in training horses to run. So successful, he was able to save the money and purchase his freedom. He taught his son the ways best to treat a horse. Jarret forges a bond with a young foal, a bond that takes the horse to glory on the race track. But the times are a changing, a Civil War will tear the nation asunder with shocking brutality putting Jarret and Lexington in grave danger.

In 1954 Martha Jackson runs a New York gallery known for promoting modern inventive artists. Nonetheless she is captivated by an old painting of a horse.

Jess has been obsessed about skeletons since she was a little girl in Australia. She came to America for college, and stayed for a job at the Smithsonian. By 2019 she is managing a department, doing the work she loves. Theo is a graduate student at Georgetown University studying American Art History. He makes ends meet by sitting in his apartment writing magazine articles, kept company by his dog, Clancy, (an adorable Kelpie). The skeleton of a stallion will bring them together and lead them to the history of Black horsemen in America.

I loved reading about young Jarret staying the night in the stable to watch over the newborn foal. And Lexington, well Lexington was truly a special stallion. But at its heart this is a story about the way people are treated based not on the content of their character but the color of their skin. In this book you will meet people whose character absolutely shines. Nonetheless, it is dangerous to be breathing while black in America. Geraldine Brooks succeeds beautifully with a story that embraces art, history, grand horses, and the quiet dignity of people of color whose merits far outshine their persecutors. Lexington, Tom Scott, and Martha Jackson are all real historic characters.

New Releases.
Staff Recommendations. Holly Hendricks Recommends.

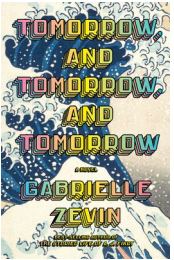


Ashton Hall by Lauren Belfer. This is an intriguing story about a woman (Hannah) and her son (Nicky). They spend the summer in England with her ailing 'uncle' as he is dying. Nicky is a neurodiverse child with exceptional gifts and serious challenges. Hannah has been working very hard for years with this child and believes she has had the advantage of a supportive, loving husband. Before leaving for England, she saw something with her own eyes that anyone would consider a betrayal.

Once in England, Hannah and Nicky settle in. She's confused about her husband and marriage and decides to confront him about it. What she learns in this process forces painful growth. Meanwhile, Nicky, being a precocious explorer, discovers a room with the skeleton of what turns out to be a woman (Isabella Cresham). Investigation ensues. This mystery is helpful while Hannah and Nicky are dealing with an ailing loved one and Hannah struggles with what to do about her marriage.

Nicky is an excellent side-kick in the investigation, because he can remember, recite and focus on details that others might overlook. Hannah is struggling with what their future might hold and the practicalities of what it means if she is no longer married. We, as readers, are carried along with this story as if it is our own. We explore the beauty of the English countryside. Belfer's description of the visual world is so easy to envision. Even the smells and fragrances jump off the page.

Following the investigative steps Hannah uses (with the help of other experts) is a satisfying puzzle. Learning about the nuances of neurotypical children was striking because in my head, I'm offering all sorts of advice and ideas for managing such a child. I felt a deep respect and admiration for parents dealing with these issues. The author makes us realize that women throughout history have struggled with obtaining their own agency. Issues of power imbalances in relationships in our modern world make us realize that we aren't all that far from Elizabethan England. The last chapter of the book at first seems like a confrontation to the reader. We are left shocked and saddened. But upon further reflection, maybe Isabella got exactly what she most desired for her life and she was the winner.



Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin. This new book by Gabrielle Zevin, the author of *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* is an immersive novel about Sam, Sadie and Marx. They are brilliant and talented video game developers in the early days of video games. Sam and Sadie meet as pre-teens while Sam is recuperating in the hospital after an awful car accident. Sadie is at the same hospital because her sister is being treated for cancer. Although they both live in the Los Angeles area, they don't attend the same school or run in the same circles. They bond over video games, but Sam is hurt and insulted when he learns that Sadie is using their new relationship to get credit for her required community service for her bat mitzvah. She didn't realize how hurtful this might seem. Their friendship cools substantially until they run into each other while at college. In comes Marx, Sam's roommate.

This is a book about work; the importance of work; ambition; the inception of the video game industry; friendship; romantic relationships; growing up; developing a sense of self; maturing; making mistakes; trauma; confronting trauma. So, it's a novel about life with characters that sometimes love each other and sometimes only tolerate each other. It is housed in the creative world where the job is to invent other worlds that will make money.

Zevin is a fantastic writer. She has made a world that is easily recognized for the human interactions and intertwining of personalities in an industry that is changing the world. But the humans behind these games are as magnificent and flawed as any other. This book is an amusement park ride that you aren't quite sure how it will end. It is well worth your time.



Deon Recommends.

The Summer Place by Jennifer Weiner is such a fun book! The characters are interesting and sympathetic, diversity is celebrated, and it is just the sort of story you want to sit down and enjoy.

Sarah and Eli Danhauser have a good life. He is a dentist, she teaches at a music academy, and they are both devoted parents. They have three children, two sons, Dexter and Miles, and Ruby, Eli's child from a prior marriage. Sarah and Eli are committed to each other, their children, and being good, responsible people. Eli's first marriage was rocky at best, Annette left without a backward glance before her daughter's first birthday. Annette was a free spirit, more interested in travel and adventure than motherhood, something she had been clear about from the get go but Eli chose to ignore at his peril.

During the pandemic, Ruby moves back home, to her fourth-floor aerie, with her boyfriend Gabe. Sarah and Eli would rather have their college student daughter at home and safe than out in New York with the virus spreading. Gabe is a delightful young man, easy to like. Sarah had a major crush on Gabe but didn't think the handsome, popular, bi-sexual young man was in her league until he noticed her and they became a couple almost instantly.

When they have graduated and it is safe to do so, Sarah and Gabe moved to a studio apartment, found jobs, and announced their engagement. Sarah and Eli thought they were young too marry, but Ruby had never accepted being thwarted, not even as a small child. She was relentlessly determined, so instead of voicing caution, the match was embraced. Ruby's bond with her grandmother, Sarah's mother Veronica, is strong. She intends to have her wedding at Veronica's Cape Cod home.

And from that beginning all sorts of things start to happen. Eli becomes withdrawn, causing Sarah angst. What is up with Eli? Sam, Sarah's twin, is the single parent to a son, Connor. Sam is on the West Coast, but will come home for the wedding. Sam has never really found his stride, that is about to change. Veronica has secrets, her hand is being forced, she feels she will have to reveal something she never intended to disclose. And then there is Gabe's family and a whole other passel of issues.

This is a romp of a book, with likeable characters and a sense of fun.

New Releases.

Staff Recommendations. Deon Recommends.



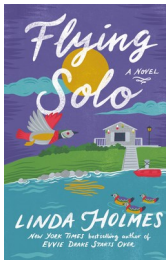
Razzmatazz by Christopher Moore. Sometimes you just want a book that is funny, and maybe a bit outrageous. Christopher Moore is all over that genre. **Razzmatazz** brings back Sammy Two Toes, his gal Stilton, best buddy Eddie “Moo Shoes” Shu, and the gang. 1947 San Francisco is the perfect place to set a noir story run amok.

Captain James Dunne has taken over San Francisco’s Vice Squad and is intent on shutting down Jimmy’s Joynt, owned by Sammy’s pal Jimmy Vasco. Dunne is waging war against women loving women, Jimmy’s Joynt is all about the gals. Jimmy would like Sammy to make Dunne go away. Permanently. Something Sammy is ill equipped to accomplish. When some of Jimmy’s people are murdered, the pressure is on for Sammy to do something.

Eddie’s uncle Ho is in a spot of bother about a missing relic, a dragon statue prized by the tongs. He is willing to pay Eddie and Sammy a sizeable chunk of change to retrieve the statue.

Meanwhile Stilton is up to something on the qt. Sammy doesn’t know what, but it is making him uneasy.

And then, of course, things seriously get out of control!



Flying Solo by Linda Holmes. Laurie Sassalyn’s fortieth birthday is fast approaching. While her brothers are paired off, some married with children, Laurie is not. She has just cancelled her engagement on short notice, the wedding announcement were already sent, the gifts all arrived. It took her months to send everything back. Far from being upset, she feels relieved. She likes owning her Seattle home, her neighborhood, her routine. Laurie writes nature articles with a scientific bent. She travels a lot, trudges through marshes, hikes in the woods. It is a life the suits her.

As a young girl with brothers, she often took refuge in her great aunt Dot’s big house to escape the chaos and noise. Her aunt had never married, but led an interesting life, traveling the world, reading voraciously, being involved in all sorts of craft projects, taking photographs. Aunt Dot was a woman who lived life with gusto. Laurie learns a lot from her great-aunt. When Dot dies at 93, no one else has the time to go through her things. Laurie volunteers, and heads cross country to Maine and her hometown. The place where her first love, her high school sweetheart, still lives. This small town is in so many ways familiar to Laurie, her best friend lives here, she has roots. In reconnecting with them, she rekindles many memories and feelings.

Going through Dot’s things, Laurie finds a beautifully carved duck hidden under bedding in a trunk. It is a beautiful duck, why is it hidden in the trunk? It doesn’t seem to fit with the rest of Dot’s things. Soon this lovely duck will be in need of rescue and Laurie is determined to find out just exactly what this duck meant in Dot’s life.

Funny and heartwarming, this is the story of a woman solving a mystery about her aunt’s life, while she is faced with the choice of two possible lives. Not every woman must follow the same path.

Kipling photographed by Sue Dougherty.

Sue Dougherty is amazingly talented, she is an award winning photographer whose wildlife images are intense and intimate. They capture something of an animal’s essence, drawing you in as though you are learning something special about another living creature.

She is turning her camera on our beloved dogs. Kippy had a hoot at her session! It was great fun. I wanted to share a few of our favorites from the session. I am so glad we have these beautiful images of Kip.

You can also have your dog photographed by Sue Dougherty.

A 45 minute to one hour session with one dog is \$325. Or \$375 for two dogs. The dog’s human or trusted guardian must be present.

Included will be 20 to 25 professionally edited jpg photos on a flash drive.

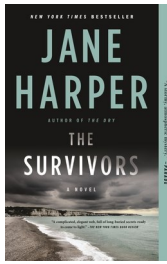
Contact Sue Dougherty to schedule a session:

doughertysueoffleash@gmail.com • Phone: 541-788-0312



July 2022 Book Clubs

Book Clubs are a great way to spend time discussing books with other readers. Enjoy a summer evening at Book Club 6 PM on a Monday. Email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com and we will send you the zoom link the weekend prior to the discussion.

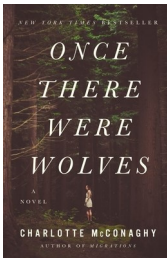


July 11 Mystery Book Club discusses ***The Survivors*** by Jane Harper. Evelyn Bay is a small community on the coast of Tasmania. Always the murmur or crash of the sea, as its moods shift, swiftly changing from calm to catastrophic. It is the sea that on a stormy night takes the life of two young men, sending Kieran into exile over his role in the death of his brother Finn. Gabby, went missing that night. She was an attractive young woman with a bright future, drawn to photographing the coast, especially a memorial sculpture of a shipwreck.

Over the years Kieran builds a life in Sydney. Mia, he loves with all his heart, and they have a new baby, Audrey. But the demands of family responsibility call him back to Tasmania. His father is sinking into dementia, so Kieran returns to help his mother pack up the family home. Kieran is barely in Evelyn Bay again, when Bronte, a young waitress and aspiring artist, is found drowned.

Mia observes the cracks in Kieran as he encounters people from the past, faces too many memories. Ash and Sean, were his friends, they knew him his whole life, until he left. There will be repercussions from this trip through memory lane.

Moody and atmospheric, Harper makes the wild sea and coastal landscape a character in her tale of what happened on that fateful night a dozen years ago and how it has echoed down the years.

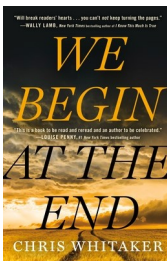


July 25 Fiction Book Club discusses ***Once There Were Wolves*** by Charlotte McConaghy. It is set in Scotland where wolves are being reintroduced after a century, with the usual controversy of those opposed to the magnificent animals clamoring over their fears. If you love the wilderness, this is a great story!

Inti has a difference, mirror-touch syndrome bringing an empathy so strong she feels the pain and emotions of those around her, especially animals. She has an intense relationship with her twin sister Aggie who is fearless, until she isn't able to be so anymore. When they are young, it is always Aggie who rushes pell mell into adventures, with Inti bringing up the rear. A deep appreciation of wilderness is fostered by their father, a man who lives a subsistent type of life in the woods. He grows or hunts his own food, never taking more than is reasonable for his use. His reverence for wild things is passed down and runs deep in Inti. The twins spend part of their time in British Columbia with their father, and part with their mother, a detective in Australia, who worries that Inti's empathy will leave her too exposed to harm.

As the story opens, Inti is leading a project to bring 14 wolves from Alaska to the Scottish Highlands. Emotions run high in the surrounding countryside, farmers up in arms over the idea of wolves amid their sheep. But who is the more dangerous predator? The wolves who used to roam these hills so long ago, or the men who now want to deny them their freedom?

Inti takes up residence in small cottage along with her sister Aggie, who no longer speaks or functions. Clearly something life altering has happened to the bright youngster so willing to live life to the max. Sometimes the predator lives right in the home, as is the case for a local woman whose husband regularly abuses her. Rising tensions lead to violence and tragic consequences. McConaghy is a gifted author with a passion for wild places and animals that animate her writing. The scenes with the wolves are wonderful! In Inti she has created a strong, feisty, likeable female character whose passions lead to mistakes and sacrifices.



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

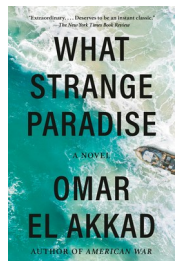
Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held via Zoom Mondays at 6 PM.

Times and dates are tentative due to current situation.

August

August 8 *We Begin at the End* by Chris Whitaker **Mystery Book Club.**
August 22 *What Strange Paradise* by Omar El Akkad **Fiction Book Club.**

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



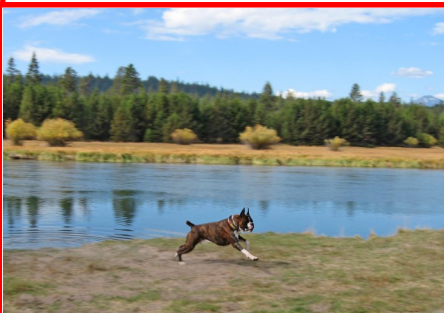
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Flashman July 2, 2002– January 31, 2015

Please remember not to leave your pets in a parked car, temperatures can soar within minutes causing death. If you see a dog in a parked car in Sunriver, please call the Sunriver Police Department 541-593-1014 or 911 so they can rescue the animal. Animals can be in severe distress in minutes, parking in the shade on our hot days will not save them. It is too hot to leave an animal safely in the car, even in shade temperatures will be deadly.

Dr. Wendy Merideth of Sunriver Veterinary Clinic 541-593-8128 alerted us to the danger of mushrooms. Every year dogs ingest poisonous mushrooms, sometimes fatally, always requiring prompt medical attention. In the Deschutes National Forest be cautious of leg hold traps that can grievously injure a pet, or a person