

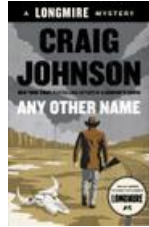


Sunriver Books & Music

March 2014

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Craig Johnson returns Sunday May 18th 5:00 PM at the SHARC Center for the latest in the Longmire Series, *Any Other Name*.

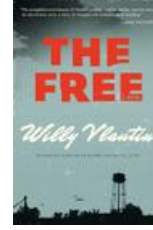
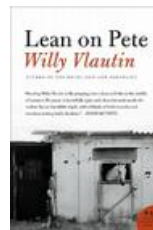
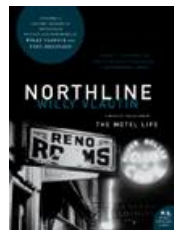
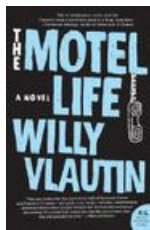
Sign up early to attend by e-mailing sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com or calling 541-593-2525 or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

Any Other Name is a real page turner, Lucian and Walt get into a whole lot of trouble, they will keep your heart rate high!

Craig Johnson is pictured with his wife Judy Johnson and our own Carolyn Barr. Janet Gordon snapped the photo.

March brings two powerhouse author events to Sunriver Books & Music. Join us for entertaining events on a couple books we highly recommend.

Saturday March 15th at 5:00 PM Willy Vlautin will give a presentation on *The Free*, I believe it is his best book.



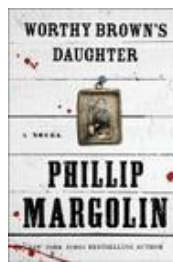
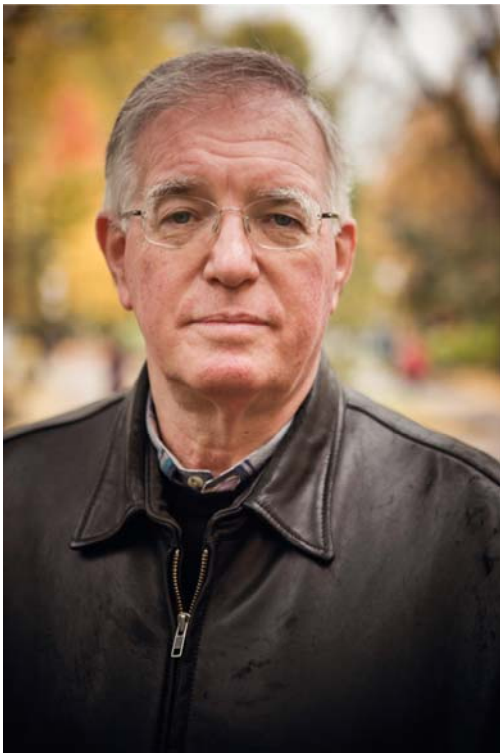
People living on the margins, on the knife edge of life tend to be the subjects of Willy Vlautin's novels. He gives them a clear, strong voice, inviting the reader to walk for a few well written pages in the other person's shoes. Vlautin treats these characters with compassion and respect. You can't go through a Willy Vlautin story without at least a few "there but for the grace" moments where you see the slippery slope that claimed the characters was steep and hard to avoid and maybe for a moment you are grateful life treated you better. Freddie had a good life going with a home he owned, a marriage and two daughters, then adversity struck and now he is deep in debt, not keeping his head above water, working his day job at the hardware store and a night job as care taker at a group home. Freddie tries so hard. Leroy did what a lot of young men do, answered his country's call for soldiers. The Middle East changed everything, now he lives in a group home a galaxy away from everyday reality, lost to his loved ones. Pauline works hard as a nurse, she has a deep reservoir of compassion she keeps veiled by a curtain of reserve. A young girl struggling with life on the streets and drug addiction tugs at her heart. Their stories will converge and as they do Vlautin skillfully intertwines a greater truth. The reader will care for these characters, admire their pluck, and wish them a safe harbor. I am very impressed with this book, the story is powerful and the writing makes it all real.

Vlautin's earlier novel, *Motel Life*, Set in Reno, tells the story of two brothers, Frank and Jerry Lee, who live in cheap motels until a tragic, drunk driving, accident puts them on the run. Their belongings are meager, their claim on life tenuous. The story has been made into a well-regarded movie starring Kris Kristofferson, Emile Hirsch, and Dakota Fanning.

Lean on Pete, won big at the Oregon Book Awards, winning both the Ken Kesey Award and the Reader's Choice Award. It is set mostly in Oregon and tells of a lonely teenager, Charley, who moves with his Dad from Spokane to a rental house in the Delta Park neighborhood of Portland and takes a part time job from an unsavory trainer at the race track. His only friend is Pete, a race horse on his last legs, treated poorly by Charley's boss. The boy and the horse run away, but the world is not kind to run away teenagers and erstwhile, over the hill, race horses.

This multi-talented man is also lead singer and songwriter for Richmond Fontaine, their music has the same haunting quality found in Vlautin's stories. *Northline*, an earlier novel about a woman, the choices she made, and the future she fights to hold onto, includes a CD by Richmond Fontaine.

Vlautin speaks with care and thought about his writing, his words stay with me and make me think about the stories.



Phillip Margolin will be here Saturday March 29th at 5:00 PM for a presentation on his latest novel, **Worthy Brown's Daughter**. He is a New York Times bestselling author many times over. If you enjoy the mystery genre, his name is well known. His contemporary mysteries, always a hit, include **Sleight of Hand, Capitol Murder, Lost Lake, Gone But Not Forgotten**, and a slew others. He has many devoted readers and is an entertaining speaker. Margolin brings to bear years of experience as a Portland Oregon attorney who has argued before the US Supreme Court and as a defense attorney in death penalty cases. Often his books are inspired by real events. This is very true of his latest novel, **Worthy Brown's Daughter**. This novel is historical fiction and a huge departure for Margolin; it is some of his best writing.

Worthy Brown's Daughter is a fictional account inspired by the groundbreaking case, Robin Holmes vs Nathaniel Ford. Former slave Robin Holmes sought justice in the white man's court, suing a prominent member of the community, Nathaniel Ford, seeking the release of Holmes' children. It must have been very hard, not to mention frightening, for a black man to step into the white man's court in pre-civil war days. Margolin uses Holmes as the inspiration for Worthy Brown, a man whose former master is a successful, charismatic attorney keeping Worthy' Brown's daughter in bondage. He is also lacking in any sense of morality, casually cruel, and may pose a danger to the teenage girl. Worthy Brown, worried about his child, takes his case to Matthew Penny, an attorney arrived via the Oregon Trail, a journey that cost the life of Penny's beloved wife. There is lots of great historical detail about Oregon along with a compelling entertaining story full of fascinating characters. With his

background as an attorney and his string of New York Times bestsellers, Margolin is ideally suited to tell this story, giving the reader a real view of the legal difficulties and climate of the time, while also providing suspense and drama. He throws in a woman of dubious virtue, a judge who makes a very poor choice that has dire repercussions, and a variety of interesting threads. Margolin brings it all together giving the reader Oregon history along with a satisfying story. While Margolin's thrillers are great entertainment, **Worthy Brown's Daughter** shows this author has a lot more to say!

Margolin is a great speaker, his events are always interesting. If you would like to read a non-fiction book of Holmes vs Ford, **Breaking Chains** by Greg Nokes is a well-researched and complete account. The two books make excellent companion pieces.



Author events are a perfect way to spend an evening. We will have refreshments and drawings for prizes. Please call 541-593-2525, e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stop by to sign up to attend. The events are free and lots of fun.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Sunday April 6th 2014 at 5:00 PM **Friday's Harbor** by Diane Hammond

Saturday April 12th 2014 at 5:00 PM **The Dismal Science** by Peter Mountford

Saturday April 19th at 5:00 PM **The Enchanted** by Rene Denfeld

Saturday April 26th **Hibernate** by Elizabeth Eslami

Saturday May 10th 2014 at 5:00 PM **Oregon For The Curious** by William Sullivan

Sunday May 18th at 5:00 PM at the SHARC Center Any Other Name by Craig Johnson

Saturday May 24th 2014 at 5:00 PM **The Three Emperors** by William Dietrich

Saturday September 5th at 5:00 PM **A Light In The Wilderness** by Jane Kirkpatrick.

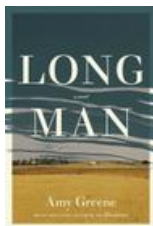
Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may be limited for some events. Check our web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.

Sunriver Books & Music Book of the Month Club

Be nice to yourself, purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription and receive a surprise book every month! This is a great way to find a new author to enjoy. We care that the Book of the Month Club selections are wonderful books. I take choosing the month's books very seriously and enjoy spending time deliberating over the choices, trying to pick the best books for you. Past selections have included *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson, *Sweet Thursday* by John Steinbeck, *Let The Northern Lights Erase Your Name* by Vendela Vida, *The Folded Earth* by Anuradha Roy and *Sunnyside* by Glen David Gold. What will 2014 bring? Purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription and enjoy the surprise every month. Book of the Month Club subscriptions for the year 2014 with the books picked up in the store costs \$179.82 or \$203.82 mailed in the USA. first six months of 2014 cost \$88.93 picked up in the store, \$100.93 mailed. The second 3 months of 2014 is \$43.99 picked up in the store or \$49.94 mailed in the USA.

Staff Recommendations.

Sue Halvorsen recommends.



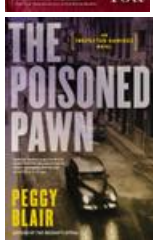
Long Man by Amy Greene is a good story well told. It is about the TVA and the removal of people who have lived on the land for generations to flood the valley for a dam. Annie Clyde resists leaving the land of her ancestors. As the last person to be removed she learns that nothing is more important than her family. The characters are wonderful and moving. It may be a fairly large county, but is still a small town of people who have known each other since birth and as such either help each other or do not trust the other.



After I'm Gone by Laura Lipman is a good story of love and trust gone wrong. Dad, a con man/father/friend, is indicted and as he is about to go to jail he disappears. His friends go on as though he did not cost them a great deal of money, they laugh about the lack of payment (especially to the federal agents). His family, however, goes on without any money or assets, except the house. While the feds are in pursuit the family endures the trouble and woes of being without funds. The ending is wonderful and ties up all of the mysteries that we are working on throughout the book.



NOT WITHOUT YOU by Harriet Evans. Eve Noel is a 1950s star and ACTRESS, who stars in five classic films that are still being taught and watched in retrospectives today. She disappears at the beginning of the 1960s. Her fans are still legion and includes one of the current crop of romantic comedy stars, Sophie Leigh. Sophie admires Eve so much that she lives in Eve's old house and wants to find her. Sophie gets her own stalker who threatens her with Eve's supposed favorite flowers and graffiti on the bedroom wall. Sophie goes to England to avoid the stalker and continue her pursuit of Eve. The ending is excellent and will make us feel good. This is a well written story that I enjoyed.



The Poisoned Pawn by Peggy Blair is the second in a series set in Havana and Canada is delightful and well written. It is definitely great; a sequel with the same characters and the story continues with many twists and turns. I hate to tell you anything about this book because I am afraid I will give away the plot. It continues with the breakup of the Canadian detective's marriage, child pornography with a Priest (and possibly other high ranking officials), poison in two different countries, and the blockade of Cuba. Detective Ramirez is once again able to deduce who, what, and where with the help of his friend Dr. Aprico

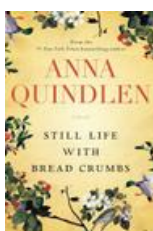


CITADEL BY KATE MOSSE. Three different stories are being well told in two different time periods. The first story is set in the 4th century of a monk hiding a potential book of the bible (codex) that the Church not only does not want included, but wants destroyed. The main story is set in WWII and tells of collaborators and partisans. The third story is of one of the collaborators helping the Nazi's and a collector search for the codex and the archeologist (partisan) who is trying to find it first to help save France. The codex by its abilities becomes the focal point of book. If you enjoyed the Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown, you will find much to enjoy in this perfect marriage of thriller pacing, captivating characters and an intricate plot.

Nancy Nelson Recommends.



The Secret of Raven Point, by Jennifer Vanderbes. In this story the reader is presented with moral ambivalence, loss, sadness and redemption, one of the better World War II books I have read. Juliet and Tuck are as close as two siblings could be. The war comes and changes their plans. Juliet eventually receives a letter that seems to be an expression of distress from her brother, who is stationed somewhere in Italy. Then no more of his letters follow. Her reaction is to enlist as a nurse, requesting to be stationed at the front lines in Italy. One of her patients, Private Barnaby, gives evidence of knowing the secret of Tuck's disappearance. What follows is a pursuit, in the face of terrible injustices. The once very shy Juliet learns about love and loss as she is faced with making choices that could get her killed or imprisoned. To repeat, this was a really good, engaging, enjoyable read.

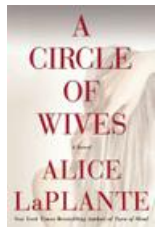


Still Life With Bread Crumbs by Anna Quindlen. A woman wakes up in strange new surroundings to the apparent sound of a gunshot. A local roofer informs her that it is not a gunshot she hears, but a raccoon crashing around in her attic. So begins the new life of Rebecca Winter, successful, famous photographer and personal hero to many women. Rebecca is now financially strapped. Her life is in transition. She can no longer afford her New York apartment, and so has fled to a more affordable house in a small town a couple of hours away from New York City. Adapting to life there is proving to be a challenge. She becomes fast friends with the roofer, who has his own issues. As Rebecca struggles to survive, she discovers that she is much more than she had imagined. Her journey brings her back to hope and fulfillment allowing the reader share in her discovery of self. The story is both funny and moving with characters that are quite human and likeable.

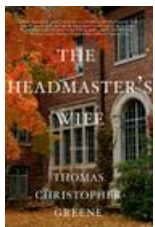
Staff Recommendations.
Nancy Nelson recommends.



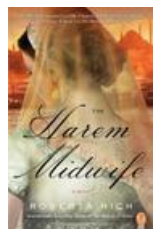
Vienna Nocturne by Vivien Shotwell. The year is 1776. As our story begins, the English child prodigy, Anna Storace is just eleven years old. She is taking singing lessons from a former great opera singer, Rauzzini. Fast forward a few years and Anna is quickly establishing herself as one of the great sopranos in Italy and Vienna. Life for her becomes a bit complex. She is a mere teenager when she is forced into an abusive marriage. When Anna and Mozart meet, they are both strongly attracted to each other. The two maintain a musical connection throughout their lives. Anna's life as an opera singer seems to be so much more exciting and varied than the life of any other woman of that time period could be. This is a love story that encourages interest in opera, Mozart, and in the music.



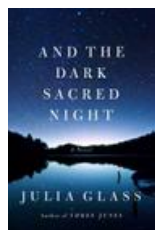
A Circle of Wives, by Alice LaPlante. John Taylor is found dead at the exclusive Westin Hotel in Palo Alto, California. He was well regarded among his peers as being one of the best plastic surgeons in the country. He was kind, empathetic, and charismatic. Dr. John's specialty was helping children who had deformities, sometimes pro bono. He was also the husband of three wives. After the death notices are published, and the funeral rites are in progress, the extra wives show up, and the story begins. Each of the wives presents her version of life with John and life after. They each give the reader subtle clues to the solution of the crime as Dr John's life and theirs unfold. But they were not the only people with possible motivation to kill, as the reader comes to learn. The story was a really well told murder mystery that was an insightful tale of marriage, trust, love, and betrayal. So good!



The Headmaster's Wife, by Thomas Christopher Greene. Arthur Winthrop is found wandering around naked in Central Park in the snow, in the height of winter. Arthur is the headmaster of a prominent school in Vermont, Lancaster School. He is a man who is held in high esteem by his peers, like his father and grandfather, once also headmasters of the same school. The police take him to the station, and he tells them his story. His version of what brought him to this point in his life is colored by a desperate need for love, his sense of loss, and tragedy. Later in the book as the headmaster's wife tells her story, the past and the present come together yielding a conclusion that is kind, compassionate, and very satisfying.



The Harem Midwife, by Roberta Rich. Once again Roberta Rich has created a page turner. This book is the sequel to The Midwife of Venice. Now we find that Hannah, the midwife, and her husband, Isaac have moved to Constantinople. Her fame as the best midwife around has followed. As such she is often called upon to assist with births and other related problems in the palace of the sultan. One day Hannah is summoned to assess the health of a very young newly acquired Jewish slave girl, Leah. As the relationship between the two develops, Hannah is strongly tempted to risk certain death in order to rescue Leah from her likely terrible fate. Other plots and circumstances interlace with the main plot creating a tension that keeps the reader's unwavering interest. We are also given the flavor of the time (late 16th century), and place, rife historical data of that era. Though I thoroughly enjoyed both books, this one could easily have been read on its own merit.



And The Dark Sacred Night by Julia Glass is a very touching story about the importance of choices one makes while creating a life, the impact of family, and defining moments of life for the characters involved. Kit Noonan was always alone, the odd boy out. His single mother raises him alone until he is about nine years old. Then she marries a widower, Jasper, who has two boys of his own. Kit's mother, Daphne, will not reveal the identity of Kit's biological father. Daphne divorces Jasper, leaving Kit to finish school while in Jasper's care. He grows up, marries, eventually has a couple children, and still yearns to know the paternal side of his family. One day he finds himself broke, jobless, aimless, and already forty years old. Kit's quest to discover his other family connects him to his own life in ways that no one could possibly anticipate. Secrets tumble out like precious hoarded gems. There are consequences and lessons for all concerned, some of which are unfortunate. Kit is compelled to take a good look at the meaning of family and who her really is. I found this story to be heartwarming, and engaging, dealing with issues of family, relationships, and how sometimes simple choices can be life altering, touching others in unforeseeable ways.

Deon recommends.



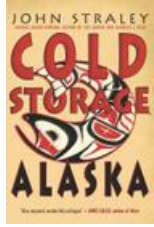
A Star For Mrs. Blake by April Smith. WWI was, as wars general are, a bloody, horrific conflict, leaving in its wake field upon field of white crosses. Buried in foreign lands, American boys left behind grieving mothers an ocean away. In 1929 Congress funded travel for Gold Star mothers to visit the cemeteries where their sons were buried. The women came from a variety of backgrounds, many of them suffering the financial hardships common in the Great Depression. The story focuses on Cora Blake, a widow who lives with her brother-in-law to take care of her dead sister's children. Cora's life is circumspect. She is the librarian in a small, remote village. She also works in the fish packing plant when work is available to make ends meet. Cora's son Sammy died in the final days of the war. Being part of the Gold Star program gives her a chance to honor her son and finally see where he is buried. The women in her group face the tensions of differing socio economic stations, but pull together when the chips are down. As the women progress though the countryside of France, secrets are revealed, friendships will be made, hearts will break, and each woman will be changed by the experience. While the women are the focus of the story, and their story is indeed interesting, the character I found most compelling is Grif, a war correspondent hideously wounded in the fighting.

Staff Recommendations.

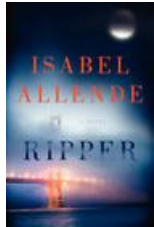
Deon Recommends.



One More Thing; Stories and Other Stories by B.J. Novak. In the mood to be entertained? Pick up this often hilarious book of short stories. The first story alone is worth the price of the book! Novak revisits the story of the tortoise and the hare. Of course the hare wants a rematch! Can you imagine the humiliation of a fleet footed hare bested by a glacially slow tortoise, huge humiliation! Novak's take on the hare's angst and passion for revenge is great fun. Another story tells you how you might spend your evenings in heaven. A woman looking for something a little different in a man gets more than she planned in dating a warlord. This collection is a lot of fun, the stories are quick and amusing, just the thing for perking up your day.



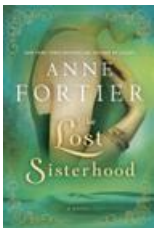
Cold Storage Alaska by John Straley. Clive is finally getting out of prison, after seven long years. His priorities are retrieving his dog and his money, and then heading North to Alaska to reconnect with his mother and brother in the tiny village of Cold Storage. Miles served his country in Iraq and then returned home to be the EMT, actually the only medical help, in his small hometown. While his brother was dealing coke then doing time, Miles was the dutiful brother, taking care of their mother, fighting in a war, and then attending to the medical needs of their small community. The two brothers hardly know each other anymore, but Clive is determined to turn over a new leaf and wants to build a relationship with Miles. While the story is written as a screwball comedy, with a cast of quirky characters, it has deeper moments too as the townsfolk deal with the elements, the remoteness, and their relationships to each other.



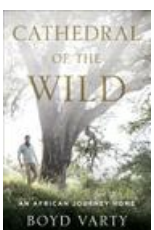
Ripper by Isabel Allende. As the story opens, a distraught Amanda is convinced her mother, Indiana, is being held by a deranged serial killer with only hours to live. Unless a dramatic rescue succeeds, Indiana will become the killer's 9th victim. The characters in Allende's novel are very engaging, you will like them and find yourself rapidly turning pages to find out what will happen next. Indiana is a blowsy, voluptuous blond, full of good intentions, totally disinterested in money and still friendly with her ex-husband. She makes men a little crazy. Arrogant, aristocratic Allen, her lover the past four years, is captivated but reluctant to introduce Indiana, with her casual sensuality, to his sophisticated friends. Ryan, a former Navy Seal, would do anything for Indiana, the only woman he will ever love. Blake is devoted to his daughter, Indiana, but totally captivated by his granddaughter; time spent with Amanda is precious. Amanda is a brilliant teenager, socially awkward and unaware of her beauty, she is the games master, aided by her grandfather, for Ripper, a computer game attempting to solve murders. This time her game playing is going to hit too close to home. Amanda's father, deputy chief of homicide for the San Francisco Police department, respects his daughter's insights. As the murders that will threaten his family begin to occur, they seem random and unconnected. This man, so prone to protecting those he loves and so dedicated to his career, will not realize the killer is far more dangerous than he ever feared until he takes one of his own.



I Shall Be Near To You by Erin Lindsay McCabe. Rosetta finds the out of doors far more to her liking than the needlework expected of a woman. She grew up poor, scrabbling to get by, helping her father work their small farm. For a man lacking sons, her interest is welcome. Time marches on, Rosetta grows into a young woman who turns the head of Jerimiah. As his wife, she is watched over by a mother-in-law unused to women in the fields, Rosetta is now expected to lead a more normal life. Times, however, are not normal. The south and north are torn asunder by the Civil War; young men head off to battle with dreams of valor and a quick victory. Jerimiah and Rosetta want to move to Nebraska, start a farm of their own, working together. He figures using his pay from fighting in the war; they will be able to make that dream a reality. Besides, the other guys are enlisting and he could not bear to be thought cowardly. In his wildest imaginings, Jerimiah never believed Rosetta would follow after him, dressed as a young man, ready to fight and die by his side rather than let him face the carnage of war alone. The author used historic records of the women who did fight in the Civil War dressed as men. She crafted a story that makes a woman's experience of war seem quite real, Rosetta is a determined young woman and an interesting character. I really enjoyed the way the author explored the reasons a woman might chose to fight, how that would change her, and the costs she might bear for her actions.

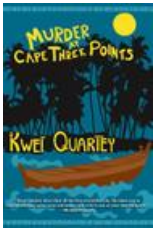


The Lost Sisterhood by Anne Fortier. Why should the guys have all the fun? Diana Morgan and the Amazons prove women are great at action and adventure too. If you enjoy William Dietrich's entertaining Ethan Gage series or King Solomon's Mines by H. Rider Haggard give this a try. Morgan, an expert on mythology, is lecturing at Oxford when a mysterious man with a proposition approaches her. He is willing to pay well for her expertise on the myth of the Amazons. It is a tantalizing offer, one she cannot refuse. Morgan is obsessed with Amazons and has been since hearing the stories of her grandmother as a child. The possibility of proving the Amazons were real is more than she can resist. As Morgan, aided by a handsome Middle Eastern guide, closes in on the secrets of the Amazons, including a hidden treasure, men of evil purposes pursue her. Swashbuckling action abounds, the writing is lively, the heroine engaging and the story goes to interesting places, from England to North Africa, and Greece. Great fun to read.



Cathedral of the Wild, Boyd Varty's memoir of growing up on Londolozzi Game Reserve in South Africa makes it sound like a magical childhood. A place full of beauty and danger. Maybe it was magic. Both the land and the people of South Africa were in need of healing. Londolozzi was purchased by Verity's great grandfather as a hunting lodge. It passed through the generations until Varty's father and uncle recognized the need to restore the land and preserve the animals. It became a passion. The country of South Africa struggled under the inhumane rule of apartheid. Varty's father and uncle respected the Africans, realizing they needed to live in co-operation. After his release from prison, Nelson Mandela came to Londolozzi to rest. There are many entertaining stories about the animals of Londolozzi; elephants, baboons, leopards and lions. The baboons were particularly prone to mischief, with one miscreant indulging a taste for exotic lotion in the room of a very important guest. Varty's belief in his place in the world is challenged as a young man; he travels and seeks guidance, eventually understanding that Londolozzi is his sanctuary.

Staff Recommendations.
Deon Recommends.



Murder At Cape Three Points by Kwei Quartey. Detective Inspector Dawson is taking time off to spend time with his family as his son recovers from surgery to repair a heart defect. Thankfully the surgery was a success and the young fellow is recovering nicely. A murder in verdant, beautiful Cape Three Points on the coast of Ghana is going to put an end to Dawson's time away from the job. A canoe carrying the beheaded body of an oil company executive and his dead wife floats up to a drilling platform. The local cops have not solved the crime, resulting in the Ghanaian Federal Police getting involved and Inspector Dawson being sent to Cape Three Points to investigate. Dawson finds the local cops uncooperative, if not downright obstructionist. Well known and respected victims make the case sensitive. Their niece, a physician, is distraught; she desperately wants the crime solved. The mystery is satisfyingly complex but what I truly enjoyed was the main character, Inspector Dawson. He is a good man, devoted to his wife and children. It is refreshing to have the detective portrayed as having a fulfilling emotional life, with a happy family.



The Divorce Papers by Susan Rieger. Sophie prefers her clients behind bars, where they will not be allowed to make bothersome phone calls and she always knows where to find them. Makes it so much easier. Divorce is definitely not her gig. She is not pleased when one of the senior partners insists she handle Mia Micklejohn's divorce. Fate conspired against Sophie, she was the only available option when Mia scheduled her first appointment. The brash young attorney made a favorable impression on Mia. It has been a rough time for Mia; after 18 years her physician husband is throwing her over for another woman, Mia was served with divorce papers over lunch at a posh restaurant. She is seriously depressed and finding the whole episode overwhelming, Sophie seems real, like someone Mia can safely rely on being straight with her. Extraordinarily well connected, what Mia wants, Mia will get. Sophie is thrust against her will into the divorce wars, making murder and mayhem look tame. Humor abounds, the author uses e-mails, memos, letters, and documents to tell her story.



The Sun and Other Stars by Brigid Pasulka. Etto lives in a picturesque village on the Italian Riviera, a small place where everyone knows everyone else's business and the ruling passion is soccer. His father, like his grandfather before him, is the village butcher. Etto works in the shop wondering if this is all his life is going to be. The death of his twin brother and his mother hung a veil of melancholy on the young man. Every night he eats dinner at the neighborhood bar and looks on while the rest of the patrons are mesmerized by the soccer matches playing on the bar TV. Etto just cannot get excited about soccer. All this shall abruptly change. His father's hero, the Ukrainian soccer star Yuri Fil, is about to take refuge in the town, lying low under a cloud of suspicion over a thrown match. Yuri's sister Zhuki, also a soccer fanatic, will rock Etto's world. Sister and brother take Etto to task, teaching him to love the game, and along the way reawakening the young man's zest for life.



The Girl With A Clock For a Heart by Peter Swanson. George Foss knew Liana Dector was bad news and trouble, he learned that lesson well when he fell hard for her in college. Liana plays rough, people wind up dead. So George should have known better when Liana showed up in his neighborhood bar decades later, but his middle aged heart had no more resistance than it did back in his school days. Liana is sporting a new identity, staying under the radar of the cops still looking for her. Leopards may change their names, the spots remain the same. She is in trouble, needs George's help. She stole quite a lot of cash, from a wealthy guy. He sent someone after her, someone willing to kill. She is frightened and wants George to help her return the money so the guy will call off his thug. Fans of *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn will find much to appreciate in this fast past tale that virtually careens through complicated plot twists that will keep the reader guessing to the last page.

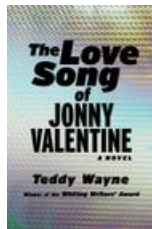


The Yellow Eyes of Crocodiles by Katherine Pancol. "Cric and Croc clobbered the big Cruc creeping up to Crunch them." A childhood saying between two sisters, one a plain, quiet, studious girl, the other drop dead gorgeous and made of sterner stuff. A promise that bound the two unlikely siblings together. Josephine's life is falling apart; her husband left her for a manicurist and life farming crocodiles in Africa. Her job as a medieval history scholar will not keep the bills paid, even living in a modest suburb of Paris. She has two daughters to raise on her own. Sweet little Zoe has a crush on the wrong sort of boy, but she is not the problem. Hortense is the spitting image of her Aunt Iris, hard as nails, already sexy beyond belief at 14 and willing to use her charms to get just what she wants. In other words, a handful. Aunt Iris, the beautiful sister, is married to a successful attorney and rolling in the good life, but she is bored. She wants personal acclaim not reflected glory. When a publisher offers her the chance to write a novel set in the 12th century, she ropes Josephine into doing the work and letting Iris take the acclaim. As deals with the devil often turn out, this one has unforeseen consequences. There are all kinds of subplots as this family begins to lay bare its secrets.



The Black Eyed Blonde by Benjamin Black is a snappy detective story. Benjamin Black, aka John Banville, has a go at Raymond Chandler's Phillip Marlowe. Of course the story includes a curvaceous blond any fool could see was going to be trouble. Her lover disappeared a couple months back and she would like Marlowe to track him down. Marlowe is close to broke, she is rolling in green and willing to spend. Who could refuse a rich dame? Especially one with her looks. One thing leads to another and before he knows it, Marlowe is up to his neck in torment and danger. It is good to have another Marlowe story; he was one of the kings of noir.

Staff Recommendations.
Recently released in paperback.
Deon recommends.



The Love Song of Jonny Valentine by Teddy Wayne. Jonny Valentine, at eleven years, is the latest heartthrob to the bubble-gum set, a crooner of senseless pop tunes to screaming audiences of prepubescent girls. He is accompanied on his tour by his hard partying manager Jane, who is also his Mom. Jonny's Dad decamped back when Mom was a grocery checker and Jonny unknown. Jonny is still curious about this absent father and when a strange computer message pops up he starts a clandestine investigation of his own. Jonny goes through all the hullabaloo child stars must face, being told they are the greatest, being packaged and sold, and somewhere in the mix having their childhood forgotten. Teddy Wayne is well able to deliver the comedic goods; the story is both funny and insightful. Jonny does come to see himself and those around him more clearly, but the journey to enlightenment is sure to give the reader some laughs. I loved the way Jonny came to see both his mother's strengths and weaknesses, appreciating those strengths and forgiving her shortcomings.



Eighty Days by Matthew Goodman. Jules Verne wrote a popular tale about a man circling the globe in eighty days to win a bet. Dynamic reporter Nellie Bly threw her hat in the ring with the declaration that a real woman could beat Phileas Fogg's eighty day record. Hot on her trail was reporter Elizabeth Bisland, a magazine journalist. Would the women beat the fictional record set by Verne? Which woman would come in first? They couldn't have been more different, the scrappy Nellie Bly who had herself committed to Bedlam in order to write an expose and secure a position on Joseph Pulitzer's World and the demure, fashionable Elizabeth Bisland. Both had adventures and traveled to exotic locations. If you like strong women and adventurous travel this story is a veritable feast!



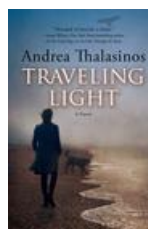
Above All Things by Tanis Rideout. Tours now launch expeditions to climb Mt. Everest, but there was a time the mountain remained unknown, shrouded in her cloud cover, lofty and remote, until a determined man pushed his way up the mountain in 1924. This is the riveting story of George Mallory's ascent of the highest mountain on earth. Returned from fighting Germans in WWI, he sets his sight on battling the elements to challenge Everest. He tries three times, once stopped by an avalanche that claims the lives of seven porters. After promising to stay home, to leave the jagged mountain in peace, he returns yet again to attempt a third time to climb the mountain that will claim him. Back home he has a wife and family, waiting, hoping.



The Accursed by Joyce Carol Oates is a campy gothic tale set in quiet Princeton New Jersey mixing very real, quite prominent figures from history with demons and devils. The story opens with future US President Woodrow Wilson upset about a rival for his position as president of Princeton University. He fears former US President Grover Cleveland is siding with his opponent. Into this bucolic community evil seeps. Yeager Ruggles appeals to his august relative, Woodrow Wilson, for justice when a white mob hangs two blacks in a nearby enclave. It is justice he will be denied. Virginal Annabel Slade is engaged to a dashing young soldier; she is accosted by evil in her grandfather's garden. The year is 1905 and a curse has cast a spell on the quiet village. Let yourself go and enjoy this imaginative novel that spins an elaborate and entertaining story, mixing a tale of horror with historical events and figures. Teddy Roosevelt, Upton Sinclair, the Burrs, Mark Twain, and other important figures populate the pages. The story works on so many levels; a gothic tale, a bit of a ghost story, historic fiction, a bit of mystery and intrigue. Joyce Carol Oates has brewed a heady stew, but this author has the skill to blend it all together into something truly enjoyable to read.



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.



Traveling Light by Andrea Thalasinis. Paula spent a decade in a sham marriage, her husband an educated man who in private is a hoarder. She is barred from the bedroom, a room stacked with boxes; instead she sleeps on the couch while her husband sleeps in the cluttered locked bedroom. Paula is called to the bedside of a dying Greek man to interpret; he is distraught over the fate of his dog, Foris. Paula never thought of owning a dog, and is not thinking of it when she goes to the animal shelter and rescues the dog. She assumes she will give it to her friend, when that does not work she takes stock of her life and decides for a time out. Paula leaves home and takes a road trip with Foris, stopping along the way to volunteer working with raptors at a wild-life rehabilitation center. Foris breaks Paula open, cracks the shell she constructed to save her from emotional pain, and makes her feel again. She will have to decide what is important; her career, her marriage, or the joy she finds working with wild beings.

March 2014 Book Clubs.

From time to time we have a lot of fun in Book Club with themed months. March we will be concentrating on books relating to Charles Dickens. All three books are different in style and story line, they should give the book clubs much to discuss.

March 3rd the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Drood*** by Dan Simmons, a dark compelling tale that blends real events from Charles Dickens life with the story of his unfinished manuscript, ***The Mystery of Edwin Drood***. Wilkie Collins acts as narrator as his friend, Charles Dickens, slips ever further into the dark side of London life after meeting the unsavory Edwin Drood in the aftermath of a train wreck. Opium dens, fiends from the underworld, men with too many mistresses all take a part. The story is gripping and involves two of the greatest talents of their day using quite a bit of real biographical detail from their lives. There is drama and suspense, starting with the very real train wreck. This is a page turner!

March 17th the Classics Book Club discusses ***Bleak House*** by Charles Dickens. Jarndyce vs Jarndyce has been making its way through Chancery Court for decades, whole herds of attorneys have made their careers shepherding this case with its many tentacles through the halls of justice. Dickens worked for a time as a law clerk and later had his days in court on copyright law for his books. He skewers the British legal system with gusto in this story chock full of subplots and amusements. This is Charles Dickens at his best, blending humor, betrayal, social commentary, and a rollicking good story. I don't want to give away the plot, but it is a grand story worthy of the master.

March 24th we conclude our month relating to Dickens with the Mystery Book Club's discussion of ***Solitary House*** by Lynn Shepherd. Edward Tulkinghorn, the powerful attorney from Charles Dickens' ***Bleak House*** hires Charles Maddox to discreetly discover who has been sending threatening letters to a wealthy financier. Charles is glad to have the work, after losing his position with Scotland Yard it has been slow going getting established as a private detective. What starts out as simple case quickly becomes complicated.

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

April 7th Fiction Book Club discusses ***The Dog Stars*** by Peter Heller Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea
April 14th 2014 In anticipation of World Book Night, ***After the Funeral*** by Agatha Christie [Mystery Book Club](#)
April 21 In anticipation of World Book Night, ***Where'd You Go Bernadette*** by Maria Semple [Fiction Book Club](#)

May 5th 2014 ***My Beloved World*** by Sonia Sotomayor [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
May 12th 2014 ***The Gods of Gotham*** by Lindsay Faye [Mystery Book Club](#)
May 26th 2014 ***The Rosetta Key*** by William Dietrich Author led discussion. [Fiction Book Club](#)

June 2nd 2014 ***The Poet*** by Michael Connelly [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
June 19th 2014 ***The Delectable Mountains*** by Michael Malone [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
June 16th 2014 ***Nothing Daunted*** by Dorothy Wickenden [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
June 23rd 2014 ***Plainsong*** by Kent Haruf [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)

July 14th 2014 ***The Count of Monte Cristo*** by Alexandre Dumas [Fiction Book Club](#)
July 21st 2014 ***The Black Count*** by Tom Reiss [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
July 28th 2014 ***The Case of the Missing Servant*** by Tarquin Hall [Mystery Book Club](#)

August 11th 2014 ***The Execution of Noa P. Singleton*** by Elizabeth Silver [Mystery Book Club](#)
August 18th 2014 ***Beloved*** by Toni Morrison [Fiction Book Club](#)

9-1-14 ***The Sunday Philosophy Club*** by Alexander McCall Smith [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
September 8th 2014 ***Letters From Skye*** by Jessica Brockmole [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
September 15th 2014 ***Kidnapped*** by Robert Louis Stevenson [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
September 22nd ***A Journey To The Western Islands of Scotland and the Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*** by Samuel Johnson and James Boswell [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)

October 6th 2014 ***Zorro*** by Isabel Allende [Fiction Book Club](#) [Banned Book Selection](#)
October 13th 2014 ***The Light In The Ruins*** by Chris Bohjalian [Mystery Book Club](#)
October 20th 2014 ***Midnight's Children*** by Salman Rushdie [Classics Book Club](#)

November 3rd, 2014 ***Black Betty*** by Walter Mosley [Mystery Book Club](#)
November 10th 2014 ***In The Time Of Butterflies*** by Julia Alvarez [Fiction Book Club](#)
November 17th 2014 ***Behind The Beautiful Forevers*** by Katherine Boo [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

December 8th 2014 ***Spirit of Steamboat*** by Craig Johnson [Mystery Book Club](#) and [Fiction Book Club](#)
December 15th 2014 ***A Christmas Carol*** by Charles Dickens [Fiction Book Club](#) and [Classics Book Club](#)

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