



Sunriver Books & Music

September 2020

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com

541-593-2525



Saturday September 5 at 5 PM Jane Kirkpatrick presents ***Something Worth Doing***, her latest northwest historical fiction. The event will be via Zoom or similar online venue. Please email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com to sign up to attend. ***Something Worth Doing*** releases September 1, purchasing from Sunriver Books would be appreciated, it helps.

Jane Kirkpatrick is known for writing the stories of real women from history whose contributions otherwise are forgotten. They are strong women who face hardship and opposition straight on, in Abigail Scott Duniway she has a woman who embodies those characteristics perfectly. We are in a historic election year, Kamala Harris was just chosen to be the running mate of Joe Biden, perhaps soon to be the first woman Vice President. For anyone having the least apprehension that a woman is not capable of leading, read about Abigail Scott Duniway and be disabused of that notion.

In 1852 Abigail, known by her childhood nickname Jenny, crossed the country on the Oregon Trail with her family. Her mother would not survive the journey. Abigail was hired as a teacher in Oregon, wanted to relish her independence but it was not to be. Her father's circumstances dictated his daughters marry. He picked a groom for Abigail's older sister, but Abigail already had a beau, Ben Duniway. Boy did she come up aces in finding a mate, Ben was a prince among men. A mite

impetuous, less cautious than his bride, and it took him a while to realize that although he was no slouch, she had the keener intellect. But he got there, after causing some havoc along the way (you will have to read the book!). Ben loved three things with an abiding passion, his bride, his children, and horses.



Their fortunes rose and fell, but with Abigail's acumen and determination they prospered. If Abigail's accomplishments ended with raising her children well, being a good teacher, and navigating the family to modest prosperity, that would have been remarkable enough. But Abigail wanted to make a difference, she saw the way other women were treated, good women who were left penniless by feckless men, or beaten, or suffered any number of indignities. It made her blood boil. She didn't agree that men should always make the decisions, or that society should look the other way when a man treated his wife cruelly. She felt women should be able to share in the choices that affected their lives, should be able to hold property in their names, should be able to have careers. And she made it happen!



Abigail Scott Duniway became a force to be reckoned with in working for the rights of women. Taking a huge risk, the family started a newspaper dedicated to promoting the rights of women and working toward gaining the right to vote. And come November 3 women will be able to vote for a woman running to be Vice President of the USA. Abigail would be delighted!

If you have been reading Jane Kirkpatrick's novels, characters from her other books are sprinkled about for the observant reader to find. While ***Something Worth Doing*** is about a woman who lived over a century ago, it is also a story for our times. Jane Kirkpatrick has an impressive number of books telling of women who contributed substantially to the settling of the west with writing that both entertains and enlightens. Her devoted following have made her novels New York Time's bestsellers.



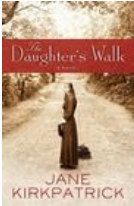
One More River to Cross is set during winter in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in 1844, two years before the tragic events of the Donner Party. The Stevens-Murphy Group was one of the first wagon trains to attempt this crossing into California. The party separates into 3 groups, one going overland around Lake Tahoe, another staying with the wagons, and the larger group taking shelter in a cabin by the Yuba River as they all strive to survive the winter. This historic fiction is based on real events.

Several of Jane Kirkpatrick's historical novels based on real women featured dangerous journeys. ***Everything She Didn't Say*** presents a woman who might be considered the embodiment of strong. Feisty too. Carrie was from a well-respected east coast family, Robert Strahorn would not have been their first choice for a son-in-law. In 1877 Carrie married Robert and began a life of adventure traveling all over the west scouting for the railroad.



Two recent novels have remarkable women traveling the Oregon Trail. ***This Road We Traveled*** tells of Tabitha Moffat Brown and how she came to be named by the Oregon legislature "the Mother of Oregon" after journeying from Missouri in her 60's. ***Light in the Wilderness*** features Letitia, a free black woman, journeying to Oregon where she encountered more obstacles to overcome in fighting for her rights. It is an amazing story.

Memory Weaver tells the life of Eliza Spalding, survivor of the Whitman Massacre, who went on to travel all over Oregon and Washington. She was a strong woman who overcame trauma and lived a full life, she married a man determined to chart his own course. He was also a man able to understand the strength of his wife, perhaps even a bit more than she understood herself.



Daughter's Walk is about a Elga and Clara Estby, a mother and daughter who walked from Spokane Washington to New York in 1896 (over rough terrain in dresses, before Gortex and hiking boots were available) in a bid to win a prize and save the family farm.

Jane Kirkpatrick's books feature women from history who faced adversity and overcame difficulties in achieving meaningful goals.



September 26 at 4 PM Pacific Time and 5 PM Mountain Time our favorite cowboy, Craig Johnson, will give a presentation on the latest in the New York Times bestselling Walt Longmire series, **Next To Last Stand**. It releases September 22. The event will be via Zoom or similar online venue. Please email sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com to sign up to attend. Pre-ordering **The Next To Last Stand** from Sunriver Books would be much appreciated and helpful.

Charley Lee Stillwater's death by heart attack at the Wyoming Home for Soldiers and Sailors presents Sheriff Walt Longmire with a conundrum. Why does Charley have a shoebox with a million dollars and a painting? Custer's Last Fight by Cassilly Adams depicting the Battle of the Little Big Horn was painted in three giant panels. Adolphus Busch paid \$30,000 for the painting, and Anheuser-Busch gave away copies that hung in bars across the west promoting Budweiser Beer. A fire in Fort Bliss Texas destroyed the painting in 1946, or did it? And away we go!

Craig Johnson's Sheriff Walt Longmire series is a treasure. He presents likeable characters with a strong moral compass who face situations that challenge. They become like good friends to the reader, each new book is an opportunity to see what is happening with Walt, Henry Standing Bear and Vic. Vic is the toughest of the group, she never backs down and is ready to take on all comers. Walt, a big guy able to handle trouble, would just as soon settle things amicably. Henry Standing Bear is a charmer! Funny and bright, but loyal to his friends and deadly when the situation requires it. Craig Johnson lives in Wyoming, he makes the landscape a character in the

books, so vividly is it portrayed. Reading can feel like visiting those wide-open spaces.

I have read every one of the series, many of the them more than once because I enjoy them so much.

Craig Johnson is always entertaining! He has been a loyal friend to Sunriver Books & Music since we opened. We appreciate his kindness in being with us on this journey into online events. The Sheriff Walt Longmire series has a long list of prestigious awards including Le Prix du Polar Nouvel Observateur/Bibliobs, Wyoming Historical Association's Book of the Year, France's Le Prix 813, the Spur Award, the Mountains and Plains Book of the Year, the Watson Award, the Library Journal's Best Mystery of the Year, and the Rocky award. They are internationally bestselling books with a well deserved following.

Cold Dish introduces the characters. The story revolves around four white boys who escaped serious consequences for raping a Native American high school girl. Years later, someone is shooting them one by one.

Death Without Company opens with a death in an assisted living facility. Former Sheriff Lucien Connolly is positive the death was murder; The story goes to the past, a woman hard done by, and the Basque community.

Kindness Goes Unpunished moves the action to Philadelphia where Cady, Walt's daughter, is a lawyer. Walt wants to meet her new beau. Henry Standing Bear is involved in a photo exhibition so the two men travel together, where they will meet trouble as they always do, side by side.

Another Man's Moccasins finds a dead Vietnamese girl along a road in Wyoming with a picture of Walt from years ago in Vietnam. The story moves back in time to Walt as a young Marine in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

Dark Horse has Walt holding a prisoner he fears is innocent. She was discovered with a gun in her hand, a shot dead husband in her burned house, and a confession. It doesn't add up for Walt, he goes undercover to find the truth. The horse is pretty cool too!

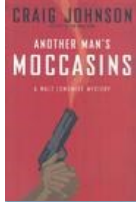
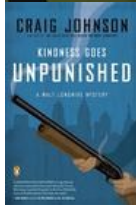
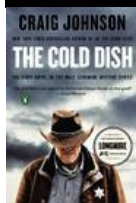
Junkyard Dogs is one of my favorite! The opening scene is priceless. An expensive new McMansion subdivision looks out to snowcapped mountains and down on a dump. The developer wants the dump closed. Add a Romeo and Juliet story for the older set and you have a heady brew of greed, passion, and intrigue.

Hell is Empty lets all the devils loose in a snow storm where Walt follows a band of stone-cold killers after a hand off of prisoners to the Feds goes tragically awry. He climbs up the mountainside entering the circles of hell after armed and deadly men.

As the Crow Flies introduces Tribal Police Chief Lolo Long. She proved her bravery in Iraq, but her hair trigger temper and inexperience are not ideal in a Police Chief. Oddly enough, the prickly Lolo is immune to Henry Standing Bear's considerable charms.

A Serpent's Tooth begins with discovering Cord, a "lost boy" ejected from a rogue polygamous Mormon splinter group. Henry Standing Bear and Walt cross state lines to try and find answers at a heavily armed Mormon compound while Cord discovers movie DVDs and is inspired to try his hand at horse rustling. Cord is soon joined by his self-proclaimed protector, Orrin Porter Rockwell, Man of God, Sun of Thunder blessed by Joseph Smith himself, a man who died over a century ago.

Photo at top left by Adam Jahiel. Photo of Craig Johnson and Dr. Mark Parchman holding Walt Longmire's favorite beer by Dr. Sue Dougherty.





Any Other Name. One of Former Sheriff Lucian Connolly's cronies, Detective Gerald Holman, either committed suicide (the official version) or was helped from this world. Holman was working cold cases, not anything that should have turned deadly. Lucian asks his former protégée Sheriff Walt Longmire to figure out what went wrong.

Dry Bones. The last place any cop wants to be is in the middle of a territorial dispute between the FBI, the Justice Department, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, a local ranching family, and a museum of sorts. That's exactly where Sheriff Walt Longmire finds himself when the largest most complete T-Rex skeleton is discovered on a ranch owned by the Lone Elk family. If there is a lot of money in the equation, the sum total is bound to be trouble. Millions are up for grabs. The issues of ownership murky.

An Obvious Fact takes Sheriff Walt Longmire and Henry Standing Bear to Hulett, Wyoming near Devil's Tower National Monument and across the border from the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Henry intends to race in a dirt bike competition. The two men travel in Henry's 68 Thunderbird, Lola, named for a mysterious woman from Henry's past. Lola the original, a stunningly dangerous beauty, shows up. Henry Standing Bear is reading Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories; a quote is apt, "There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact."

The Western Star moves seamlessly between two time frames. Current day Sheriff Walt Longmire, Deputy Vic Moretti, and former Sheriff Lucian Connolly head to Cheyenne where they will unite with Henry Standing Bear, combining a visit to Walt's daughter Cady with an attempt to stop the compassionate release of a prisoner. Back in 1972 Walt was in his first days as a deputy, boarding the legendary train, **Western Star**, with his mentor, Sheriff Lucian Connolly. The Sheriffs were riding across the state to relax, party a bit with other officers, and have a good time. On this ride, not all of the Sheriffs who board will survive.

Depth of Winter is a gripping story of daring and sacrifice. There are some things worthy of risking your life. At the top of Longmire's list is his daughter Cady. Alone Walt Longmire travels to Mexico where Cady is held captive by a sadistic drug lord with grievances against Longmire and the knowledge of how to hurt him most. In a land where he has no jurisdiction, a country he was forbidden entry he goes into the heart of a bleak, desert landscape against an army of vicious drug runners.

Land of Wolves opens with Sheriff Walt Longmire and Deputy Vic Moretti heading into the high country to assess the death of a sheep. A lone wolf has moved into the area, he is deemed the probable culprit in the sheep's demise, Don, the County Brand Inspector, and Chuck, with the National Forest Service, are of the opinion that shooting the wolf would solve the problem. Vic is against the solution (professional courtesy), and Walt isn't too keen on shooting either. Walt and Vic find the shepherd dead in suspicious circumstances. This ups the ante considerably; Walt's focus is on catching a two-legged predator. Many years ago, Beltran Extepare was sent to prison for shooting off former Sheriff Lucian Connolly's leg. His son, Abarrane Extepare, employed the dead shepherd. Memories are long in the Basque Community and the Extepare family has shown a fondness for using guns to solve their quarrels. Tempers flare between a conservationist wanting the wolf left in peace and others wanting it shot.

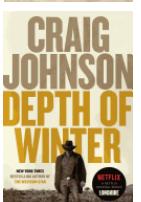
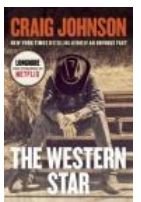
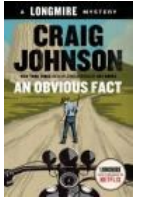
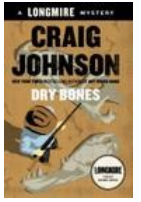
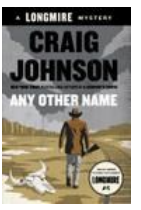
Spirit of Steamboat opens with Walt's holiday ritual re-reading Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol** when a woman arrives. Her visit takes Walt back to 1988 when a horrific accident left a little girl hanging onto life by a thread. Wyoming is under siege by one of those maelstroms of snow and wind that come along about once a century just to reassure you how feisty Mother Nature can be. The medevac is forced down. There is only one plane, a dinosaur from WWII, with the speed, power, and heft to fight out in the storm. But no pilot is able to fly the old bomber, except former Sheriff Lucian Connolly, the Doolittle Raider is intimately acquainted with the craft but it has been a while since he bailed out over the China Sea back in the big war. Walt and Lucian prepare to fly a relic into the storm of the century to save a life. Long odds with a good chance of being scattered all over the Wyoming prairie. Walt's reply "...it's a question of what you have to do, what you have to live with if you don't."

Wait For Signs brings together 12 short stories featuring Sheriff Walt Longmire. All are entertaining; they show different aspects of Walt's character and background. Those acquainted with the Walt Longmire series will delight in seeing our favorite sheriff in different situations, learning a bit more about favored characters. Those new to the series will find this a perfect introduction.



Highwayman is set in the Wind River area, a place of spectacular landscape with granite canyon walls and white water. Also a land of legends. One of those legends was Officer Bobby Womack an Arapaho Highway Patrolman known as the Highwayman who died over 30 years ago in a fiery inferno. Now Officer Wayman is getting midnight calls asking for assistance, from the dead man.

Picture of Craig and Judy Johnson by Brooke Snavelly. Picture of Craig Johnson taking a pre-show Cowboy nap by Sue Dougherty.



Thank you Phil Margolin and Melanie Nelson!

If Sunriver Books & Music survives it will be in a large part due to the generosity, spirit, and kindness of Phil Margolin and Melanie Nelson. They have left me speechless, a rare occurrence. Phil Margolin and Melanie Nelson donated \$5,000 to Sunriver Books & Music.

What is even more surprising, is that they gave this contribution after an honest conversation wherein we laid bare the slim chances this bookstore will survive. We made a conscious decision to put the health of our community, staff, and family ahead of financial considerations. We could have stayed open late and treated this year like any other year. But instead of using staff to stay open late, we limited our hours to 11-5 and made the choice to have someone on staff at the door ensuring everyone enters wearing a mask and using hand sanitizer. We chose to have three people working all shifts to monitor social distancing and the wearing of masks rather than expanding hours and staggering shifts. We chose to eliminate all but two of the display tables in order to enhance social distancing. We chose to limit the number of people in the store to 10, then when that did not achieve social distancing lowered the number to 7. Every one of those actions increased cost and lowered income. There is a significant chance that Sunriver Books & Music will not survive. Talking with Phil and Melanie we laid all of this bare.

There is also the issue of just getting tired of a situation. Talking about books, putting on events, reading, book clubs, these are things that I love to do, that energize me. I loved being a bookseller! Telling people to please put their mask over their nose, or back on, or to please not crowd other shoppers is not something I enjoy at all. It substantially reduces the pleasure in bookselling. We were also forthright with Phil and Melanie about the way this causes enthusiasm to falter.

Knowing the chances of failure, Phil and Melanie took a chance on us. It was not just the generosity of the donation but their confidence and encouragement that have given us a much needed boost. We were shocked when their check arrived! They had mentioned wanting to do so during our conversation, but the odds seem stacked against the bookstore succeeding. And you know what? The confidence Phil and Melanie have shown in us has made a difference, brought a return of the enthusiasm for a bookstore and community of readers we care about deeply. It was like Phil and Melanie, with their generosity, basically said keep trying. So that is exactly what we are doing, we are trying to find a way for the store to survive while still being careful to reduce the risk of Covid 19. It is our intention to make this work!

Phil Margolin and Melanie Nelson are remarkable people. We are so glad they found each other! This is a marriage that inspires, they are caring, intellectually curious, world travelers, generous, and have great senses of humor. Melanie, a successful business woman, has been involved in many charitable endeavors, especially helping women. We feel privileged to know her. Phil Margolin has lead an eventful life. In addition to being a New York Times best-selling author, he was in the Peace Corps in Africa, taught junior high school in the Bronx in New York, and was a successful defense attorney in Portland Oregon representing defendants in death penalty cases and arguing before the US Supreme Court.

Read a great mystery! Phil Margolin's Robin Lockwood series set in Portland Oregon have plots that benefit from Phil's years as a lawyer, they are tight and intricate. Robin is a strong woman, willing to put herself on the line to achieve justice. There are three great entries in the series and another on the way. If you like mysteries, I have read and can enthusiastically recommend all of them!



We also want to thank the BINC Foundation and author James Patterson for a \$1000 grant.

The BINC Foundation is a charitable foundation that helps booksellers. It does amazing work, helping bookstores that have been damaged by flooding, suffered an illness, or any number of calamities. James Patterson is a New York Times Bestselling author who has been passionate about helping children and Independent Bookstores. He regularly donates to children's literacy and strives to keep vibrant Independent Bookstores afloat. When Covid 19 hit, he knew this would be hard on Independent Bookstores and set about helping.

We used this money to aid in making the changes to the store necessary to reopen.

Thank you!

Sunriver Books & Music was closed for 9 weeks due to Covid 19. Expenses continued during the closure.

We want to thank the following people who donated between \$25 and \$100 via the donation button our website or in person.

Ann Weston

Carol Luebke

John Ross

Mechelle Griffin

Rosemary Arca

Winter Clark

And 3 donors who will remain anonymous.

We used this money to pay for masks, hand sanitizer and cleaning products.

Sunriver Books & Music in the time of Covid 19.

Many changes were made to try and reduce risk, we care about our community and staff. Book Club members, trusted customers, people in the health care industry, Deschutes County Health, and the ABA were consulted, every recommendation was taken.

1. The hiking table was removed and the stock of hiking books reduced in order to open a second door so that people would enter through one door and exit another thus not having a point at the door where people could not avoid being too close.
2. Masks and the use of hand sanitizer are required to enter the store.
3. The number of customers in the bookstore was limited to 10. When people were not social distancing, the number was reduced to 7.
4. A doorperson was hired to make sure the mask and sanitizer requirements were followed to enter.
5. All but two of the display tables in the center of the store were removed to allow better social distancing.
6. Our windows and back doors were opened to create better airflow and reduce the risk of aerosols.
7. Staff cleans the check-out counters, doors, and credit card machine during the day. Staff cleans after closing and before opening.
8. Chairs were removed when people shopping commented that they were concerned about purchasing books that others had sat reading for extended periods. It saddened us, but we removed the chairs.
9. Hours were reduced to 11-5 in order to have 3 staff members on duty all day, to accommodate a doorperson and diligently try to enforce mask wearing and social distancing while shopping.

All of these measures had a cost. Sunriver Village survives on summer. Without a busy summer shops do not have enough revenue to last out the off season. Normally we look forward to seeing the arrival of visitors to Sunriver. We anticipate seeing those who regularly visit and greeting those visiting for the first time. This year felt different. Many of our regular summer visitors stayed home, understandably feeling safer in their homes. Sunriver was thronged but people objected to wearing masks, using hand sanitizer. I have no clue how a little piece of fabric that might just keep a person from spreading an illness to others became a symbol of resistance but it did. I know there are differences of opinions on the severity, contagion, and causes of Covid 19, but it is hard to argue with the number of dead and ill.

Our choice was open the doors, extend hours, and let everyone in to possibly have a busy profitable summer. Or keep limited hours, limited numbers, enforce mask and hand sanitizer requirements. Really it was no choice, as much as I love the bookstore, is not worth the death or illness of a person, it just is not. We care about our community and staff! The summer started with new cases rising daily in Central Oregon from days with 0-2 until it reached the low 20's. Governor Karen Brown predicted the end of July may bring 1000 cases a day to Oregon! Finally Governor Brown required masks and that helped. We waited until the daily cases came down to extend hours to 11-6. Thankfully Oregon did not hit the 1000 a day mark, the masks helped.

This was not bookselling as we like it to be! We like people sitting in the chairs, that is why we bought them! Bookstores are for being full of people browsing and talking about books. I like talking about books!

As we go into fall and winter, we will no longer be able to accommodate 3 staff members for every shift. We will have to find a way to function with one door again while trying to address safety. We will continue to also offer curbside and delivery within Sunriver. Normally in slow seasons we have one person on staff and still it is difficult to meet expenses until summer comes again. This year we go into the slow season after being closed 9 weeks, trying to balance staffing up due to Covid with costs, and without the benefit of a profitable summer. Soon we must try functioning with one door and one person on duty. That said, we also go into the coming season determined to succeed, encouraged by the confidence of Phil Margolin and Melanie Nelson. We think we can make this work. We ask your patience as we do the best we can. The bookstore and the community mean a lot to us, we plan to succeed.

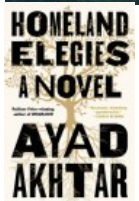
Flu and cold season will come. It will be even more important to follow the requirements for wearing a mask, using hand sanitizer, and not shopping when feeling ill. Thank you for your support and continued patronage of Sunriver Books & Music. .

New Releases.

Staff Recommendations.



The Exiles by Christina Baker Kline. The Exiles is amazing, this book is a gift to the reader that you will not want to put down until the last page is read. In the 1800's women were convicted and sent from England to Australia for any number of offenses, many minor beyond belief. Three women are the focus. Evangaline's crime is being pregnant by her employer's son. Hazel stole a spoon. They meet on the ship transporting them to Australia. The third, is just a child, an aborigine whose people have been relocated away from their ancestral homes, the land they used to roam now being settled by the Brits. A story both intimate and bold, filled with historic detail and vivid writing.



Homeland Elegies by Ayad Akhtar releases September 15. America changed after 9/11, wounded by this tragic assault some in the country focused on revenge against all Muslims, immigrants were viewed differently. Especially Middle Eastern immigrants. And then Trump happened, harking in an era of racial hatred. What must it be like to be a Pakistani immigrant to America? To be part of this country, yet kept separate, viewed with suspicion. Born on Staten Island, by the time he is in college, his father, a cardiologist, has lost a fortune investing in real estate, and in one of those odd coincidences is treating another real estate investor with bankruptcy problems, Donald Trump. With humor, anger, and empathy, the story gives a view of the immigrant experience. Akhtar mined his family history in writing this powerful work of fiction.



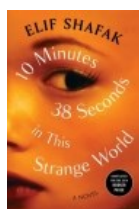
Crooked Hallelujah by Kelli Jo Ford. Three generations of women struggle with their Native American heritage, poverty, and adherence to a fundamentalist religion as they strive for better lives. Grandmother, mother, and daughter discover their personal depth and their bond to each other working to survive while hoping for the future. Set in Oklahoma and Texas with characters whose stubborn pride and work ethic make you root for them, this story embodies the spirit of strong women who battle the limitations of class, culture, and their own beliefs. At times even the earth seems set against them, as wildfires rage.



Squeeze Me by Carl Hiaasen has him at his maniacal best! He manages to combine ecological disasters (pythons running, or maybe slithering fast, in Florida), the plight of immigrants and a President gone rogue. If you are fond of Trump, this is probably not your book. If you wake every morning a bit jumpy reaching for the news to find out what new disaster is taking place, this might give you a little comedic relief. For everyone saddened, shocked, dismayed, and depressed by the current President's ability to tear apart legal and cultural norms with impunity, this is a chance to lighten up, have a bit of fun. Hiaasen creates a great new character with Angie, a diminutive woman who probably likes animals a bit better than humans and works catching the wildlife that gets on the wrong side of Florida's human inhabitants. The local Sheriff and a Secret Service agent are trying diligently, albeit at times futilely, to limit the damage from the aforementioned President and marauding wildlife. Favorite characters from Hiaasen's earlier books also play a part. The name Trump is not mentioned in the book, still for those of us a bit dazed and shocked by the last few years, Hiaasen provides much needed relief and a lot of laughs. I had great fun reading it!

Now Available in Paperback.

Staff Recommendations.



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.



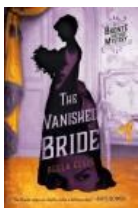
The Accomplice by Joseph Kanon Aaron Wiley's mother didn't survive Hitler's reign of terror, his father has died, his last remaining relative is his uncle Max Weill, still living in Germany. Max was a good physician until he was shipped to Auschwitz and forced to assist Dr. Otto Shramm in his cruel experiments. Max survived, but he put aside medicine to hunt Nazis, seeking some meagre justice for their crimes. By 1962 Max is ill and tired. Aaron, worried about his uncle, took leave from his job as a CIA analyst to spend time trying to persuade Max to retire, to take better care of himself. But for Max hunting war criminals isn't a job, it is a calling. He wants to hand off his files to the nephew who is like a son to him but Aaron is a new generation, not so inclined to dedicate his life to seeking aging Nazis. Then Max sees Shramm, a man who supposedly died years earlier, the shock results in a heart attack and soon after he dies. At first reluctant, Aaron starts sifting the information painstakingly gathered by Max, and is soon convinced that Shramm is indeed alive. Aided by a reporter and the Israelis (efficient Nazi hunters in their own right), and against the wishes of the CIA, Max, a desk jockey with no field experience, goes to Argentina to catch the elusive Nazi. The path to the father might just be through Shramm's beautiful daughter, Hanna. Dark secrets, moral ambiguity, and a hell of a good story.



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 to 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.



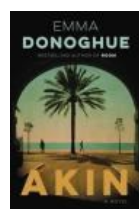
The Butterfly Girl by Rene Denfeld has a lyrical, poetic beauty, even when portraying some troubling subjects. Naomi is a gifted investigator specializing in finding missing children. It is time for her to confront her past, to investigate her own missing person, the sister left behind when as a small child she fled her tormenter. The search has taken her to Portland Oregon where young street girls have gone missing, until their bodies are found. While searching for her sister, Naomi is drawn to a 12 year old girl, Celia, living rough on the streets. As a tenuous rapport blossoms between the investigator and the child, there are forces gathering that will test them to the limit. Rene Denfeld is awesomely talented. She writes about the street children in a way that brings the reader to see their humanity and vulnerability. Ultimately this is an edge of your seat novel, that has the reader cheering Naomi on in her quest for truth and justice.



The Vanishing Bride by Bella Ellis. What if Charlotte Bronte (author of Jane Eyre), Emily Bronte (author Wuthering Heights), and Anne Bronte (author of Tenant of Wildfell Hall) led lives more mysterious than penning classic novels that have remained in print for over a century? Perhaps as sleuths? Ellis gives the three sisters new lives of adventure in **The Vanishing Bride**. Charlotte, Emily, and Anne learn that an old school chum, Matilda, is governess in a home visited by a horrific tragedy. The mistress, Elizabeth Chester, is missing, her bedroom covered in so much blood, no one could survive its loss. Her baby and her step-son are left motherless. The Bronte sisters quickly decide to get to the bottom of the mystery. Spurred on by suspicion of the broodingly handsome Mr. Chester and the lack of official interest in finding the villain. If you enjoy historic fiction or have read any of the Bronte sisters' novels, it paints an interesting picture of the three young woman.



The Secrets We Kept by Lara Prescott. WWII had women carrying messages, gathering information, seducing the influential man to harvest his secrets, killing if necessary, rescuing where possible, and James Bonding it all over the place. The war came to an end, they were patted on the head and told to go be nice little homemakers or secretaries. Then the Cold War had tensions rising. In Russia, Boris Pasternak was penning one of the greatest love stories of all time, a tale full of the suffering of the Russian people. It would earn the author the Nobel Prize. To the CIA this seemed like just the sort of story they wanted people to read, something showing that the Russian revolution, communism, brought hardship not equality, suffering not everyone enjoying the best fruits of the country. There was just a slight difficulty, the Russians really did not want this book published, they certainly did not want Russians to be reading it. So the gals were pulled out of the typing pool and put back into the spy game. If you love classic literature, this is your book as it dwells on the life of Pasternak, his lover Olga Vsevolodovna, and their struggles to have **Dr. Zhivago** published. If you enjoy spy stories with intricate plots, this Cold War effort to put **Dr. Zhivago** into the hands of Russian people has you covered. If you like stories about strong women in difficult roles, this story is for you.



Akin by Emma Donoghue. Noah Selvaggio led a quiet, comfortable life, a chemistry professor living in Manhattan. He is fast approaching 80, his wife, a noted scientist has died, his sister and brother-in-law are both dead. There are no strings attached anymore. As the story opens, he is about to embark on a trip to discover his roots in France. His grandfather was a famous photographer, his work hangs in museums, and his mother stayed in France to take care of him while sending Noah to his father and safety in America as a toddler. He never returned, never learned much about what his mother did during those war years in France. Now he wants to know, his curiosity sparked by photos found in his sisters belongings. All is set for the trip when out of the blue he gets a call from Children's Services. Noah's nephew had a drug problem, died of an overdose. His child was being cared for by the maternal grandmother while the mother served a jail sentence. It seems the grandmother has died and there is no other relative to take the little boy. If Noah is not willing to step up, Michael will be swallowed by foster care. Noah doesn't see how he can be of help; he is a childless elderly man about to embark on international travel. Nonetheless he is persuaded to meet the child. And that is how Noah travels to France accompanied by a bereaved, angry, foulmouthed eleven-year-old Michael. The old man and the young boy argue and bond as they search for clues as to how Noah's mother spent the years of Nazi occupation. Noah begins to question his priorities in dealing with Michael's father, asking himself if he could have done more. The story works.



Right after the Weather by Carol Anshaw. People matter to Cate; 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 beastie 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?



August 30-September 5.

Inspire a child to enjoy reading! Donate a book to Three Rivers School!

It is hard for school districts to find the funds to keep their libraries and classrooms thriving with good literature. Help fuel the school children's passion for reading. Buy any book in the children's section at 35% off, we keep the book and deliver it to Three Rivers School with your name & address. The first child to read the book will write you a thank you note, thereafter the book is available for the Three Rivers students. In donating books this way the children are exposed to a wider variety of literature as everyone picks books they feel will ignite a desire to read!

A \$19.99 book would cost you \$12.99, a \$16.99 book will be \$11.05, a \$12.99 book becomes \$8.44, \$9.99 reduces to \$6.49, and \$6.99 is just \$4.54.

Flashman July 2, 2002- January 31, 2015

If you are being careful, it can feel a bit isolating. Staying in touch, while also limiting time outside your home to only essential trips for groceries and such, it is important. Book Clubs are a good way to be in touch safely, we are using Zoom and meet at 6PM on Mondays.



September 7 Mystery Book Club discusses *The Paragon Hotel* by Lindsay Faye. Writing that zings with an electric energy, captures pitch perfect the anything goes attitudes of the 1920's. Well, almost anything goes, clearly as the story progresses some things do not go, such as friendship between black and white.

Alice James flees New York City with a bullet wound in her side, hoping the first train west, trying to cover as much land as possible away from her potential pursuers, dangerous men already proving themselves capable of shooting a woman. The wound is serious, her condition deteriorating, perhaps soon to prove fatal if not for the kindness of Max, a black Pullman porter who risks taking a white woman to the all-black *Paragon Hotel* where he persuades Dr. Pendleton to tend to her wound and a reluctant Maveen, the hotel manager, to provide shelter.

There Alice makes the acquaintance of a lively cast of characters, including the beguiling Blossom Fontaine, a songstress with serious talent. When Davy Lee, a small boy goes missing, a scamp of a fellow who has delighted Alice with his joyful attitude, she cannot help but get involved. A dangerous undertaking considering the nefarious activities of the Ku Klux Klan. In alternating chapters, the tale goes back to Alice's days in Harlem and how she came to be sporting that bullet hole. A page turning romp of a book that wildly entertains while also illuminating the less savory aspects of Oregon's early history.

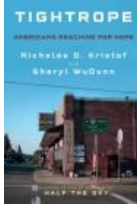


Every year the Fiction Book Club acknowledges Banned Book Week with a discussion of a Banned Book. This year the Classic and Fiction Book Clubs combine on September 14 to discuss *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov.

Humbert Humbert writes a tell all narrative of the steps that brought him to be a murderer awaiting trial. He supposes it all started in France with his childhood infatuation and lust for Annabel. Her perfection set his ideal age for the female form at 9 to 13, beyond that they are over the hill.



This is a problem for Humbert as society is dead set against men preying on children, and rightly so. Thus, when he sees the 12-year-old Delores Haze, known as Lolita, a living double of his childhood love, Annabel, he realizes he needs to be devious. In order to get near Lolita, he marries her mother who conveniently perishes leaving Lolita alone with Humbert. But the seduction does not go as planned, Lolita has been taking lessons in the erotic arts in camp and she seduces Humbert. The two take off on a road trip across the USA. The story is disturbing, brilliantly written, and not overly explicitly sexual. Humbert is definitely horrible, but a rather well-spoken monster and Nabokov tells his story well.



September 21 the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses *Tightrope* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.

While the top 1% reap ever greater rewards there is a segment of our country falling farther and farther behind, finding the American Dream beyond their grasp.

Nicholas Kristoff grew up on a farm in Yamhill, Oregon. The children riding on the number 6 bus with him share an often-tragic trajectory. Nicholas kept in touch with the children and families he knew as a child, they give a human face to the problems facing many Americans.

Although rural Oregon is a focus of *Tightrope*, it is not the sole area examined as Kristoff and WuDunn explore what has happened in America. There is the story of a Veteran in Baltimore whose injuries resulted in prescriptions for pain killers leading him into addiction and a downward spiral. There is the prison program for women addicts that actually works, helping the women to rejoin society and live productive lives. The book ranges across America, always returning to Oregon, as it tells how addiction, family violence, factories closing, and a host of issues lead to poverty and despair for far too many people in such a rich land. There is an intimacy and urgency in the writing that takes complex issues and makes them understandable in an empathetic way. It does no good to tell people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps when they don't even have boots.

Tightrope is a great discussion book, giving the reader a lot to think about and showing a way to a more equitable future.

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

Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held via Zoom.

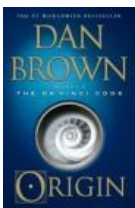
Times and dates are tentative due to current situation.

October

October 12, *Origin* by Dan Brown for our Month of Spain. [Mystery Book Club](#)

October 19 *Fountain of Silence* by Ruta Sepetys for our Month of Spain. [Fiction Book Club](#)

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



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