



Sunriver Books & Music

May 2021 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Video's of prior events are linked at sunriverbooks.com we hope you enjoy them!

Craig Johnson, along with Katee Sackhoff and Lou Diamond Phillips, gave an entertaining presentation on the latest in the Walt Longmire series, **Next to Last Stand**. It includes a video of a chapter of the book being read at the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, it was quite moving.

Photographer Bart Smith joined hiking guide authors William Sullivan and Craig Romano for a gorgeous photography book, **Hiking Trails of the Pacific Northwest**, featuring of some of the most spectacular hikes in the region. Their presentation included gorgeous photographs.

By the first part of May we should also have videos of Marie Bostwick's event for **The Restoration of Celia Fairchild** and Dana Haynes event for **Sirocco**. Check at sunriverbooks.com



Sunriver Books during Covid-19.

With vaccines rapidly being more available, we had hoped we would be able to return to more normal times, perhaps as soon as May. Go back to one door, put out our display tables, have in store events and book clubs, and allow more shoppers inside.

That is not today's reality. Instead of improving, Oregon is in the midst of a surge. In the past week, new Covid-19 cases have at times been over a hundred per day in Deschutes County. This is depressing. How many people will die so close to being vaccinated? Because of the continued spread of Covid-19, how many new variants will arise, variants that will possibly mutate beyond the capability of our current vaccines to control?

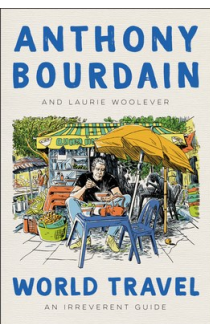
Yet almost every day I have to tell people to wear their mask properly. I get that there are many people who either do not believe in Covid-19 or believe it is not dangerous or have some other belief. I am not disrespecting their right to those beliefs. I am not an expert in infectious disease, that said, just looking at the number of deaths it seems the experts are probably right. But lets assume I am wrong and wearing a mask or sanitizing your hands does nothing. It also harms nothing, it is a minor inconvenience. Yet if a person who does not believe in wearing a mask is wrong, they risk not only their own health, but possibly the very life of someone else. Can anyone be so dead certain of their belief they are willing to risk potentially killing someone else if they are wrong?

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support Sunriver Books. Thank you for waiting to enter, wearing masks, and being patient while we try to be responsive to a changing situation. We have no prior experience with pandemics, we don't know what the next month will bring. A month ago we were hopefully anticipating a reduction of safety measures as people were vaccinated and the number of infected went down. Instead there is another surge, climbing numbers of infection. Planning is difficult, we don't know what happens next.

In the meantime, we also provide curbside service behind the bookstore and will deliver in Sunriver. We are open, but it may be easier or safer to utilize these services.

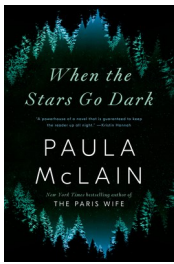
Our staff will be fully immunized by mid May, all of us have had at least one shot. We care about our community and customers. Not all have been able to secure appointments for vaccination, I have friends who are still trying to get vaccinated. Our current restrictions are meant to help keep people safe. We ask your patience a little longer.

New Releases, Staff Recommendations.



World Travel: An Irreverent Guide by Anthony Bourdain and Laurie Woolever. Both a travel guide, of sorts, and a brilliant travel memoir, World Travel takes the reader to some of the many places that drew the attention of Anthony Bourdain. Laurie Woolever worked as Bourdain's assistant, his lieutenant, and they discussed this book project. Then he died, his loss a tragedy, we will miss his wit, keen observations, joy of travel, and appreciation of the culinary arts. Woolever decided to go ahead and pull the book together, because the world really does need someone as witty, interesting, and fun as Anthony Bourdain. This allows us a touch more of his magic. So, sit back in a comfortable chair, come along on an arm-chair trip around the world, with veteran traveler Anthony Bourdain as he shares some of his favorite places, best restaurants and dishes, and quirky observations. Interspersed are essays with his family and friends.

New Releases, Staff Recommendations.

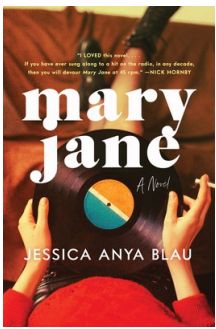


When the Stars Go Dark by Paula McLain. Best known for historic fiction, the *Paris Wife*, *Love and Ruins*, and *Circling the Sun*, McLain now moves into a contemporary story set in the lush, beautiful countryside of Mendocino California that explores the dark side of the human heart. In crafting the character of Anna Hart, McLain draws on her own childhood experiences.

Anna Hart is a San Francisco Detective specializing in cases involving children, often missing children with outcomes that break her heart. As the story opens, she has suffered a tragedy in her family. A tragedy that led to her husband asking her to leave. Guilt stricken and grieving, she travels to the one place she has felt safe, Mendocino. Anna grew up rough in foster homes, until she was placed with Hap and Eden. They gave her the love, encouragement, and confidence she needed. Hap was a forest ranger; he took her to the woods and taught her to be self-reliant. It seems like the right place to lay low and lick her wounds.

On arrival she learns of a missing teenage girl, a case reminiscent of a missing girl when Anna was growing up. As the days go by, she realizes she must help the local police find the teen, if she is still alive. Anna has the training and experience in working this sort of case, she knows the horrible things people can do to young girls. She knows the dangers.

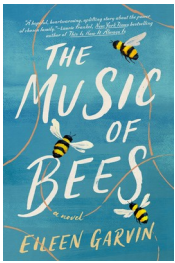
As she delves into the case, she must still deal with the tragedy that tore her family apart and sent her away. She will find comfort and help in her memories, in the people she connects with, and in the stray Belgian Malinois she names Cricket.



Mary Jane by Jessica Anya Blau. In 1970's Baltimore, the Dillard family lives in the right sort of neighborhood (meaning basically white and affluent), attends church regularly, and are members of the right sort of club (ditto on white and affluent). 14-year-old Mary Jane has led a sheltered, obedient life. She helps her mother with the house work and cooking, is bookish so not too much of a social bell but has a couple friends, and sings in the church choir. She wouldn't dream of defying her lawyer father, the very idea would equally shock him!

Mary Jane's horizons are about to be blown wide open. This summer she is taking a job, a respectable sort of course. She will be the nanny to Dr. and Mrs. Cone's 5-year-old daughter Izzy. Her parents agreed to the summer job because a doctor's house is respectable and he lives only a few blocks away. But those few blocks might as well be another galaxy. You see, the Dillards have never met the Cones. While they may live in the same neighborhood, their beliefs are not even in the same solar system. Dr. Cone is not the neighborly MD the Dillards assumed, he is a psychiatrist specializing in addiction. And this summer, he is devoting himself to one famous couple, a movie actress and rock star.

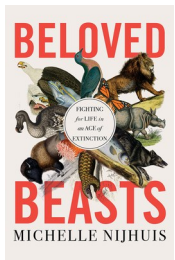
On her first day, Mary Jane notices the Cones are not nearly as rigid about keeping the house tidy as her mother. Nor do they dress or act the same. Izzy is a charmer and Mary Jane promptly falls in love with her new charge. Day by day Mary Jane is exposed to new ideas, sounds, information, and attitudes to other people. Lots of it mind blowing to a sheltered 14 year old. Like Rock and Roll, now that is a whole different sound than church choir! Especially Rock & Roll sung by a famous rock star right in the Cone home! Oh boy, is this going to be a summer to remember.



The Music of Bees by Ellen Garvin. Set in Hood River Oregon, at the eastern end of the Columbia River Gorge, one of the most gorgeous places on planet earth, this is a feel-good story.

Alice, a 44-year-old working in the planning department of the county government is an avid beekeeper. Jake is a teenager confined to a wheelchair, his bitterness lifts when he meets Alice and develops an equal (possibly greater) passion for her bees. Harry is an accidental drifter, a young man who has made poor choices, has difficulty relating to people and needs someone to believe in him. They will unite in opposition to a pesticide company's plans to spray pesticide in the county that will devastate the local beekeepers.

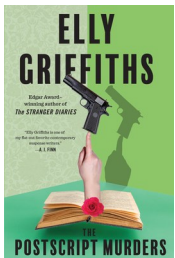
Warm hearted, full of quirky endearing characters fighting the good fight, and suffused with humor.



Beloved Beasts by Michelle Nijhuis. People with an interest in the natural world will find this book fascinating. It starts out with the Smithsonian and an exploration of the way species are named.

From there it goes to William Temple Hornaday who was a big game hunter in the 1800's then proved that people can change by switching allegiances to become a man dedicated to the preservation of animals and a force to be reckoned with in conservation. While he wasn't too good with people, he was passionate about animals.

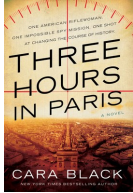
Then socialite Rosalie Edge took up the cause of defending birds (bird lovers will be enchanted). There is a lot of history, abundant information on wildlife, the way we are all intertwined, and stories of people time should not forget.



The Postscript Murders by Elly Griffiths. In the mood for a clever mystery about mystery writers set in Scotland? Of course you are! If you enjoy reading mysteries, this is a lark.

Peggy Smith was 90 with a bit of a dodgy heart but otherwise in pretty good shape, using the stairs instead of the lift, taking daily walks and such. She is found dead in her chair by her caregiver, Nataka. The next of kin, is notified, and it seems to be just a natural death.

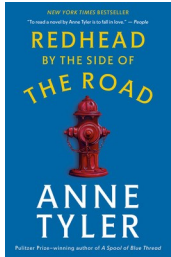
But then Nataka notices something when she is tasked with helping box up Peggy's large collection of mystery novels, many of them are dedicated to Peggy. Nataka is convinced there is something suspicious about Peggy's demise. She takes her suspicions to Detective Sergeant Harbinder Kaur. Nataka rounds up one of Peggy's neighbors and the monk turned coffee vendor down the way to investigate the murder, just like in all those mystery books. And off we go!



Three Hours in Paris by Cara Black. Kate Reese grew up in Oregon on a ranch with a passel of brothers, she learned early to shoot and shoot well. As a young woman she spent time in Paris, time that was brought to a tragic end by bombs from the German Luftwaffe killing her husband and child.

Now she plans to exact her revenge. British intelligence, made aware of her prowess with a rifle, plans to use her talents. Kate has no real training in spy craft or fighting a war, she is only given quick instructions before she is dropped into France with a high value target. Hitler is rumored to be planning a fast visit, there will only be one chance to take him out. Kate waits in an apartment across from Sacre-Coeur with her rifle at the ready, she has the skill to take him down, but something will go awry.

Kate's only hope of escape will be through the network of Parisian partisans, a network she is unfamiliar with, a network that has a traitor in its midst. Kate's exit plans were shadowy, something she would learn from other contacts, avenues now closed to her. An untrained American sniper, working at the behest of the British, is alone and on the run in Nazi occupied Paris with the highest levels of the German government determined to find and eliminate her. Will she evade the Nazis and survive? Read this edge of your seat thriller and find out!



Redhead by the Side of the Road by Anne Tyler. This is an absolute delight!

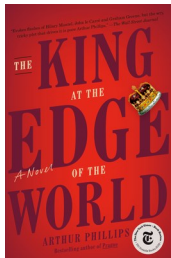
Micah has determined to live life small, take no risks, and keep his pleasures simple. He has a group of adoring sisters, and their families, a woman friend he avoids committing to, and a routine that works for him. Micah is self-employed, running an IT rescue sort of operation out of his car. He drives around helping people navigate issues with their home computers. He also manages a Baltimore apartment building in return for a basement unit, a home he keeps scrupulously clean.

So, all is going along swimmingly, although perhaps a bit rigidly, when a couple things happen. His woman friend, Cass, is being evicted (her landlord found out she has a beloved cat and disapproves) and a young man shows up at his apartment under the impression that Micah is his father. A total surprise to Micah.



As these two issues get out of hand (in often hilarious ways) Micah's staid existence is blown apart and he is forced to confront what he really wants his life to be.

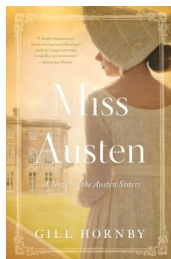
The Paris Hours by Alex George is an elegant time machine transporting the reader to the Jazz age in Paris, those golden hours between the wars. Ravel's music dances through the air, Proust writes feverishly, Hemingway smolders, Josephine Baker seduces with a smile that lights up the room. And the language! Alex George is a wordsmith using gorgeous prose, this is a book you will not want to put down and will look forward to reading again! I loved it.



The King at the Edge of the World by Arthur Phillips is available in paperback May 11. In 1591 Murad the Great sent an envoy to England, trying to understand the Virgin Queen and foster better relations between their countries.

Dr. Mahmoud Ezzedine is a reluctant member of the group, he would far rather have remained with his wife and child. The drizzly wet weather of Britain does not suit, he prefers the warmer climes of home. His one solace is a burgeoning friendship with Jonathan Dee.

By 1601 the English Queen is dying without an heir. Next in line for her throne is James, but will the Scottish monarch continue to defend the Protestant faith or is he a secret Catholic. Queen Elizabeth's spy masters fear the consequences of a Catholic on the throne, but how best to discover the answer? Geoffrey Belloc creates an intricate plan, putting Ezzedine in the center of a dangerous plot. Lots of intrigue, history, and one man caught up in the workings of royalty.



Miss Austen by Gill Hornby gives a new look at Jane Austen through her sister's recollections. Jane and Cassandra were close, they lived together most of their lives, and wrote letters back and forth when apart.

It is 1840, Cassandra is an elderly woman making a last visit to the home of the Fowles, close family friends, in Kintbury. Fiercely protective of Jane's legacy, Cassandra is making this trip in order to locate letters Jane wrote to the matriarch of the Fowles family, Eliza, letters that were perhaps more open than Cassandra thinks proper. She plans to destroy the letters.

Eliza's daughter Isabella, has to vacate the vicarage after the death of her father, the vicar. It is stuffed with belongings and will be quite a project to empty. Isabella is not the most organized of souls to begin with, it is an inconvenient time for a visitor. Cassandra is counting on the ensuing chaos to root around and find the missives. The housekeeper hampers her search, keeping a gimlet eye on her.

The vicarage was also the home of Cassandra's fiancé who died before they could wed. He was on his way back from a military expedition he had signed onto as a way to make money for their future, a future that would never be realized. As she searches through the family belongings, emotions flood her of happier times and what might have been.

There is humor amid the search, as circumstances keep throwing roadblocks in the path of Cassandra's task. Jane's letters, when finally found, are filled with memories, some sad some happy, that will take Cassandra back, reflecting on life with her talented sister.

If you enjoy Jane Austen's work, this is a fun book to read. Sprinkled with insight into the lives of the two sisters.

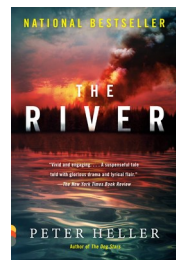
May has 3 excellent books to discuss via zoom! Join one of the Book Club discussions, held Mondays at 6 PM, by emailing sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com and I will send you the Zoom link the day of or day before the discussion.



May 3 Mystery Book Club discusses ***Eight Perfect Murders*** by Peter Swanson. It is a snowy night in Boston when FBI agent Gwen Mulvey comes calling at Old Devils Bookshop. She checked to be sure part owner Malcolm Kershaw was available for a chat. Not a comforting feeling, the FBI wanting a little get together in a snow storm miles from their office.

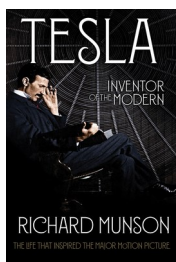
It seems there have been a few murders with a disturbing similarity to the murders in mystery books Malcolm had posted as a list on the store's blog years ago, ***Eight Perfect Murders*** (Agatha Christie's *A. B. C. Murders*, Patricia Highsmith's *Strangers on a Train*, Ira Levin's *Death Trap*, A. A. Milne's *Red House Mystery*, Anthony Berkeley Cox's *Malice Aforethought*, James M. Cain's *Double Indemnity*, John D. Macdonald's *The Drowner*, and Donna Tartt's *A Secret History*). In addition to the murders she found suspicious, agent Mulvey has a list of potentials that might fit the list.

Soon Malcolm is involved in trying to figure out a series of crimes that seem to not only relate to the list he posted, but to him personally too. Not an easy task while he is trying to keep his own secrets securely locked in their closet. In addition to following the list of perfect murders, the killer knows quite a bit about Malcolm. This devious mystery has abundant references to other mystery books.



May 10 the Fiction Book Club discusses ***The River*** by Peter Heller. Wynn and Jack met freshman year, college boys with the world wide open ahead of them. Both are avid outdoorsmen but from opposite sides of the country with different upbringing. Wynn hales from Vermont, a sweet natured guy, tall and impressively built. Jack is a ranch kid from Colorado, wiry and fit, at home in a Rocky Mountain wilderness more armed with tooth and claw than the gentle mountains of New England. A love of literature and the outdoors bonds them; they spend their summer breaks working together for a guiding company. Before settling down to adult endeavors, they plan a grand trip, canoeing Canada's remote Maskwa River spending their days on the water and hiking, their nights under the stars, away from cell phones and traffic.

Things start to go seriously awry when a raging wildfire threatens to overtake them. Jack knows a thing or two about wildfires, and this one is apocalyptic, it scares him. Attempting to make time before the fire can catch up to them; they hear a couple arguing on a riverbank obscured by fog. Though they try, they cannot find the couple to warn of the coming conflagration. The next day the man appears, the woman is missing, and those idyllic woods take on a sinister atmosphere as the young friends try to avert disaster.



May 24 the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses ***Tesla*** by Richard Munson. Michel de Montaigne said "*Obsession is the well-spring of genius and madness*". Tesla had bucket loads of all three! There is no denying he possessed genius, he was one of the most intelligent people to walk planet earth. Yet sometimes he was overtaken by compulsions, eccentricity.

He was born in 1856 at the stroke of midnight during a lightening storm, it would prove prophetic as his life was often tied to harnessing the power of electricity in ways unimagined during his era. His family was poor, Serbian, his father a priest in the Serbian Orthodox Church. They lived in a small Croatian village where their neighbors were Roman Catholic. Tesla was smart, exceedingly so, from a young age. By the time he was in his twenties, he invented a totally new way to power motors. That was just one of the hundreds of inventions he patented.

Tesla was fluent in English, Serbo-Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, German, French, Italian, and Latin. He could quote poetry extensively. Liked animals. Brilliant but not a great negotiator, nor someone good at shepherding wealth. By the time he was in his 80's, he lived a reclusive life in a New York hotel, nearly penniless. He was not only a genius; he was an interesting guy. History owes him remembrance.



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

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

Times and dates are tentative due to current situation.

June

June 7, 2021 ***All The Winters After*** by Sere Halverson **Mystery Book Club** Themed Month, **Alaska.**

June 21, 2021 ***The Great Alone*** by Kristin Hannah **Fiction Book Club** Themed Month, **Alaska.**

July

July 12, 2021 ***The Perfect Alibi*** by Phillip Margolin **Mystery Book Club**

July 26, 2021 ***Crossing to Safety*** by Wallace Stegner **Fiction and Classics Book Club**

August

August 9, 2021 ***Mr. Churchill's Secretary*** by Susan Elia MacNeal **Mystery Book Club**

August 23, 2021 ***The Night Watchman*** by Louise Erdrich **Fiction Book Club**

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



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