



Sunriver Books & Music

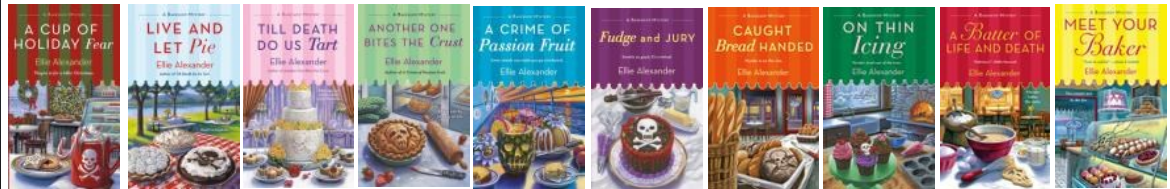
November 2019

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
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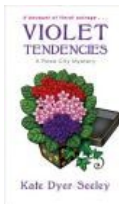
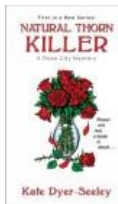
What better way to celebrate the beginning of the Holiday Season than with Kate Dyer-Seeley writing as Ellie Alexander? Her delightful series set in Ashland Oregon and Leavenworth Washington are just the ticket! **Saturday November 16 at 5 PM** Kate Dyer-Seeley returns for the latest in her mystery series.



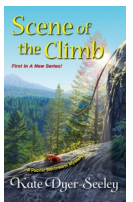
A Cup of Holiday Fear is a love letter to Ashland Oregon, home to the famous Shakespearean Festival. Set during the Christmas Season, it paints a picture postcard of the town decked out in all of its holiday finery. Torte, the family bakery, is in full swing preparing cookies for the parade leading up to the Grand Illumination. New recipes are in the works, and Juliet Capshaw is at the center of all the activity. Recognizing the hard work her staff has contributed, not only in the holiday season, but throughout the year, she has arranged a fun evening in the holiday spirit. Historic Winchester Inn hosts Dickens Feasts throughout the holiday season complete with a six-course meal, and, of course, Ebenezer Scrooge. There will be singers in Victorian costumes, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and fun for everyone. Well almost everyone, the murder victim is not going to have such a great evening. Jules, along with Lance, will be trying to solve the murder and save the holiday season. This is the tenth entry in the popular series, spend some time with Jules and her friends, it will put you in a holiday mood. Clever mystery plot too. Delicious recipes are included at the end.



Beyond a Reasonable Stout is set in a brewpub in Leavenworth Washington in November. Octoberfest is over, the thousands of tourists have gone home, the residents are breathing a sigh and relaxing. Or they would be, if a contentious election were not causing such a furor. Town councilman Kristopher Cooper is running for reelection against Valerie Hedy. Cooper is determined to make the town dry, shut down the sale of beer, thus eliminate the rush of tourists that overrun the quiet village especially during Octoberfest. Sloan Krause, her boss Garrett Strong, her soon to be ex-husband Mac Krause are all involved in brewpubs, so the election means something personal to them. Leavenworth is known for its German theme and beer, without the beer businesses would close, the tourists that fuel the economy would not arrive, the whole culture of the town would alter, it would be a glum time for all. Cooper has to be stopped. And he is. Murder ensues. Prime suspect is April Ablin, dirndl clad German obsessed, self designated town ambassador. Sloan is asked by Police Chief Meyers to keep her ears open and off we go! Sloan and friends are involved in solving a case where everyone has a secret. What I liked especially about this entry is the way Sloan is dealing with the effects of the dissolution of her marriage on her teenage son. The kid is a charmer; thoughtful, kind, and smart. Clearly this stems in part from the respectful way Sloan treats her son and the care she takes in his emotional wellbeing. This is the third entry in a series set in one of the most picturesque Pacific Northwest locations. The characters are likeable and there is a lot about the brewing of beer and pub culture.



Violet Tendencies is the second of her series set in Portland Oregon at Blooma, a wine bar and flower shop, after **Natural Thom Killer**. Britta Johnston and her aunt Elin have made the shop's reputation on their fabulous floral designs. They are in the thick of preparing for Portland's Rose Festival, a major event for the Rose City. Abandoning the tradition of roses, Blooma's float will use garlands of violets twined on a ten foot bridge constructed of grape vines in the Grand Floral Parade. Dark Fusion, a group of anarchists led by Sham, have been protesting the Rose Festival, threatening to disrupt events forcefully. Tensions are high. Interactions between the Rose Festival officials and the protesters escalate culminating with a murder linked to Blooma's float and discovered by Britta. Her friend Officer Tomo Iwamoto and handsome Detective Pete Fletcher try to keep Britta away from their investigation but she will not be deterred. There is an entertaining video of one of Kate's presentations at Sunriver Books & Music including an appearance by Charla Hanson of Wild Poppy Florist. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6B2TIDKwK0>



Kate also writes an amusing series featuring Meg Reed, a journalist writing for an outdoor adventure magazine that sends her into precarious predicaments all over Oregon. Meg's occupation is complicated by being a secret wuss, trying to hide from her boss a lack of outdoor acumen while also writing good stories. She has a penchant for finding dead bodies thus putting herself in peril. They are fun to read, especially with all the great Oregon settings. The first in the series is **Scene of the Climb**.

Kate Dyer-Seeley always puts on a fun presentation! She is friendly and welcoming, join us for a great evening with Kate!

Sign up to attend this free author event by emailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com calling 541-593-2525, or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. There will be refreshments and drawings for prizes. More information is available at sunriverbooks.com.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday December 14, 2019 at 5:00 PM **Uncharted** by Kim Brown Seely

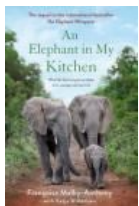
Saturday January 18, 2020 at 5:00 PM **Race of Aces: WWII's Elite Airmen and the Battle to Become the Masters of The Skies** by John Bruning.

Saturday March 7, 2020 at 5:00 PM **Elephant Speak** by Melissa Crandall

Join us to enjoy fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Many Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Space may be limited for some events.

Check sunriverbooks.com for changes or additions to the schedule.

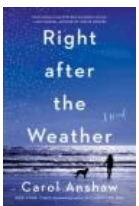
New Releases Staff Recommendations.



An Elephant in My Kitchen by Francoise Malby-Anthony. If you love animals, this is a must read. The memoir opens its first chapter with a beginning and an ending. Lawrence Anthony brought his French wife, Francoise, to South Africa beginning their dream of opening a game reserve, Thula Thula. Before they even got their bearings, they were asked to take in a herd of Elephants that had been causing havoc with farmers. If the Elephants were not given shelter they would be destroyed. How could they refuse? The Elephants had other ideas, immediately escaping and causing much anxiety before they bonded with Lawrence and settled in to their new home. The chapter continues to Lawrence's untimely death and the Elephants traveling through the night to reach his home, standing at the fence in a display of profound mourning. Thus starts the reminiscences of a woman facing the challenge of persuading the security staff to respect her orders, dissuading authorities from culling her herd, poachers, baby animals arriving, and winning the affection of the Elephant matriarch. This is the story of a life lived big



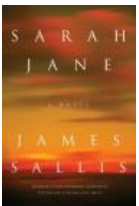
The World that We Knew by Alice Hoffman. WWII let loose a madman, a ruler who spewed hate, culminating in horrific genocide. War torments with horrible choices. For those trapped in its grip, sometimes fleeing was not an option, but then neither was staying. Such was the choice Hanni faced, she loved her invalid mother, a woman who was not able to run, and adored her 12-year-old daughter, Lea. As her daughter grew toward womanhood, something had to be done before it was too late. Hanni convinces Ettie, the daughter of a Rabbi, to do the forbidden, to create a golem to protect Lea as she sends her daughter away, hoping to safety. Ava is a wondrous golem, shepherding Lea to Paris, the home of distant relatives. The women will find kindness, cruelty, love, and perhaps hope. Hoffman confronts evil and responds with wonder.



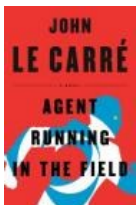
Right after the Weather by Carol Anshaw. People and relationships matter to Cate. This is how she came to be roomies with her ex-husband, Graham, while he tries to recover from the breakup of his latest marriage. He brings along his handsome dog, Sailor, and Cate is smitten by the friendly fellow. She has never had a dog before and finds she quite likes his company. They share the two-bedroom condo in a nice Chicago neighborhood Graham bought for her after their divorce. Cate is a set designer, a job she loves, but she is approaching middle age and barely making ends meet. Neale has been her bestie since school days, the women are tight. A natural beauty, Neale is a yoga instructor living in a big old house in a dodgy neighborhood. Cate's relationship with Neale's son Joe is close, almost like a second mom. She values these people, cares deeply about them. Friendship matters to this woman in bone deep ways. Thus when she arrives at Neale's home to find her friend being assaulted by a huge, hulking man and a scraggly woman, Cate acts quickly and decisively. Violence changes people. Cate has to navigate a new reality with altered perceptions. What do you do in the aftermath?



The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols by Nicholas Meyer. Excellent fun! A new Sherlock Holmes story! It is 1905 and the great detective is growing bored, no fascinating new case to test his mental acumen and his side-kick Dr. Watson has withdrawn into wedded bliss. On his birthday he dines with Watson who has brought a gift, Tolstoy's **War and Peace**, recently translated into English by Watson's sister-in-law Constance Garnet. As if by chance, Mycroft, Sherlock's older, smarter brother stops by their table. But then nothing Mycroft does is by chance. It seems there is a plot afoot to promote hatred toward the Jews. The roots of the plot may be in Russia. Soon the two friends are on the Orient Express, accompanied by a beautiful woman, to find proof. Danger ensues.



Sarah Jane by James Sallis. Sarah Jane had a rough start in life, a mother with a penchant for disappearing and a father who could easily be described as several steps short of steady. She fell in with the wrong companions, avoiding jail by agreeing to the Army and a stint in the Middle East. Marriage was no bed of roses. She drifted and struggled to find her way until she met another veteran, a Sheriff looking for a deputy who took a chance on her. Finally she settled down, made a place for herself in her community. But the past has a way of coming to call. Written in flashbacks and memories, as Sarah Jane takes over as acting Sheriff when her mentor disappears. This is a dark, edgy, heartfelt novel of a woman's character and wrong choices.



Agent Running in the Field by John Le Carre. Nat is an aging spy with three passions, the work he loves, his family, and badminton. His wife, Prue, a respected attorney, has stood by him through all his faraway postings, staying home raising their daughter and building a solid career.

Now back in London, at 47 Nat is afraid he will be put out to pasture. He thrives in the field, has let his work take him away from his family for years as he concentrated on Russia. It was dangerous work that he thought relative to Britain's national security. Work he was good at, but 47 is getting long in the tooth for running field agents and dodging the other side. He goes in for what he fears will be his dismissal, or relegation to a boring desk job, only to find he is being offered a substation, Haven, to run. Admittedly it is not a highly regarded substation, rather the opposite, but at least he is still in the game. He has one

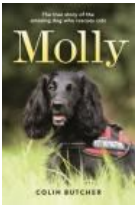
sharp agent, Florence, who has found an in to the dealings of a Ukrainian oligarch. Nat and Florence put together a proposal that could turn into a major operation if the higher ups give the green light.

Nat works off the tension playing competitive badminton with a young opponent, Ed. The younger man is good, but Nat has been the club champion for ages, he still has the moves. After their games they repair to the club bar where Ed fumes about his frustrating job, the idiocy of Trump, and Brexit. Harmless blowing off of steam Nat thinks. But things are about to go haywire.

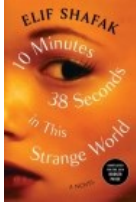
Le Carre infuses his tale of an aging spy involved in way more than he anticipated with humor and a good dose of anger at our current political situation.

New Releases, Staff Recommendations.

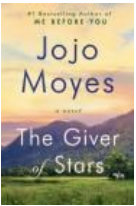
Molly by Colin Butcher. Cats and Dogs come together in this heartwarming memoir about a Cocker Spaniel with a lot of attitude who specializes in finding cats. Colin was a respected police detective and then opened a private detection agency, but his love of animals compelled him to try something new, to help people find their lost pets with the aid of a dog trained to sniff out their whereabouts. Molly loves her job, she is enthusiastic, friendly and has reunited many a person with their beloved cat. Pets are members of the family, many people share their homes with an animal that is dear to them, giving companionship and love. There are studies showing the health benefits of having a cat or dog. It is devastating when a pet goes missing. Molly and Colin come to the rescue!



10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World by Elif Shafak is an amazing novel exploring the role of women in a world dominated by men, influenced by zealotry, and limited in options. And yet it is also a zestful celebration of one woman's life, what friendship meant to her, the hardships she endured, but also the love she found and her joy. Tequila Leila is murdered and dumped in a dumpster, in the 10 minutes and 38 seconds her consciousness remains, she reflects on her life and the path that brought her to this end. Raised in a family where her father's attitudes changed as he became more militant in his beliefs, her two mothers subservient to the rules imposed. Leila flees from the provinces to Istanbul as a teenager, a pretty girl she is quickly trafficked into the oldest of professions. Yet even dealt a poor hand, she still plays her cards to make a difference in her life. Friendship is what brings meaning and comfort. While this story focuses on dark issues, it has moments of joy and splendor. Great writing!

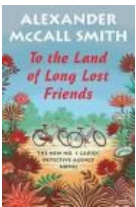


The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes. The Great Depression was a time of horrible deprivation, but it was also a time that called forth leaders who believed in working for the common good, trying to make people's lives better. They were inventive and compassionate in their approach to the problems, sometimes finding little things that grew into actions of great merit. One such initiative, spurred by President Franklin Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, was the traveling library.

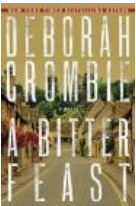


In this work of historic fiction, a group of women take part in running such a mobile library in Appalachia. Alice was a bit of an embarrassment to her staid English family, too impetuous, a wild cannon. She is practically under house arrest to keep her from doing or saying anything controversial when fortune smiles on the family. Bennett Van Cleve and his father, wealthy miners from Kentucky, are traveling in England. Bennett is smitten with Alice; an English rose with beautiful skin and a posh accent. She jumps at the chance to escape as a new bride, not realizing she was trading one prison for another. Bennett's Dad is even more controlling than her English family. When Mrs. Brady, the local organizer, asks for women to ride up into the hills with library books delivering them to people in remote cabins, Alice rebels and volunteers. Margery O'Hare, the head rider, is tough as nails, from a family of violent bootleggers, definitely not the woman Alice's father in law wants consorting with his son's bride. But there she is.

As the women start riding into the hills at first, they meet suspicion and hesitance, but then something wonderful happens. The people on their routes begin looking forward to their arrival, keen to discover what new treasures those saddlebags hold. The story takes the reader into the lives of the women, their friendship, commitment, and their ability to come together when they face their greatest challenge.



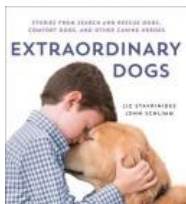
To the Land of Lost Friends by Alexander McCall Smith. Precious Ramotswe, the No. 1 Lady Detective in Botswana, is surprised to see an old friend, Calvinah Ramoroka, among the guests at a wedding. The two women reconnect over a lunch date and Calvinah tells Precious of her sadness at the recent changes in her daughter, the two hardly speak anymore. Seeing her friend's distress, Precious of course wants to get to the bottom of this change in behavior and reunite mother and daughter. Grace is not satisfied with submitting a report exonerating a husband from his wife's suspicion that he was cheating on her. Despite their surveillance showing nothing shady, Grace wants to dig further. And their assistant Charlie would like to wed his girlfriend, Queenie-Queenie but he doesn't have the money for a bride price. Queenie-Queenie has an idea that might get Charlie into hot water. The characters and their striving to do right make this series a real charmer.



A Bitter Feast by Deborah Crombie. Fans of Louise Penny, Martin Walker, and Donna Leon will find much to enjoy in Deborah Crombie's fine series featuring Detective Inspector Gemma James and Scotland Yard Detective Superintendent Duncan Kincaid. A nice juicy mystery is always enhanced in this series by the caring of this couple for their family.

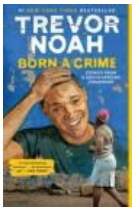
Detective Sergeant Melody Talbot has hesitated to invite her fellow detectives into her personal life, fearful they would regard her differently if they realized her family's wealth and social standing. Her mother, Lady Adelaide, is putting on a charity luncheon in their Cotswold home to be catered by Viv Holland, the talented chef at the local pub. Melody puts aside her reticence and invites her boss, Gemma, along with Gemma's family to spend the weekend. Gemma, her four year old daughter Charlotte, and Melody drive down together arriving first to be greeted by their hosts and two enthusiastic dogs. Duncan was following closely behind, then the boys, Toby and Kit, would come the next day with family friend Doug Cullen. But Duncan doesn't arrive as expected. He shows up hours late, explaining he was involved in a car accident, both occupants of the other vehicle perish. Then things get complicated. There is something dodgy about one of the bodies in the other car. Soon after another death occurs. Duncan and Gemma pitch in to help the local detective solve the murders.

Great rural setting, an adorable Border Collie, and likeable characters. Gemma and Duncan's son Kit is thrilled to help Viv in the kitchen, assisting a real chef fuels his interest in cooking, cool kid. This is one of those series where you look forward to every entry because the characters come to feel like good friends.



Extraordinary Dogs by Liz Stravinides and John Schlimm. Dog lovers will enjoy this homage to the dog heroes who work as police dogs, therapy dogs, and dogs who use their remarkable scenting ability to help mankind. Even if you are not a dog enthusiast, this book may explain why many of us are and give abundant reason for being grateful to mankind's four-legged friend. There is Josie, a Labrador deployed to Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria to search through dangerous falling down structures for survivors. Jessie, a bloodhound named for a young girl kidnapped and murdered in Colorado, works with her human handler, deputy sheriff Kelly Fosler, in searching for missing people and perpetrators of crime. Jessie is there to help find those in danger fast. Taffy a Golden Retriever was deployed to Afghanistan and now uses her bomb sniffing talents for TSA, keeping the skies friendly. Rocket, a Belgian Malinois-Border Collie mix, was one day from getting the needle when the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation stepped in and put his considerable talents to use for the Windsor Fire Department in Windsor California. The stories of these and many others are collected in this account of remarkable dogs.

November 2019 Book Clubs



November 4 the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses ***Born a Crime: Stories of a South African Childhood*** by Trevor Noah. Today Trevor Noah is an internationally known talk show host and comedian, by any measure a huge success. His prospects did not always seem so fortunate. He was literally born a crime, during apartheid in South Africa it was illegal, with resulting prison sentences if caught, for a white person and a black person to be intimate much less have a child. Trevor could not acknowledge his white Swiss father in public, hard for a toddler to understand. Socially he was not really part of any group; the whites were separate, by law, his black relatives could not risk letting him play outdoors for fear of discovery. While we all know South Africa had a harsh policy of apartheid, this is an intimate look at the effect on one little boy. Mandela came to power and things changed while Trevor was a child. He has an incredibly strong bond with his independent minded mother. Their relationship is at the center of the book. This being Trevor Noah's early life, there are many funny stories too. Read it, be immersed in another culture and the rise of one talented young man.



November 11 the Mystery Book Club discusses ***Rising Man*** by Abir Mukherjee, the first of a series set in India. Captain Sam Wyndham's life was going well, a good career as a Scotland Yard detective, marriage to the woman of his dreams. WWI and the Influenza that followed put an end to his happiness. Left a widower with a morphine habit and nothing to lose, he accepts a post in Calcutta. The heat, colors, and sounds of India are overwhelming. Before he has settled, he is thrown into investigating the murder of a senior official found outside a brothel with a note stuffed in his mouth advising the Brits to leave India. Pressured to solve this quickly, Wyndham dives in assisted by Inspector Digby and Sergeant Banerjee. Digby is a bigot and Banerjee is the brighter of the two, but in 1919 the Brits had the upper hand. Wyndham soon recognizes Banerjee's intelligence, much to Digby's dismay. One of my favorite character is Annie, the dead man's secretary, half Brit, half Indian, she spans both cultures and fits in neither.

The series has a fascinating setting, interesting era, great characters, and brilliant writing.



November 18 the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Warlight*** by Michael Ondaatje. In 1945 Nathaniel was 14, his sister Rachel almost 16, when their parents announced that they would be traveling to Singapore while the children would stay in London and be looked after by the upstairs lodger, a man they referred to as the Moth. The move was necessitated by their father's job; the children would remain behind to continue their education. Their father left first, Nathaniel and Rachel helped their mother pack and all too soon she was gone. Quickly the children begin to suspect that their new guardian's activities might not all be strictly legal. He was a bit loose on rules too, but seemed to have their best interests at heart. Their home used to be quiet, now a variety of colorful characters come around to see the Moth, bound by their experiences during the war. This is a new life with new skills to be learned. Months later their mother returns, without their father or explanations, leaving Nathaniel and Rachel confused and unsettled. An act of violence will change their lives. Years later Nathaniel uncovers his mother's secrets. Ondaatje is a brilliant author, I believe this is his best book since ***The English Patient***. In this story he blends humor and tragedy, the moodiness of London, the chaos of the war years, and the actions people are forced to take. It is also a coming of age story for Nathaniel as he grapples with his first sexual encounters, tries to come to terms with his family's secrets, and learns from the Moth's band of friends. Beautifully written.



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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

December

December 2 ***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*** by Mark Twain [Fiction & Classics Book Club](#)

December 9 ***The Word is Murder*** by Anthony Horowitz [Mystery Book Club](#)

Happy New Year!

January 6, 2020 ***Chances Are*** by Richard Russo [Fiction Book Club](#)

January 13 ***Black Water Lilies*** by Michael Bussi [Mystery Book Club](#)

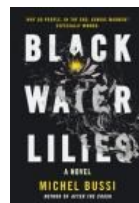
February

February 10, 2020 ***Shadow District*** by Arnaldur Indridason

February 17, 2020 ***The Great Believers*** by Rebecca Makkai

February 24, 2020 ***Blowout*** by Rachel Maddow

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



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Community Room.

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.