

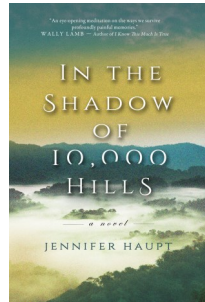


# Sunriver Books & Music

## March 2018

## Newsletter

[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)  
541-593-2525



Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM Jennifer Haupt will give a slide show presentation on her moving novel, ***In The Shadow of 10,000 Hills***. Jennifer Haupt spent 25 years as a journalist writing for such prestigious publications as O' Oprah's magazine, The Seattle Times and Psychology Today. In 2006 she traveled to Rwanda to interview survivors of the genocide. From her experiences she was inspired to write this uplifting novel that intersects the story of a young American woman, Rachel, and the people she meets in Rwanda who will ultimately show her the meaning of grace and home.

Lillian Carlson met Henry Shepard at a speech by Martin Luther King Jr., the attraction was instant. Henry was at the event as a newspaper photographer, trying to get his career going, passionate about photography. Later, the shot he took of Lillian would grace the cover of Life magazine. But in the 1960's the world was not ready to embrace a relationship between a white man and a black woman.

They moved on, Henry married his high school sweetheart, Merilee, and had a daughter, Rachel. The marriage was not happy, Merilee did not understand Henry's artistic passions, she wanted stability. When Rachel was 8 Henry learned that Lillian had moved to Africa, opening a small orphanage in Rwanda. He had a few dollars set aside and decided he must take this chance, go to Africa and try to prove he could make it as a serious photographer. Merilee did not take this plan in stride, the divorce was acrimonious.

Years later, Rachel was expecting a child, but still wondered what had become of her father, why he had abandoned her. After Merilee's death, the box of her father's belongings Rachel was given, indicated he may have tried to stay in touch, but a lot of time has passed and she yearns to know what became of him. A clue on the internet will put Rachel on the trail of Lillian, who is not eager to share the story of her time with Henry or the horrors they faced when Rwanda turned into a killing field. Their stories are intertwined with Nadine's, a young woman unable to speak of the violence visited upon her when the country went mad with blood lust and Tucker's a young doctor who tried his best to save lives amid the chaos.

Early reviews are glowing; the book releases at the first of April and already has garnered praise from authors Wall Lamb, Caroline Leavitt, and Therese Ann Fowler.

There will be refreshments and door prizes. Sign up to attend the free events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing [sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com) or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. More information on these and other events can be found at [sunriver-books.com](http://sunriver-books.com)

### Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday April 28, 2018 at 5:00 PM ***Just in Time*** by Marie Bostwick

Saturday May 5, 2018 at 5:00 PM Bill Sullivan's slide show ***Hiking in Europe*** from his latest book, ***Little Travelers***.

Saturday May 12, 2018 ***The Third Victim*** by Phillip Margolin

Saturday June 9, 2018 ***In Cave Danger*** by Kate Dyer Seeley

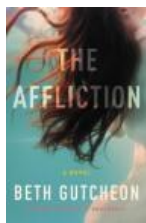
Saturday June 16, 2018 ***The Troubled Life of Peter Burnett: Oregon Pioneer and First Governor of California*** by Greg Nokes

Join us to enjoy fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend these free events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing [sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriver-books@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.

## Staff Recommendations, New Releases.

### Nancy Nelson recommends.

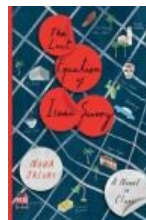


**Affliction** by Beth Gutcheon. This book was an ideal “who dunnit” mystery. Florence is a beloved teacher dedicated to Rye Manor School for girls, the private school for which she works, and to her students. She is described, however as being afflicted with the inability to keep quiet, a constant talker. Maggie Detweiler has been charged with heading a team to evaluate Rye Manor School for its ability to continue to function. Shortly after Maggie’s arrival, Florence is found dead, floating in the school’s swimming pool. Of course, the primary suspect is Florence’s husband. Maggie calls in Hope, an old socialite friend from New York to help with the case. Both ladies have had experience in solving a murder before, when the police involved in the crime had the wrong suspect. Maggie has a lot of experience with schools and students; Hope has connections which prove to be invaluable. As the two together begin inserting themselves in the lives of the townspeople, secrets begin to pour out, making for an interesting cast of suspects. We find that people are not necessarily what they may seem to be. There is bullying, a strange boy unable to socially fit in, conflicts of interest on the board of trustees, a distressed marriage. Then there is also poor Florence who tries everyone’s patience with her constant talking. This all leads to a surprising conclusion which left me smiling in spite of the dismal circumstances. Very enjoyable read!

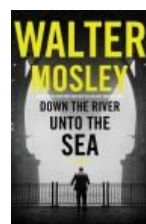
### Deon recommends.



**The Wisdom of Wolves** by Jim & Jamie Dutcher. Wolves are marvelous animals; intelligent, playful, and social. Jim and Jamie Dutcher lived with the Sawtooth Pack for several years, producing two films, *Wolf*, *Return of a Legend* and *Wolves at Our Door* as well as a book featuring Jim’s photography, **Hidden Life of Wolves**. Time has passed but wolves are still imperiled. The Dutchers thought if people understood wolves better, perhaps attitudes could change and the animals would be less at risk. They have written a lovely book sharing their time with the wolves and highlighting many of their attitudes. They showed the importance of family in the life of a wolf with stories of their pack. They explain the wolves’ hierarchy and the need for courageous, experienced leadership by sharing stories of Kamots, leader of the Sawtooth pack (I would vote for him any day). Throughout the book the many examples of wolf behavior are both entertaining (they seem to have an aptitude for stealing tools, jackets, and camera equipment) and enlightening. Jim shares his photography of these beautiful animals, the pictures giving the reader images of the wolves they are reading about. Why anyone would want to shoot or poison or trap or harm in any way these magnificent animals is thankfully beyond me, I would not want to be that cruel or that lacking in an appreciation of beauty. Why would anyone want to wear a coat made of the hide of such an animal when there are so many fabrics today that will keep you warm without harming any living being? To take the life of an animal running free, with fears, joys, and emotions, in order to make a fashion statement is beyond my ken, it seems far too self-involved. Nonetheless, there are people who sit outside Denali National Park and Yellowstone National Park just waiting for a chance to shoot a wolf when an unfortunate animal crosses the invisible park boundary. They are not hunting wolves to eat, but out of hate. Right here in Oregon we were graced with the presence of wolves, the Imnaha pack. How did we as a state greet the first wolves to reappear in our midst for half a century? We killed them. In 2014 Idaho issued 43,300 wolf hunting tags. In 2014 there were only 650 wolves in the state of Idaho. Doesn’t that sound like slaughter? So the Dutchers have written an intimate, kind book in the hope of changing hearts and minds. For the wolves’ sake we hope it works.



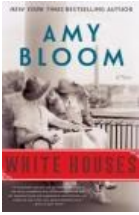
**The Lost Equation of Isaac Severy** by Nova Jacobs is an innovative, clever literary fiction containing within the story several devious puzzles. Isaac Severy, respected mathematician, may have been in his 70’s when he chose to end his life, but he was in good health, his mind sharp. So why suicide? Or was it? Hazel, Isaac’s adopted granddaughter, has a bookshop in Seattle’s Pioneer Square mired in debt. Her one employee calls her the Amazon Warrior, fighting a lopsided battle to save an independent bookstore born of a love of books. Finances are so precarious, her apartment has been lost and she is surreptitiously living in the bookstore’s storage closet (not a comfortable abode). Her grandfather was someone she cared about, deeply, probably one of her closest relationships. Hazel heads south to LA and her grandfather’s home. The day of the funeral she receives a letter from Isaac, asking her to destroy the work on his computer, retrieve the formula, and take it to a man she has never met, a trusted colleague. The letter hints at danger, the need for secrecy, and dark forces eager to steal his research. The stakes are high, she can trust no one. Unfortunately the letter does not tell her the whereabouts of the elusive computer, or the formula, or who to fear. The clues are in a novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald (my favorite of his books). Math, literature, a struggling bookseller, enigmatic bad guys, and a few puzzles, just a delight to read!



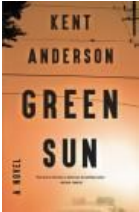
**Down the River Unto the Sea** by Walter Mosley introduces a new sleuth. Joe King Oliver was, mostly, a good cop and a talented investigator in the NYPD. A family man with a wife and daughter, he liked being a cop and was on the cusp of a major drug bust, could see himself advancing in the department. But there is that troublesome mostly. Joe had a thing for the ladies. It made him easy to frame. Sent to investigate a car theft, he finds the woman much to his liking and instead spends a pleasurable amount of time with her. Arrested for sexual assault, he is jailed at Rikers Island where his treatment breaks something in him. A decade later Joe is a PI, his daughter works part time as his receptionist. His marriage didn’t survive but his relationship with his daughter is strong and precious to him. As the story opens, two things happen to change Joe’s circumstances. He receives a letter from the woman who helped frame him, confessing to her involvement, and a young lawyer wants to hire him to exonerate a man on death row, a convicted cop killer. Powerful people will not appreciate Joe’s involvement in the case. Joe is finally ready to investigate his own case too, to find out who framed him and why. Mosley’s writing captivates and he has a knack for creating quirky, dangerous, characters you can’t help but like, in an odd sort of way. Melquarth Frost is deadly dangerous, most likely a sociopath, but he is also brilliant. loyal, and has a passion for life that belies his dark side. Hard not to like a guy who can see the beauty in this crazy world. Joe King Oliver will come to feel some comfort in the bad guys company, despite his tendency for violence, as he proves to be a very useful man indeed, unpredictable but resourceful.



Deon recommends.



**White House** by Amy Bloom. Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt were “old money”, they took seriously civic responsibly, service to those less fortunate, and an obligation to try making the world a better place. In 1932 Eleanor met Lorena Hickok while campaigning for Franklin's first term as president. Lorena was a highly respected reporter, an unusual position for a woman at the time. Known to friends and colleagues as Hick, she was whip smart with no holds barred. Hick told it like it is. She was sharp tongued woman, able to write stories exposing those who took unfair advantage, and well able to stand her ground. No doubt the current occupant of the White House would have hated her. Coming from poverty, working her way up, Hick appreciated Franklin's dedication to social justice. She found Eleanor even more intriguing, a woman passionate about making a difference, about helping the causes of women and of those in poverty. (Come to think of it, the current occupant of the White House wouldn't have liked her either. No disparagement of him intended, but he likes his reporters compliant and his women glitzy. Not Hick or Eleanor's style.) Sorry, I digress; anyway the two women hit it off, big time. Hick quit her job as a reporter, moved into the White House (there is lots of room). This is a fascinating and intimate exploration of the Roosevelt White House, an inspiring story of the close relationship between two strong women, and a reminder of an extraordinary woman, Eleanor Roosevelt, who was dedicated to public service..



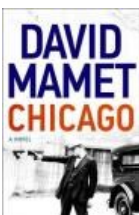
**Green Sun** by Kent Anderson. Hanson has been teaching English literature at Boise State University in Idaho, living in a remote cabin. But it isn't working; he isn't cut out for academia. Years ago he was a Portland Oregon cop, He thinks being a cop is a way he can contribute, maybe fit in a bit better. Hired by the Oakland Police department, despite his experience in Oregon, he is required to go through the Oakland Police Academy. Hanson gets off immediately on the wrong foot, the Deputy Chief who hired him is gone, and Lieutenant Garber doesn't see any advantage in a 38 year old recruit. Hanson's time as a Special Forces sergeant in Vietnam with two Bronze Stars do not impress the Lieutenant, he wants his recruits young and malleable, not experienced and with their own opinions. Hanson has no choice but to tough it out, finish the academy, work the 18 months needed to get his certification, then move on to someplace more in keeping with his ideas of police work. Oakland in 1983 is not a happy place to be a cop. They drive around the city in singles, no partner in the car for backup, through neighborhoods suffering from racial strife, drug abuse, and a general distrust (often earned) of police officers. Instead of learning a neighborhood and staying, focusing on community policing, the officers stay in their cars moving from one zone to the next, never really getting the opportunity to know the people in the community in any meaningful way. This seems wrong to Hanson who strives to treat people with a measure of respect. He makes friends with a charismatic street kid, Weegee, falls hard for an independent minded woman, Libya, and gets to know the local drug kingpin, Felix Maxwell; their stories will come together in ways that will leave them changed. Anderson writes about issues he knows intimately, the author was a Special Forces soldier in Vietnam, a police officer in Portland, Oregon, taught English literature in Boise Idaho, and was a Police Officer in Oakland, California. He writes about a cop who is heroic, the kind of cop that makes his town a better place.



**Tangerine** by Christine Mangan. Alice Shipley married and accompanied her new husband, John, to Tangier, hoping for a fresh start. Instead she is overcome by the dust, heat, chaos, and different culture of Tangier, hiding in her expensive apartment while John spends his time out and about, learning their new city. Alice is shocked out of her ennui when Lucy Mason arrives on her doorstep. Lucy is about the last person Alice wants to encounter. They were tight in college, roommates and besties with plans to spend time together after graduation. There was an accident, something happened and the women have not spoken or had contact since. Still Alice has not coped with her new surroundings; Lucy is trying to rekindle the friendship, so why not get together again? A friend to help navigate this world so different from anything Alice has known. And Lucy does help Alice manage to emerge from her rooms; Lucy is fearless and interested in Tangier, it helps. However Alice starts to feel stifled, uneasy by the way Lucy is taking charge of her life. John disappears and Alice's fears and uncertainties mount. What is real, what is paranoia? This atmospheric story would have been a great project for Hitchcock to film.

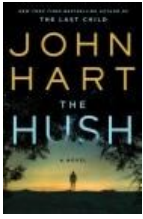


**Sunburn** by Laura Lippman hits the ground running and doesn't let up with devious twists and turns to keep you guessing. Polly, a stunning redhead, and Adam meet in a bar in Belleville, Delaware. Both are wary, cautious, with a grab bag of dangerous secrets to keep. They started out just passing through, but the days go by and still they linger. Sparks fly, what starts as a red hot affair deepens into something neither has ever experienced, something they do not want to lose. But what about those secrets, can this couple overcome the past to move into the future. When a death rocks the community, if jeopardizes the secrets held by Polly and Adam. Are they strong enough to survive the truth? Read it and find out! This is a page turner!



**Chicago** by David Mamet. Mike Hodge was a pilot in WWI; he came back with thoughts of writing a novel and works as a reporter on the gangster beat for the Chicago Tribune. The guy can write, his talents recognized. In 1920's Chicago the gangsters were active, resulting in funerals. Mike's subjects tended to be shy about publicity and reticent to share information. Attending those funerals was a way to keep tabs on them. Then Mike got the bright idea of checking with the flower shops, trying to get information on who sent flowers, addresses, that sort of thing. And from hanging out in flower shops he met Annie Walsh; the woman he knew would be the love of his life. It was not going to be a courtship without obstacles, Annie's folks were Irish Catholic and not at all enamored of Mike. He did not anticipate that one of the obstacles to happiness would be a gangster murdering Annie. Not a good move on the part of the assassin, in his quest for revenge, Mike threw out the rule book to untangle the puzzle of who killed his girl. Snappy repartee, a doozy of a plot, and a tough guy with a heart make this literary thriller irresistible.

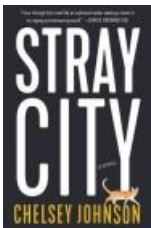
Deon recommends.



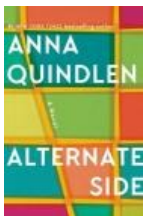
**The Hush** by John Hart. Johnny Merriman, the courageous young boy from **The Last Child**, has grown into a solitary, wary man. He lives on a huge piece of wilderness, over 6,000 acres, known as **The Hush**, remote, miles from anywhere. Johnny's bond to this forbidding land is fierce and strong, nothing is more important to him than keeping and protecting the land. Trouble is on the horizon, the land has a dark history, it was the property of slaves, and a tree stands proof to its sad past, the tree where men hung. When the last male Freemantle died, the land reverted to Johnny's family, Johnny being the last male heir. That inheritance is under siege. Cree, the last Freemantle, is challenging in the courts the provision that the heir must be male, contesting that she is the rightful heir. And Johnny is right out of money, no way to fight the lawsuit. Then there is the billionaire William Boyd, a man committed to killing as many animals as possible, who wants the land either to develop or hunt. Johnny turns to his best friend, Jack Cross, a young attorney who he hopes will be able to help him save the land he loves. But Jack's reaction to Johnny's land is quite different; he finds it frightening, the swamp forbidding and dangerous, the hills dark and ominous. It feels like something strange is alive in **The Hush**, something terrifying. And both men are right. When bodies start to pile up, the police become involved, and Johnny's stepfather, a retired cop, is desperate to save him. John Hart shreds the idea of genre. Is this literary fiction? A mystery? A paranormal tale? Horror? Or just a damn fine story with grand characters.



**All the Beautiful Girls** by Elizabeth Church. Lily Decker's parents and sister died in a tragic car accident when she was 8, somehow Lily survived the collision. Left an orphan she is turned over to the care of her strict, judgmental aunt and predatory uncle. The little girl's only refuge is the dance classes paid by a mysterious benefactor. Lily has an aptitude for dance and is the star of her small town Kansas dance school. She dreams of being a serious dancer, plans on making it her career. As high school graduation nears, her teacher encourages Lily to try Las Vegas, says she is certain the chances for getting into a good show are better there than on the New York stage. Changing her name to Ruby for a fresh start, Lily takes the advice, but soon finds it is not founded in reality. While Lily may have been the star of her small local productions, she is seriously outclassed by dancers more athletic and better trained. A few of the friends she made in Las Vegas suggest trying out as a showgirl, she has the zaftig figure just made to delight the audience, and the pay is astronomically better than anything the serious dancers could bring home. For a while Lily does okay, she has fun meeting big name stars, enjoys dancing in the shows, and banks her salary preparing for the future. But the past has a way of affecting the future, the abuse she suffered at the hands of her uncle influences the ways she responds to men, and may doom Lily to repeat the patterns learned in childhood. While the story has serious subjects, it is also entertaining. Lily bonds with other women; they help each other out, and are loyal in times of adversity. She meets many of her heroes, including Sammy Davis Jr. And there are great characters to keep the reader invested in what happens next.



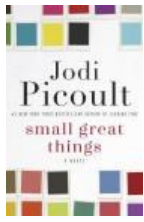
**Stray City** by Chelsey Johnson. Andrea Morales, known as Andy, grew up in a Catholic household in a small Nebraska town. Her parents had rules and expectations; Andy met them and excelled in school. But she knew she was different, felt different, she was not interested in boys. And she knew her parents would not understand. Reed College in Oregon expanded her horizons; let her know she was not alone. For a while she was able to keep her proclivities secret from her parents, but a slip up in secrecy resulted in estrangement from her family and an end to college funding. Portland beckoned; a place she fit in, and could explore her passion for art. Living on low income jobs, making do, but still happy, life was good. Until her girlfriend dumped her, depression set in and in a vulnerable state of mind she ran into a musician friend, Ryan, at a concert. Did I mention Andy was a serious lesbian, not into men at all? Well too much to drink and too much heartbreak left her susceptible to Ryan's charm and curious about what it would be like to be with a guy. The result is pregnancy and a baby. A decade later Lucia is a bright, lively child with an aptitude for music. They have a lot of good friends; the lesbian community is tight and supportive. But Andy is not ready when Lucia starts to have serious questions about her father. This scrappy novel invites the reader into a Portland alive with change, art, and compassion. The characters care about each other and issues deeply; these are people who would be fun to know. And when the chips are down, they are there for each other.



**Alternate Side** by Anna Quindlen is a perfect novel for our time, it makes you think while telling a good story. Nora Nolan always wanted to live in New York City, it fits her just right. She survived the breakup of her college romance, married Charlie and had twins. The family lives on a dead end street, in the kind of neighborhood that has a summer barbeque, holiday party that no one wants to miss, and the neighbors amiably chat as they walk their various dogs. Charlie is a loving father, the children are achieving high marks academically, and Nora has risen to positions of importance in her field, not through an ambitious desire to get ahead but by caring about her work and doing her best. It is a good life, at least on the surface. However there are troubling undercurrents. Charlie started out as a bright young thing but has failed to achieve the stature in his firm he hoped to merit.

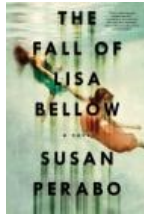
While the neighborhood seems like a friendly nice place to live, the homeowners are all white, the people who take care of their homes, of a darker hue. When a shocking incident occurs, this idyllic street starts to change, people take sides, and the cohesive, friendly community starts to fray in major ways. **Alternate Side** releases March 20.

Nancy Nelson Recommends.



***Small Great Things*** by Jodi Picoult. Ruth Jefferson is a very bright and caring woman who has been working as a labor and delivery nurse for 20 years. She has done her best throughout her life to succeed, overcoming obstacles such as poverty, race, and accessibility to better schools. One day, after assessing a new born baby boy, the child's parents, both white supremacists, asked that she not be permitted to care for their child. The baby's chart is tagged by Ruth's supervisor, stating that she is not allowed to care for him at all. However, when the only nurse available to tend to the baby during a medical emergency is Ruth, she is faced with the dilemma of acting immediately, thus disobeying her supervisor's orders, or waiting and risking the baby's life. Either way she will have serious consequences. She is subsequently charged with a serious crime. The story takes us through the intimate details of how it feels to be considered less than others based solely on the color of an individual's skin. We get a sample of what that means on a daily basis. Great book!

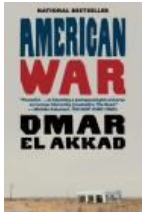
Rachel Kelly recommends.



***The Fall of Lisa Bellow*** by Susan Perabo releases in paperback March 6. "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

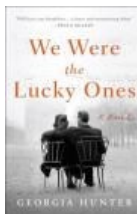
young Lisa, two horrified and lost mothers trying to reach their daughters, and Meredith trying to come to grips with being the one who got away: the lucky one. Meredith's mother Claire is so relieved to find her daughter safe after the incident that she can't see Meredith, too, is gone, following Lisa 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.



***American War*** by Omar El Akkad tells a compelling story that draws the reader in but it also touches on many themes relevant to current events. How do outside influences fan the flames of hate? How are terrorists born? What can bring a person to fully embrace nihilism, to value the destruction of the foe over everything that is good? How do we create such hate? The question is answered by the characters this gifted author will make you care about; the answer is relevant to what is happening right now..

The world has become for many a frightening place, people struggling to live through horrific conditions brought on by armed conflict and in the western world people worried about the tragic effects of terrorism. It is 2074 when the Second American Civil War begins; the country is again split along ideological and economic lines. Ecological change has been radical, coasts are underwater and great swaths of the country are dry dust. The North banned the use of fossil fuels, the South objected. Sarat's family is poor as dirt, living in an old container that is hot as the Dickens in summer and sounds like a kettle drum when the rain comes. Jobs are few; her father has a chance at securing employment and maybe getting his family into the more affluent North with the opportunity for a better life. It doesn't work out; instead he is killed leaving his family unprotected in a time of war. They flee to a camp for refugees where they stay for years and years. Little Sarat grows from a bright questioning child who loves her family and is drawn to nature into an independent minded teenager seeking answers to the reality of her situation. As the fighting intensifies and her world is torn asunder, her passions are shaped in response, turning her into a fighter who will use any means in her power to defeat her foes. The story is narrated by Sarat's nephew, a college professor trying to make sense of that violent period in history and a horrific act that shaped both his family and the era.

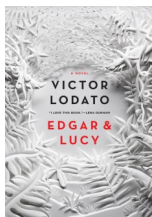


***We Were the Lucky Ones*** by Georgia Hunter mines her family's experiences to create an incredibly moving saga of the WWII Jewish holocaust and diaspora. The Kurc family was well-educated, financially successful, artistically inclined, and tremendously close. They had been Polish for generations, 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 overwhelming forces. Daring escapes, disguises, and determination make for 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.



Deon Recommends.



**Edgar & Lucy** by Victor Lodato is a brilliant novel! This story of a child wise beyond his years and a mother with an unquenchable zest for life is one of those special novels that will stay with you long after the last page. Lucy grew up in a household that thoroughly avoided the definition happy. She escapes early, in her teens, with a handsome young Italian American, Frank, whose family is tight and loving. For a while, life is sweet, they marry, and move into his family home with his adoring parents and happiness seems possible. In far too short a time, Lucy finds herself a young widow with a son to raise, living in the home of her in-laws. It is overwhelming for the free spirited, sexy young woman, barely out of her teens. After the initial shock and grief, she is not ready to be put on a shelf, so she dates, leaving her son in the care of his grandmother. Lucy's parents did not provide a successful role model for being a good parent, she tries her best and she loves her son fiercely. Even so, the two women, grandmother and mother are raising a bright, emotionally perceptive, engaging son, Edgar is a charmer. Then tragedy strikes again when Edgar comes to the attention of a man with his own demons. The characters are so vividly drawn, so full of life and emotion, they are a pleasure to visit in the pages of their story. **Edgar & Lucy** are a delight!



**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 Christina 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 Olsons 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 Olsons 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.



**The Lost Book of the Grail** by Charles Lovett. Lovett's 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 of 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.



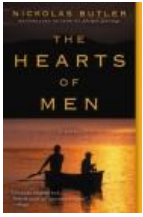
**White Tears** by Hari Kunzru. Seth is a nerd, totally involved in recording sounds, brilliant at mixing and engineering them, absorbed with the music's beat. Of limited means and never one of the in crowd, he is surprised when Carter, a golden boy, wildly popular, trust fund baby takes a shine to him. 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's obsession is 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 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.

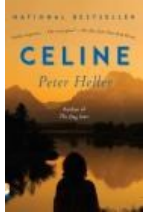


**Close Enough To Touch** by Colleen Oakley. Jubilee Jenkins has an unusual issue; she is deadly allergic to human touch. A prank in school almost costs her life; she retreats to home schooling, avoiding society for the next nine years. When her mother dies, the young woman is propelled out of her safety 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.

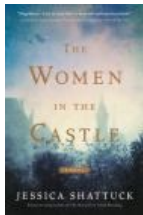
Deon Recommends.



***The Hearts of Men*** by Nickolas Butler is 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; Cleve 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; Cleve 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.



***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 also 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 has been 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 and answers. Heller writes beautifully of the wilderness, it sets his books apart and makes them delicious if you enjoy nature.



***The Women in the Castle*** by Jessica Shattuck. What was it like in Germany, a country renowned for its Universities, rule of law, and well educated populace as a hate monger came to power? How did the citizens react, what were their personal consequences, and how did they attempt to heal from the horror after defeat? In rich prose, Shattuck explores these questions through the lives of three women. Marianne von Lingenfels was of the upper classes, her husband held a responsible position in government. As the story opens on November 9, 1938, she is helping his aunt, the Countess von Lingenfels, put on a soiree at the family castle. The night is significant, known as Kristallnacht, when violence against the Jewish population erupted and a brave few pledged opposition to the evil that was consuming their nation. Marianne will return to the castle a widow, her husband executed for his part in opposing Hitler. There she will seek out the widows of others who gave their lives trying to stop the evil regime. Benita grew up in a village, not a member of the hoi polloi, a pretty girl who by chance met and married Marianne's best friend who was also executed for his part in the plot against Hitler. After the executions, Marianne first finds Benita's son, Martin, then discovers Benita in very poor condition, bringing her to the castle to heal. Ania is found in a refugee camp with her children. The three women and their children form a matriarchal family, innovating ways to survive as Germany plunges deeper into chaos. Their bonds strengthen as they help each other and reach out to others in need. Each woman has strengths and weaknesses of her own; each came to this situation in a different way giving the reader a broad look at the experiences of Germany's civilians during war years under the mad rule of Hitler. They will face choices and challenges that test them both during and after the war. Marianne's sense of moral certainty will cause her to take actions with far reaching consequences, teaching her that life is lived in the grey zone and attempts to interpret it in shades of black or white can be harmful. The story culminates in 1991, having shared with the reader not only the experiences of the war years, but also the aftermath.



***Perfect Stranger*** by Megan Miranda. Leah Stevens was raised by a single mother who instilled in her daughters the desire to do well. Her sister Rebecca is a doctor and until recently Leah had a promising career in journalism. Reporting on a story that she was way too close to ruined her career. With a restraining order against her, a job she resigned to avoid being fired, and a blow up big enough no other reputable paper was going to touch her, Leah's options in Boston were dicey. Just when she is at her lowest ebb, she runs into her roommate from the summer right after college graduation. Emmy Grey went off to Africa with the Peace Corps, Leah got on with her career in journalism and they lost touch. It has been eight years since they had any contact when they run into each other in a bar. Emmy is leaving a bad relationship and plans to get out of town. Leah needs a new beginning too. The women decide on western Pennsylvania where Leah finds work as a teacher and Emmy takes a temporary job working nights at a motel and cleaning houses during the day. Things start to get strange when a woman who could be Leah's twin is found seriously injured and in a coma. The police suspect the coach at Leah's school, a man who has been making unwelcome advances to Leah. Emmy goes missing about that time. Leah hadn't thought a lot about Emmy's absence until a few days pass, then when the woman resembling Leah is assaulted and the police start coming around, Leah sees Emmy's absence as something more ominous, she worries about what could have happened to her friend. But the only person who knows about Emmy is Leah. Emmy lived off the grid; no cell phone, no e-mail, no computer, no credit cards. Leah lacks any real background information on her friend. Soon the police begin to doubt Emmy's existence and wonder what Leah is up to. This new start the two women planned is turning into a nightmare, with Leah striving to keep her past in Boston, if not secret, certainly undiscovered. The story has lots of twists and turns.

## March 2018 Book Clubs.

Book Clubs are fun! Drink a glass of wine, talk about an interesting book, and meet others who enjoy reading. Sounds good to me. Book Clubs meet at 6PM on Mondays. Everyone is welcome.



March 12 the Mystery Book Club discusses ***The Girl From Venice*** by Martin Cruz Smith. The war has been going badly for the Germans in 1945; they are jumpy and ill tempered. Cenzo did his bit for Mussolini's army in Africa, now back home in Italy he plans to keep out of the way of fractious Germans, stay clear of trouble, survive until this war ends, and make a living. Being a fisherman, he spends quite a lot of time out on the water in his small boat. Usually he catches fish. It is not normal to discover the body of a woman floating in the lagoon, it is not fortunate for the woman to be of interest to the Germans. Soon Cenzo has been heroic, and possibly foolish, will be involved with partisans, politicians, movie people and a host of confusing entities. There is also his troubled relationship with his charismatic, handsome older brother to contend with as events unfold. Both brothers are attractive characters and make for interesting reading. Venice is a gorgeous setting, lots of intrigue keeps the pages turning.

Martin Cruz Smith is best known for writing ***Gorky Park***.



March 26 the Classics and Fiction Book Club combine to discuss ***The House of Mirth*** by Edith Wharton. Published in 1905, it is set in a world the author knew well, a world of wealth, privilege, and high society. Wharton had a wicked sharp wit that she wielded gleefully in her fiction. ***House of Mirth*** introduces Lily Barton, an attractive young woman with champagne tastes without the funds to match. Well that's not actually true, because even without the funds to do so prudently, Lily is determined to live luxuriously as a part of the smart set. The surest path to prosperity for a beautiful young woman with social graces is to marry well, in this endeavor Lily scuttles her chances and tarnishes her reputation thus hastening her reduction in circumstances. It is an interesting story about class, the role of a woman, and the disadvantages of not carefully considering consequences. In 1921 Edith Wharton became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for her novel ***The Age of Innocence***.

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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

#### April

- April 9, 2018 ***The Unquiet Dead*** by Asuma Zehanat Khan [Mystery Book Club](#)  
 April 16, 2018 ***No One Can Pronounce My Name*** by Rakesh Saytal [Deschutes County Library Novel Idea](#)  
 April 30, 2018 ***And Then All Hell Broke Loose*** by Richard Engel [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

#### May

- May 14, 2018 ***Dark Town*** by Thomas Mullen [Mystery Book Club](#)  
 May 28, 2018 ***Nobody's Fool*** by Richard Russo [Fiction Book Club](#)

#### June, A Month of Oregon

- June 4, 2018 ***Woman With a Gun*** by Phillip Margolin [Mystery Book Club Author led discussion.](#)  
 June 18, 2018 ***A New Life*** by Bernard Malamud [Classic Book Club](#)  
 June 25, 2018 ***River Why*** by David James Duncan [Fiction Book Club](#)

#### July

- Norwegian by Night*** by Derek Miller [Mystery Book Club](#)  
***Anything for Billy*** by Larry McMurtry [Fiction Book Club](#)  
***Killers of the Flower Moon*** by David Grann [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

#### August

- The Heist*** by Daniel Silva [Mystery Book Club](#)  
***Everybody's Son*** by Thrity Umrigar [Fiction Book Club](#)

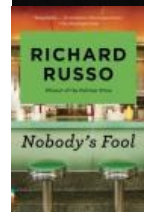
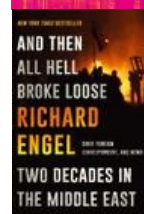
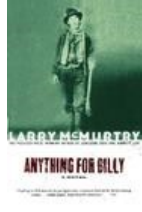
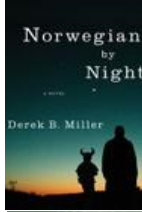
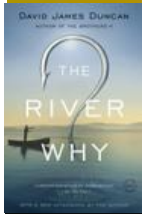
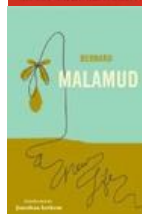
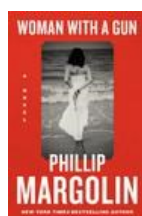
#### September

- Since We Fell*** by Dennis Lehane [Mystery Book Club](#)  
***Fahrenheit 451*** by Ray Bradbury [Classic Book Club Banned Book Selection](#)

#### October, A Month of Australia

- The Dry*** by Jane Harper [Mystery Book Club](#)  
***The Lieutenant*** by Kate Grenville [Fiction Book Club](#)  
***True History of the Kelly Gang*** by Pete Carey [Classic Book Club](#)

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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