



Sunriver Books & Music

November 2022

Newsletter

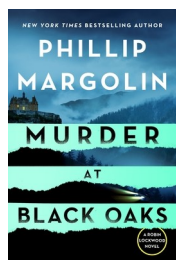
Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving season is a great time to acknowledge the many reasons we have to be grateful as individuals, as a community, and as a country. Rich and I are grateful that my Mom is still going strong and sharp as a tack. Our lives are made so much better by our furry family members, Kipling and our cats. As a community we live surrounded by beauty with miles of trails to walk or bike. As a country we are fortunate that our skies are not filled with drones or missiles bringing destruction. It is good to live in a land that is prosperous and at peace. There are many more things I could mention. It is easy to be dismayed about the many things that go wrong, reflecting on what is going right helps.

Staff Recommendations.



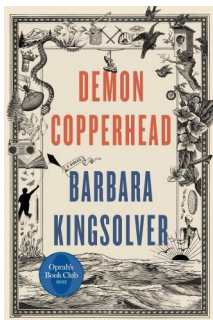
In the mood for a good mystery? ***Murder at Black Oaks*** by Phil Margolin has it all! Portland Oregon attorney Robin Lockwood is enduring the anniversary of the worst day of her young life, a day marked by tragedy. She needs an interesting case to help her stop dwelling on her sadness, a need that is soon fulfilled by a phone call from the daughter of retired attorney Francis Melville. The man wants to meet with Robin, he has something he needs to discuss, something he will disclose only to her. Melville does not leave his home, he lives in Black Oaks, a gothic mansion that is an exact replica of a 1628 haunted English mansion with a history of bloody mayhem and a curse. Robin is intrigued and agrees to travel to the remote location, up a mountain beyond a facility housing the criminally insane. What could be more forbidding?

Years ago Frank Melville was a hotshot district attorney, a prosecutor who argued death penalty cases with a reputation for winning. After he put Jose Alvarez on death row for murdering his girlfriend, being a prosecutor no longer felt right. The case was solid, but Melville no longer wanted to prosecute. He joined a firm and went into private practice, again racking up a string of wins as a defense litigator. Then he quit quite suddenly, retiring and focusing on freeing the wrongly convicted.

Now, 30 years after Melville successfully prosecuted Jose Alvarez, he wants Robin to free him. It will not be an easy task, there are complicated legal issues, but Robin has always been good at the long shots, so she agrees to try.

There will be a gathering at Black Oaks on a stormy night, a night that will lock together those gathered until the storm breaks. A murder will take place, the murder weapon connected to the curse. Robin is more interested in the human agent of the murder, finding out who done it before they do it again!

What more could you want from a mystery? A possibly wrongly convicted man, a cursed gothic mansion in an isolated location, an epic storm trapping people together, and, of course, a murder.



Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver creates a character to remember in this story about a young boy born into a hardscrabble life who overcomes much as he strives to be his better self in a world that places roadblocks in the way.

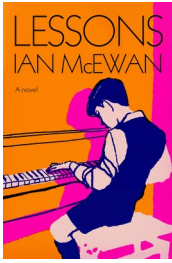
Demon Copperhead's given name, Damon, was easy to switch to the nickname Demon, with Copperhead thrown in for his thatch of copper colored hair. He is the spitting image of the father he never knew, even to sporting the same nickname. Demon came into the world with few advantages, a teenaged mom with little knowledge of parenting. But they loved each other and were good friends as well as mother and son. They rented their small home from the family next door, a large and rollicking family who accepted Demon as one of their own. He could often be found playing with Maggot (another nickname), his best friend, by the creek or in the woods. While they were dirt poor, as were many in the hollers and hills of Appalachia, at least for the first few years, there were some happy times.

Then circumstances change, Demon is gobbled up into the foster child system and those happy times recede into the past. Foster kids are taken in to work as slave labor or bring in that monthly government check to keep a shaky household afloat. There are few good homes that have the capacity to care for at risk children, they are too few to meet the need so most go elsewhere. But this kid is a survivor. He has a keen wit, a sense for justice, and was blessed with athletic prowess and an attractive visage. Demon is an irresistible character! You will root for him when he is down, celebrate with him when life treats him kindly.

In May 1849 Charles Dickens published ***David Copperfield***, a novel with an unforgettable character that exposed the suffering of children raised in poverty. Dickens blended humor into the tale and created a classic for the ages. The problem of children raised in poverty and danger is still rampant. I believe Charles Dickens would like Barbara Kingsolver's homage to his classic. I suspect he would laugh at the many humorous parts, and be moved at her skill in showing this dark side of Appalachia while also clearly expressing an admiration for the resilience of the people and the beauty of the land. It is a fitting tribute to Dickens and a searing account of our time.

Demon Copperhead rewards the reader with an excellent ending too.

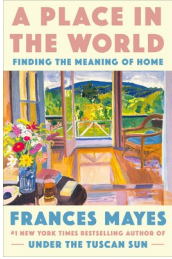
Staff Recommendations



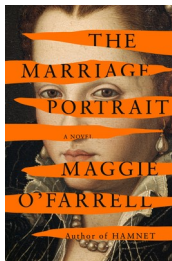
Lessons by Ian McEwan is loaded with history, happenings of great importance and their effect on the lives of those caught up in the repercussions of world events.

This is the story of a man who is impacted by history and abandonment. In the aftermath of WWII Roland Baines is isolated from his mother, stranded thousands of miles away in a boarding school where he is noticed by the music teacher and taken under her not altogether altruistic wing. Years later, as a young man, his wife will disappear, leaving him alone with their infant son.

McEwan makes history MATTER in this gripping novel that marches through time, from the aftermath of WWII, to the Suez Canal Crisis, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Chernobyl disaster. How much control do we have over our lives? How does one man make his life meaningful against the tide of history?



A Place in the World by Frances Mayes ruminates on the meaning of home. She writes of places where she has felt peaceful and at home, if only there for a short while. The places she has lived, the things that create a feeling of home. This lovely memoir is both a travel log, reminisces of homes, and a meditation on how where we live shapes us. It is a joy to read and it inspires you to think about places that have been important in your own life. What makes you walk into a space and feel at home? Read Frances Mayes' book and you may start to think about all the homes and possible homes in your life too! And it is always fun to read about her many travels!



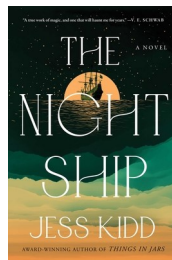
The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell is set in Italy between 1544 and 1561. There is little known about the life of Lucrezia di Cosimo de' Medici d'Este, Duchess of Ferrara. I suspect the young Duchess would like the way Maggie O'Farrell portrays her.

Lucrezia is the youngest daughter of Grand Duke Cosimo I de' Medici, she spends her childhood seeking out the nooks and crannies of her home, the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. She shows an empathy for all life, a delight in nature, joy in horseback riding, and true artistic talent. A happy childhood that ends abruptly.

Alfonso II d'Este, Duke of Ferrara is a handsome young man with a problem. He needs an heir. Pronto. A match with the Grand Duke of Florence would be advantageous for both families, thus it is arranged he will marry the Grand Duke's middle daughter, Maria. Then tragedy strikes, Maria perishes and the two men settle on Lucrezia, a child of 13, as a suitable substitute. She is given a reprieve until her 15th year when she is handed over to the handsome young Duke to be taken far away from everyone she knows to his distant castle.

Alfonso appreciates many of the same things that move Lucrezia, beautiful music, nature, horseback riding. He takes pleasure in amusing her. But there is a dark, ruthless side to this Duke. He needs that male heir, and Lucrezia is expected to produce. As the story opens, it is clear the marriage has taken a dark turn and Lucrezia's very life is in danger.

This is a fascinating novel of renaissance Italy, a time when women's lives and bodies were not their own, but were governed by men. Lucrezia is the perfect character for showing an intelligent, spirited woman's life in an era where even for a Duchess, the limits and costs could be dangerous.



The Night Ship by Jess Kidd. Always writing with a clever turn of phrase and interesting plot twists, this time Jess Kidd turns her considerable talent to a tragic historic event, the 1629 wreck of the Batavia, one of the great ships of its age, that went down by an island off the coast of Western Australia enroute to the Dutch East Indies. She sets her story in two eras. 1629 when the wreck occurs and 300 years later in 1989.

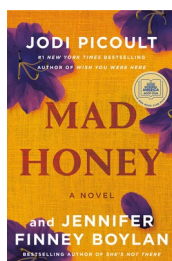
Mayken is traveling with her nursemaid to join her father, a man she has never met as her mother had not wanted to live in the searing heat of the far away land. With her mother's death, Mayken must now make the trip. She is a bright child and is quickly drawn into pursuits that put her in danger. Not everyone on the ship is of good character, and those who would do her harm are not always easy to discern.

300 years later, another child, Gil, is orphaned and sent to live with his grandfather on the very island where the unfortunate ship was wrecked. Gil soon becomes interested in the shipwreck and what happened to the survivors. The island has seen its share of violence, and it is not over yet. Danger is still afoot.



Jacqueline in Paris by Ann Mah. Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis was one of the most admired women of the last century. The tragic widow of a fallen president, assassinated right next to her as his motorcade went through Dallas. Wife of the Greek tycoon Onassis. Independent single woman, and editor at a major publishing house, doing good work in a field she loved. Fashion icon. She was all of these things. But before all of that, before the fame, she was a young woman in Paris in 1949. Twenty years old, taking a year in the City of Light, expected to marry well (that was the norm at the time, prop up the family finances with a good match).

In Paris she finds a world still reeling from WWII, where there are jazz clubs, theater, great food, a city with both beauty and devastation. This is a love letter to Paris and a remembrance of the young woman who became Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis and enchanted the world.

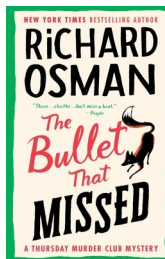


Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan is the story of a tragedy. It is also a story about the necessity for tolerance and acceptance.

Olivia took her baby, left Boston in the rearview mirror and returned to her small hometown, Adams, New Hampshire, when her husband turned out to be less Prince Charming and more thug. She made a life for herself and her child, running the family bee keeping business and watching her little boy grow into a handsome, bright teen. Senior year he fell hard for a newcomer, Lily, a young woman so alive and full of possibility she sparkled. Lily's Dad didn't excel in the parent department either. He didn't want her to be herself, he wanted something entirely different and was willing to try forcing her into that mold. Ava, Lily's mom, is a ranger with the National Forest Service. She took Lily and moved far away from the man who wouldn't love his child for who she was, not for who he wanted her to be.

Life seems sweet to both families. Until tragedy strikes, Lily is dead and Asher is accused of her murder.

Staff Recommendations, Deon recommends.

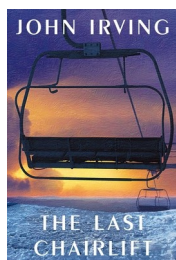


The Bullet That Missed by Richard Osman. Join Elizabeth, Ibrahim, Ron, and Joyce, the gang from **The Thursday Murder Club**, for another excellent escapade. They are delving into more cold cases, this time picking one that some powerful people would really like to keep firmly in the unsolved files. Several years ago a rising star in local TV news, Bethany Waites, was murdered when her car went over a cliff into the sea. By all accounts she was talented and investigating something big. Mike Waghorn is the lead talent on the local news show, *South East Tonight*, he and Bethany were close friends. It doesn't take the **Thursday Murder Club** long to have him on board with helping their investigation.

Of course, Joyce has a crush on Mike. There is electricity between Ron and Pauline, two strong people who fit together nicely. Good to see Ron enjoying some female companionship. Ibrahim has fallen in love with Joyce's dog Allen. Nothing wrong with that, I am besotted with my dog too! Shows good sense to appreciate canine company, and Ibrahim is a paragon of good sense. Speaking of electricity, PC Donna De Freitas and Bogdan are definitely shooting off sparks. And DCI Chris

Hudson is a new, much improved, man since he started keeping company with Patrice. It is grand to see them involved in rewarding relationships.

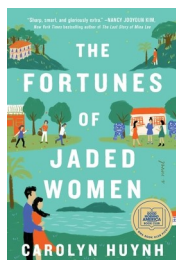
Not all is sunshine and joy though. There are those powerful people wanting to keep their secrets about Bethany Waites. Connie Johnson's rage against Ron and Bogdan is smoldering as she awaits trial for crimes that should put her away for a good while. She has vowed to kill Ron and Bogdan for their role in her arrest. It is not an idle threat; she seems to be running her criminal enterprises from inside the jail. And Elizabeth is being blackmailed into killing an old acquaintance. She definitely has the skill set to accomplish the task, the threat that motivates her is serious, but will she carry out the execution?



Can the gang thwart Connie's ambitions for killing Ron and Ibrahim, solve the murder of Bethany Waites despite the opposition of powerful people, and save Elizabeth from either killing or being killed? Read the book and find out! It is great fun!

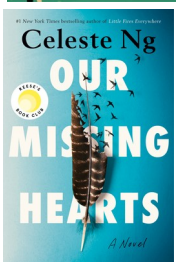
The Last Chairlift by John Irving is a story for booklovers! I loved all the references to books! Like all John Irving books, it is a true pleasure to read. One of the many things Adam doesn't know is the identity of his father. Rachel Brewster, his mother, went off to a ski competition in Aspen Colorado hoping to place in the Slalom Championships, she came home pregnant. Rachel comes from a family of skiers, bursting with athletic prowess. But Rachel is diminutive, not able to get up the speed needed to become a champion. Instead, she has Adam and settles into life as a ski instructor. To say that the family is quirky, would be an understatement. Adam rebels by failing to do well on the snow, born into a family of dedicated skiers, he is the odd duck. Traversing from 1941 to current day, a lot of territory is covered. Often quite funny, but with some hard things to say about the important things in life and what lies in the past. It is a treasure!

Staff Recommendations, Holly Hendricks recommends.



The Fortunes of Jaded Women by Carolyn Huynh. This is a fun book about multi-generations of a Vietnamese family of women living in Southern California, who are under the impression the family is cursed. There are ridiculous dramas and arguments akin to a soap opera. This is a story about the pushes and pulls of immigrants and first-generation Americans and of grandmothers, mothers, sisters and daughters. There are love stories and professional accomplishments. There is community and empire-building. It is laugh out loud funny. Give yourself the gift of reading this book.

Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng. If you feel unsettled and unsure about where our society seems to be heading right now, I invite you to set that feeling down for a time. Instead, take up Celeste Ng's new book, *Our Missing Hearts*. Ng has written a fantastic story for us right now. It's about the United States after a 'crisis.' It's about how a minority manipulated a frightened population and offered safety and security at the expense of an ethnic minority. It's about the unintended impact of poetry.



Ethan and Margaret are regular Americans attending university. They fall in love and have a son, Noah aka Bird. Ethan is a linguist and loves words, language. Margaret similarly loves words and writes poetry. When Bird is still an infant, Margaret actually gets her book of poetry published. Hardly anyone buys her book. Her poems are about her experiences as an American and as a new mother.

As times turn dark, protests and books are banned, 'patriotic' displays are demanded, and those parents who are judged unqualified to raise their own children because they are not supportive of American values are removed from the home. One line from one poem from Margaret's work is harnessed to inspire resistance to the violations of civil rights being promulgated by the dominant culture, which now has the authority of the State behind it. Margaret and Ethan decide that in order to protect Bird from being removed, Margaret will leave and be disowned.

Obviously, this cannot stand. She removes herself from Bird's daily life. She tries desperately to hold back the tsunami that is crashing down on American society. But Margaret yearns for her family and Bird misses his mother profoundly. They cannot be kept apart. Nor can the other families who have been separated. Librarians play an important role of locating and connecting the separated parties. Their training, education and ability to find information lends itself to reuniting ripped apart families.

Imagining this novel as a possibility is really scary. But the reader is left with the important idea that we are not helpless. There are acts we can take and art that can inspire and provoke and ways that we can be a part – even in a small way – of making us a more perfect union. Please read this book.

Staff Changes.

Holly Hendricks has left to pursue other interests. She is active in volunteering with SROA and other endeavors. Holly is someone who believes in contributing to the good of the community. She will be missed.

Mary Condy joined the staff this summer. Mary may be familiar to you from seeing her on the trails with her dog, Charley, or riding her bike. Mary is also an avid golfer and skier.

Jill Mann is in training with us. Jill is friendly, has a ready sense of humor, and is eager to help. Due to staffing shortages we have been forced to close Wednesdays, with the addition of Jill we should be able to stay open all week hopefully by Thanksgiving.

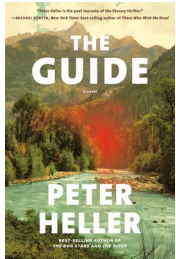
Zach Mann is away at college but will be with us during Holidays and summer. We are happy he will be with us again this month for Thanksgiving. Zach is a treasure. Grant Gamble is the La Pine school librarian for most of the year, but we have the pleasure of having Grant on staff during holidays and summers. It works out great and allows Grant to continue his excellent work buying the Science Fiction-Fantasy and Young Adult sections of Sunriver Books.

November 2022 Book Clubs

November is a great month for Book Clubs, not such a great month for daylight. We lose Daylight Savings Time so evening comes on in the afternoon. The days will get shorter and darker. It is a lot more fun to be outside doing things in daylight, so what do you do when the sun is going down in the afternoon? Read, of course! This is a great time to read! Then join us for an enjoyable evening discussing books with other readers.

Zoom Book Clubs meet Mondays at 6 PM. Email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com letting us know which discussion you would like to attend and we will send the Zoom link the weekend before the discussion.

We are trying to resume our in-person Book Clubs too. That said, we understand over the course of the pandemic people will have altered activities. So, the dates indicating in-person discussions are tentative, depending on if people are interested. Call 541-593-2525 or email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com to indicate you plan to attend and check that the discussion will take place. It is our intention the in-person discussions will occur if there are people wanting to attend.

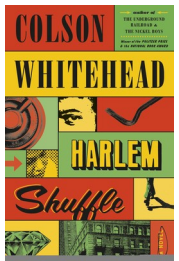


November 7 Mystery Book Club discusses **The Guide** by Peter Heller via Zoom and an in-person discussion on November 14, check with us if you plan to attend.

Jack was a main character in Heller's earlier book, **The River**. He is a Rocky Mountain guy, lives on a cattle ranch with his dad. Jack has faced his share of danger and had more than his share of sadness. The death of his mother when he was a child, and his best friend from college more recently haunt him. He holds himself responsible. Some time away appeals, maybe someplace he isn't known, a place with solitude.

He hires on at a fishing lodge for the ultra-wealthy as a fishing guide. The setting is gorgeous, it is remote, and relatively safe from the Covid virus that has mutated. His client is a famous singer, but he quickly realizes she is serious about fishing, doesn't hold herself above others, and is fun to be around.

It should be a sweet gig. But there are signs that trouble Jack. The main gate is locked from the inside. The two bordering properties are to be avoided, on the one side they risk being shot at if they step across the line, the other side has large, fierce dogs protecting the perimeter. And a steep canyon covers the rear. There are things going on at this expensive lodge that are far more dangerous than catching fish. Jack is about to discover just how dangerous. Heller's writing is brisk and engaging.



November 21 Fiction Book Club discusses **Harlem Shuffle** by Colson Whitehead via Zoom and an in-person discussion on November 28, check with us if you plan to attend.

Ray Carney is a perfect illustration of how family can lead you to trouble just as surely as rain clouds bring rain. Ray runs a business selling low-cost furniture and other assorted items, he is flexible about the provenance of some of his stock.

Ray's father danced on the wrong side of law pretty regularly, he wasn't going to win father of the year either. Thus, Ray often lived with his aunt and his cousin Freddie. While Ray grew up vowing to be nothing like his father, Freddie was somewhat charmed by his uncle. Ray went to school, then into business, Freddie hung out with the wrong crowd, never settled into a legit job, and made his way as a minor crook.

Ray is a family man with a wife and children, his in-laws think their daughter could have done better. He is determined to be a good husband and father, to do better by his family than his father. He works hard, strives to be a good member of the community, and dreams of moving into nicer digs on a better street. He wants his family to have a good life.

But the ties of family extend to the cousin he grew up with. It is Freddie, who gets Ray involved in all sorts of difficulty, think mob guys and dirty cops. Colson Whitehead has written a caper novel, a lively story of New York in the 1960's. It is infused with humor and action while also examining the big issues of race, family, loyalty, and power.

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

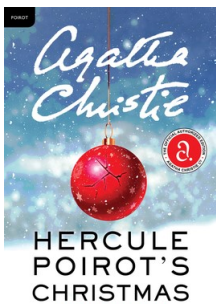
Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held Mondays at 6 PM
Times and dates are tentative due to current situation.

December

December 5 in person & December 7 via Zoom **Hercule Poirot's Christmas** by Agatha Christie **Mystery Book Club.**

December 12 in person & December 14 via Zoom **The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig **Fiction Book Club.**

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



Digital Audio Books.

Sunriver Books & Music offers digital audio books through Libro.

Sign up at libro.fm/sunriverbooks Sunriver Books & Music's logo should appear on the top right corner of the site. Here is a brief description of Libro and their terms.

- Libro.fm works with all major publishers and has a catalog of over 100,000 audiobooks, including New York Times bestsellers.
- Audiobooks can be purchased individually or through a monthly membership program.
- Over 100,000 titles • First month/audiobook for FREE
- \$14.99 monthly fee (one audiobook/month) • 30% off additional audiobooks and audiobook gifts

For our customers who enjoy audio books as well as reading, we hope you find Libro a good source.