



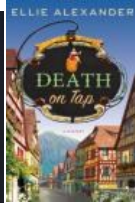
# Sunriver Books & Music

## November 2017

### Newsletter

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

541-593-2525



Saturday November 4th at 5:00 PM Kate Dyer-Seeley will present a new series debut. *Death on Tap*; written as Ellie Alexander. This brings to three her popular mystery series set in the Pacific Northwest.

***Death on Tap*** starts with a shocking revelation as Sloan steps into their office to find her husband in a compromising position with another woman, a younger woman. Family means a lot to Sloan, she grew up in foster care yearning for a stable home life. She fell in love first with Mac's German parents, they introduced her to Mac and she thought her life was set. Until she opened that office door, now everything is up in the air. Two things are apparent to her, she cannot keep working in the family business and she wants her son, Alex, to maintain a loving relationship with his father. Alex is a great teenager, and an interesting character in the story (I suspect he may have a little of Kate's son as inspiration). The family business is Das Keller, a successful brewpub in Leavenworth, Washington, an alpine vacation destination with a Germanic theme. Hans, her brother-in-law introduces Sloan to Garrett who is opening a small brewpub and needs help. Sloan is gifted in brewing, an ace cook, and experienced in the running of a brewpub, in short, she is just what he needs while this new challenge is just what she needs. They make a good team. Things start out splendidly (brewpub wise, not marriage wise) until, of course, a body shows up (in a rather unusual place). Sloan will be heavily involved from the start. Meanwhile Mac is determined to win her back and going about it in all the wrong ways. The characters are likeable, the setting gorgeous, and there is abundant information about brewing. Central Oregon is full of brewpubs, so this should be a very popular event!



Also written as Ellie Alexander, is the Juliet Capshaw series set in a bakery in Ashland Oregon and often involving the Shakespearean festival. In ***Meet Your Baker***, riage is on the rocks, she

the first in the series, Juliet Capshaw's mar-returns home to Ashland where her mother runs a popular bakery. A board members for the Shakespearean festival is making life miserable for everyone she encounters. When the woman is found murdered in the bakery, the list of suspects is long. ***A Batter of Life and Death*** has Juliet competing in a reality TV show, Take The Cake, on the Pastry Channel in an attempt to win \$25,000 to put their family bakeshop, Torte, on more firm financial footing. Before the cakes can be judged, Chef Marco is murdered. ***On Thin Icing*** takes place at the Lake of the Woods Resort during an Ashland winter when Juliet is catering a retreat for the Oregon Shakespearean Festival. A winter blizzard isolates the group and the obnoxious bartender is put on ice, literally. Juliet's estranged husband, the handsome Carlos shows up wanting to resolve differences. Juliet is torn between Carlos and Officer Thomas, her high school sweetheart. ***Caught Bread Handed*** has Juliet being pursued by her husband Carlos, who wants her to come back. When a restaurateur is murdered, Juliet is right in the thick of things. ***Fudge and Jury*** involves a Chocolate Festival. Juliet's four layer chocolate cake is to die for scrumptious, literally. A famous chocolatier drops dead after sampling a bite. ***A Crime of Passion Fruit*** is at sea, Carlos has lured Juliet back to work her magic in the kitchen on his cruise. When a woman is murdered, no one seems to know who she is. The cruise ship setting is fun. ***Another One Bites the Crust*** releases January 2, 2018 and features the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The Juliet Capshaw series (also known as Jules) includes lots of tasty recipes. As a coffee addict, I appreciate that they include coffee!



***Scene of the Climb*** written as Kate Dyer-Seeley, is first in the Meg Reed series. Meg's father was an award winning journalist for Oregon's prime paper. Set to follow in his footsteps she achieved a degree in journalism from the University of Oregon. No sooner did Meg graduate than the paper laid off forty reporters, it was not an auspicious time for a fledgling journalist. Camped out on the couch of her best friend's loft in Portland's tony Pearl district, Meg's job search was going nowhere. Until she ran into Greg, editor of Northwest Extreme, who happened to be looking for a new reporter. Meg has the credentials and the talent to write, but she is not outdoorsy, mild hiking about the extent of her athletic prowess. She fakes it, using her friend's adventures

on her resume to get her foot in the door. Her first assignment takes her hiking at Angel's Rest in the Columbia River Gorge with a group of uber athletes, Meg is not up to this kind of hike and is woefully unprepared. Did I mention she is also afraid of heights? When a body plunges over the cliff, Meg investigates. ***Slayed on the Slopes*** is set on Mt. Hood. Meg joins the Ridge Rangers in the Silcox Hut for a feature story on their mountaineering organization. A blizzard hits soon followed by a dead body with many suspects, all marooned together in the storm. ***Silenced in the Surf*** is set in Hood River amid the Columbia River Gorge's dramatically spectacular landscape and a destination for windsurfers. Meg is on assignment to cover a windsurfing event. A body snagged on the rocks puts Meg on the trail of a killer. ***First Degree Mudder*** has Meg entering a 5K mud race, The Mud, Sweat & Beers, on the Mind Over Mudder team for Northwest Extreme Magazine. Meg has a tendency to find bodies; she does so this time in the team's locker room. We have an annual mud event in Sunriver; contestants leave the field with quite a liberal accumulation of mud. ***In Cave Danger*** releases November 28th and will have Meg exploring Oregon's Lava River Cave despite her claustrophobia.



Saturday November 11 at 5:00 PM we have the great pleasure of presenting Diana Abu-Jaber for her latest book, ***Life Without a Recipe: A Memoir of Food and Family***,

available in paperback. Diana is one of my favorite

authors; she writes stories that face important issues with humor and compassion. Her characters, in fiction and non-fiction, are memorable and full of zest. All of her books are both great fun to read and enlightening. In her memoir she uses those gifts to tell the story of her family, paying homage to two of the people most influential in her life, her Jordanian father and her Southern grandmother. Both instilled a love of good stories and an appreciation for cooking. Anyone who enjoys cooking will relish the descriptions of young Diana with her Grandmother Grace baking pastry, or her Father cooking meals redolent of his Jordanian heritage. They each loved her fiercely, their passions fired through their different backgrounds and cultures made them opponents in the battle for Diana's regard. Each wanted what is best and each had a very different opinion of what that might be. Diana lost both of them in recent years; here she focuses on their life force, their joys, triumphs and loss along with their meaning in her own life. This is also Diana's story of deciding to be a mother and her adoption of the baby girl who bears her grandmother's name, Grace. Adoption is not necessarily an easy process, Diana is open in describing her fears about becoming a parent and the tumultuous day that ultimately resulted in the arrival of a beautiful baby girl. Diana's writing is always a delight to read, both lively and insightful. Learn more about this

talented author in her memoir, it is brave and honest. Her prior works of fiction are excellent. Their settings range from California to Iraq to New York and Miami. All are written with lively prose, interesting characters, and clever plots.

In ***Crescent***, Sirine, a 39 year old Iraqi-American, is happy with her life as a chef in a Lebanese restaurant. She lives with her uncle, a professor, and her adoring dog. I enjoyed reading about a character who was a 39 year old, confident woman. Sirine's life is going along just fine; she rides her bike to work and enjoys cooking. Then her uncle introduces her to a handsome fellow professor, an Iraqi refugee who turns her life upside down. The book is set in California and Iraq, and it uses its setting well. Diana is very inventive. At the beginning of each chapter is a continuing fable. Eventually the fable includes Omar Sharif, speaking of gorgeous, Omar is serious eye candy. Be wary, the food scenes will make you hungry! *Crescent* was one of our Fiction Book Club selections in 2009. At the end of the year the Book Club votes on their top four favorites, *Crescent* was a winner.

***Birds of Paradise*** is a lovely book. Miami heat, the pulsing neon lights color the night sky, and a young girl carries her secrets creating the drama of a family torn asunder. Felice is a beautiful child, with the face of Elizabeth Taylor. She overshadowed her less showy brother, Stanley. Avis adores her daughter. Life was going pretty well for Avis; she is married to Brian, a caring but distracted man, she has a thriving business creating amazing pastries that challenge her creatively, and children she loves. And then Felice leaves, running off into those hot Miami nights as a vulnerable thirteen year old child, taking all the magic away. Avis, Brian and Stanley are left in the wreckage of their lives to try coping with the absence of Felice. As Felice's 18th birthday approaches her presence seems to haunt her family while the young girl tries to grapple with the secrets she bears and the choices that set her adrift on the streets of Miami.

***Origin*** is set in Syracuse New York during winter, a cold blustery place. Lena lives a quiet life, taking pride in her work as a fingerprint analyst but not expecting much fulfillment outside of the job. Divorced from her philandering husband and living in a flophouse apartment, her main entertainment is taking long walks on the weekend. She looks forward to her walks, spending hours out of doors, stretching her legs as she moves around the city. She accepted her husband's infidelity, believing she did not deserve more, until he left her shattered and alone. Lena grew up without any information on her ancestry, a foster child allowed to believe the fantastic story that she was rescued by apes and lived in a rain forest. This fantasy leads Lena to look at the natural world intensely, to feel comfortable in the out of doors but also to feel different from others. Her foster mother did not give young Lena the affection she so sorely needed. She grew up lacking an easy way with people. A distraught woman, certain her baby's death was not SIDS, approaches Lena asking her to investigate. As she starts looking at the baby's death, she notices there have been an unusual number of similar infant deaths. Is someone killing innocent babies and covering it up as SIDS?

***The Language of Baklava*** is Diana's earlier memoir about growing up with a Jordanian father, passionate about cooking great food, and an American mother. It is humorous, lively, and will make you hungry!

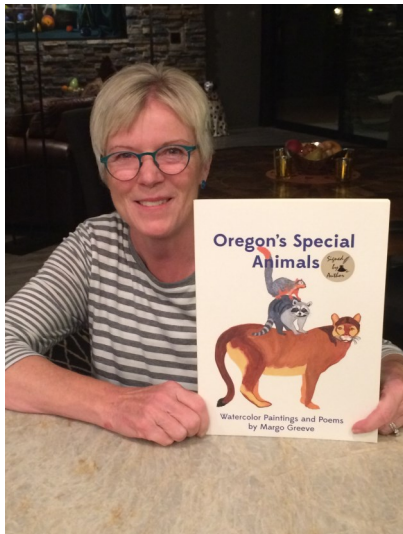
Author events are free and we will have refreshments and drawings for prizes. Please call 541-593-2525, e-mail [sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com) or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend.

### Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday December 16, 2017 ***Mountain Bike Bend*** by Katy Bryce

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





Saturday November 18 from 2 to 6 PM a different kind of event will be featured. This will not be one of our usual author events, come anytime between the hours of 2 and 6 to meet Portland artist Margo Greeve. She will be signing for purchase copies of her whimsical book, ***Oregon's Special Animals***. Featured are many animals accompanied by clever poems, they are sure to delight young readers and would make grand gifts too. This is a great opportunity for children and adults to meet the artist/author.

Margo Greeve has been involved with art and children for decades. In the 1970's she taught art at Marshall High School. After her teaching career, she concentrated on her art and was featured in Portland art galleries. Committing her energies to the Portland art scene, she opened the Margo Jacobson Gallery in Portland's Pearl district featuring painters, glass artists, and sculptors. In 2003 she closed her gallery to move to Singapore for two years where she continued painting and teaching art classes to children. Living in Singapore was a wonderful opportunity to travel in Asia. Returning to Portland, Margo has continued to be involved in art and in encouraging children. She is giving presentations to the students at Three Rivers School on Friday November 17. Encouraging children is clearly important to her.

Sunriver resident Margaret Ward is a close friend of Margo Greeve. Margaret is a member of our book club and great fun, we enjoy Margaret tremendously and are happy she has introduced us to Margo.

We are not abandoning our usual format for author events, see the first two pages of this newsletter for

November's author events. This is a one time signing event, no reservations are necessary, come on by, say hello to Margo Greeve, and view her clever book of poems and art..

Sunriver Stars Community Theater presents Cricket Daniel's hilarious comedy  
The Night Before the Night Before Christmas.

Held at The Door in the Sunriver Business Park (56885 Enterprise Dr.) this presentation of Radio STAR (Sunriver Thespians As Readers), will be produced as a semi-staged Reading. It will include a set resembling the interior of a Broadcasting Booth, complete with a Foley artist (sound technician) on stage, and Singing Commercials sprinkled throughout the merriment.

Here is a synopsis of this delightful comedy: Lou has wrestled with a huge tangle of Christmas lights for the last time! He is grabbing the sunblock, his Elvis in Paradise album, and his wife Carol, and hopping on the Pineapple Express to Hawaii. Escaping New Jersey's freezing weather, his nutty family, and The Holidays is exactly what Lou plans to do. However, a freak snowstorm leaves the couple stranded in the airport, and their dream of sipping Pina Colodas on the beach is in peril. Will a couple of unexpected characters help restore Lou's Christmas Spirit in the St. Nick of time? To find out, come join us on Friday, December 1 at 7p.m., or Saturday, December 2 at 5:30p.m. for a Dinner/Show (7p.m. for Show Only), or Sunday, December 3 at 3p.m.



Tickets; at \$15 for adults, \$10 for students 18 and under (adding \$25 for dinner), are available at [www.sunriverstars.org](http://www.sunriverstars.org) . Please print your own tickets and present them at the door. For more information please contact the Director, Susan Evans Inman at [SusansPacas@yahoo.com](mailto:SusansPacas@yahoo.com)

### Join our Book of the Month Club.

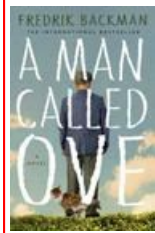
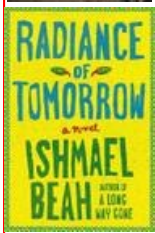
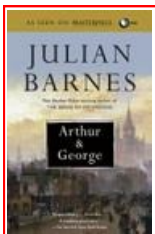
Every month brings a book to surprise and hopefully entertain you. I take seriously the honor of being trusted to select books for you and do my best to choose a variety of styles and subjects for **Book of the Month Club**. We try to have well written books that might be a bit less known, an undiscovered treasure. This is a great way to find new authors you may want to follow or discover less well-known novels from significant authors. Novels allow the reader to step into new worlds, experience different cultures and landscapes, all while being immersed in the story. Reading has been a lifelong joy for me. I am delighted to share some of the books I enjoyed.

Past selections include **Arthur & George** by Julian Barnes, **Radiance of Tomorrow** by Ishmael Beah, **A Man Called Ove** by Fredrik Backman, **Barbarian Nurseries** by Hector Tobar, **Crossers** by Phillip Caputo, **Children and Fire** by Ursula Heigi, **Financial Lives of Poets** by Jess Walter, **New Yorkers** by Cathleen Schine, **Devotion** by Howard Norman, **Mister Pip** by Lloyd Jones, and **Sweet Thursday** by John Steinbeck. Each of these books I have enjoyed and whole heartedly recommend!

What will 2018 bring? Purchase a **Book of the Month Club** subscription and enjoy the surprise every month.

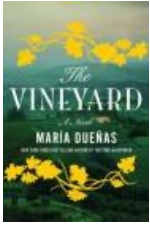
Picked up in the store the first six month subscription of 2018 costs \$97.98 and a subscription for all of 2018 costs \$195.88. Mailed in the USA the first six month of 2018 subscription costs \$109.98 and a subscription for all of 2018 costs \$ 219.88.

**Purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription, join us in a year of adventurous reading, and enjoy a surprise book every month of the year!**



## Staff Recommendations of New Releases.

### Nancy Nelson Recommends.

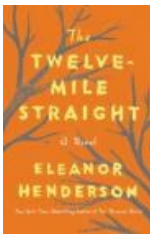


**Vineyard** by Maria Duenas. In 1861 Mauro Larrea is a man of wealth, strength of character, and conscience. He is serious eye candy, admired by women, respected by men. He had come to Mexico as a young man of very modest means, made a fortune in the mining industry. Life is rosy for him until one day a turn of fate, bad luck, brings him to financial ruin. His only hope of regaining control of his life is to conceal the truth. So, he sells his properties, with the intent of paying off his debts and starting over again in Cuba. Once more fate intervenes and Mauro, a skilled pool player, wins a dilapidated vineyard in Spain. He meets the wife of a London businessman and becomes mesmerized by her. He decides to stay and nurture the neglected vineyard back to its former splendor. The story is laced with intrigue, deceptions, passion, courage.

### Deon Recommends.



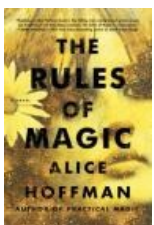
**The Vengeance of Mothers** by Jim Fergus takes place after his bestselling novel **1000 White Women** concluded, the date is March 9, 1876. The wild Irish twins, Maggie and Susie Kelly are bereft after the US Cavalry massacred their tribe; women, children, babies and old people right along with the braves. Their loss makes the women crazy with grief and rage, vowing to take revenge on the soldiers. It is not an idle threat, they will become ferocious warriors riding to battle with their bright red hair streaming in the wind. Struggling through bitter cold the ragtag band makes its way to the camp of Little Wolf. There they are surprised to find another group of women, held in a teepee away from the tribe. These women were taken in a raid on a train led by Hawk, a Cheyenne warrior of great powers. They all, white women and Indian, struggle to survive in a rapidly changing west, against a tide of settlers protected by a determined army. Bonds are formed, cultural barriers crossed, and a determination to stay free rules their desires. If you enjoy western stories, this is a must read.



**The Twelve Mile Straight** by Eleanor Henderson. In 1930 Georgia a black man could be in a heap of trouble for whistling at a white woman, planting a black baby in her womb was way out of the safety zone and bound to cause trouble. Thus Genus Jackson was lynched, his broken body dragged down the **Twelve Mile Straight** tied to Freddie Wilson's truck, when Elma Jessup presented her two babies to her fiancé. They were known as the Gemini twins, one white one black. Elma is the daughter of Juke Jessop, a sharecropper on George Wilson's farm. The Wilson's never really intended for Elma to marry their grandson, Freddie, but they also didn't intend for Freddie's bastard to share space in the womb with a black baby. Genus, a hand on the farm, was the unwitting victim of that white rage and entitlement that made men think they could get away with anything, and maybe they could. Elma and Nan, the black housekeeper and midwife, care for the babies together. The two women grew up together and are as close as sisters. The relations between black and white in this small Georgia town are complicated, intertwined, and clearly leave all the power on one side of the color line. Yet there are good people, and some are an interesting mix of good and bad, shaped by their era, culture, and community. The Wilsons and the Jessops live lives entwined with secrets, eventually those secrets will be their downfall. Through it all the story is made rich by the relationship between the two women and their strength in the face of adversity. Many interesting characters are presented, but Nan stands out as an intelligent, caring woman.



**Love and Other Consolation Prizes** by Jamie Ford, author of the bestselling novel **Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet**. At the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle a child was raffled off. Yes indeed, raffling off a child like a set of cooking pots or a toy. This intrigued Jamie Ford resulting in another of his historic Seattle stories set in the Asian American community with a grand family saga. Ernest has experienced quite a lot for a twelve year old child when he is selected to be raffled off. Born to a poor single mother in China, a Eurasian child not looked on with favor, sent to the US in the hold of a ship, landing eventually as a charity case in a boy's school. His life will be eventful after the raffle too, the winning ticket was held by a Madam of one of Seattle's toniest brothels. Whole new life for Ernest, who has not been exposed to female charms. He quickly bonds with the Madam's daughter, Maisie, and a serving girl, Fahn. Ernest's new digs agree with him, the food is better, he is treated with affection, and given the chance to earn money. Eventually this safe haven in the den of iniquity will crumble; the three friends will have to forge new means of survival. Decades later, as Seattle is celebrating the World's Fair, Ernest resides in a seedy apartment while his wife lives with their daughter, her memory affected by illness has made her leery of all men, even her husband who she does not always recognize. In this precarious state, there are secrets from the past that may demand to be faced after all these years. Jamie Ford's novel presents characters that make the reader care about them while giving a story that highlights many parts of Seattle's history from the suffragette movement, to the red light district, and the two grand expositions.

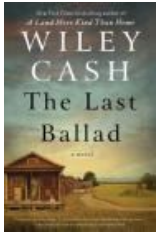


**The Rules of Magic** by Alice Hoffman. This prequel to Hoffman's bestseller **Practical Magic** is a lark, great fun to read. In 1620 Maria Owen chose poorly in romance, resulting in a charge of witchcraft and a curse that would deny her descendants romance, protecting them from her fate. The curse doesn't harm the Own clan, but woe to the man or woman who falls for one of them. In the 1960s Susanna Owen is raising her 3 children in Manhattan, trying to keep them unburdened by knowledge of the gifts granted by their bloodline. Rules are imposed to protect them, most importantly never fall in love. Nevertheless the teens know something is different about them; Franny can call wild birds to her side, Jet reads the minds of those around her without wanting to, and Vincent, well Vincent can do many things. Clearly there is something going on that Susanna is not sharing with her children. The lid is blown off their attempts to fit in when they are summoned to the Massachusetts home of their aunt Isabelle, the same home that was the abode of the infamous Maria Owen. Isabelle allows the siblings to discover their true nature. This entertaining novel points out that it is not possible to escape who we are and often to love is worth the risk.



## Staff Recommendations of New Releases.

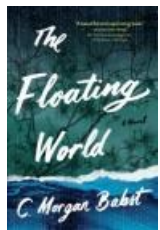
### Deon Recommends.



***The Last Ballad*** by Wiley Cash is bold and brilliantly written, Cash tells the story of one of history's forgotten heroes, Ella May Wiggins, a mill worker from Appalachia. Ella May toiled in the textile mill 6 days a week, twelve hours a day trying to feed and house her family on a meager 9 dollars a week. The math doesn't work, the exhausted mother didn't have enough money to put food on the table and pay the rent. Just outside Bessemer, North Carolina she rented a cabin in Stumptown, the black district, where she found community and friendship, people who would help tend her children so she could work those long late shifts at the mill and give her companionship when time allowed. Ella May was also a folk singer, and gifted songwriter, she wrote ballads that have been recorded by Woody Guthrie and Pete Seger. When the Union came to town, trying to organize the Mill workers, Ella May got on board, and was determined to include her black neighbors a move the local whites did not appreciate. Nobody argues that the Mill owners were not entitled to a profit on their investment and labors. But how much of a profit is morally feasible or economically sustainable? Are the Mill owners owed so much that the people who labor for them are denied the basic necessities for a fulfilling life? Shouldn't the labor that makes that profit possible also be rewarded? Ella May and the other labor organizers certainly thought so. But the Mill owners had the power, with law enforcement and strike busters in their pocket. This book resonates strongly today, when we live in a society where a tiny percentage of the population enjoys the majority of the country's wealth and benefits. Ella May's message still rings loud and clear. However this is not only the story of an activist who tried to improve the lives of the mill workers, this is also a beautifully written novel about unforgettable characters who will move and entertain the reader. Violet the neighbor who realizes she is judged by the color of her skin more than the quality of her character, a vivid bright woman. Hampton, a union organizer from the north, travels south with good intentions and a yearning to understand the land that killed his father over the color of his skin. Sophia is a beautiful young union organizer and immigrant from Ukraine; full of life and promise. And many others, all written with compassion. This is a story that will grip you, pull you into the lives of Appalachia, and make you care about what happens to them. Most of all, ***The Last Ballad*** rescues from obscurity the heartbreaking story of a brave woman who gave everything she had in 1929 for the chance at a better life for herself and others.



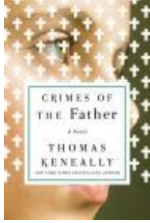
***In The Midst of Winter*** by Isabel Allende. At its heart, this is a love story, a recounting of tragic events, and a celebration of possibility. Lucia Maraz, 62, traveled from her home in Chile to take a post as a lecturer at a Boston university. Lonely but undefeated, her body and psyche bear the scars of her battles. This move was an attempt to engage in life, to remain involved in significant work, to find if not love, at least companionship. The bitter cold of the winter was anticipated but is still shocking. In a snowstorm with the worst of the northern weather showing its nature, her landlord and fellow professor, Richard Bowmaster, calls on her for assistance. Richard, 60, made errors in his youth that bore unanticipated consequences making him wary of connecting with others and dependent on a strict routine. His day has not been going well at all; first one of his cats is seriously ill. On the way back from the vet's office he has a fender bender with an expensive car driven by a young woman who is shaken by the encounter, and now this same young woman, Evelyn Ortega, has shown up in the night at his doorstep. This is too much! Richard calls on Lucia who's Spanish is superior to his, and as a female may be better able to understand and calm the woman. From this opening, the three will start a journey taking risky actions, revealing their pasts in Guatemala and Chile, and ultimately reaching for the future. Allende combines a heartwarming love story with an account of human rights violations and the disadvantages of the undocumented. It is both entertaining and enlightening.



***The Floating World*** by C. Morgan Babst. New Orleans has been threatened and hit by so many hurricanes; the houses in certain areas have withstood the fierce winds and rain. So why not this time? Cora Boisdore is 28, an adult, albeit a difficult adult prone to dreaminess and not overly acquainted with the terms reality or common sense. Her parents, Joe Boisdore and Dr. Tess Eshelman, recognize the potential danger of the coming hurricane, they are in a hurry to evacuate, taking along Joe's aged father, but they cannot persuade Cora. Short of battering down the door, dragging her to the vehicle, and forcing her to go, there is no way to get her into their car. So, eventually, reluctantly, they leave their child behind to the violence of the storm. And Hurricane Katrina is worse than they could imagine. Weeks go by before they are allowed back into the storm ravaged town to search the flooded city for the fate of their daughter. When she is found, Cora has been deeply affected by what occurred in those dark days. Whatever delicate tether she possessed to reality has been torn asunder. Cora did not anticipate the violence of the storm, thought her family home would be spared like so many times before; she was not prepared for the ordeal of surviving Hurricane Katrina. Cora's sister Del returns from New York to try and piece together the puzzle of those lost days. New Orleans's torment and destruction through the force of Hurricane Katrina made worse by official choices, is powerfully illuminated in this moving story of one family's grief and ultimately their strength to find new paths and heal shattered lives. It is also an examination of how we as a nation cope with the aftermath of nature's wrath, the effectiveness of systems in place to help those in need, the failure of those systems in times of overwhelming chaos and destruction, and the way the toll falls on those less able to afford the help they need.

## Staff Recommendations of New Releases.

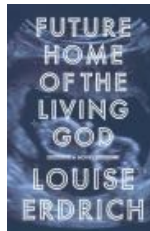
### Deon Recommends.



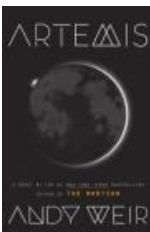
***Crimes of the Father*** by Thomas Keneally. Father Frank Docherty is a free thinker, willing to err on the side of compassion. The plight of children in brothels, the Vietnam War, and apartheid were all causes that he felt compelled to address. His superiors disagreed; he was sent packing from Australia to a remote post in Canada. There Frank found a community interested in his ideas, studied at university, and wrote papers about the tough topic of celibacy and priests abusing their power. Years have gone by, Frank's mother is aging, and he would like to come home. Invited to speak at a conference and given a ticket, it seems like an opportunity to make a case to the powers that be for returning. No sooner does he step onto Australian soil than he encounters a victim of abuse. The taxi driver who picks him up at the airport is enraged when she discovers she is delivering a priest to a monastery. Sarah Fagan, the cabdriver, is a former nun, her abuser a powerful monsignor ironically overseeing compensation to victims of abuse. When a young man's suicide note accuses the same monsignor, Frank feels he must act, must bring this matter not only to his superiors in the church but also to the criminal authorities of the state. Not a move that will endear him to the church's leaders or pave his way for a return to Australia. This is a thoughtful book, with an admirable main character trying his best to do what is right despite the toll it may cost him personally. While it is centered on the Catholic Church and issues the church has faced, it is also an examination of the harm that is caused when power is abused and the abuser is shielded in any situation. This can happen in the office of a Congressman, the local school, or the couch of a therapist. Frank is a character you will enjoy reading about and admire. Keneally is best known for writing ***Schindler's List***.



***Bonfire*** by Krysten Ritter. Abby Williams, an attorney practicing environmental law, resides in a condo in Chicago. She left behind Barrens, Indiana a decade ago, making a life for herself in the big city. There are memories back in her home town that she would just as soon not revisit. Kaycee Mitchell was one of the popular kids in high school, the alpha girl with all the others trying to follow her lead. Speaking in a competition she had a bizarre seizure like medical emergency, she seemed better then it happened again. Others in her group started having the same kind of problems and trouble controlling their hands; not being right. The girls complained, there was a brief investigation, things went on as usual, and then Kaycee disappeared. In grade school Abby and Kaycee had been besties; it fell by the wayside as they grew older. Those memories are back there in Indiana. Now Abby is going home, tasked with investigating Optimal Plastics, an investigation that leads her straightaway to the allegations made a decade ago. Optimal Plastics is the main employer in the area, her investigation is not going to be universally popular. As she delves into the secrets of the past and the crimes of the present, she uncovers a ritual, the Game, involving powerful people that could put her at risk. Ritter's storytelling is fast paced and engaging, you want to know what happened to these girls from the first page.



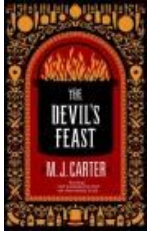
***Future Home of the Living God*** by Louise Erdrich. In a not too distant future environmental degradation and rightwing political conservatives have brought the world to the edge of collapse. Evolution has ceased its forward momentum and is turning back, with babies being born that are primitive species not the humans of today. All life forms are affected. Official response has been to capture and confine pregnant woman, neighbor turning in neighbor with no place safe for prospective mothers. Streets are given biblical names; it is a time of suppression and fear. Cedar Hawk Songmaker is 32 and pregnant when the world starts to go crazy. Raised by adoptive parents who treated her with love and kindness, she has kept secret her pregnancy not out of fear of disclosure but because of a letter. Cedar's birth mother, a member of the Ojibwe tribe has been in touch. Cedar wants to meet her, to see her roots before she tells her adoptive parents she is having a child. Even without that knowledge, they are fearful when she announces she is going to drive from her Minneapolis home to the reservation to meet her birth mother. They point out the swiftly changing political reality, the dangers that are mounting. Cedar is resolute; she will go to the reservation. But environmental chaos and governmental repression are occurring too swiftly, the situation will soon overtake her and affect people everywhere, no place will be safe and no one can be trusted.



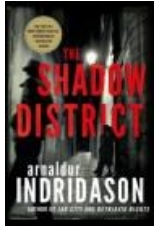
***Artemis*** by Andy Weir. Weir's latest is another kicky, entertaining space thriller, lots of fun to read, that should appeal to readers of his first novel, ***Martian***. Jazz has lived in ***Artemis***, a colony on the moon and a hot tourist destination, since she was six years old. This is home. She makes a meager living as a porter, delivering goods from docking space ships, which she supplements by smuggling. What comes in and goes out of ***Artemis*** is strictly regulated and expensive; Jazz makes a few other items obtainable. Her goal is to be certified to lead tours outside the dome, onto the surface of the moon. The whole reason for ***Artemis*** is to serve the demands of tourism, dollars flow in as the tourists gaze on a distant earth, view historic sites such as early moon landings, and spend freely. The tips are grand for the guides who take them outside the safety of the dome. As the story opens, Jazz is being tested for certification when an equipment failure puts her in a life and death situation; it starts with hot action and keeps up the pace. Jazz is keen to get ahead, she lives in a glorified cubbyhole, all she can afford, and she would like a taste of some of the finer things in life. That requires money, she figures with tips for guiding tourists she could make a bundle; if she can get certified. It is in this frame of mind she answers the summons of one of her smuggling customers, an exceptionally wealthy man with a scheme to gain even greater power and wealth. It is risky, extremely, but the payoff could be huge, could settle her debts and set her up for life. But when she steps into the game, it changes; now it involves control of ***Artemis*** and staying alive might be the main goal. Fast paced fun.

## Staff Recommendations of New Releases.

### Deon Recommends.

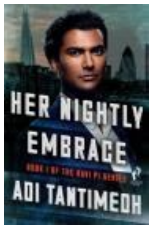


***The Devil's Feast*** by M.J. Carter continues the series featuring Jeremy Blake (a brilliant Sherlockian type character) and Captain William Avery. Matty (a bright streetwise girl) from ***The Infidel Strain*** also returns, she adds to the stories and makes a great continuing character. One of the aspects I enjoy about this series is the way Carter blends real incidents, facts, and people from history into her story. In the 1840's there were all sorts of questionable practices related to food; people ingested tonics with dangerous ingredients for pep, food colors also contained potentially deadly substances, and all kinds of less than nutritional fillers were used. Foodies will love her depiction of Alexis Soyer, a famous French chef, at the heart of this mystery. The banquet held for Ibrahim Pasha at the Reform Club is a real event snatched out of the annals of history. Soyer makes for a wonderful character, he was one of the earliest celebrity chefs, flamboyant and gifted. His talents did not rest entirely on his meals, he was also a gifted inventor and deeply interested in helping the poor. This time Carter keeps Jeremy Blake out of the action for the initial portions of the book (a bit like sidelining Sherlock Holmes) dumping Captain Avery right into solving a mystery involving deaths by poison at the Reform Club table before the big banquet can be held. The deaths could be isolated incidents, with no relation to the Reform Club, or they could herald the beginning of a more sinister plot. Many powerful people are involved in arranging the upcoming banquet, indeed it will have repercussions for the British empire. Poor Captain Avery is charmingly aware of being over his head and in need of help. He turns to Matty, whose station has improved from street urchin to kitchen maid at the Reform Club due to Jeremy Blake's influence. This puts Matty into a strained position, she is thrilled to be learning in the famous Soyer's kitchen, earning respect for her hard work, and enjoying such luxuries as sheets on a real bed, shoes, and plenty to eat. Giving kitchen gossip to Captain Avery serves her allegiance to him for his past kindness, but it also seems like betraying her fellows in the kitchen and risking a position she hopes to keep. As the date for the banquet approaches, and the stakes get even higher, Jeremy Blake arrives and things kick into high gear. I have enjoyed all of M.J. Carter's series, starting with ***The Strangler Vine*** set in India. In reading ***The Devil's Feast***, skip the prologue. It is gruesome, while M.J. Carter's stories do not generally dwell on the gruesome, they are more intellectually stimulating, full of intrigue, and populated by well developed interesting characters. The prologue adds nothing this time to the reading enjoyment and might put you off of a fine story with a fascinating look at one of the maestros of the culinary art.

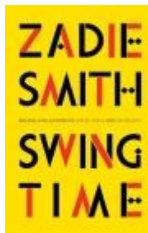


***The Shadow District*** by Arnaldur Indridason. Current day an elderly man dies in his bed, the police do not find it suspicious. His neighbor is shocked, he may have been in his 90's, but he was in great shape, this was unexpected. When the medical examiner takes a look, it is clear the man was murdered. But why kill a guy in his 90's? Time would take care of the problem before too long without the risk of a murder investigation. In 1944 Iceland was coming to terms with housing American soldiers, gaining independence, and trying to keep those same soldiers from the local women. It was a losing proposition as young women would sneak out of the house to meet their soldier beaux. The dead man had old clippings from the 1944 murder of a young woman behind the National Theater. Konrad has recently retired from the police, but the death of this man and the link to the past, of a murder committed the year of his birth in the neighborhood he grew up, catches his imagination and he is compelled to get involved. His former partner, admitting the police department is overworked, accepts his help and the game is afoot. Indridason presents a complex plot, with sympathetic characters, elegantly linking the time frames. This step outside his popular series is an excellent mystery.

### Now Available in Paperback.



***Her Nightly Embrace*** by Adi Tantimeon. 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.



***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.



## November 2017 Book Clubs.

November is a great month for Book Clubs! It gets dark early, the evenings have time for reading. Book Clubs meet at 6:00 PM on Mondays, with one exception this month.



November 6<sup>th</sup> the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Girl Waits With Gun*** by Amy Stewart. Constance Kopp lives a quiet life on a small isolated farm with her two sisters, Norma (who prefers to be outside with her pigeons or working on the farm) and Fluerette (a bit of a drama queen who likes to dress up and enjoys going to town). It is 1914, so trips to town are with a horse and buggy. On such a trip, the three Kopp sisters are run into by thugs driving an automobile erratically. The buggy is destroyed; luckily their horse survives the encounter. Constance is a tall, strong woman with a strong streak of independence, she is not about to let these thugs push her around. She demands restitution. They respond with intimidation and threats. Constance will not back down. The aforementioned gun in the title was given to the sisters by the local Sheriff when the actions of the thugs made him concerned for their safety. Written with a light touch, Amy Stewart based her mystery on real events. Constance and her sisters were real people, their buggy was hit by Henry Kaufman, owner of the local factory, who turned to intimidation and bullying when Constance held him accountable. Constance was appointed the first woman deputy in the US. Stewart gives her due credit in the story for her accomplishments.



**Sunday** November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM Diana Abu-Jaber will lead the Fiction Book Club's discussion of her memoir, ***Life Without a Recipe***. She will give an author presentation on Saturday speaking about the book and then at book club readers will have an opportunity to discuss it with her. It is always fun to attend a book club led by the author after hearing her speak. Diana is a friendly, talented, and kind person. Her books are brilliant and she liberally seasons them with humor. I hope you join me for an evening with Diana Abu-Jaber.



November 20<sup>th</sup> the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Everyone Brave is Forgiven*** by Chris Cleave. Set during WWII, the story begins brash and full of youthful enthusiasm. Mary skied down Mont-Chuoi, escaped finishing school, and arrived in London going straight to the War Office where she volunteered to lend a hand during the hostilities. Assuming she would be assigned to a General or made a spy; she was disappointed when Whitehall sent her to teach school, an occupation she undertook with much verve and originality to the dismay of the principal. Mary came from a prestigious wealthy family; her father was inches away from becoming a member of the Cabinet. The world was her oyster and she was determined not to miss any excitement the war might provide. Of course, reality tends to intrude on our fantasy, there is real destruction, people suffer unbearable harm, and put in harm's way people die. As the war intensifies, Mary realizes the cost to those without her advantages and she matures. Alistair worked at the Tate, his roommate, Tom, was in charge of the schools. Alistair joins up and is shocked by the brutality of war, first in France then in the siege of Malta. Trying to do the right thing, he faced situations where good intentions led to tragedy. Alistair goes from being a happy young man quick with quips and passionate about art to an officer doing his best for the men under his command. He is compassionate with a strong sense of justice. Another memorable character is Zachary, one of Mary's students, a black child who suffers racism and loss yet moves through life with a kind of cocky, grace. What was amazing about this story is the way the characters start out so young, innocent and hopeful, how they are exposed to terrible situations, yet manage to hold a core of bravery and goodness despite it all. Cleave shows clearly how war is worse than people imagine; how wasteful, capricious and brutal it is. Alistair is inspired by Cleave's grandfather who survived the siege of Malta and squired around Randolph Churchill. I do not mean to convey that the story is unrelentingly grim, it is not. It is funny, touching, and endearing as well, so while parts of the story are necessarily somber; it is also very entertaining to read.



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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

December 4, 2017 ***The Lake House*** by Kate Morton [Mystery Book Club](#)

December 18, 2017 ***Small Great Things*** by Jodi Picoult [Fiction Book Club](#)

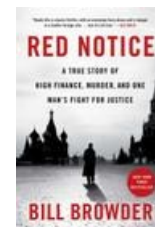
**2018!**

January 8, 2018 ***Magpie Murders*** by Anthony Horowitz [Mystery Book Club](#)

January 15, 2018 ***Red Notice*** by Bill Browder [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

January 22, 2018 ***Constellation of Vital Phenomena*** by Anthony Marra [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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