



# Sunriver Books & Music

## March 2022

## Newsletter

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



### Sunriver Brewing Company K9 Keg Pull 2022.

Sunriver Brewing Company is one of the best places to dine in Sunriver. It is also an active member of the community working for the common good. Each year they put on the K9 Keg Pull, one of the favorite Sunriver events. It is wildly popular, always drawing a big crowd and many happy dogs. All proceeds are donated to charity, this year Ronald McDonald House benefited.

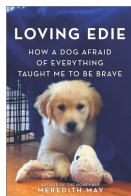
The deck at Sunriver Brewing Company is dog friendly. We enjoyed many happy meals on that deck with Flashman, our Boxer. Many of you may remember Flashman at Sunriver Books & Music, he was a friendly fellow who felt everyone was a potential new pal.

Dr. Wendy Merideth, Sunriver's wonderful veterinarian, is pictured with Brewski. Sunriver Veterinary Clinic is located in the business park at 56825 Venture Lane #102. Their phone number is 541-593-8128. Dr. Merideth is extremely kind and proficient, I am grateful we have her in Sunriver.

Trainer Mark Skeen is with Kipling, he has worked with Kipling since the end of November. Being able to be around other dogs at the K9 Keg Pull is HUGE for her. Mark walked Kipling around, then I walked her around, all happy tail wags and friendly interest in the other dogs. Those of you who have met Kipling in Sunriver Books & Music may know she has dog issues from being attacked as a puppy by a Golden Retriever. Mark has made amazing progress in such a short time. Kipling is still not all the way to normal, but Mark has given us hope. She did fine at the K9 Keg Pull, but was back to going postal on the path the next day. Mark's work with Kipling is ongoing. Mark Skeen's company is Central Oregon K-9. He can be reached at 541-280-6444 or email

Cenraloregonk9@yahoo.com Kipling, as you can see, likes Mark. So do we.

### ***Loving Edie: How a Dog Afraid of Everything Taught Me to Be Brave* by Meredith May releases April 19.**



Meredith's life was enriched by a series of fun-loving Golden Retrievers. After Stella died, Meredith was bereft, soon lobbying Jenn to get a puppy. But although Jenn had loved Stella too, she was not a "dog person" and thought life was fine the way it was, dogless. Jenn is a cop and Meredith a journalist, they had busy careers and a happy private life, she thought that was enough. It took a while but once Jenn was persuaded, Meredith wasted no time in contacting a breeder about a little girl Golden Retriever. Edie joined their family.

The arrival of a puppy is a joyous time. They are so filled with curiosity, play, and cuddliness. Those first years should be magic. But it wasn't. Edie was an anxious puppy and then young dog. Not just garden variety anxious, but capitol letter full blazing fit anxious. New people scared her. Noises frightened her. Anything sudden could kick in her flee response setting off a full out stampede, with her humans frantically trying to catch her before anything tragic happens. Edie's meltdowns were dramatic, huge, total panic. In a big dog, that can be dangerous for all concerned, most of all the dog.

Edie will not be a well-adjusted, easy to get along with dog. Merideth and Jenn try many ways to achieve some semblance of normal. Ultimately recognizing they will have to meet Edie on her own terms, doing the best she can. It is the story of their struggle, their despair, and ultimately of the strength of their bond to Edie, a dog who wrestles with her demons and still shows joy. This is an honest exploration of that bond.

I can relate. My life has been graced by amazing dogs. They made every day special. Flashman was my constant companion, with me every day in the bookstore, delighted to greet all people and animals who entered. His last two years were a struggle with illness and pain, he had a courageous determination to make the best of every day. It broke my heart to see him hurt, devastated me when he passed.

For years I just couldn't face the prospect of a sick dog, I didn't want to go through that pain again. But I missed having a dog in my life tremendously and we thought a puppy would be healthy. In January 2020 Kipling, a German Shepherd puppy (the breed I grew up with) joined our family. Kipling was sick, from the get go, for most of her first two years. She has a genetic disease, it is incurable but thankfully treatable, she will be on medication the rest of her life, without it she would die.

When Kipling was 4 months old, just a cuddly bundle of fur, she was attacked by a huge male Golden Retriever. We were walking on the bike path past a house on the corner of Duck Pond when the dog charged out of the night, leaping onto Kipling's back, clamping it's jaws around her throat. It took two of us to get the large dog off of her. Her spine was damaged in the attack, her confidence in a world where other dogs were possible playmates gone.

Until Kipling, all of my dogs enjoyed the company of their species. Kipling is the first with dog issues. This means we cannot take Kipling hiking for fear of a loose dog running up to her, we cannot walk her down a city sidewalk for the eruption of furious barking at any other dog. we cannot sit outside at pubs, and we cannot travel with her. All things my dogs enjoyed. All part of normal life. But not for Kipling. We are working with a good trainer, Mark Skeen, and he has made progress giving us hope maybe Kipling will succeed in facing her demons.

So I understand Meredith and Jenn's sadness at not being able to enjoy all of those normal things, at having a dog that made every outing something that has to be carefully navigated and still may go off the rails. Dog lovers will enjoy the story and applaud their bond with Edie!

## New Releases, Staff Recommendations.

### Holly Hendricks recommends.



*Fake* by Erica Katz. Emma Caan is a talented young artist just starting out in a career in the art world. She has a degree from Yale. She is gifted enough to produce beautiful paintings, but hasn't had the luck or breaks it takes to make a living as an artist. She needs a day job so she turns to a company that provides copies of masterpieces. It sounds a little suspicious, but she explains that there are legitimate reasons a museum or private owner might want an excellent copy of their priceless artwork. It occurs to the reader there may be other reasons as well, so the title *Fake* gives us a clue where we are headed.

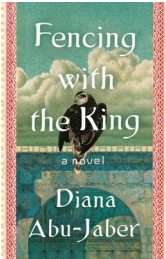
Author Erica Katz describes a young woman who is very talented but seems insecure and unsure of herself. It also turns out she is quite damaged from her past, which clearly intrudes on her present. The question is: will it also intrude into her future. Because she's young in New York City she is struggling financially. Everyone at her company believes they are about to be laid off. She is introduced to the rich man who she has been making realistic copies for. She believes because she has signed

each painting, she could not be accused of creating a forgery. She's offered a dream job at a world-famous art gallery and steps into a world anybody would leap at if given the chance.

This is a terrific novel about high end art, including the dark criminal side and our society's current love affair with social media marketing and influencing. Interweaving the story with FBI interview transcripts is ingenious and hints at the seriousness of Emma's predicament. It's also about coming to grips with the past, forgiving yourself and others and avoiding the temptation to be fake anywhere in your life. This story warns us to be on guard for the lies we tell ourselves – to acknowledge when we know the truth but are choosing the delusion. I highly recommend this novel.

### Deon recommends.

*Fencing With The King* by Diana Abu-Jaber releases March 15.. Great writing, interesting characters, and long held secrets that lead to dangerous adventure combine for a fabulous book!



Amani has great parents (Gabe a carpenter and Francesca a school principal), a kind nature, good education, and a responsible career as a professor. Success came early with the publication of her poetry but lately things have fallen apart. Her writing has dried up, her marriage failed, she is drinking way too much and endangering her career

She discovers part of a poem on a slip of old blue paper in one of her father's books, a poem that may have been written by her grandmother. Amani's father doesn't talk much, really not at all, about his mother. The discovery of the poem ignites her yearning to know more about her Jordanian heritage. Serendipitously her father has just received an invitation from her favorite Uncle Hafez to come to Jordan for the King's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and put on a fencing match with the King. Heretofore Amani hadn't known her father could fence, much less that he was a favored partner of the King's in his youth. She persuades him to accept launching them both into an exploration of the past, family secrets, and life-threatening adventures.

Diana Abu-Jaber is such a gifted author writing with generosity toward her characters. This is a story filled with complex interesting characters, a Middle Eastern past that feels real, and an open-hearted look at Jordan under King Hussein (who really was a fencing partner with Diana Abu-Jaber's father). I loved every page! Hidden secrets, family relics, and swashbuckling adventure make this a spectacular story!

*The Love Of My Life* by Rosie Walsh. Leo and Emma are devoted, they have the perfect life with a young daughter Ruby they cherish. Emma has a fulfilling career as an intertidal ecologist with the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth and teaches estuarine conservation in London. Leo writes obituaries, he is good at his job and takes care to research his subjects carefully respecting their lives. All in all, it is a happy life, they even have a dog.

Fate throws a spanner into their happiness. Emma is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness; it is frightening for both of them. Leo does the one thing he knows best to cope while his wife fights for her life. He writes her obituary; he intends to try calming himself by paying tribute to this woman he adores. But as he delves into her past, he discovers she does not exist, everything he knows about her is a lie. Worse, as he discovers her real name, he finds there are horrible secrets in her past.

Recovering from her illness, Emma faces another challenge. In order to save the life she loves, she is going to have to come clean with Leo, tell him all her secrets and try to persuade him to forgive her. It is not going to be easy. The one thing Leo

has always prized is truth, Emma's whole life has been a lie.



*All the Queens Men* by SJ Bennet. *Windsor Knot* proved Queen Elizabeth II is a good sleuth. Her assistant private secretary, Rozie Oshoodi, does the leg work, and is well trained in combat too. They make an excellent, albeit secret team.

In 2016 politics have hit the crazy button. Brexit is proving difficult, confusing, and leaving tempers short. Buckingham Palace is in desperate need of a major overhaul, in the many gazillion dollar range. The wiring is dicey, the roof unreliable, all sorts of needed systems are going wonky. And across the pond, their ally, the good old USA, is in the midst of a bizarre election. The Queen has quite a lot on her schedule.

The issues that will demand attention, no matter the political hubbub, start small. The Queen notices one of her personal paintings hanging in Portsmouth at a maritime art exhibit at Semaphore house. She wants it back. She would also like to know how it got there in the first place. Rozie is sent off to investigate. Threatening notes are being left for female staff members, crude offensive notes. Sir Simon, the Queen's personal secretary, insists Rozie keep quiet about the staffing problem, it can be handled without bothering her majesty. At least until Sir Simon discovers the body of one of the women, dead at the side of the pool.

An intricately plotted mystery with a royal setting and an original pair of unofficial investigators!



## Donna Leon's Commissario Brunetti Series.

Brunetti is a charmer, a cop with heart and a penchant for reading the classics. Venice is the perfect setting for a mystery series, all those beautiful blowzy colorful buildings, foggy alleys, and quiet canals. If you enjoy Louise Penny's Gamache series set in Canada, you will enjoy Commissario Brunetti's devotion to his wife and children and his empathy. Fans of Martin Walker's Bruno series set in France's Dordogne will appreciate Brunetti's gourmet tendencies.

**Give Unto Others** releases March 15. Brunetti agrees to look into a small matter as a favor to a family friend on the qt. At first it seems innocent enough, but soon he is pulling in favors, and where does loyalty fit when the matter turns out to be far more significant?

**Transient Desires.** Commissario Brunetti is tasked with the case of two attractive young Americans who had been boating with a couple Italian men. They were taken to the hospital injured and unconscious, the men did not stay around, but swiftly left. Why?

**Trace Elements.** Brunetti's investigation has implications beyond murder and may involve the well being of his beloved Venice. It begins with a dying woman who claims her husband's accident was murder. Brunetti, trying to bring comfort to the woman, promises to check into the case. It becomes more complicated when Brunetti learns the woman's husband was employed by the company responsible for keeping tabs on the quality and safety of Venice's water supply.

**Unto Us A Son is Given.** Gonzalo Rodriguez de Tejada is lonely and old. Once the darling of the art crowd, he now feels irrelevant. A young man takes his fancy. Italian inheritance law requires the bulk of an estate go to the family. Gonzalo adopts the young man to bequeath him a fortune hoping for companionship and affection. Two people die suddenly

**The Temptation of Forgiveness.** Professoressa Crosera teaches at the university where Brunetti's wife, Paola, teaches. She seeks out Brunetti, her son Sandro, formerly a good student, stopped studying, and her daughter reports a rumor of drugs. Shortly thereafter Professoressa Crosera's husband suffers a serious injury that may not have been accidental.

**Earthly Remains.** Commissario Guido Brunetti is assaulted by sadness from the cruelty people visit upon one another. A couple weeks leave on a quiet island in the lagoon, Saint' Erasmo, will give time to recover from his melancholia. The caretaker, David Casati, and Brunetti form a rapport. A violent storm assaults the island, the next day Casati is missing.

**The Waters of Eternal Youth.** Brunetti investigates the near drowning of a young woman 15 years ago, was it an accident?

**Falling In Love** brings back Flavia, the opera singer from the first book in the series **Death at La Fenice**. An anonymous fan is showering her with yellow roses, it is starting to feel sinister.

**By Its Cover** begins with someone stealing pages from rare books at the library and proceeds to murder.

**The Golden Egg.** Brunetti's wife Paola asks him to investigate the death of a deaf man.

**Beastly Things**. A murder victim in a canal leads Brunetti into an investigation of corruption.

**Drawing Conclusions.** It appears an elderly woman succumbed to a heart attack, Brunetti suspects murder.

**A Question of Belief.** Before Brunetti can join his family on vacation, he is embroiled in a murder investigation.

**About Face.** A wealthy woman has connections to a trucking company owner murdered in his office.

**The Girl of His Dreams.** Brunetti pulls from the canal the body of a girl, a child no one has reported missing.

**Suffer the Little Children.** Three men attacked a doctor in his home, then took his 18 month old child.

**Through a Glass Darkly.** The body of the night watchman at a glass factory is found next to a copy of Dante's Inferno.

**Blood From a Stone.** Tourists on Christmas vacation witness the murder of a street vendor.

**Doctored Evidence.** The maid is prime suspect in the brutal murder of an elderly woman.

**Uniform Justice.** A cadet at the military academy is murdered, the investigation is hampered by the code of silence.

**Willful Behavior.** A young woman seeking to clear her grandfather's name is murdered.

**Sea of Troubles.** Signorina Ellettra, secretary to Brunetti's boss, is involved in a murder investigation causing complications.

**Friends in High Places.** A renovation project, a bureaucrat, and a scaffolding lead to murder.

**Fatal Remedies.** Brunetti investigates a robbery that may have connections to the Mafia.

**A Noble Radiance.** The son and heir to an aristocratic Venetian family is discovered in a grave in the Dolomites.

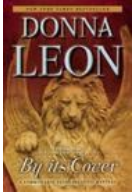
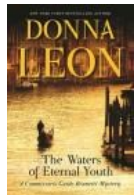
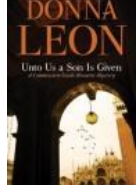
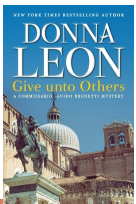
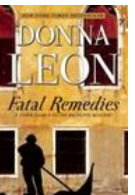
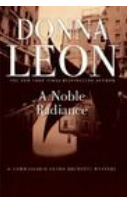
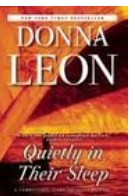
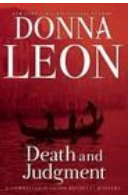
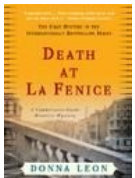
**Quietly In Their Sleep.** A young nun leaves the convent when five patients die unexpectedly.

**Aqua Alta.** Brett Lynch, an American involved in arranging an exhibition of Chinese Pottery, is beaten by two men.

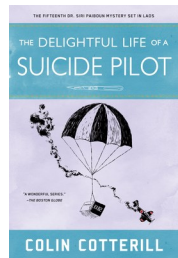
**Death and Judgement.** A truck accident spills dangerous cargo in the Dolomites, a man is murdered on a train.

**Dressed for Death.** The discovery of a body in a field thwarts Brunetti's plans for an August vacation.

**Death in a Strange Country.** A body pulled out of the canal leads to links to a high level conspiracy  
**Death at La Fenice**, the first in the series. Maestro Helmut Wellauer, a musical genius, is found dead at La Fenice.



Spring is arriving! Sunday March 20 is the Spring Equinox and Sunday March 13 Daylight Savings returns (yay!) with a whole hour more of daylight. After spending the day out walking your dog, biking the pathways, or prepping the garden, relax of an evening with a good book then attend Book Club for a lively discussion. Our Book Clubs are meeting via Zoom at 6 PM on Mondays. If you would like to attend a discussion, email [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com).



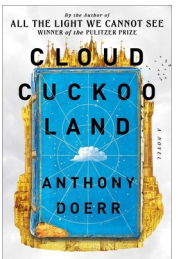
March 7 Mystery Book Club discusses *The Delightful Life of a Suicide Pilot* by Colin Cotterill. Set in Laos in 1981, Dr. Siri Paiboun has retired from his position as Laos' official coroner. These days he helps his wife, Madam Daeng (a former freedom fighter) in her wildly popular noodle shop and hunts without much success for a few good books to read. Easy access to great literature is not a hallmark of communist Laos, a poor country finding the idealistic goals of their long struggle for self-rule to have fallen short of reality. They are in their 70's and could be expected to take life easy now, but both are used to adventures.

Although Siri is retired, he is far more proficient than his lackadaisical replacement. Thus, when the politically sensitive case of wealthy Vietnamese man, Buk Sok Thinh, who fell to his death on a remote trail, presents a few puzzles, Chief Inspector Phosy indicates Siri might take a look at the corpse. Two women are fighting over the wealth, the man's wife and his mistress. If it is found that he was pushed by one or the other, that would eliminate her claim. Two governments, two angry women, and a ton of money make for a highly volatile combination. Therefore, the investigation into the death of this foreign national is of importance to the Chief Inspector.

Around this time, a package addressed to Siri is delivered to the noodle shop. Inside is the diary of a Japanese soldier, Toshi, written partly in Japanese and partly in Lao. The soldier was part of the occupation during WWII. Desperate for reading material, Siri dives in and discovers a mystery. In order to find the truth about Toshi, Siri and Daeng will have to travel to Thakhek. It promises to be an adventure, that is fine with Siri and Daeng.

There is a bit of the paranormal, Siri has a close relationship with ancient spirits.

Selection recommended by Bruce.



March 28 Fiction Book Club discusses *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning *All The Light We Cannot See*. This is an ambitious novel that reaches back across the ages and into the future.

Lives lived centuries apart are bound together by an ancient book written by Diogenes. In a distant future Konstance sits in isolation in a ship headed for a far-off planet. On scraps of paper, she inscribes passages from the book. In 2020 Zeno, the 86-year-old translator of Diogenes book, is in an Idaho library with a group of children preparing a play of the story. Meanwhile, unaware of the theater rehearsal going on within, Seymour plans an act of violence to serve a higher cause. In 1439 in Constantinople Anna sits by her sister, Maria, in the sewing room where a Nun watches over the orphans as they work from dawn to dusk. In 1453 Omeir was plucked from his village along with the two oxen he raised from calves to serve the Sultan in his siege of Constantinople.

Each of them faces adversity and is comforted by Diogenes story of a young man who yearns to be become a bird to reach the *Cloud Cuckoo Land* in the sky. Doerr takes the reader into a world of infinite possibilities that stretches across time into the dreams that bind us. Anthony Doerr is a remarkably sensitive and talented author, each of the characters is developed with empathy and insight.

Selection recommended by Jane, Carl, and Sara.

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

Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held via Zoom Mondays at 6 PM.  
Times and dates are tentative due to current situation.

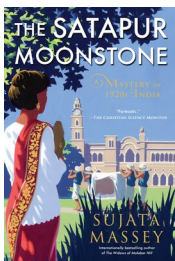
#### April

April 11 *The Satapur Moonstone* by Sujata Massey **Mystery Book Club.**  
April 25 *The Seed Keeper* by Diana Wilson the 2022 **Novel Idea** selection by the Deschutes County Library **Fiction Book Club.**

#### May

May 2 *Reasonable Doubt* by Phillip Margolin **Mystery Book Club.**  
May 23 *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver **Fiction Book Club.**

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



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