



# Sunriver Books & Music

## October 2020

### Newsletter

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

541-593-2525



Yolanda Renee King, Granddaughter of Rev. Martin Luther King, speaks at the March on Washington

#### Black Lives Matter!

Horrific images, news stories of people being murdered by the very officers of the law sworn to protect and defend all citizens. George Floyd in Minneapolis pleaded for his life as the breath was pressed out of him by an officer kneeling on his neck. Rayshard Brooks fell asleep blocking a fast food restaurant's lane. Police somehow allowed him to take one of their tasers, a non-lethal weapon. Rayshard paid with his life. Breonna Taylor was asleep in her bed when heavily armed police burst into her apartment shooting wildly. Aliatiana Jefferson was home with her 8 year old nephew when she was shot through her window. Her crime? The door to her home was left open, police were called by a concerned neighbor. Stephen Clark went down in a hail of bullets for standing in his grandmother's yard. His crime? Holding a cell phone. Botham Jean was just sitting on his couch eating ice cream when a police officer living in the building, confused his apartment with hers, entered and shot him. Philando Castille was understandably nervous when he was pulled over for a traffic stop. He informed the officer that he had a gun in the car, that he had a permit to carry the weapon, whereupon the officer shot him. Eric Garner was being arrested for selling cigarettes. The officer put him in a chokehold, he died. Akai Gurley was just walking down the stairwell, not even

involved with the police, when he was shot by an officer. Tamir Rice was a 14 year old kid playing in the park with a toy gun when he was shot and killed by police. Would a white kid playing with a toy gun have been shot? In Minnesota a 17 year old white kid armed with a lethal weapon he had just used to kill two protesters and grievously injure a third was arrested without receiving any injury from police. This is, unfortunately, just a few from a long list of people killed by officers sworn to protect and defend.

Clearly something is wrong with the system. To say it needs to be fixed is a monumental understatement. After the senseless, cruel killing of George Floyd, with the number of people reading books on racism and marching to proclaim that Black Lives Matter, I was hopeful meaningful change could finally be achieved. Then one lone Senator kept a bill addressing the issue from passing. The protests devolved into rock throwing, fire lighting, and destructive behavior. I believe in protest, have marched and see it as a way to move the conversation forward. But rioting is not productive of anything beyond chaos and the loss of an opportunity for progress.

Also, I fear we are losing perspective on the issue of police. There are 686,665 police officers in the US according to Statista.com. Not all of them are racists. Indeed that number includes people of color. Let us not, please not, forget the firefighters and police officers who didn't think twice but rushed into the doomed twin towers to save lives. Because that is what good cops do, they protect and defend, putting their lives on the line. We ask them to stop murderers, catch rapists, pursue armed robbers, and break up gang violence. Police die while executing their duties. Officer Ryan Winkler pulled a car over for a routine traffic stop, the driver opened fire killing him. Officers Kaulike Kamal and Tiffany-Victoria Enriquez were called to a disturbance involving a stabbing, they were shot and killed. Deputy Sheriff Richard Whitten responded to a shots fired call, he was shot and killed. Trooper Joseph Jon Bullock helped a motorist with a disabled car, when the man became upset about the cost of a tow truck, he pulled a weapon and killed Trooper Bullock. Officer David Kellywood was shot and killed responding to a call of shots fired. Officer James O'Conner shot and killed trying to apprehend a homicide suspect. Officer Ryan Walsh shot and killed responding to a shooting at a convenience store. Sergeant Ben Jenkins shot and killed when trying to help a disabled motorist. Officer Breann Leath shot and killed when she responded to a domestic dispute. And the list, unfortunately, goes on.

As a country we are in a time of crisis. Black Lives Matter, we need to not only insure that people of color are not murdered by police, but also address the economic, education, and housing inequity they continue to suffer. Police officers should have the training, back up, and access to assistance from the mental health community to deescalate situations far before they end in a loss of life on either side. All parties must have a place at the table; community leaders, activists, government, mental health professionals, and police in a search for solutions. Let's not devolve into a nation of hate, let's recognize our common humanity and seek solutions. I don't have the answers, but after listening to last night's debate with the President's Proud Boys comment, I felt no one should remain silent on this issue. Rev. Martin Luther King said it best; *I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.* In the meantime, we continue to feature a Black Lives Matter table and encourage people to read books on racism, to foster an understanding that all people are unique individuals with intrinsic value.

#### Fiction

***The Vanishing Half*** by Brit Bennett  
***The Underground Railroad*** by Colson Whitehead  
***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee  
***The Color Purple*** by Alice Walker  
***Beloved*** by Toni Morrison  
***Twelve Tribes of Hattie*** by Ayana Mathis  
***Darktown*** by Thomas Mullen  
***Lovecraft Country*** by Matt Ruff  
***Homegoing*** by Yaa Gyasi

#### Non-Fiction

***Talking to Strangers*** by Malcolm Gladwell  
***Caste*** by Isabel Wilkerson  
***How To Be An Antiracist*** by Ibram X. Kendi  
***Stamped*** by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi  
***Between The World and Me*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates  
***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson  
***Becoming*** by Michelle Obama  
***The Color of Law*** by Richard Rothstein  
***White Fragility*** by Robin DiAngelo

### Thank You Craig Johnson, Katee Sackoff, and Lou Diamond Phillips!

September 26 they gave generously of their time for a fabulous online event. Craig, Katee, and Lou reminisced about their experiences on the show **Longmire**, talked about ***Next to Last Stand***, the latest book in the Sheriff Walt Longmire series, and entertained questions about the books and the drama. It was a fun event and I am grateful to them! Craig Johnson made us all happy promising to return for an event at Sunriver Books & Music in 2021, providing Covid 19 allows.



***Next To Last Stand*** is a great story! A famous painting, *Custer's Last Fight*, was destroyed in a fire. Or was it? When Charley Lee Stillwater dies at the Wyoming Home for Soldiers and Sailors, he leaves behind a shoebox with a million dollars. Where would the old soldier have got that amount of money? His room is filled with paintings and stacks of art books, nothing that explains the money, but it starts Walt thinking and he is not going to give up until he has the answers. Sheriff Walt Longmire embodies the best in a law officer; he cares about people and animals, he cares about justice, and he refuses to use lethal methods when less drastic measures will suffice, even as it puts him personally in jeopardy. Again and again in the series, Walt goes the extra mile to right a wrong, and does his best to protect and defend.

I hope to have a recording of the event on our website, [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com), soon. Once some technical difficulties with Zoom are resolved.

Lou Diamond Phillips also has a book coming out October 20, ***Tinderbox: Soldier of Indira***, a modern story inspired by the tale of the same name by Hans Christian Andersen.

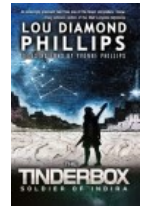


Photo of Craig Johnson and Black Butte Police Chief Denny Kelley taken by Dr. Sue Dougherty.

### A Month of Spain

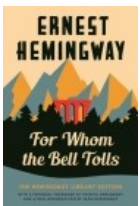
Every year we journey to other lands through the pages of books, concentrating on another country or region. Reading books set in far off places can expand your horizons, inspire you to travel, and perhaps bring understanding or empathy to your thoughts of other cultures. This year it is even more important as Covid 19 has made travel an iffy proposition. Spain has a past with both sadness and beauty. It is a past linked with our country, as many traveled to Spain to help during the Spanish Civil War, including Ernest Hemingway. Spain has a vibrant culture and gorgeous landscape. For this month, join us in reading books set in Spain.

#### Rich Stonehouse recommends.



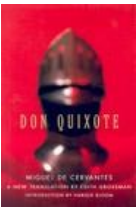
***Spain In Our Hearts*** by Adam Hochschild. The history of the Spanish civil war fought from 1936 to 1939 is known by some as a practice run for the fascism inherent in Germany and Italy. Many American men and women fought in the war to defend Spain's democratically elected government, despite U.S. policy against American involvement. Famous people, such as Hemingway, George Orwell, Pablo Picasso, Paul Robeson, Langston Hughes and Errol Flynn were connected to the fighting either reporting on, writing about or artistically portraying the horrors of mechanized warfare against peasants armed with antique weapons and swords. Hochschild vividly portrays the Lincoln Brigade, who went to war against Hitler while world leaders sought to appease him. Many of the people who supported the civil war were later persecuted and black balled from their professions because of their involvement. This is a heartbreaking historical memoir of a movement that was crushed, even though it was right.

#### Deon recommends.



***For Whom The Bell Tolls*** by Ernest Hemingway is set during the intense fighting of the Spanish Civil War, a conflict Hemingway participated in as a journalist. The story focuses on the willingness of men to die in the service of a cause, even when those deaths will ultimately be meaningless. The setting is a pivotal battle against Franco, the writing does not flinch from portraying the cruelty and violence of war, but then Hemingway was not known for flinching. The main character, Robert Jordan, is an American. He volunteers to undertake a suicide mission, the destruction of a crucial bridge. Of course, he has a love interest. Maria is a village girl whose family was killed by the fascists. The bond men develop in war, the bravery required of them, the pain of betrayal by comrades, and the ultimate price of armed conflict are all dealt with deftly.

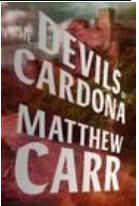
## A Month of Spain



**Don Quixote** by Miguel de Cervantes is my favorite book of all time. Dream the impossible dream. Follow Don Quixote along with his faithful sidekick Sancho as they tilt at windmills and search out heroic deeds to accomplish in the name of the fair Dulcinea. Should a bar maid's life be valued any less than a lady's? Miguel de Cervantes may have reached the unreachable star! His book lives on after over 400 years.



**The Shadow of the Wind** by Carlos Ruiz Zafon, set in Barcelona in 1945, is another of my favorite books. Daniel's father, an antiquarian bookseller, is a kind, sad man mourning the death of his wife. One day he takes Daniel to a fantastic place, a refuge for books. It is a secret, an amazing building, where books are harbored, safe from destruction. Those who know the secret are allowed to pick one special book for themselves. On this day, Daniel makes his choice, selecting a book titled **Shadow of the Wind** by Julian Carax. Daniel is eager to find more books by the author, but when he searches he discovers the author's work is being destroyed, he may possess the only remaining copy. By starting to search for Carax's writing, Daniel starts a chain of events that put him in grave peril.



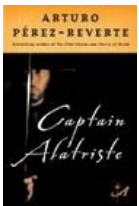
**The Devils of Cardona** by Matthew Carr. The Inquisition commands great power in 1584, this fascinating story gives the reader an idea of what it would have been like to live under such a threat. For it was a threat, heretic or not, an accusation would have dire consequences. Amid this era, a priest is murdered in Belamar de la Sierra, a small town in Aragon, on the border with France. The priest was not a good man and was hated in the small town, populated by Moriscos (Muslims who converted to Catholicism, often without any choice). The authorities are eager to resolve the murder; King Phillip II will be making a royal visit for the marriage of his daughter. There cannot be any lingering unpleasantness or uncertainties during the King's visit. Magistrate Bernardo Mendoza is sent to investigate, along with the less public task of determining if the Moors in Aragon are likely to revolt. Mendoza is a good man who has been involved in bloody conflicts as a servant of his king and his church; in the battle of Lepanto and later in putting down a Moorish uprising in Granada. He has seen the conditions that caused the uprising and the cruelty of its suppression; he would prefer to avoid that destruction in Aragon. Nonetheless he will do his duty. This is a vast story, filled with history and a large cast of characters. If you are looking for a quick read, this is not the book. If you would like a story with a vivid sense of history, interesting characters, and a very tricky mystery, this is just the ticket!



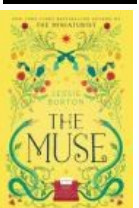
**Black Sun Rising** by Mathew Carr blends real historic figures in a novel of intrigue set in 1909 Barcelona. Dr. Randolph Foulkes, a famous explorer, meets his end in the explosion of a bomb. His wife hires detective Harry Lawton to find out why Foulkes made a substantial payment to a woman shortly before his death. She is willing to pay well and Harry needs the money. Due to illness he left his job with the police force, now fends for himself as a private detective. Time away from London in sunny Spain with a good paycheck for his trouble seems like a good idea. Lawton meets a young anarchist, Esperanza Claramunt, whose lover was taken off the street in front of her and whisked away, becoming a victim of the killings that plague the Ramblas district. Lawton's case morphs from simply finding a woman, into a darker and more dangerous undertaking.



**Love and Ruin** by Paula McLain, author of **The Paris Wife**, is a novel about Hemingway's third wife. Martha Gellhorn was an amazing woman, brave beyond measure, passionate about her independence, and caring about the plight of the down trodden. She met Ernest Hemingway when she was young, just getting started on her writing career. Gellhorn's family had traveled to Key West the December after her father's death for a brief respite, they wandered into Hemingway's favorite bar, and the rest as they say is history. Hemingway was intrigued by the blond with legs that went on forever and she was in awe of the famous writer, even more so when he admitted to liking her first book. In the beginning he encouraged her writing, spoke to her of the fighting in Spain and the need to get involved. She looked on him as a mentor, after all, he was a married man, and she had met his wife, Pauline, and his sons. But when Gellhorn joined him in Spain to report on the Spanish Civil War everything changed. Hemingway was attracted to her spirit, youth, and burgeoning talent. He enjoyed the way she looked up to him, figured all this would stay the same, figured he could tame this wild beautiful woman (silly man). Pauline fought the divorce, she didn't enjoy occupying the same position she had forced on Hadley in Paris, the abandoned wife. Gellhorn and Hemingway's union was fiery and contentious. He wanted her to stay home with him; she prized her independence and was passionate about her career. As she matured, he drank more, partied more, and succumbed to bleak moods. It was a relationship destined not to end well. If you have not read of Martha Gellhorn's reporting on the invasion of Normandy, please read the book, she was one tough broad, inventive and courageous. Gellhorn went on to report on wars and conflicts for 60 years. At 81 she reported on the invasion of Panama.



**Captain Alatriste** by Arturo Perez-Reverte. Diego Alatriste fought for King Phillip IV of Spain. During fighting in the Netherlands, his friend, Lope Balboa, is killed leaving behind an orphan that Altriste returns to Madrid and takes under his wing. Alatriste makes his living the way he knows best, with his sword. He is hired to waylay a couple travelers. At first the job is a to ambush the pair to give them a fright. Then the job changes, he is to kill the travelers and will be paid more. But when he undertakes the ambush, he realizes he is attacking British royalty. And then things get really complicated.

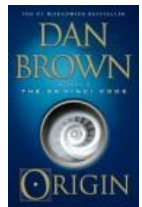


**The Muse** by Jessie Burton. Odell and her best friend Cynthia traveled from Trinidad to England in pursuit of better lives. London was cold, grimy, and big compared to their island home. The young women found employment in a shoe shop where Cynthia thrived but Odell was frustrated. She had hoped to do more with her life; she wanted to be an author not a shoe saleswoman. Things took a turn for the better in 1967 when she was hired by the prestigious Skelton Institute of Art. Marjorie Quick, her enigmatic supervisor, takes an interest in Odell. That interest deepens when Odell meets Lawrie Scott and persuades him to bring the painting he inherited from his mother to the Skelton for evaluation. The painting may be a lost work from Spanish artist Isaac Robles, causing quite a stir. In 1936 Olive Schloss moved to Spain with her parents, the wealthy and movie star beautiful Brit, Sarah, and Harold, a successful Jewish Viennese art dealer. Sarah suffers from depression and Harold is often away on business. Olive befriends their housekeeper, Teresa, and has a flaming infatuation for Teresa's half-brother Isaac Robles. Spain is about to erupt in Civil War, Isaac is filled with revolutionary fervor. Olive is also an artist, of considerable talent, a fact she conceals from the world. Bargains with the devil are made, those kinds of bargains that never turn out right, and events lead to 1967 and the discovery of a painting.

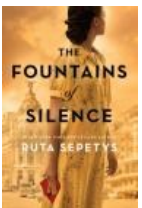
Covid 19 has many of us staying close to home, trying to limit non-essential outings, and being careful amid a world in trouble. Books can let you travel to distant lands, and learn about the life others lead without leaving home. During this time, it is even more important to have the pleasure of enjoying a book.

In October it is dark early, the days are often lovely, but in the evening curling up in a comfortable chair with a good book is a great way to spend time. Each October we focus on a different county or region. Literature can help us understand our world. This year we are focusing on Spain. All of the book club selections and the recommendations in the October newsletter (other than author events) will be related to Spain. More books on Spain will be listed on our website at [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com).

Book Clubs are meeting via Zoom on Mondays at 6 PM.



October 12 Mystery Book Club discusses **Origin** by Dan Brown. Robert Langdon, the Harvard professor from **The Da Vinci Code** returns in another thriller that pits science and religion. Edmund Kirsh has a theory that threatens religious beliefs, people tend to get testy when their religious beliefs are questioned. Nonetheless Kirsh is doing just that, and has invited Langdon to hear him unveil his theory at the Guggenheim Museum in Spain. Murders ensue and Langdon goes all over Spain, accompanied by gorgeous Ambra Vidal, fiancée of Spain's Prince Julian. Of course, there will be dangerous people in pursuit, and lots of clever wordplay.



October 19 Fiction Book Club discusses **The Fountains of Silence** by Rupta Sepetys. Daniel's passion is photography, he dreams of becoming a photojournalist, taking important pictures that show the human condition. He gets a chance to put his passion to practice when he accompanies his Spanish mother and Texan father to Spain where his dad, an oil executive, is pitching a deal to Franco. Although he comes from money, Daniel is easy going about social classes, and he strikes up a friendship with a hotel maid, Ana. Ana's background is troubled, her parents opposed Franco and that has consequences. Sepetys is serious about the research she puts into her books, exposing histories dark secrets.

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

Everyone is welcome.

Meetings are held via Zoom.

Email [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) to sign up to attend.

**Times and dates are tentative due to current situation.**

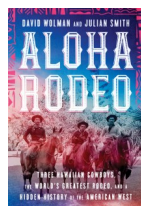
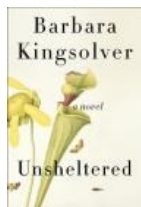
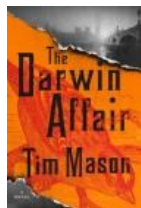
#### November

November 2, **The Darwin Affair** by Tim Mason [Mystery Book Club](#)  
November 16, **Unsheltered** by Barbara Kingsolver. [Fiction Book Club](#)  
November 23, **Aloha Rodeo** by Julian Smith and David Wolman

#### December

December 7, **The Guest Book** by Sarah Blake  
December 14, **Unto Us A Son is Given** by Donna Leon

**Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at [Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)**



### Digital Audio Books.

Sunriver Books & Music is now able to offer digital audio books through Libro. Sign up at [libro.fm/sunriverbooks](http://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.