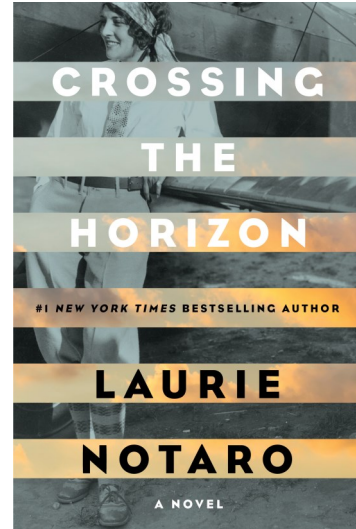




Sunriver Books & Music  
November 2016  
Newsletter  
[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)  
541-593-2525



Saturday November 12 at 5 PM we will explore the early days of flight and the role of women through a presentation by Laurie Notaro on her historic fiction, ***Crossing the Horizon***, centered on three real women who risked all for the freedom of the skies. The presentation will include a visual component too, always an interesting addition. The three main characters could not be more different. Elsie Mackay thrived on adventure, a British aristocrat who wanted to go faster, higher. During WWI she volunteered, the woman could drive like a maniac and the soldiers adored her. One of the flyboys, Tony Joyson-Wreford, taught her to fly and she was hooked. Lord Inchcape doted on his impetuous, brave daughter, even though she caused him many a tense moment with her high jinx. They suffered a period of estrangement when she wed, against his wishes, Dennis Wyndham, a thespian who suffered what we would now call PTSD from his war time service. Ruth Elder hailed from Alabama. She won a beauty queen contest becoming “Miss Sudsy Soap”, pocketing the prize money to finance her flying lessons. A fine looking woman she might be, nonetheless she was no pushover, when the guys got fresh she was able to wallop them. Lyle, her husband, encouraged her passion for flight. Mabel Boll was a dame who knew how to have a good time; her pastimes involved drinking, gambling, and jewelry. If she had been a guy, she would have been called a ladies man or an adventurer, as a woman she was a gold digger. Her husband was fabulously wealthy, and conveniently lived in South America while she lived in France enjoying spending money and partying. Then he died, leaving a fortune to his widow. A chance meeting aboard a ship between Elsie and Mabel fueled an interest in flying for the young heiress. In 1927 Charles Lindberg’s historic flight from New York to Paris would ignite in the women a passion for flying competitively and setting records. If a man could cross the Atlantic, they thought they could too and each woman was eager to be first, to test her boundaries. Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, and Beryl Markham are well known names from the early days of aviation. There were others, brave women who should not be forgotten.

Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 John Bruning will give a presentation with a video component on ***Indestructible; One Man’s Rescue That Changed The Course of WWII***. This thrilling non-fiction has already been optioned by Sony to be a major motion picture. We will have more in the December newsletter but wanted to give you a heads up that the first weekend in December will have a very interesting author event. If you liked Laura Hillenbrand’s ***Unbroken***, we think you will find this interesting too.

Call 541-593-2525 or e-mail [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend this free presentation. There will be drawings for prizes and light refreshments.

#### Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM ***Indestructible; One Man’s Rescue That Changed The Course of WWII*** by John Bruning (slide show)

Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM ***The Spy’s Son*** by Bryan Denson

Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 5:00 PM ***First Degree Mudder*** by Kate Dyer Seeley (slide show)

Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 ***Curious Gorge*** by Scott Cook (slide show)

Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes.

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

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

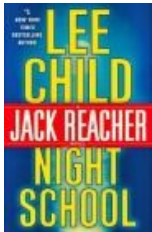
## Staff Recommendations, New Releases!

### Nancy Nelson Recommends.



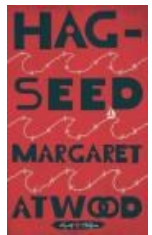
**Small Great Things** by Jodi Picoult. Ruth Jefferson is a very bright and caring woman who has been working as a labor and delivery nurse for 20 years. She has done her best throughout her life to succeed, overcoming obstacles such as poverty, race, and accessibility to better schools. One day, after 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!

### Rich Stonehouse Recommends.



**Night School** by Lee Child is just what every Jack Reacher fan has been waiting for. A plot that is intriguing, building slowly from an opening that is enticing yet ambiguous. Reacher starts the day receiving a medal that no one will know about, for actions that cannot be revealed. At the end of the day he is enmeshed in a plot against the US that could be catastrophic but its full details are unknown. Teamed with an FBI agent and CIA operatives, they are tasked with finding out about an "American" who is dealing with Middle Eastern extremists in a transaction that will cost them 100 million dollars. But what is worth 100 million dollars that these extremists could want? Reacher employs a familiar operative, Sergeant Francis Neagly. Together they will join their deductive minds to try and solve the mystery of the "who" and the "what". Ranging in locations from Washington D.C. to Hamburg Germany, Jalalabad to Kiev, the action is compelling and tantalizing as the players zero in on the plot and its characters. As the plot is slowly unfolding, Reacher is up to his usual six on one fights, and side steps on the other side of the law. As the end game becomes clear and Reacher knows what has to be done to avoid massive global destruction, he races against time to find the bad guys and stop their deadly plot. This book has non-stop thrills and clever plot twists that is classic Lee Child.

### Deon Recommends.



**Hagseed** by Margaret Atwood, a lively modern retelling of Shakespeare's *Tempest*, is a far cry from the Bard's original but I suspect it would make him smile. Felix is the artistic director at the Makeshiweg Theater Festival. He is an artist with a capital A, let his assistant deal with the members of the board and all the little details, Felix will produce, direct, occasionally star and not mess with the mundane tasks. He is known for his originality and verve, although he might have been going just a wee bit overboard of late. Shakespeare surely never envisioned space aliens, nor did the front row audience realize they needed to prepare for blood splatter from the more violent scenes. Tragedy has touched Felix's life; he is a widower and his only child recently died; a loss that has profoundly disturbed him. As the story opens, Felix is planning to put on a performance of *The Tempest* in honor of his daughter, it will be his masterpiece. He soon learns that he has taken a viper to his bosom, he is betrayed and his plans for *The Tempest* are crushed. Ousted, left without hope of finding a comparable position, Felix retreats to a hovel in the woods that he rents on a cash basis from a woman with nebulous title to the land. Over a decade passes when Felix's revenge begins to form. Felix has been living under an assumed name, Mr. Duke. He secures a position at the local prison putting on plays with the inmates as the actors. He bides his time until his traitors come within reach, then with the aid of his inmate actors he will put on a play of *The Tempest* like no other. Quite a story, grand entertainment. The scenes where he explains Shakespeare to the inmates are absolutely wonderful!



**The Other Einstein** by Marie Benedict. Only a century ago it was not easy for a woman to become educated, nigh impossible. Yet Mileva Martc tried in the 1890s. There were three strikes against the young woman; she was Serbian (not popular at the time), she was female, and she was lame. Nor was she tackling an easy subject, Mileva was drawn to math and physics, studying at the prestigious Swiss Federal Polytechnic. Nonetheless, it is not her intellect she is known for today, or her passionate desire to learn, rather her affair with and eventual marriage to her fellow student, Albert Einstein. Until the 1980's when letters were made public, Mileva Martc was forgotten as a woman passionate about science, known primarily as the first wife of a famous man. Now there is curiosity about how much aid she may have been to Einstein's brilliance. Author Benedict grants Mileva the role of inspiration behind Einstein's theory of relativity. Perhaps, although I suspect it was Einstein's theory, with her interest in science it is possible she collaborated, either way it makes for interesting reading. Giving Mileva prime credit in a work of fiction seems fair in light of the difficulty she certainly endured being married to Albert Einstein. A genius he may have been, however he was also an egomaniac in his marriage, dismissive of his wife and casually cruel. Benedict charts this relationship from its optimistic early days when Mileva entertains the notion of a marriage of partners in science, to the realization she has been relegated solely the role of housewife enduring her husband's cruel comments and infidelities culminating with the utter failure of their union. This is an intimate look at a bold, striving woman forgotten by history.



**Literary Wonderlands** by Laura Miller is a gorgeous book showcasing some of the most imaginative stories, giving a description and background information along with fabulous illustrations; it really is a gorgeous book. The classics are represented with Dante's *Divine Comedy*, *Beowulf*, Shakespeare's *Tempest* and many others. Also Included are some of my modern favorites such as Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*, Haruki Murakami's *1Q84*, and Salman Rushdie's *Two Years, Eight Months, and Twenty-eight Nights*. There are far too many to mention, from HP. Lovecraft to JK Rowling, this is an inventive and fascinating collection!

## Staff Recommendations, New Releases!

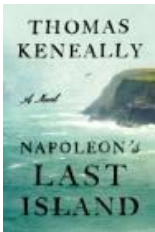
### Deon recommends.



**Shelter in Place** by Alexander Maksik. Joe March had loving parents, Anne-Marie a nurse in the busy emergency room at Harborview and Richard a carpenter with his own business. Joe and his sister Claire grew up on Capitol Hill in Seattle, a nice area, in a great city. When they set off to college and adult life, Claire, always an achiever went to London. Joe settled for Santa Monica College in LA. The summer after graduating, his belongings tucked in the bed of his old truck, he headed north. It was to become a life changing summer. Stopping in Cannon Beach he met Tess, a young woman, all fire and passion. She would be the love of his life, a woman he would do anything for. She was lusty, smart, and full of zest for experience. Another life changing event would be the arrest of his mother for murder. Day in day out Anne-Marie March saw the traumatic injuries inflicted on women by men. In a parking lot she witnesses such a man visiting violence on his wife, Anne-Marie answered in the same language, only speaking louder by use of a hammer. The man does not survive. It was also the summer Joe first felt the highs and lows associated with being bi-polar. Joe will move to White Pines, Washington to be near the prison, taking a job as a bartender. As the story opens, Joe is middle aged, alone in the house in the country he and Tess had built, a home in a meadow bounded by a forest filled with the trails of elk and deer. Tess is gone, leaving Joe to reflect on his life with this bold, difficult, kind, passionate woman that he loves beyond all measure. The story has so many interesting themes, the way Joe copes with being bi-polar, what you might be willing to do for love of another, the violence women try to survive and the men who feel entitled to cause pain, the life of a bartender, the joy of being outdoors in the Pacific Northwest, and the relationships of families. All are explored in this edgy, wonderful book.



**The German Girl** by Armando Lucas Correa. On May 13, 1939 the St. Louis set sail from Hamburg Germany to Cuba under Captain Gustav Schroder. Many of the 937 passengers were Jewish, fleeing Hitler. Despite Captain Schroder's best efforts they were turned away from Cuba, the US, and Canada forcing the ship to return to Europe where many of the passengers would die in Hitler's death camps. This was a shameful episode in history, turning back refugees to horrible fates. The story calls to mind parallels with happenings in the world today. Correa puts a human face on the tragedy in **The German Girl**. Hannah Rosenthal, the daughter of wealthy aristocrats, was 12 when she would board the St. Louis with her Hollywood gorgeous mother and dignified professor father. Before Hitler, she lived a charmed life, beloved daughter of beautiful parents, living in an elegant apartment, welcomed everywhere in Berlin. In the months leading up to their passage on the St. Louis, the situation was very different. Called names in the street, deserted by their servants, unwelcome in any of their former favorite places, and constantly worrying about a potential visit from the dreaded gestapo. Hannah's best friend was Leo Martin; the son of a business associate of her father's fallen on hard times. They would all board the doomed ship, at first reveling in their escape and planning for new lives, that joy turning to terror as they learned the majority of the passengers would not be allowed to disembark. Only a fortunate few would escape the return to Europe. In 2014 Anna is just entering her teens, she lives in an attractive apartment in Manhattan with her mother. Anna's father died before he learned of his wife's pregnancy, Anna never met her father and her mother did not recover from his loss. Out of the blue an envelope arrives from Cuba. Hannah, who raised Anna's father, is reaching out, ready to welcome them and reveal the mysterious past.

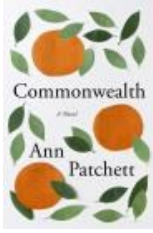


**Napoleon's Last Stand** by Thomas Keneally. Napoleon rose from obscurity to become an Emperor who came near uniting Europe under French rule. His life ended on the island of St. Helena under British confinement, reduced to the point he was not even able to procure adequate food. Brilliant and mercurial, his roller coaster life is fascinating. Keneally is well able to write insightful historical fiction, think of **Schindler's List** or **Shame and the Captives**, both moving books set in WWII. He captures Napoleon's charm and intellect, giving an interesting portrayal of the emperor after the loss of his empire. Keneally chooses to tell his story through the perspective of Betsy Balcombe, one of the more obnoxious children history presents. Napoleon is somehow charmed by the child and her siblings, going out of his way to play with them and encourage their interest in learning. Showing the gallantry of Napoleon to good advantage. Betsy is more likeable as she enters her teens, still a spirited handful but starting to curb her tendency to cruelty and becoming more kind, there is a wonderful horse racing scene as well as chapters where Betsy roams the island landscape with her sister. St. Helena's landscape is beautifully included in the story. The Balcombes are a pleasant family; Keneally shows the islands changing attitudes to Napoleon through their reactions. At first everyone is a bit awed by Napoleon while also perceiving him as some sort of ogre, with a trail of dead and injured from his wars. His arrival on the island causes both excitement and uncertainty. As time passes they start to relate to the man, not the legend. Keneally also shows the trouble that can be caused by one jumped up little bureaucrat bent on bringing down the mighty. Napoleon's fortunes change for the worse, as do those around him, when Sir Hudson arrives from England to take charge of St. Helena in general and Napoleon in particular. Of course Napoleon doesn't make it any easier when he addresses the self-important Sir Hudson thusly: *"Know your nature, sir. Could I know you? People in my world make themselves known by commanding in the field. You never had such a command, and if you did it was to lead Corsican brigands and deserters. I know the name of every English general who has distinguished himself in battle and I never heard of you but as a clerk to the Prussian General Blucher, and a briber of German princes to jump the fence in England's direction."* Oh Napoleon that was not the way to be pals with the noxious Sir Hudson. The book presents an interesting view of Napoleon and his time on the island of St. Helena. Napoleon's exploits before his confinement on the remote island are well known, Keneally offers a version of what the days in such an isolated location, away from the familiar, and under the control of his former enemies might have been like. It is an entertaining story and I suspect Keneally has the character of Napoleon right.

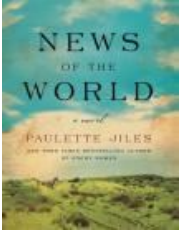


## Staff Recommendations, New Releases!

### Deon Recommends.



**Commonwealth** by Ann Patchett. Francis, known to friends as Fix, is a cop with a drop dead gorgeous wife, Beverly, and two daughters, a happy man. A chance encounter will tear it all apart. At Franny's christening party, a gathering filled with fellow cops, Fix is surprised by the arrival of Albert Cousins, a lawyer in the district attorney's office. Fix doesn't know Albert well and isn't really sure how he came to attend baby Franny's boisterous cop filled party. Yet soon Albert is helping mix drinks, squeezing orange juice and staying way beyond his expectations. As the drinks flow, inhibitions diminish and Albert is electrified by a casual kiss from Beverly. Albert is a married man with children. Two families will part; the six children will live with mothers, visit fathers, and simmer with youthful resentment and loss. An adult Franny meets Leon Posen, an author she has long revered, beginning an affair that will have repercussions for her blended family. Franny tells Posen stories of her childhood, of the indiscretions of her siblings and step-siblings, of the affair and remarriages that created their extended family and those stories gain a new form in Posen's next award winning bestseller. Family, remembrance, and the power of story come together in **Commonwealth**.



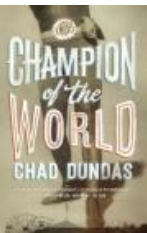
**News of the World** by Paulette Jiles. In 1870 Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd leads a solitary life, going from town to town in Texas giving readings of various newspapers in rented halls. It is a time when news is hard to come by for most folks, some lack the skill to read, and the papers are not always easily obtained. He makes a living, just barely. His only indulgence is a very fine horse. It wasn't always thus; before his wife died and his printing business closed he was a happy man. While in Wichita Falls for a reading, he is asked to take charge of a ten year old child who was captured in an Indian raid and has been living with the Kiowa for the last several years. The army retrieved her and wants her reunited with whatever family remains. He will be paid \$50 to deliver the girl to an aunt and uncle, her surviving family members, 400 miles away in San Antonio. She is a wild, feral thing; distraught about her circumstances, no longer speaking the English language, and desperate to return to her Kiowa family. In her heart, she is Kiowa and will remain so all of her life. This is a lovely story about a very brave girl and a good man trying to do the right thing in a complicated situation. They will face danger together, but they are well suited to the task, she has the heart of a warrior and he is a skilled veteran of wars. This lovely book is great fun to read! I enjoyed the characters and reading about the choices they were forced to make.



**Swing Time** by Zadie Smith. Two little girls from a poor suburb of London meet in dance class; one will have the talent, the other the good fortune. Our narrator garners the good fortune, while Tracey has the moves. They are fast friends as children, but their paths diverge abruptly as young women. Tracey's mother was a depressed, seriously overweight white woman, her father, also a talented dancer, was a black man with an aptitude for the con that often resulted in prison. Tracey is a bit jealous of her friend's family, with a gorgeous black mom seriously engaged in studying for a university degree and a reliably employed white father. Although they grow up in the same neighborhood, go to the same school, and attend the same community dance class, their childhoods are vastly different. As the story opens our narrator is in a bit of very public trouble having just been fired from her job as an assistant to an international pop star. This story about choices made and the circumstances that shape a life is a wonderful study of friendship, loyalty, and the need to belong.

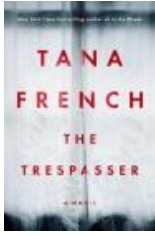


**The Shores of Tripoli** by James L. Haley. Seizing ships and hostages was a lucrative proposition for the Barbary States of North Africa. US and European countries paid tribute to the rulers to grant safe passage for their ships and still there were acts of piracy. President Thomas Jefferson decides to challenge the status quo using the US Navy, a young fleet anxious to flex its muscle but without the fire power or numbers of the Europeans. Midshipman Bliven Putnam, from a New England farming family, shows bravery on his first voyage, rising to the rank of Lieutenant. As American resolve strengthens, and the conflict intensifies he is in the thick of things. The story is full of real characters and incidents. It is a brilliant illustration of the danger in relying on governments, including our own. Surprising how many things stay the same over time. Putnam is a very likeable character, steady, compassionate, brave, and a highly intelligent observer of his time. Haley writes his historical fiction in a manner that I very much appreciate. In the afterward Haley says this: *"Rather than tell a story and hang history on it like a Christmas ornaments, my approach was to line up the history and weave a story through it."* If you enjoy historical fiction, this is an excellent selection.



**Champion of the World** by Chad Dugas. Pepper Van Dean grew up rough, spending years in an Idaho orphanage. Small of stature but tough as steel, he won the Lightweight World Championship as a wrestler, married smart, beautiful Moira and was living the good life with money to burn. Until some gangsters explained that he would be taking a fall, when he resisted the suggestion they broke his leg and he lost his title in the match. Pepper and Moira, smart as they were, had been spending money like there was no tomorrow. After all, Pepper was quick, young, and talented, there was no reason to believe the cash would stop coming in any time soon. Defeated, without financial reserves, they lost everything. No promoter was willing to touch him, so Pepper found employment doing the hangman's drop in a carnival, allowing himself to be hung night after night, hoping it wouldn't kill him. Moira's daddy was a card shark and he taught his daughter the trade. While Pepper risked his neck, Moira played cards in the carnival's cardroom. Neither made much while they traveled the country in a cramped trailer. When things go awry in an impromptu match, the carnival boss strands them in the wilds of Oregon. Left behind with few prospects, Pepper accepts an offer to train a black man, Garfield Taft, to fight a match for the World Championship Heavy Weight title, a shocking proposition in 1921. Moira has reservations, Fritz, the promoter, is known to them and she does not trust him. Soon enough she is proven right as the people involved have their own agenda. Taft is a great character, a graceful man struggling in a world that judges him by the color of his skin, not the merit of his talent or character. Dugas uses a lot historical detail, including the aforementioned hangman's drop, and creates interesting characters.

*Marvelous Mysteries, New Releases.  
Deon recommends.*



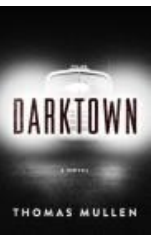
**The Trespasser** by Tana French. Detective Antoinette Conway is intelligent and driven, not the sort to suffer fools gladly. Reaching her goal of a spot on Dublin's Murder Squad is nothing like she imagined. None of the other officers like her, in fact they play cruel tricks, and the only officer she feels comfortable with is Detective Steve Moran, another newbie and her partner. Thus far they have been sent out only on drug related killings and domestic disputes gone deadly, where the perpetrator is practically asking to be arrested and is certainly not up to keeping the cops at bay. She yearns for something more interesting, something to prove her mettle. Stewing over her position in the squad one morning, she is momentarily pleased to receive an assignment directly from Superintendent O'Kelly. Only momentarily, as the new case turns out to be the murder of a beautiful blond with a boyfriend as the probable cause of her demise. Not only is the case most likely another domestic, but Conway and Moran are instructed to work with a more experienced detective, charismatic Breslin will be along to show them the ropes on interviewing witnesses and effectively working a murder case. Conway bristles at being saddled with Breslin. Quickly they develop differences of opinion. The evidence against the boyfriend, the owner of a local bookshop, is formidable; Breslin says go for an arrest, but something about the mild mannered bookseller sways Moran and Conway setting them on a career jeopardizing tightrope. Meanwhile, a mysterious man is shadowing Conway and the victim's best friend seems to be hiding something. Tana French writes mysteries that will leave you breathless!



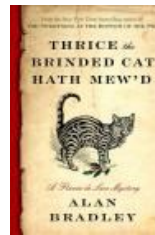
**The White Mirror** by Elsa Hart. Li Du is traveling with a caravan carrying tea from China across the mountain passes in Tibet bound for Lhasa. Travel is made more arduous by the lateness in the season, winter is coming on and the caravan is exploring a new route. They expect to be welcomed by the Lord and his family in a sheltered valley, having sent Hamza, the storyteller, ahead to pave their way with the family. An early snow storm descends on the region as they near their goal. Approaching the bridge that will take them across a swirling river to the other side where shelter awaits, they see a monk sitting in the middle of the bridge. It is soon evident this monk is quite dead, the assumption made that it was suicide. The snow storm intensifies trapping the little group in the valley along with several other travelers relying on the Lord's hospitality. Li Du suspects the monk's death was inflicted by another. There are many curious things to make Li Du uneasy. The monk was a noted painter, demons often featuring prominently in his work. A priest and his translator, a government official, and a woman traveler are all journeying through the area, snowed in with everyone else. As the story culminates we learn more about Li Du's banishment from the Forbidden City, home to the Emperor of China. The 1700's were a fascinating period, and Li Du is a very likeable sleuth. This series is truly enjoyable.



**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 out 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.



**Darktown** by Thomas Mullen. In 1948 Atlanta hires 8 black officers, though they will not be allowed to arrest white men, nor will they be provided patrol cars or allowed to use the police department's buildings. No, these men will work out of the YMCA's basement in the black district, with a white cop to oversee their efforts at community policing. Atlanta's white cops are not happy about black men in uniform, harassment is frequent, although not all of the white cops feel the same, some are more enlightened. Lucius Boggs and Tommy Smith are walking their beat one night when a white man driving negligently hits a light pole. An attractive black woman is a passenger in the man's car. Of course the driver is completely disrespectful to the black officers. Days later the woman's body is discovered; setting Boggs and Smith on an investigation that will not only put their jobs in jeopardy but will put their lives on the line too. Officer Dunlow long considered the black district his fiefdom; he is determined to bring the black officers down. His new partner, Rakestraw, is uncomfortable with Dunlow's casual cruelty and with the tensions resulting from the hiring of black officers. He will be forced to make difficult choices that could bear consequences. 1948, not really all that long ago, and the world was so different. Mullen gives the reader a look at what it was like for those first black officers in an engrossing page turner.



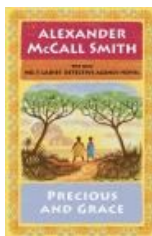
**Thrice the Brinded Cat Hath Mew'd** by Alan Bradley. Flavia de Luce, eagerly anticipating her return to England, was expecting a joyous homecoming in keeping with the Christmas Season's festive spirit. Instead she returns to find her father ill, in hospital, and her home a sad place. Visiting her friend, Cynthia, the Vicar's wife, to escape the somber atmosphere, she is asked to do a small favor. Stop by the wood carver's house to deliver a message. She arrives to discover the wood carver dead, strung up in a strange contraption, only a brindle cat wandering the house. Flavia immediately begins investigating, the puzzle taking her mind off of the troubles at home. Flavia's adventures always make fun reading.



**Her Nightly Embrace** by Adi Tantimeon. Read the books first, and then enjoy the upcoming TV series. Ravi Chandra Singh is an odd choice for a private detective, a handsome devil, he was a teacher until an unfortunate incident ended his career, now he follows errant husbands, or helps find missing daughters, those sort of endeavors. He has a bit of a difference from your average bloke, Ravi sees Hindu gods who seem to find his daily methods amusing. Considering the amount of mayhem he engenders it is no wonder they find him entertaining, especially Goddess Kali who would enjoy his flair for chaos. Having a difference is okay at the agency, most of the detectives have something a little different going on. There is the beautiful financial whiz from a powerful, wealthy family. The Two ex-cops who find violence a highly effective means of solving problems fit in to the agency. A brilliant hacker is part of the team. And the list goes on. If you are in the mood, for a light, amusing mystery with a splash of danger, give them a try.

## Marvelous Mysteries, New Releases.

### Deon recommends.



**Precious and Grace** by Alexander McCall Smith. Precious Ramotswa elevated Grace Makutsi from secretary to co-director, a change in status much enjoyed by Grace. Their new case involves a Canadian woman who lived her first 8 years in Botswana. She recently returned to visit the people and places of her youth. In the thirty intervening years spent in Canada many things changed in Botswana, add to the changes the fact that she has only the memories of a child, not full names or addresses. With the aid of an old picture and her childhood memories, she wants Precious to track down those people and places. It is a task that will require patience, research, and intuition. A backstory involves Farnwell, a mechanic from the adjacent Speedy Motors, who has unfortunately hit (though thankfully not injured) and picked up a dog. I cannot say I give Grace very high marks for her first solutions for the canine's future, but she gets it right eventually and the dog is an entertaining character. Precious faces challenges, thinks deeply about what is best for all involved, and solves her cases with compassion and humor. Definitely a fun series to read and this is an entertaining entry.

*Now Available in Paperback.*

*Nancy Nelson Recommends.*

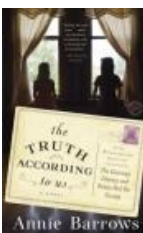


**A Master Plan For Rescue**, by Janis Cooke Newman. In 1942 the world is in turmoil. Twelve year old Jack Quinlan's world in New York City is also in turmoil. One day he loses much of his eyesight. Consequently, he is ostracized and bullied at school. Bad times get worse when Jack's father is suddenly killed. He cannot accept that his father will never be coming back. Jack creates an elaborate self deception that his dad is alive, in hiding, on a secret mission to find any Nazis that might be in hiding, ready to attack the country at any time. His self-fabrication leads him to the doorstep of a Jewish immigrant, Jakob. Jakob has his own story to tell of love, loss hardship and danger. These two tragic souls become co-conspirators on a mission that is dangerous, perhaps even foolish. In so doing, they demonstrate extraordinary courage, determination and self sacrifice. This was a lovely and hopeful novel presenting a glimpse of the best and the worst of humanity.

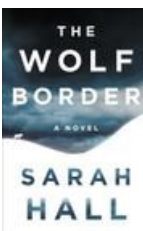
*Deon Recommends.*



**The Ramblers** by Aiden Donnelley Rowley. This sumptuous novel is the story of three friends, but what I found most engaging is the lush settings in New York. Clio Marsh has her dream job; she is a Curator of the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History and a professor at Columbia. Weekends she leads popular rambles around New York for bird watchers. On the personal front, Clio has a chance at a meaningful relationship with Henry, an hotelier. However all is not easy in Clio's life, she has panic attacks, and her fear may well destroy her chances for happiness with Henry. Smith Anderson is Clio's best friend, they met at Yale and have been roommates and confidantes ever since. Smith's younger sister is getting married; the wedding will be an extravagant affair, as her parents are fabulously wealthy. The wedding will be difficult for Smith; her own engagement was broken along with her heart. Tate Pennington returned to New York after his marriage dissolved, an old friend of Smith Anderson's from Yale, they reconnect. The story takes place over Thanksgiving Week and is redolent in themes of family, friendship, and second chances. It is also a love song to New York, such a sweet read.



**The Truth According To Us** by Annie Barrows. Layla Beck lived the good life, pampered by her wealthy father, a Senator of some renown and power. All is going swimmingly; until she spurns the man her parents find acceptable son-in-law material. After years of life in the lap of luxury, Layla is turned out of the parental home and told to earn a living, see how the rest of the world is faring during the Depression. Her uncle runs the Federal Writer's Project and it is his task to find her suitable employment. He settles on the small town of Macedonia, West Virginia where Layla will board with the Romeyn family and write a brief history of the town. The Romeyn's once were a force to be reckoned with in the small community, Jottie and Felix's father was president of the local factory where he employed much of the population and ruled with a gentle hand. That was the past, by 1938 Jottie is taking in boarders, hence becoming Ms. Layla's landlord, and Felix is a traveling salesman and possibly a bootlegger. Felix has two daughters, doted on by their aunt and father. It soon becomes apparent that both the Romeyn family and the town have deep secrets. While Layla embarks on a quest to uncover the town's secrets, twelve year old Willa becomes obsessed with discovering the dark secrets in her family. Add to the mix Layla's beauty and Felix's proclivities with women (somewhat reminiscent of those of a tom cat) for a combination sure to cause trouble in a long, hot summer. Barrows brings the same gentle touch and humor to the story that served her so well in **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**.



**The Wolf Border** by Sarah Hall. Rachel Caine lives in a tiny cabin in a remote part of northern Idaho on the reservation where she is the lead researcher involved in a wolf recovery program. She is a loner; brief encounters her preferred interaction with the opposite sex. All her passion is tied up in the survival of the magnificent predators she is trying to save. Her best friend is an Indian who works as the liaison between the project and the tribe. Rachel's mother had a body built to ruin men and the will to carry it through. She moved through the guys in her community like a mower through grass. Never getting too attached, and always moving on leaving behind a broken man. She has grown old, her health is failing. Rachel left England long ago and has little contact with her mother or her brother. If Rachel is going to visit, it should be soon. As the story opens the Earl of Annerdale is courting Rachel to run his wolf reintroduction program back in the Lake District of England. He is a bit of an eccentric, a Member of Parliament, and fabulously wealthy. The largest private landowner in England, his estate is large enough to contain the habitat of a healthy wolf pack; he needs someone capable of making this happen. Rachel has no intention of taking the position, but the Earl is determined and willing to pay her way to England for an interview. She plans to visit her mother, give the Earl time to show her around his planned wolf habitat, and return to her life in Idaho. That is just what she does too, until something happens that sends her home to the Lake District where she will face the public opposition of the uninformed to her wolves while coming into her own as a person and learning what is truly important in her life.



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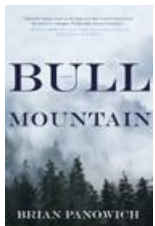
**Circling the Sun** by Paula McLain. *The Paris Wife* was a bestseller and a fascinating view of Hemingway's Paris years. Hard to top but McLain has done it with this brilliant story that brings to vivid life Beryl Markham, a woman guilty of wanting to live life on her own terms. The descriptions of Africa are Technicolor lush, pulsing with the heat and vastness of the country. It really does feel as if you stepped back in time to an Africa that was wild and free, alongside a woman that could match that wildness and freedom. Beryl's father moved the family from England to Kenya intending to build a farm and raise fast horses. Her mother couldn't take the heat, dust, and primitive conditions. She was out of there soon after, taking her son and leaving her daughter behind. It would be a couple decades before Beryl saw her mother again. Beryl thrived on life in Kenya, made lifelong friends with a young boy from the local tribe, learned all about horses on her father's knee becoming an accomplished equestrian. Beryl loved Africa, loved her father and the farm, was living in her version of paradise when the bottom fell out and she lost almost everything most dear to her. All Beryl wanted was to train race horses, something she was very good at. Circumstances kept putting obstacles in her way. She made some terrible choices, allied herself with men who would thwart that wild ambition. Sticking to her dreams, Beryl persevered becoming a noted trainer of winning steeds and later setting records as an aviatrix. Along the way she crossed paths with Denys Finch Hatton and fell in love. Not the safest route to a calm life, but then Beryl was anything but calm. Finch Hatton was a complicated man, a free spirit already in love with Karen Blixon. This is a brilliant story set in a remarkable landscape about a courageous woman who lived life big. If you want to read some related nonfiction pick up Karen Blixon's *Out of Africa* and Beryl Markham's *West With The Night*.



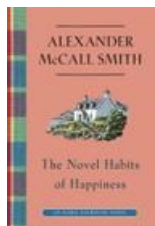
**The Oregon Trail** by Rinker Buck is part travel memoir, part history, and part grand adventure, if you like history or are interested in the west, it is an entertaining story. Rinker Buck sets out from St. Joseph Missouri to Baker City Oregon on the Oregon Trail with a mule team and covered wagon accompanied by his brother Nick and Olive Oyl, a Jack Russell Terrier. Buck shares some of the less well known bits of history about the Oregon Trail, bonds with his mules, and has the sort of adventures you might anticipate (or that might come as a complete shock) if you abandoned your motor vehicle for mules and a wagon. Many things happen to Buck, sometimes involving the aforementioned mules. To be fair, Buck's mules had to contend with obstacles the earlier denizens of the Oregon Trail completely avoided, like trains and motorized vehicles making them nervous. Rinker Buck is a fun traveling companion and the Oregon Trail endlessly fascinating.



**Down Among The Dead Men** by Peter Lovesey. Detective Peter Diamond would prefer to stay home, he has absolutely no desire to accompany his difficult boss, Assistant Chief Constable Georgina Dallymore, to Sussex to investigate a fellow officer. It gets worse, Diamond soon discovers he knows the officer in question, something best kept from the aforementioned boss, and it appears the officer is in real trouble. Several years ago a man was convicted of murder, subsequently DNA evidence was discovered that someone else may have been involved, evidence suppressed by the officer. Diamond scents mischief, his opinion of the officer in question is high, not prone to making poor judgments and errors. A local art teacher, not very popular with her students, has gone missing. A sexy artist residing in an opulent estate where he has weekend art sessions with other artists is hired as her replacement. One of the young girls in the class is upset at the ease with which everyone is willing to forget about the missing woman. Diamond begins to uncover links between the 7 year old murder and the missing teacher.



**Bull Mountain** by Brian Panowich. Clayton Burroughs forebears were tough, violent men, involved in selling moonshine then later drugs. They come from *Bull Mountain* in Georgia, a remote, heavily wooded, place where a still or a man or a body can disappear for a long, long time. His brothers stayed with the program, moving into meth production among other unsavory occupations while Clayton turned his back on his heritage becoming a lawman. He married a good woman, settled down, and left his kin to their more nefarious endeavors. The breach with his family widened a year ago when a law man gunned down his brother Buckley. A federal agent has come to town, he has a plan for shutting down the drug trade on *Bull Mountain*, a plan that would let Clayton's other brother, Halford, walk. The problem, as Clayton well knows, is that Halford isn't likely to be particularly interested in the fed's plan. He is a violent man, confident of his supremacy in his mountain lair and not likely to go along with changing his ways. Can Clayton trust the fed, is he playing straight? Clayton is heading for a showdown that could tear what remains of his family apart.



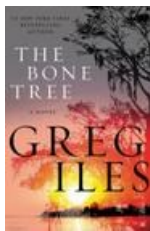
**The Novel Habits of Happiness** by Alexander McCall Smith. Isabel Dalhousie is a philosopher residing in Edinburgh with her husband and young son. She is trying to lead a mindful life, considering her choices and their impact on others. If you are looking for a high body count or lots of action, this is not the series. Nor does it have the humor of McCall Smith's series set in Africa. I thoroughly enjoy the Isabel Dalhousie stories because they take me to a place where people think about their actions and are conscious of potential consequences to themselves and others. It is a comforting place to go, quietly contemplative. Isabel does not always make the right choice, or at least not the choice I would have selected, but she reflects on her actions and tries. In this entry to the series Isabel's friend asks her to aid a young mother who is having difficulty with her child. The woman's son announced that he lived a past life, used to have another family, and lived in another house, in a totally different part of Scotland. The boy gives vivid descriptions of the house, landscape, and the view. Asked to investigate if such a house exists,

Isabel and her husband, Jamie, take a road trip. It is an intriguing situation with many possible outcomes, quite interesting to see where it leads. While Isabel is involved in checking into the boy's memories she has other issues on her mind too. Her niece is involved in a new romance; her niece has a decidedly spotty record on picking men, so Isabel worries. A man Isabel regards as an enemy of sorts shows up, with plans that may have an impact for her. This is another facet of the Isabel Dalhousie series I enjoy, she is always involved with life, engaged and trying to do her best to live in the moment and live it kindly.

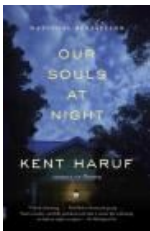


**The Drowned Boy** by Karin Fossum. Inspector Skarre senses something not quite right about the drowning of a toddler in a pond. Turning to his mentor, Inspector Sejer, he waits to see if the same shadow of doubt touches the senior man. It does. Tommy was a healthy child, so it is possible he could have made it out the open back door and down to the pond, but there is something about Carmen, the mother, that gives both men the willies. Her story is plausible; hot day, door left open, Dad working on a bike, Mom steps out of the room, toddler heads to the water. Yet it sounds somewhat off. As they start to investigate, the men are walking a tightrope. If Carmen's story, corroborated by Nicolai the father, is true, they do not want to add to the family's grief over the death of their child by being insensitive. At the same time, if their suspicions, and they are only suspicions, are true, then Tommy deserves justice. Carmen was not happy about giving birth to a child with Down's syndrome, but that does not constitute proof of evil doing. The autopsy soon challenges the mother's story, but another story, also very possible is presented. For Skarre and Sejer the questions are what happened to little Tommy and can they prove it was a crime?

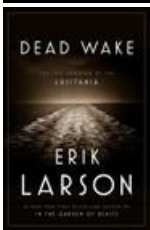
## November 2016 Book Clubs.



Nancy Nelson reviewed the Mystery Book Club's November 7 selection, *The Bone Tree*, by Greg Iles. This is the second novel of the Natchez Burning trilogy. In part I we see that the highly respected Dr. Tom Cage is accused of murdering his former nurse Viola. His son, Penn who is the mayor of Natchez is trying desperately to prove his father's innocence. Dr. Cage has since been silent and on the run, hiding from the law and from the very nasty group called Double Eagles as well. In part II, *The Bone Tree*, Dr. Cage is still hiding from everyone. Though he would like to turn himself in and have his case handled through the courts, he knows that he cannot do that and expect to live. The Double Eagles are similar to the mafia in that their people are everywhere. The FBI has reason to believe that this group is at least in part responsible for the death of President Kennedy as well as many civil rights workers of the 1960s. John Kaiser, who is leading the ongoing investigation also believes that Dr. Cage may have been a part of that conspiracy. The Double Eagles want him dead because he knows way too much. Tom Cage has lived his life caring for people. He has treated most of the population of Natchez, Mississippi. Thus there are quite a few people who highly regard him, and some who would risk their lives to protect him. As the story continues, we see the nature of the Double Eagles, and the hold they have on virtually everyone. This is a dangerous cat and mouse "game" in which some will die, some will miraculously and courageously live, and secrets will come pouring out like the pestilence from Pandora's box. *The Bone Tree* is a page turner of the first order, and I can barely wait to read part III.



November 14 the Fiction Book discusses *Our Souls At Night* by Kent Haruf. Set in the ranching community of Holt Colorado, this is a haunting, beautifully written story, showcasing Haruf's tremendous power in portraying the extraordinary grace in the lives of ordinary people. Addie and Louis live alone in the big houses they raised their families in before their spouses died. Addie was friends with Louis's wife. Now they are old and alone. One day in May Addie calls on Louis and a friendship begins, deepening into something that defeats the loneliness in their days. This friendship is precious, but will it endure? This lovely story tells of their adventures, their laughter, their recapturing of life's goodness, and of their sorrows. It is one of those special books, so rare and so wonderful to read.



Rich Stonehouse reviewed the Non-Fiction Book Club's November 28 selection, *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson. The tragic fate of the passenger cruise ship Lusitania in 1915 is well known, but Larson is a master at creating a compelling narrative of a known event that is thrilling and filled with anticipation until the very end. Combining an interesting examination of the politics leading up to and during WWI, nautical craftsmanship, and the strategy of the two involved vessels, Larson weaves a tale that brings a human face to a well-known tragedy.



### [Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM](#)

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

December 5 *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr [Fiction Book Club](#)  
December 19 *Sidney Chambers and the Shadow of Death* by James Runcie [Mystery Book Club](#)

2017!  
Happy New Year!

January 2 *Angel's Burning* by Tawni O'Dell [Mystery Book Club](#)  
January 9 *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman [Fiction Book Club](#)  
January 16 *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, discussion led by Richard Jenkins. [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)  
February *The Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens [Themed to Dickens Classics & Fiction Book Club](#)  
February *Death and Mr. Pickwick* by Stephen Jarvis [Themed to Dickens Mystery Book Club](#)  
March *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle [Themed to Doyle & James Mystery Book Club](#)  
March *The Ambassadors* by Henry James [Themed to Doyle & James Classics Book Club](#)  
March *The Fifth Heart* by Dan Simmons [Themed to Doyle & James Fiction Book Club](#)  
April *Mycroft Holmes* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar [Mystery Book Club](#)  
April *Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea Selection* [Fiction 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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