



# Sunriver Books & Music

## March 2017

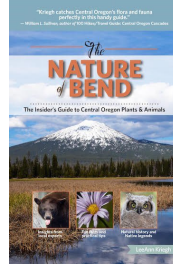
## Newsletter

[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)

541-593-2525

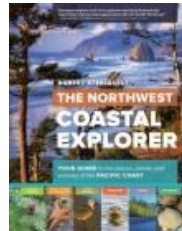


By March most of us are ready for spring! Eager to enjoy the out of doors without worrying about a fall on ice. Both of our author events will enhance experiences when you walk on the wild side, be it an excursion to watch birds, admire wildflowers, or a day exploring the beach.



Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM LeeAnn Kriegh will give a slide show presentation on her fabulous resource, **The Nature of Bend**. She will focus on 20 of the most common and interesting birds, bees, and wildflowers to be found this spring in Central Oregon. Many talented local photographers contributed photographs, including Susan Berger of the Sunriver Scene and Sue Dougherty whose spectacular photography hangs at Sunriver Books & Music. **The Nature of Bend** is divided into segments on the plants and animals of Central Oregon. Want to know where to find huckleberries? Look in the shrubs section on page 46. The two pictures by Katja Schultz and Tyson Fisher show you what to look for; the text will tell you where and when. A great feature of this guide is that it not only helps you identify plants and animals but also tells you where they can be found. Page 228 has a cute photo of a beaver by Steve Hersey and informs us they can be found along the Deschutes River in Sunriver, fancy that. Page 190 has a lovely picture by John Williams informing us the American Goldfinch can be found along the Deschutes River. Wildflowers are a visual delight, page 121 has a beautiful photo by Susan Berger of a red columbine, a flower found throughout the summer by the Metolius River and Pringle Falls (also in my flower boxes, but that location is not in the book). Next time you are in Bend stop by Drake Park to look for the Common Merganser as photographed by Sue Dougherty and Tom Lowler on page 144. These are just a few examples of the array of trees, plants, and wildlife featured in this informative book full of colorful photographs. The last pages challenge the reader to fun scavenger hunts in local destinations.

Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM Robert Steelquist will give a slideshow presentation on his beautiful book, **The Northwest Coastal Explorer**. Who doesn't like a trip to the beach? Gaze at the ocean, walk along the sand, look for sea lions, watch the sunset; it all sounds good to me. **The Northwest Coastal Explorer** will give you information to make your next beach vacation even more interesting. The photography is gorgeous! It is divided into segments on Coastal Forests, Rocky Shores and Tide Pools, Sand Beaches, Nearshore, Rivers, and Estuaries from Northern California through Canada's British Columbia. Each section gives a wealth of information on what to expect in that zone. Roosevelt Elk, as pictured browsing, can be found in the coastal forests. Rough Skinned Newts are cute little critters found in boggy areas of the coastal forests but they are best left alone as they are poisonous. I enjoyed the picture of the brown pelican on page 167, I have always enjoyed watching pelicans and it is good to know a little more about them. In the nearshore segment read about California grey whales, orca, sea otters and other marine mammals and birds. Throughout, **The Northwest Coastal Explorer** gives an abundance of information on the various coastal environments and how best to enjoy them. Learn about the plants, animals, climate, and tidal forces. Included is a getaway guide with spectacular pictures on great places along the coast to go. The book concludes with safety recommendations and lists of equipment to best enjoy your beach experience. It has been a long, snowy winter, maybe it is beach time! This presentation should be very fascinating, and based on the beauty of the book's photography, I can't wait to see the visual component. Robert Steelquist is traveling quite a ways to share his passion for the coast; I hope you can join us for an enjoyable presentation.



We will have refreshments and drawings for door prizes at both events. Stop by, call 541-593-2525 or e-mail [sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com) to sign up to attend and be entered in the drawings.

### Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday April 15th 2017 at 5:00 PM ***Superfluous Women*** and ***Buried in the Country*** by Carola Dunn

Saturday April 29th 2017 at 5:00 PM ***New Hikes in Southern Oregon*** by Bill Sullivan (slide show)

Saturday May 6th 2017 at 5:00 PM ***Curious Gorge*** by Scott Cook (slide show)

Saturday June 3rd 2017 at 5:00 PM ***Murderous Mayhem at Honeychurch Hall*** by Hannah Dennison

Saturday June 17th 2017 at 5:00 PM ***American War*** by Omar El Akkad

Saturday June 24th 2017 at 5:00 PM ***Dragon Springs Road*** by Janie Chang

Saturday August 5th at 5:30 PM ***Double Wedding Death*** by Arlene Sachitano

Saturday August 12th, 2017 at 5:00 PM ***The Case of the Reborn Bhagwan*** by Bill Sullivan

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 sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Space may be limited for some events.

Check [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com) for changes or additions to the schedule.



# THEATER



## The Sunriver Stars next play is coming up!

The play is "Nana's Naughty Knickers" and is full of laughs and giggles. The play will be performed March 24/25/31 and April 1 at 7 pm and March 26 at 3.

Cost is \$15 or \$10 for children under 10. Tickets can be bought at [sunriverstars.org](http://sunriverstars.org) or at the door.

It will be presented at our NEW VENUE - The Door, located at 56885 Enterprise Dr in the business park. It is across the street from Three Rivers School. Hope to see you there, you won't be disappointed.

## Sherlock Holmes and Henry James

Our Book Clubs have fun with themed months. In March we decided to concentrate on books relating to Henry James, one of the greatest of American authors (I am claiming him for the US although he lived most of his life in England) and Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This all came about because of our Fiction Book Club's desire to read and discuss *The Fifth Heart* by Dan Simmons, an inventive and highly imaginative novel featuring many historic figures and grand fun to read (it is described on the last page of the newsletter). Here are a few other books relating to the theme.

### Books by or about Henry James



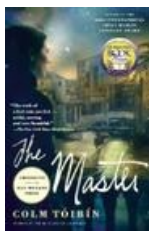
*The Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James is my favorite of his novels. Isabel Archer is invited to Europe by her aunt. A beautiful young woman of means, she runs wild, relishing her independence. She attracts the attention of two highly eligible suitors but spurns them vowing to remain free. Too bad she did not stick to her guns. Isabel falls for the charms of a bounder interested only in getting his hands on her fortune. They marry and move to glorious Rome but the relationship sours. He was not interested in the woman, only the money. Isabel forms an attachment for her husband's daughter, but even in this wholesome relationship treachery lurks. The writing is absolutely sublime.



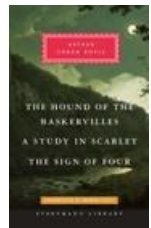
*The Bostonians* by Henry James is an interesting book for our times. The role of women is often in the news today and it is sad to see the disenfranchisement of women in cultures that do not allow them freedom of expression or self-determination. It might be good to read a book by a superlative author published in 1886 set in Boston with the subject being women's rights, known as the suffragette movement. It was not so long ago women were denied many basic rights here in the US. Our main characters are Olive Chancellor, a passionate suffragette, her cousin Basil Ransom, a civil war veteran and southern gentleman, and Verena Tarrant the lovely young woman they both want to influence. James writing is superb, he infuses wit and satire into this tale of the struggle for women's rights and the resistance to that struggle by men who would prefer to protect the fairer sex in a household setting rather than turned loose on the world.



*The Master* by Colm Toibin is a masterful fictional account of the life of Henry James. It was short listed for the prestigious Man Booker Prize and won the Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger. The Los Angeles Times named it the best book of 2004 and The New York Times listed it as one of the top ten books of 2004. Henry James was one of the greatest author's of his time, perhaps of all time. He was born in New York but moved to England as an adult, settling in East Sussex. Toibin writes an intimate story of the life of this great author, from his early days in the US, the Civil War, his devotion to his sister Alice, his travels and friendships, and his home in England.



### Books by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle or inspired by his Sherlock Holmes series.



The first of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories is *A Study in Scarlet*. Sherlock Holmes's first appearance in print introduces the canny detective to Dr. Watson. Holmes wants to rent Baker Street but his purse will not stretch. Watson is home from Afghanistan nursing a war wound, he also needs affordable housing. The two men pool their resources and create one of the most famous duos in the history of literature. Watson is intrigued by his solitary roommate; he readily accepts the opportunity to tag along when the police turn to Holmes for help with a most unusual case. Parts of the story are set in Utah among the Mormons, telling a sorry tale of love and betrayal, I don't want to say too much and ruin the mystery because I would rather let Holmes dazzle you.



*The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie King. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created a memorable character; there are few people who do not recognize the name Sherlock Holmes. Laurie King gives Holmes formidable intellect to a young woman, Mary Russell, and makes them compatriots. Russell stumbles across Holmes when she is a lass of 15 and Holmes is 54. Russell is out wandering the Sussex meadows, avoiding her shrewish aunt. Holmes is occupying himself scrutinizing the behavior of certain bees in the meadow. The two recognize in each other a keen intellect and inquiring nature. Holmes takes Russell under his wing, slowly training the young girl's mind. She will grow to be his friend and associate, together they will solve puzzles baffling the authorities. Holmes has enemies; by caring for Mary Russell he puts her at risk. What will be the cost? Laurie King begins a remarkable series with Mary Russell while treating Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's creation, Sherlock Holmes, with due respect.

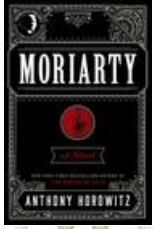


The second book in Laurie King's excellent series featuring Sherlock Holmes and Mary Russell is *A Monstrous Regiment of Women*. Set in 1921, Mary has graduated from Oxford and is grappling with a number of issues; her growing affection for Sherlock Holmes, the suffragette movement, and her involvement with Margery Childe's Temple of God. When a member of the inner circle is murdered, Mary turns for help to her mentor, Sherlock Holmes.

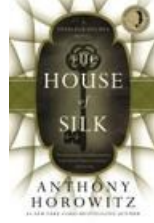


*A Study in Charlotte* by Brittany Cavallaro. Jamie Watson won a rugby scholarship to a posh Connecticut boarding school, complete with long distance travel back to London to visit his Mum. Dad is closer to the school, only an hour away, but farther from his son's affection. Father and son have not been close since the divorce that installed a second family in Jamie's childhood home. Although Jamie is not eager to see his Dad, and loves living in London, he is intrigued to be going to the same school as Charlotte Holmes, Sherlock's great-great-granddaughter. By all accounts she inherited not only her ancestor's brilliance (she has been solving crimes since she was a tyke) but also his prickly personality. Soon a Watson and Holmes are teamed together again. This generation's sleuths are forced into the game when they are framed for murder. Someone starts killing classmates, using the plots from Dr. Watson's accounts of Sherlock's famous cases.

## Books inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes series.



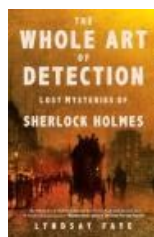
**Moriarty** by Anthony Horowitz. Reichenbach Falls, a wild chasm of swirling water, failed to claim Sherlock Holmes, but what of Moriarty? What happened next? As the story opens, Scotland Yard Detective Athelney Jones and Pinkerton investigator Fredrick Chase head to Meiringen Switzerland to view the remains. Chase is in Europe in pursuit of an American master criminal, Clarence Devereux, who has eluded authorities for years and built an underworld empire. His methods are brutal and usually successful. Chase convinces Detective Jones that Devereux planned to partner with Moriarty and will now take on Europe alone, ushering in a reign of brutality and mayhem heretofore unknown in Britain. Chase and Jones decide to collaborate in the common goal of stopping Devereux. They soon become fond of one another, as they face an increasingly violent foe. There are so many shocking twists this story is bound to surprise.



**House of Silk** by Anthony Horowitz was written with the endorsement of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's estate. Watson recounts this story after Sherlock is dead and Mycroft retired, stating the case was far too shocking to be made public, he gave it to his solicitor not to be published for a century. Mr. Carstairs sought Sherlock Holmes' aid, he is being followed, all the way from America, and he is uneasy about the intentions of his pursuer. The story is fast paced and full of action; a train robbery, Irish gangsters, of course a murder. Horowitz brings all of the favorite characters to play; the Baker Street Irregulars, Mycroft, Lestrade. And he gets Sherlock Holmes' right, often giving homage to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by referring to events in his original stories.



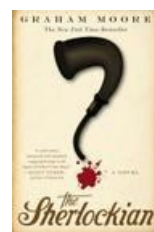
Caleb Carr's **The Italian Secretary** pits Sherlock Holmes against forces that put Queen Victoria's life at risk. Mycroft calls on his brother to help solve the mystery, sending him to Holyroodhouse castle in Edinburgh where 300 years earlier, **The Italian Secretary**, David Rizzio, was brutally murdered. The castle is under renovation, both the architect and his apprentice have been slain in the very part of the castle where Rizzio met his end. Watson and Holmes are menaced on the train before they even arrive at the castle. Germans, Scots nationalists, and things that go bump in the night are all part of the plot. Carr is great at historic detail and puts this talent to good use.



**The Whole Art of Detection: The Lost Stories of Sherlock Holmes** by Lindsay Faye just released. Faye is one of my favorite authors, I thoroughly enjoy her historic series featuring Timothy and Valentine Wilde set in New York in the mid 1800's; **Gods of Gotham**, **Seven for a Secret**, and **The Fatal Flame**. Her updating of Charlotte Bronte's **Jane Eyre** by writing **Jane Steele** is great fun. She has long been a fan of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and that evident affection for the series shows in her short stories spanning Sherlock's career from his early days to his years as a famous detective. There are 15 stories, 2 told through Holmes' perspective the rest narrated by Dr. Watson. **The Case of Colonel Warburton's Madness** opens the collection with Watson challenging Sherlock's deductive prowess by telling him of an odd situation from his time in America that has haunted him. As a young man, Watson had a brief stint practicing in San Francisco, treating the poor, who could not pay, as well as the more affluent residents of the city by the bay. Out for a walk one day, he stops to admire the architecture of a home when a man rushes out, dressed in a soldier's uniform, pursued by a young woman calling for him to come back. The man barely reaches Watson's part of the street when he collapses in a heap. Quickly he determines the fallen man is in more mental anguish than physical. Watson offers the distraught young woman assistance (you can tell by his account he rather fancies her). It is indeed a clever tale, Watson sets the account before Sherlock, who uses his powers of deduction to relieve his old friend of questions that have stayed with him for so many years. The collection concludes with **Notes upon the Diadem Club Affair**. Sherlock is suffering ennui while Watson is away at a conference. Bored and lacking an intriguing case, he agrees to meet an aristocrat in the park. Annoyed by the man's frivolous airs, he stalks off back to Baker Street insulted by Lord Templeton's invitation to attend a dinner at his club and be paraded around like their pet poodle. He fully intends to ignore the invitation until his brother Mycroft telegrams that attendance would be in everyone's best interest. Watson returns in time for the festivities and is persuaded to come along as something of interest might happen. And, of course, it does. Opening with Watson's voice and closing with Holmes' seems just right. Any book by Lindsay Faye is a treat to read. She is tip top at getting the historic detail just right.



**Dust and Shadow** by Lindsay Faye was her debut novel pitting Sherlock Holmes against Jack the Ripper. A Sherlock Holmes fan since childhood, she brought to the novel both a passion for her subject and red hot talent. In 1888 horrific killings claimed victims in the Whitechapel area from the most vulnerable of women, those who plied one of the oldest trades, selling their bodies in order to procure what meager living they were able. Jack the Ripper was never caught, his identity never revealed. What if Sherlock Holmes, a detective with the deductive ability of a genius, were his adversary? Might the outcome have been different. In Faye's account Watson relays how Sherlock pursues the monster at great personal risk only to have the press turn against him. Inspector Lestrade is disturbed by Sherlock's use of a young woman as an undercover operative. With the press against him and Lestrade questioning his methods, Sherlock goes all out to stop the madman. Might Sherlock Holmes have brought Jack the Ripper to justice?



**The Sherlockian** by Graham Moore allows Sherlock Holmes' creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to get in on the action along with his pal Bram Stoker, author of **Dracula**. The novel is set in two time frames. Current day the Baker Street Irregulars meet at the Algonquin Hotel in New York to fete their hero, Sherlock Holmes. Harold White, an avid fan of the Holmes stories, works for a film studio and has just joined the Baker Street Irregulars. Alex Cole claims to have found Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's missing journal, before he can present it at the convention, he is murdered and Harold is drafted to solve the mystery. The other storyline over a century earlier puts Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (who did like to solve mysteries) with his friend Bram Stoker as they investigate the murders of young suffragettes. The two stories are an interesting contrast.

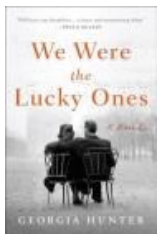
## Staff Recommendations, New Releases.

### Rachel Kelley Recommends.



***The Fall of Lisa Bellow*** by Susan Perabo releases March 14. "This is me. This is my real life." Meredith is your average 8th grade girl, trying to ride out the remainder of middle school with the other 80% of kids that fall outside the popular (or entirely ostracized) crowd. Lisa Bellow, on the other hand, is queen of their class, the picture of a perfect popular girl with the whole world at her feet. Neither would imagine their names being spoken in the same breath, so far away from one another in personality and social class. But when they both end up fatefully in the local deli at the exact moment a young man stages a robbery, their lives will be intertwined forever. Lying on the floor, face to face with Lisa Bellow, Meredith is certain she is going to die. When the gunman returns however, he chooses Lisa, leaving Meredith behind. What follows is a town's desperate search for young Lisa, two horrified and lost mothers trying to reach their daughters, and Meredith trying to come to grips with being the one who got away: the lucky one. Meredith's mother Claire is so relieved to find her daughter safe after the incident that she can't see Meredith, too, is gone, following Lisa down the path of the gunman who took her. Meredith dreams of the apartment where Lisa is being kept, her abductor, the bathtub where she hides. Reality and imagination begin to blur and Meredith questions her sanity. Could she have answers hidden in her subconscious? Two girls, two curves on a graph, two asymptotes coming so close in one moment but never touching, stretching to infinity as they desperately try to reach one another.

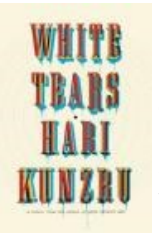
### Deon Recommends.



***We Were the Lucky Ones*** by Georgia Hunter mines her family's experiences to create an incredibly moving saga of the WWII Jewish holocaust and diaspora. The Kurc family was well-educated, financially successful, artistically inclined, and tremendously close. They had been Polish for generations, active members of their community, friendly with their neighbors. They were also Jewish, when a loud, hate filled bully came to power in neighboring Germany, he rolled over Poland spreading his hate, and then being Jewish was all that mattered. Hunter tells the story from the viewpoints of the various family members, recounting their experiences during Hitler's reign of terror. This is not a novel of despair, this is a novel of a family's struggle to survive, their bravery and ingenuity in the face of tremendously overwhelming forces. Daring escapes, disguises, and determination make this a thrilling story. The action spreads across continents, Poland, France, Siberia, Tel Aviv, North Africa, and Brazil, as the family is torn apart by circumstance, always struggling for reunion. The characters are likeable, they will have you rooting for them, feeling sorrow at their struggles, and ultimately admiring their courage and tenacity. If you admired Khaled Hosseini's ***Thousand Splendid Suns***, they both show a society falling apart due to the hatred in men's hearts and the struggles of humanity to overcome and persevere against such evil.

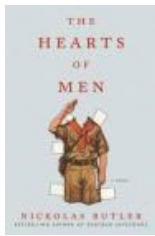


***The Lost Book of the Grail*** by Charles Lovett. His books are such wonderful guilty pleasures for book lovers! Arthur Prescott lives a rather idyllic life in Barchester, a town that has emotional meaning for him both as the home of his youth where his grandfather told him stories of King Arthur and as the setting of several Anthony Trollope novels. He lives in a cottage by the river within easy walking distance of Barchester Cathedral. His only frustration is the boring, ugly look of the concrete buildings at the University of Barchester where he teaches literature. A confirmed bachelor, he enjoys his walks along the river, verbally sparring with his friend Gwyn Bowen, the Dean of Barchester Cathedral, his evening book discussions with his two best friends and his time in the Barchester Cathedral library at his favorite table surrounded by the ancient books he loves. It is a routine that fits him and all is going swimmingly until a pretty American, Bethany Davis, arrives with permission to scan all those lovely old manuscripts into the digital world. She invades his place of refuge, the library he loves, and begins the process of moving his treasured tomes into the modern world, digital files to be viewed on a screen rather than reverently held and admired. The two could not be more different, Arthur clinging to his books, resisting fiercely all things modern and digital, while Bethany is a maven of the modern, cheerfully scanning the old to be used in the new. Yet these two very different people share a secret obsession, King Arthur and the Holy Grail. Arthur has reason to believe there is a connection between Barchester, King Arthur, and the Holy Grail. Inevitably they will, after some humorous interchanges, join forces to discover the truth about Barchester and the Holy Grail, romping through a great deal of English history in their pursuit of the truth. This is a fun book to read, a pleasure to step into a world obsessed with books.

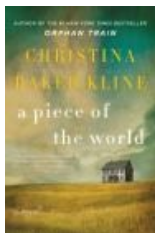


***White Tears*** by Hari Kunzru releases March 14. Seth is a nerd, totally involved in recording sounds, brilliant at mixing and engineering them, absorbed with the music's beat. Of limited means and never one of the in crowd, he is surprised when Carter, a golden boy, wildly popular, trust fund baby takes a shine to him. Soon the two are best friends, moving in together after graduation and opening a studio where they mix sounds and record using Seth's engineering acumen and Carter's passion for the music. Carter becomes obsessed with the gravelly sounds of old time bluesmen, so much pain and anger in their voices. He starts spending more and more on old vinyl, looking for the purest sound. On one of his forays around the city, Seth records the voice of an unknown, random bluesman singing in a park, the sound both powerful and disturbing. When he hears Seth's recording, Carter is instantly obsessed, this is the pure sound he was searching for. They give the unknown man the name, Charlie Shaw, and put it out there on the internet pretending it is an old recording. Then things start to become strange, it turns out, or so it is claimed, that Charlie Shaw is real, there is a real recording of this old song, and possessing it is very dangerous. Carter is instantly intent on finding the original, causing a series of bad things to happen as the young men tumble down the rabbit hole into the world of the blues where Seth comes face to face with the conditions that long ago created that powerful sound, carrying sadness within.

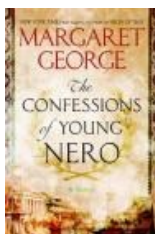
Deon Recommends.



***The Hearts of Men*** by Nickolas Butler. Written with heart, razor sharp precision, and a sly sense of humor, this brilliant story follows the fortunes of three generations of Wisconsin men. Kids can be sadistically cruel. In 1962 Nelson Doughty is bright, an over achiever, and ostracized by the herd for his nerdiness. Home is not a sanctuary either; Clete Doughty came back from his war a different man from the handsome, carefree boy Dorothy married. Nelson's Dad is quick to anger, handy with the whippings, and disappointed in his unpopular, sensitive son. Nelson has racked up a sizeable number of merit badges on his way to Eagle Scout and intends to achieve more while at Camp Chippewa. Father and son travel to camp together; Clete is going as a chaperone, intent on drinking and palling around with the other fathers. Nelson's time at the camp will not be easy, but he will make two friendships that will last a lifetime; Jonathan, one of the popular boys who feels some empathy for the sensitive, lonely kid and legendary Scoutmaster Wilbur Whiteside. Decades later, Nelson, back from Vietnam, is Scoutmaster when Jonathan's son attends Camp Chippewa. Nelson's bravery and resolve will be needed when Jonathan's grandson calls on him in an hour of darkness while attending Camp Chippewa. The three generations come together in an entertaining story of honor, tradition, the cost of war, the value of friendship, and the pain men can visit on women.



***A Piece of the World*** by Christina Baker Kline. Art lovers will be entranced by this novel of Andrew Wyeth's painting, Christina's World. The story follows Christiana Olson's life from her childhood to the time Wyeth completes the painting. Her life has adversity; she is afflicted in childhood by a degenerative illness robbing her of mobility and ease. The Olson family lived on a farm near the sea in New England. While their ancestors were once more successful (they descended from seafaring men) the farm is a hardscrabble existence. Christina stayed on the farm with her brother Alvaro, after her other siblings married and moved away. Betsy James had known the Olson's since childhood. She introduced Andrew Wyeth to the middle aged brother and sister at the beginning of her relationship with Wyeth, wanting to see how he would react to their primitive living conditions. He immediately began painting; his association with the Olson's would last decades and culminate in the famous painting, Christina's World. The story tells of Christina's struggle to remain independent and be regarded as a functioning person highlighting her role as muse to Andrew Wyeth. Kline is best known for her novel, ***The Orphan Train***.



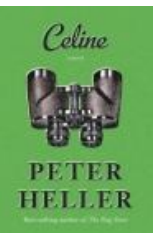
***Confessions of Young Nero*** by Margaret George. Rome was a dangerous city for those with royal ancestry, especially in the time of Emperor Caligula. Margaret George treats the Emperor Nero kindly, showing the reader a sensitive child, almost drowned by his crazy uncle Emperor Caligula, his mother banished by her brother to a remote island, and the child Nero sheltering in the home of his aunt. His troubles are not over when Emperor Claudius takes power, releasing Nero's mother who seems just as dangerous as her crazy brother. Growing up in this nest of vipers, perhaps it would explain having a slightly askew moral compass (well perhaps quite a bit more than slightly) after all, survival is preferable and enemies are plentiful in ancient Rome. Nero's interests are music, art, athletics, and chariot racing, but he has a deadly ambitious mother and is soon embroiled in the plots common to the era. Margaret George is a master at combining meticulous research with a fascinating period in history and telling a good story, she does a grand job with young Nero as he learns to survive amid the plotting and cunning of his various relatives.



***In the Name of the Family*** by Sarah Dunant continues the story of the Borgias began in ***Blood and Beauty*** in this fascinating story of one of the more infamous families from history. Lucrezia left Rome for Ferrara to solidify the family's position with a marriage to the Duke's son, Alfonso d'Este. Say what you will about Rodrigo Borgia, Pope Alexander VI, but he loved his children and saw in them the potential to unite Italy. Cesare Borgia is a brilliant tactician, keeping the opposition guessing by always doing the unexpected. Niccolo Machiavelli travels from Florence to watch the fiery, unpredictable Cesare Borgia, as Florence is nervous about his intentions. Dunant follows their stories as the House of Borgia enters its final days. Lucrezia must skirmish with a father-in-law intent on control and not overly fond of Borgias. Machiavelli observes Cesare, finding inspiration for his book, ***The Prince***. Pope Alexander VI finds his daring son slipping out of control. Fascinating reading.

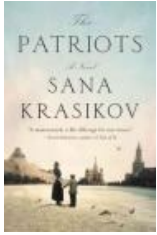


***Close Enough To Touch*** by Colleen Oakley. Jubilee Jenkins has an unusual issue; she is deadly allergic to human touch. A prank in school almost costs her life; she retreats to home schooling, avoiding society for the next nine years. When her mother dies, the young woman is propelled out of her safety zone at home, forced to go out and earn a living. A job in the library is a good fit for this book loving, albeit hermit like, young woman. There she is forced to interact with humanity. She makes friends with a young boy, Aja, the emotionally fragile adopted son of Eric Keegan. They bond and Eric would like the relationship to go farther but Jubilee does not see a way to overcome the various obstacles. The story works as an entertaining exploration of a complicated relationship but it is also the story of a woman finding herself, confronting the difficulty of living in the world of people with her condition, coming to terms with the actions of others, and striving to achieve a fulfilling life. Rufus the dog helps too.

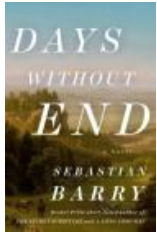


***Celine*** by Peter Heller. Gabriella's young life has endured tragedy, her mother swept out to sea by a rogue wave when she was a small child, her father's remarriage to a wicked step-mother, then her father's disappearance by Yellowstone Park when she was in college, presumably eaten by a Grizzly. Too many unanswered questions about his disappearance bring Gabriella to consult with a private detective; her father was a famous National Geographic photographer, a man familiar with getting up close and personal with wild animals without injury so why would he be prey to a Grizzly? Celine is not at all a normal PI; she is a noted sculptress, in her seventies, from an aristocratic family, way too fond of guns, and suffers from emphysema. Celine's focus as a PI is uniting adopted children and their birth family, finding missing persons; Gabriella's story piques her interest. Accompanied by her husband and collaborator, Pete, she leaves her small Brooklyn apartment heading to Yellowstone for answers.

Heller writes beautifully of the wilderness, it sets his books apart and makes them delicious if you enjoy nature. He is best known for ***The Dog Stars***.



**Patriots** by Sana Krasikov. In the 1930's Florence Fein lives a middle class life in Brooklyn with a little brother who looks up to her and parents who care. Her social conscience develops early, when the Depression hits and their housekeeper is let go it troubles her that they have so much while the housekeeper must work to keep body and soul together. College opens Florence to whole new ways of thinking, she becomes involved in workers movements and intrigued with the changes in Russia. A job exposes her to four Russians in the US to engineer a new plant to be built in a remote part of their homeland. When her job ends she heads to Mother Russia, finding it different than she imagined but stubborn runs deep in Florence, headstrong is not far behind in her list of character traits. She stays, beginning to make a life for herself despite the hardships. However Stalin's Russia is not an easy place to navigate, Florence will eventually find herself embroiled in situations way beyond her ability to influence, with far reaching effects on her and her loved ones. Julian, Florence's only child, will cross the sea back to the USA. He flourishes in industry, designing ships that can navigate in icy seas. His son, Lenny, moves to Russia trying to make a go in business. In 2008 on a business trip to Russia, Julian will finally confront his mother's past, requesting her KGB file, while also trying to save his son from situations he does not fully understand. These three generations fuel a story that feels so real, the powerlessness of the people to find safe harbor in a land of rapidly changing attitudes, the deprivations in housing and food, all are totally compelling in Krasikov's moving novel. This is a must read for anyone interested in Russian history. If you liked the **Kite Runner**, **Cutting for Stone**, or **Constellation of Vital Phenomena**, give this a try.



**Days Without End** by Sebastian Barry. Thomas McNulty was a skinny teen when he escaped the Irish potato famine, finding his way to the new world with hopes of a better future. What he finds is a land not friendly to the waves of starving Irish arriving. Chance smiles on Thomas when he takes shelter under the same bush as John Cole in a downpour. The two teens form a lifelong relationship that sustains them through dark days and gives joy in the good. Trying to survive, they sign on as soldiers and are soon sent to the Indian wars out west. Major Neale is a good officer, wanting to promote justice, but there is little justice between the expansion of the white settlers and the Indians who call the land home. Horrific carnage happens in the Indian wars, one of the stories strengths is the way it portrays Thomas and John being repulsed by what they have done, but sadly resigned to following orders, even if those orders cause grave harm. It shows men who would be thought of as valorous, good men doing things that are not on the same planet as good and lack any claim to valor. The pair leaves the service for a while, taking with them a young Sioux girl, Winona, the survivor of a raid. They establish themselves in a small theater as performers. Life is good for a time, and then the Civil War calls them back to arms with a whole new crop of horrors. Thomas and John are interesting characters, their devotion to protecting and raising Winona deep. Barry's story is told in Thomas' voice, suffused with humor, and full of heart, albeit at times with a sadly damaged soul.



**Pachinko** by Min Jin Lee is the story of displacement, familial obligations, and the high cost of honor. Beginning in Korea in 1910 when the Japanese have taken over the country, the story follows a family down the generations. Sunja is the beloved daughter of Hoonie and Yangjin, she catches the attention of a man who grants her his child but not his name. Fearing the dishonor that will follow, she marries a kind and gentle man, a priest travelling to Japan. Knowing she carries another man's child, he promises to love it as his own and keeps that vow. Japan does not welcome the Koreans, they are thought of as inferior, relegated to undesirable parts of town, and forced to endure petty regulations. This family will live in Japan through generations but never be seen as Japanese, always Korean. They will endure the hardships of WWII, strive for better lives, and feel again the debilitating cost and arrogance that can be mistaken for honor. As the years go by, each generation will be defined as other by the Japanese, the question is how they will come to define themselves. If you liked Barbara Kingsolver's **Poisonwood Bible**, try this amazing story of a family trying to fit into a new land and culture through adversity and triumph.



**The Orphan's Tale** by Pam Jenoff released in paperback. WWII was a time of great cruelty and bravery. Germany elected a leader whose hate filled policies resulted in such things as boxcars of babies being sent off to gas chambers for being Jewish. Hitler's Germany required courage to survive, the Circus Althoff, among other circuses, sheltered Jewish people. Inspired by these two pieces of history; Jenoff crafts the story of a young girl who impulsively rescues one of the babies from a boxcar at a train station. Noa was rejected by her family when she became pregnant by a German being billeted in their home. Her child is given up for adoption and thereafter she ekes out a meager existence cleaning the station at a small depot. When she hears the cries of the children in the boxcar, she is compelled to act, saving just one of them. This action will put her in mortal peril along with the child. She finds shelter in a traveling German circus, claiming the infant is her baby brother. In order to stay, she must learn to perform on the flying trapeze. Astrid, a brilliant aerialist, is charged with teaching her the ropes. Astrid has her own secrets, she is Jewish. The two women at first are distrustful and resentful of one another, but as they learn each other's secrets, they form a bond in their efforts to survive. Readers who enjoyed **The Nightingale** by Kristen Hannah, will find much of interest in **The Orphan's Tale**.

Now Available in Paperback.

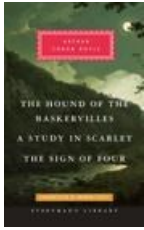


**The Photographer's Wife** by Suzanne Joinson. Prudence is eleven years old living in Jerusalem in 1920 when her father hires the British pilot William Harrington to take aerial photographs. Prudence's father, Charles Ashton, is bent on redesigning the Holy City by knocking down ancient buildings to install English style parks in the desert. Eleanora is married to noted Palestinian photographer Khaled Rasul. William Harrington is also smitten with the beautiful Eleanora, a situation that threatens her marital bliss. Prue is uncomfortably conscious of the tangled feelings of the adults in her life. Things get dicey over Khaled's role with an underground group intent on overthrowing the British. By 1937 a lot has changed in Prue's life, she married, had a son, left her husband and is living in a railway cottage in Shoreham, Sussex. She is a renowned artist who abandoned the London art scene for the relative quiet of the seashore. Harrington takes her completely by surprise when he tracks her down and reveals secrets that take her back to the past in Jerusalem. This novel of betrayal and place is rife with a sense of history from a time of change in the Middle East.

## February 2017 Book Clubs.

**Book Club hours have changed, Book Club now begins at 6:00 PM on Mondays.**

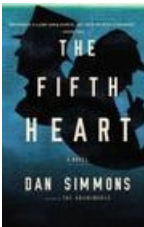
Themed months can be fun. In March our Book Clubs are focusing on books by or relating to Henry James and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. We hope you enjoy the selections. Book Clubs meet Monday evenings at 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.



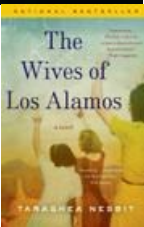
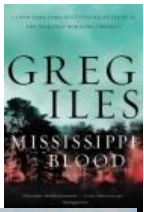
March 6<sup>th</sup> the Mystery Book Club discusses ***The Hound of the Baskervilles*** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, my favorite of his Sherlock Holmes novels. A curse has been handed down through the generations of Baskerville heirs, it is best they stay off of the moor at night or they risk violent grisly deaths at the jaws of spectral hounds. Or do they? Sherlock Holmes suspects a more mortal agent for the unfortunate demise of the latest Baskerville than the Prince of Darkness. Sir Charles was found dead, the paw prints of a great hound nearby. The neighbors fear the curse has claimed another Baskerville. A new heir will soon reside in the ancestral home, but will he live to enjoy the great wealth of his inheritance? Or will ***The Hound of the Baskervilles*** claim another victim?



March 20<sup>th</sup> the Classics Book Club discusses ***The Ambassadors*** by Henry James. Lambert Strether hails from Woollett, Massachusetts, carrying with him roots of that soil that make him feel somehow as if he will be judged by his origin or that his home will be judged by his actions. He travels to Europe at the behest of his fiancé to persuade her erstwhile son, Chad Newsome, who has fallen under the influence of a French woman, to return home. Stopping off in England on the way to Paris intending to meet up with his friend Mr. Waymarsh, Lambert encounters an American expat, Maria Gostray. Lambert is looking for something more from Europe than the return of a wayward son; he is looking for the lives he might have lived and contemplating the life he might yet live. Although middle aged and a widower, he is less sophisticated than either Maria Gostray or Chad Newsome. ***The Ambassadors*** is an intimate, subtle book that challenges its reader then rewards with the beauty of its language and the depth of the story.



March 27<sup>th</sup> we conclude the month with the Fiction Book Club's discussion of ***The Fifth Heart*** by Dan Simmons, bringing together Henry James and Sherlock Holmes in a joyous, romp of a book. Sherlock Holmes intervenes on a dismal grey Paris evening when Henry James intends to commit suicide by jumping into the Seine. Both have a problem. Henry James is depressed and Sherlock Holmes is worried that he may be a fictional character. No matter, the game is afoot! Holmes persuades James to accompany him on a journey to America; their ship will depart the next day. Holmes has been commissioned to investigate the suicide of Clover Adams, a close friend of James'. Their American sojourn has an even greater cause; Mycroft (Sherlock Holmes' older brother) has sent Sherlock to prevent a plot set in motion to bring down nations. It is all great fun to read. The book is full of historic figures; Marian "Clover" Adams, Henry Adams, John Hay, Mark Twain, Henry Cabot Lodge and a slew of others. Simmons is a clever writer; he blends well researched historic detail with a rip snorting tale of murder and intrigue.



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

**Please note, hours for Book Club have changed, book club begins at 6:00 PM.**

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

March 6, 2017 ***The Hound of the Baskervilles*** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle **Themed to Doyle & James** [Mystery Book Club](#)

March 20, 2017 ***The Ambassadors*** by Henry James **Themed to Doyle & James** [Classics Book Club](#)

March 27, 2017 ***The Fifth Heart*** by Dan Simmons **Themed to Doyle & James** [Fiction Book Club](#)

April 3, 2017 ***Unstoppable*** by Bill Nye [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

April 17, 2017 ***Homegoing*** by Yaa Gyasi **Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea Selection** [Fiction Book Club](#)

April 24, 2017 ***Mycroft Holmes*** by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar [Mystery Book Club](#)

May 8, 2017 ***The Atomic Weight of Love*** by Elizabeth Church [Fiction Book Club](#)

May 29, 2017 ***Mississippi Blood*** by Greg Iles [Mystery Book Club](#)

June ***Death Comes To The Archbishop*** by Willa Cather [Classics Book Club](#) **Themed Month New Mexico**

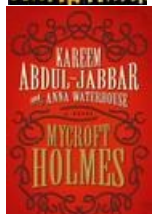
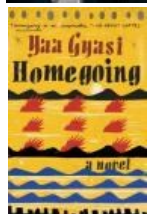
June ***Biting the Moon*** by Martha Grimes [Mystery Book Club](#) **Themed Month New Mexico**

June ***The Wives of Los Alamos*** by Tarashea Nesbit [Fiction Book Club](#) **Themed Month New Mexico**

July ***The Lake House*** by Kate Morton [Mystery Book Club](#)

July ***For Whom the Bell Tolls*** by Ernest Hemingway [Classics and Fiction Book Clubs](#)

**Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at [Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)**



**If you are involved in a club or gathering that would enjoy using space in Sunriver Village, please remember the Village owners have kindly provided space in the loft area above Sunriver Books & Music. The space is available for uses compatible with the bookstore during Sunriver Books & Music's hours of operation. Using the space is free. To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music. Sunriver Village is an ideal place to meet. After concluding the day's agenda enjoy a meal at one of the Village restaurants and browse in the many shops.**

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