



Sunriver Books & Music

October Newsletter

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It's history, you don't erase it, you learn from it!
By Mark Skeen.



Thank you Craig Johnson for giving a stellar presentation on the Longmire Defense!

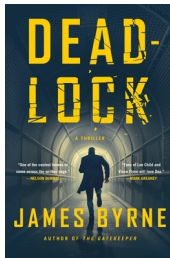
Thank you Craig & Judy Johnson for your friendship & loyalty to Sunriver Books.

Thank you Mountain Meadows Quilters for spending a year creating works of art celebrating the Longmire series.

Thank you to Three Rivers School for having a welcoming venue for the event.

Thank you to our volunteers and staff. Thank you to the great audience!

Photos by Jill James of Three Rivers School. Pat Jones by her quilt. Ruth Kinane's quilt of Vietnam (see ***Another Man's Moccasins***).
Craig Johnson having a word with the Three Rivers School Otter. Craig & Judy Johnson at signing table.



James Byrne (Dana Haynes) will be here Saturday October 21 at 5 PM for his latest novel, ***Deadlock***. Byrne is also well known in the community for his fast-paced series featuring former Spanish Assassin Kaitlin Fiero Dahir and former US Marshal Michael Finnigan introduced in ***Saint Nicholas Salvage & Wrecking***. Email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com to register to attend this free event. There will be refreshments and drawings for prizes. We have limited space so please email to register to attend.

In ***Deadlock*** Byrnes presents Desmond Aloysius Limerick, Dez to his friends. Gotta like Dez, he is on the short side and broadly built, a Brit with an easy smile who is quick to make friends. In addition to his regular job for a shadowy government agency, Dez is a talented musician and plays a mean guitar. An all round, nice kind of guy, but it is not wise to mistake him for soft. The story opens with Dez sent to ply his trade on a joint op with the CIA in the Middle East. The planning is exact, down to the second, the goal difficult but achievable as long as all goes according to plan. Robert Frost said it best. *"Best laid schemes o'mice an' men gang aft a-gley."* Meaning those best laid plans often go haywire leading to strong potential for all holy hell breaking loose. Thankfully they have Dez, who for a heavysset guy moves awfully fast and precisely. When the dust settles, literally and metaphorically, Dez is asked if there is anything his grateful government can do for him. Dez would like to retire and travel (while not on an assignment). *"Always wondered what the States are like. Might pop in. Look around."*

He is enjoying some California sunshine, when a call comes from Raziah Swann in Portland Oregon, she is a gifted vocalist and a good friend. They met through music, Dez likes the young woman, considers her a pal. Someone attacked her sister, Laleh, put her in the hospital, then tossed her apartment. Raziah worries the person may have another go at finishing the job. Nobody messes with one of Dez's mates and does so safely. Dez is on the next flight to Portland, ready to take care of business, and seriously unconcerned about where the bodies might fall. Raziah's worries are soon proven true and Dez puts his considerable skills to work keeping the two women safe from harm while getting to the bottom of why they are being targeted.

Lelah is a business reporter, not on the crime beat, but Dez thinks this is where he should start looking for the bad guys. Lelah most recent assignment was an article about an auditor, Conor O'Meara, who died, the victim of a violent mugging. Unless there is an open season on business reporters and auditors, and Dex doesn't trust the coincidence, then there is probably a connection. Soon all kinds of law enforcement agencies are interested in just what sort of hornets nest Dez has got into, from Portland Police to DEA and the US Marshall.

The action goes all over Oregon and the story will have you waiting for the next in the series. I like the way Byrne uses independent women in his stories, Dez, like Michael Finnigan, likes strong women and is able to be pals with them. His novels have a nice blend of action, humor, and interesting characters. Fast paced and fun to read.

Books can take you to new lands, let you experience different cultures, and expand understanding of the world. Each October we focus on a different region or country. This October we focus on **A Month of Japan**. Join us in reading interesting books set in Japan.



1Q84 by Haruki Murakami is a challenging, wonderfully absorbing epic that is hard to put down. It is my favorite of Murakami's many great books.

Aomame enters a strange parallel world when she ditches her cab stuck in Tokyo traffic and climbs down an emergency exit. However when she reaches the street below, she has, unintentionally, entered a parallel universe. Tengo is given the opportunity to re-write a work of fiction by a rather odd 17 year old.

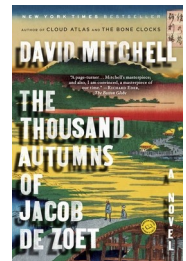
A religious cult, a wealthy doyenne sheltering abused women, a strange private detective, and many others add to this strange tale.



The story twists, turns, and meanders as it takes you on the trip of a lifetime.

The Traveling Cat Chronicles by Hiro Arikawa. This bittersweet story brings together, Satoru, a kindly man and Nana, a feral tomcat with an abundance of attitude. They meet because Nana's favorite place to nap or hide out is Satoru's van. Gently he earns Nana's trust through the delivery of tasty treats and tentative petting. When Nana needs a friend, Satoru is there for him. Soon they are inseparable. Together they take a trip across Japan in Satoru's van visiting friends. But there is a more serious intention for the trip. Cat lovers will be charmed by the loyal yet feisty Nana.

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet by David Mitchell is a fascinating historical fiction that delves into the complexity of living in a different culture.



A new century, 1800, will soon dawn as Jacob arrives off the shore of Japan to the small island housing the Dutch East Indies trading company that will be his home far longer than he anticipates. It was supposed to be a trip of a few years, make his fortune, and return to Holland with money in hand to wed his beloved. Instead, machinations beyond his control keep him on this small island for years.

Jacob's curiosity and gift for language allow him to befriend Orito, a rarity in a time and place where not only is contact between a man and a young woman tightly regulated by society, but also contact between a foreigner and Japanese. The Dutch are kept on the island specifically to isolate them away from the population. Orito is the daughter of a Shogun, but a disfigurement limits her role in society. She is midwife to the Governor's family and has earned his trust. Thus she is granted the unusual right to study medicine with the foreign doctor. This access to the island and the currents at the time in Japan are not without their dangers.

Their stories draw you back to a time that Shogun's ruled. This is a remarkable novel that will surprise and uplift you.



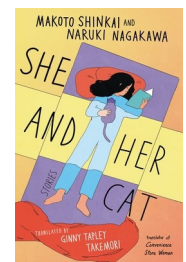
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan is Lisa See's most well known novel, the subject of a movie, and a fascinating tale of historic fiction.

Lily and Snow Flower are of the Yao ethnicity. As children, their families arrange for them to be "laotongs", life long friends. It is a serious commitment, one that will eventually be tested by betrayal and redemption.

Snow Flower is from a higher class than Lily, but fortune and a formidable mother will reverse their stations. Lily's mother sees the potential in her daughter to make a good match and ruthlessly pursues that goal, binding her feet into the tinniest lotus feet possible. See gives lots of historical detail, showing what a woman's lot would be as she explains the painful procedure for foot binding, the festivals, the class structure, and the subservience to men required of all women. The fan from the title is part of the story too, women would write in their secret language, nu shu, upon their fans.

Lily's mother is correct, she is able to make a brilliant match, becoming Lady Lu, and marrying into a household that will bring another great character into the story, her mother-in-law (a very perceptive woman). The stations of the two women reverses, Lily goes from a moderate household into one of wealth while Snow Flower's upper class family falls on hard times and she is married off to a brutal butcher.

They have eventful lives that make for a good story. At its heart this book is an exploration of the past and of the bonds of friendship between two women. A lovely book.

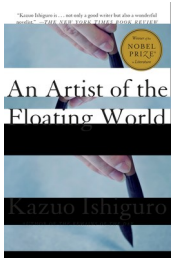


She and Her Cat by Makoto Shinkai and Naruki Nagakawa is a lovely collection of four related stories. It opens with a young kitten sheltering in a cardboard box near a train station as rain pours down. He is cold and forsaken. People pass without noticing. Salvation is at hand when a young woman, Miyu, stops, reaches into the box and picks him up. She brings the cat home, names him Chobi and the two bond, both feeling real affection.

Miyu has never been able to be social and outgoing, she admires her friend Tamaki's easy manner and ability to be witty. Her relationship, with Nabu, lacks the usual conversation and fun of a successful romance, seems more of a convenience for him than an emotional bond. Miyu is more comfortable with documents than people, but it is the yearning for closer relationships and sense of isolation that cause her sadness.

Chobi matures and makes catly friendships of his own, His challenge is to realize he cannot solve Miyu's sadness when her isolation deepens, just be there for her.

The four stories are not to provide resolution, but to show an aspect of the women and their cats. They are lovely stories, each opening with a cool artistic depiction.



Nobel Prize winner Kazuo Ishiguro takes the reader to Japan just after WWII in ***An Artist of the Floating World***.

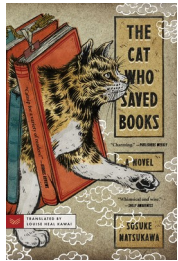
Masuji Ono lives in a house once owned by Akira Sugimura, a man of great influence in Japanese society. Years ago Ono was chosen as the home's purchaser because of his artistic talent, his promise as someone of merit that the family felt would be worthy of the home. The home has clearly suffered some damage during the war that has not been repaired yet.

As the story opens Ono's youngest daughter, Noriko, is in the early stages of negotiating her marriage. Setsuko, his older daughter, is visiting along with her son, Ichiro. There was an attempt the year before to negotiate a marriage with someone known to Noriko, a marriage that seemed like a sure thing, yet it fell apart at a late stage. So there is tension as father and his daughters talk. A hint that something in those negotiations may have come apart due to Ono. Something to be guarded against as they proceed with these new negotiations. With the simplicity of this humble opening, a father and his daughter's contemplating a marriage, subtle clues are given.

As a young man, Ono's early talent was noticed by Seiji Moriyama, an artist of some note whose reputation was based on portraying women of the floating world, women of the night. Moriyama invited Ono to study with him and live at his villa with his other students. Ono thrives, becoming more accomplished as the years go by happily, until he gets involved with those who believe Japan's destiny is to become a world power. He believes using his talent to create art celebrating the aims of the nation is doing important work. This art helps inspire nationalistic fervor for Imperial Japan, it is at that time seen as worthy, and he is highly regarded for it. They are his glory years.

But back to his two daughters and the potential for an upcoming wedding. Now Japan has lost the war, Ono has suffered losses too. Where once he was a man of influence, now he is retired, his paintings put away. Instead of being an influential professor of art, he is perhaps perceived as a traitor, someone who was complicit in leading the country to this dismal state.

Ono reflects on his past, when he was admired, to his present, taking the reader on a trip of sorts through his life. As he does so, he faces uncomfortable truths. The story asks what is the culpability of those who encouraged or aided a false ideal? It is fascinating to follow Ono's change in status and his conflict on what his new reality should be, how he will move on and to what?

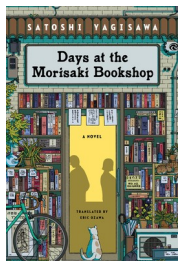


The Cat Who Saved Books by Sosuke Natsukawa is a fun romp. Rintaro Natsuko has always been somewhat of a loner. His grandfather owned a bookshop and they lived together in the apartment above. It was a great way to live, surrounded by books, Rintaro loves reading.

When his grandfather dies suddenly Natsuko is stunned, he is a high school student and doesn't imagine any way around the future that is unfolding. Sell the books, empty the shop, move in with his distant aunt he is meeting for the first time. He misses his grandfather like crazy, but is too numb to show it. He doesn't view himself as having allies, agency or choices.

Then he meets the cat. Tiger Tabby, a large orange and yellow striped cat with a forceful determined personality. There are books to be rescued! No time to spare, come along now, join the mission and save the books! Tiger quickly bundles Rintaro off through a magical portal in the bookstore to a land where books are being held hostage, the first of their fantastical adventures.

As Tiger takes charge of involving Rintaro in book saving adventures, his confidence starts to grow. People also begin making inroads into his isolation. Rintaro begins to realize he is part of a community. A fun book to read.



Days at the Morisaki Bookshop by Satoshi Yagisawa is a lovely story! Takako thinks she is living the life; a good job, and a boyfriend she is over the moon about, but oh boy, is she ever wrong. Young and inexperienced, she hasn't noticed that Hideaki isn't necessarily squiring her about, more just meeting up in their apartments. He announces he is getting married, throwing salt into the wound, his betrothed is another woman in the office, and now it becomes apparent that is why he kept their little romance quiet. Takako doesn't take this at all well. She sinks into a depression, loses her job, and is the poster child for miserable. Money will run out if she doesn't do something.

Saturo, her uncle, has a bookshop in Jimbocho, a part of Tokyo filled with bookshops of many kinds. There is an apartment of sorts over the bookshop, Saturo offers her the use of the apartment free in return for covering the bookshop for a bit in the mornings. She isn't keen about the offer, views her uncle as a bit strange and Takako has never been much of a reader so the bookshop just seems old and musty to her. But it would give her time to recover from the humiliation and heartbreak, time to regroup, so she accepts.

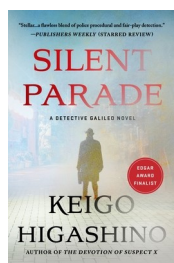
At first Takako is sullen and despondent. Books have a way of working their magic, as time passes, Takako discovers the pleasure of the written word. She also finds out her uncle is pretty cool, and that she has been important to him in ways she did not imagine. Takako's respite in the bookshop helps her grow into someone ready to face her future as an independent, capable young woman.



What You Are Looking For Is In The Library by Michiko Aoyama is a celebration of the power of books. I believe every librarian and bookseller tries to put in a reader's hand just the right book, a book the reader will enjoy and find delight in reading. But the librarian in this story has a higher power, she puts books in the hands of readers that will change their lives. The book is about a library in a community center with an unusual librarian and connected by the various people who come to her for one sort of book only to find the book they really need.

A young saleswoman in a department store learns to take satisfaction in a job well done. A woman mourns losing the position she loved when she has a child, she learns there are other doors to open and ways to be happy. A man working solely to make money to achieve his dream of opening a shop, finds that maybe things don't have to happen the way he planned. A retiree discovers that all of his friends were really work colleagues, his wife is still working, and he feels adrift, but maybe there is another way to be useful. An artist is encouraged to give it one more try. All these people come to the librarian, Sayuri Komachi, looking for one sort of book, and find instead find the book they really need. A charming and delightful read for people who love books!

Reading can expand your horizons. Each October we focus on a different country or region. Be an armchair traveler and join us for a Month of Japan! Step into the pages of a book and live for a little while in another landscape, another culture. Reading fosters empathy and understanding of other ways. It is fun to travel through the pages of a book and may inspire you to visit in person too. October's Book Club selections are set in Japan. Everyone is welcome. To take part in a discussion email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com letting me know which discussion you would like to attend. Our Book Clubs meet on Mondays via Zoom and in person.

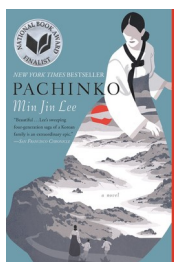


October 2 at 6 PM via Zoom and October 9 at 4:30 in person Mystery Book Club discusses ***Silent Parade*** by Keigo Higashino, an intelligent, complicated tale that will surprise and leave you guessing until the end. This is not a fast-paced story, rather one that delves deeply into the events and how they occurred.

Detective Chief Inspector Kusanagi discusses troubling cases with his friend, Yukawa, a physics professor whom he calls Detective Galileo. Yukawa finds the puzzles they present interesting. A man suspected of heinous murders, but never convicted, has died in what appears to be a natural death. Friends and relatives have alibis and there is no proof to call it murder, far the contrary. Yet there is something that causes him to lay the case before his friend.

Perhaps it is the two murders that the dead man was suspected of committing, one twenty years ago when Kusanagi was a young cop, and the other, the murder of Saori, the eldest daughter of the Namiki family, just three years prior. Saori was a bright young woman, her family runs a popular restaurant in Kikuno. The Namiki's are well liked in the community and the tragedy was deeply felt.

And now the suspected killer is dead. Detective Galileo puts his incredible intellect to work on solving this new puzzle his friend Detective Kusanagi has laid before him.



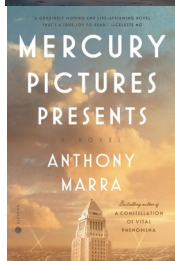
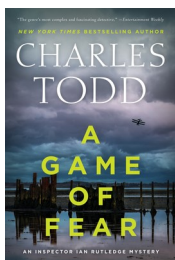
October 16 at 6 PM via Zoom and October 23 at 4:30 in person Fiction Book Club discusses ***Pachinko*** by Min Jin Lee. ***Pachinko*** is the story of displacement, familial obligations, and the high cost of honor.

Beginning in Korea in 1910 when the Japanese have taken over Korea, the story follows a family down the generations. Sunja is the beloved daughter of Hoonie and Yangjin, she catches the attention of a man who grants her his child but not his name. Fearing the dishonor that will follow, she marries a kind and gentle man, a priest travelling to Japan. Knowing she carries another man's child; he promises to love it as his own and keeps that vow.

Japan does not welcome the Koreans, they are thought of as inferior, relegated to undesirable parts of town, and forced to endure petty regulations. This family will live in Japan through generations but never be seen as Japanese, always Korean. They will endure the hardships of WWII, strive for better lives, and feel again the debilitating cost and arrogance that can be mistaken

for honor.

As the years go by, each generation will be defined as other by the Japanese, the question is how they will come to define themselves. If you liked Barbara Kingsolver's ***Poisonwood Bible***, try this amazing story of a family trying to fit into a new land and culture through adversity and triumph. ***Pachinko*** is now also an Apple TV series.



Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings

Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held in person at 4:30 & via Zoom at 6 PM on Mondays.

November

11-6 via Zoom at 6, & 11-13 at 4:30 in person ***A Game of Fear*** by Charles Todd Mystery Book Club.

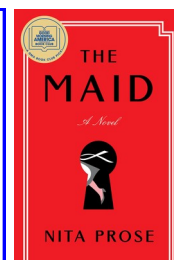
11-20 at 6 via Zoom & 11-27 at 4:30 in person ***Mercury Pictures Presents*** by Anthony Marra Fiction Book Club

December

December ***The Maid*** by Nita Prose Mystery Book Club

December ***The Reading List*** by Sara Nisha Adams Fiction Book Club

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



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