



Sunriver Books & Music
December 2017
Newsletter
Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Happy Holidays!

*May the season be cheerful and may the New Year bring Joy, Health, Peace,
& Prosperity for Everyone!*



Saturday December 16 at 5:00 PM Katy Bryce will give a presentation on **Mountain Bike Bend**, her guide to 46 single track routes in the Central Oregon area. The presentation will include a slide show that should be exciting and full of gorgeous scenery! Whether you are a biking enthusiast or are looking for a great gift for anyone who likes to bike, this will be an interesting event.

Central Oregon is an outdoor wonderland, with many trails for outdoor enthusiasts that are visiting or live in this beautiful high desert region. Keeping things safe, the book opens with a matrix designating the rides as beginner, intermediate, advanced, or expert. It also gives the mileage, type, and intensity of the ride. Katy Bryce has lived in Bend, Oregon since 1997 and is an avid bike rider, she knows her trails well. The Maston kicks off the list of trails, with options for beginner to expert. This area is popular with hikers, trail runners, bikers, and equestrians. After a description of the area, there is a mileage log giving directions for an 11.6 mile ride. For the fit and experienced, ride #3 is in dra-

matic Smith Rock with spectacular views. Probably the most famous biking trail in Bend is Phil's Trail, the #6 selection. Feeling brave and have the skills? Try ride #20 around Mt Bachelor rated for advanced to expert. Just getting started? Try ride #25 an 11.7 mile loop around Cultus Lake rated for beginners. Ride #32 on the Deschutes River Trail concludes right here in Sunriver and is rated intermediate. The trails finish with #46 Olallie and O'Leary Epic, a 27.8 mile ride rated expert. All of the trails are accompanied by photos, descriptions, maps, and a mileage log. The book finishes with a resource section listing shuttle services, guided bike tours, area bike shops, organizations, and area amenities.

If you live in Central Oregon or visit, this is a great guide full of rides that can make your time special. Give one to each of the bike riders on your holiday list for lots of fun!

Author events are free and include refreshments and drawings for door prizes. Sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, emailing sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday January 27, 2018 **The Weight of an Infinite Sky** by Carrie La Seur

Saturday May 12, 2018 **The Third Victim** by Phillip Margolin

Saturday June 9, 2018 **In Cave Danger** by Kate Dyer Seeley

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

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

December 27– January 2 Share the Holiday Spirit! 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. 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. It is not expensive to spread the joy of reading



Holiday Gift Ideas From Sunriver Books & Music

Our Book of the Month Club is a gift that keeps on giving throughout the year.

Unwrapping gifts at the Holidays is fun, it is also soon over, with a [Book of the Month Club](#) subscription the pleasure continues. Every month brings a surprise book, it is as if a little bit of the holiday happens every month of the year. Readers on your gift list will be delighted! Holidays can be stressful, be kind to yourself, purchase a [Book of the Month Club](#) subscription for yourself too and discover a new book every month.

I am honored to be trusted to select books for you and take seriously choosing the titles for [Book of the Month Club](#). We try to have well written books that might be a bit less known, an undiscovered treasure. Past selections include **Thread of Grace** by Mary Doria Russell, **Mister Pip** by Lloyd Jones, **Skeletons at the Feast** by Chris Bohjalian, **The New Yorkers** by Cathleen Schine, **The Financial Lives of Poets** by Jess Walter, **Solomon's Oak** by Jo-Ann Mapson, **The Crossers** by Phillip Caputo, **City of Women** by David Gillham, **A Man Called Ove** by Fredrik Backman, **Radiance of Tomorrow** by Ishmael Beah, and **Above the Waterfall** by Ron Rash. Every one of these books I read and enjoyed, I selected them with the hope that you would enjoy them too. What will 2018 bring? Purchase a [Book of the Month Club](#) subscription and enjoy the surprise every month.

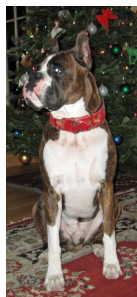
[Book of the Month Club](#) is a great way to discover new authors to enjoy, read something you may not have read otherwise, find an unknown treasure from an author you like, and have something unexpected and different to read every month.

Picked up in the store the first six month subscription of 2018 costs \$97.98 and a subscription for all of 2018 costs \$195.88. Mailed in the USA the first six month of 2018 subscription costs \$109.98 and a subscription for all of 2018 costs \$ 219.88.

Purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription to discover a surprise book every month of the year!



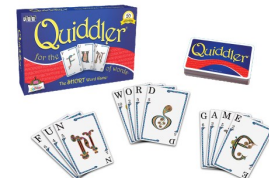
For the furry member of your household we have an array of dog collars, leashes, and Planet Dog toys. Flashman, modeled Holiday design collars., he was a handsome fellow who liked being a well dressed dog.



Games make fun gifts! We carry quite a few.

Probably our most popular game is Dogopoly. There are also opoly game featuring cats, horses, golf, countries, and a variety of other interests.

Bananagrams and Quiddler are word games. If you have someone on your list who enjoys scrabble, they would probably have fun with these games too. They are a great size for traveling.



Puzzles are also popular. We carry a variety including Ravensburger, Sunsout, White Mountain, Springbok and Piatnik.

Cookbooks can be great gifts too! There are two new cookbooks with a wide variety of recipes from every region of the USA; America the Cookbook and America the Great Cookbook. Osteria has 1,000 recipes from the best local restaurants in Italy.



Holiday Gift Ideas From Sunriver Books & Music



Pens are wonderful intimate gifts. Every time they are touched, memories return of the giver bringing joy. We have gorgeous pens from Acme Studio's lively, often whimsical, designs priced \$79.99 to Delta and Montegrappa of Italy's sensuous, beautiful works of art priced into the thousands. Pictured is Acme Studios' Cats designed by Nancy Wolff priced at \$79.99.

Journals make excellent gifts too. We carry a beautiful array of journals including Paper Blanks by Harper & Marks, Moleskine, Peter Pauper, and Chronicle. Combine giving a pen and a journal. One of my friends a few years ago gave his family each a different Acme Studio pen with a Frank Lloyd Wright design, a journal and a copy of Nancy Horan's

Loving Frank. They received their gifts on Christmas and had a family book club discussion of the book over the New Year Holiday. I thought it was a very clever idea!

Books signed by the author are great gifts!

Craig Johnson's Walt Longmire series set in Wyoming are international best-sellers, award winners, and the inspiration for the hit TV series Longmire.

The latest is **The Western Star**, a brilliant story set in two time periods introducing Walt Longmire during his first week as Sheriff Lucian Connally's deputy and current day with Walt as sheriff. The story also features an historic train, **The Western Star**. It is our number one choice for mysteries in 2017. We have signed first editions. Craig is pictured with Flashman, photo by Dan Feer.

Keith McCafferty is next on our list of mysteries for 2017 with **Cold Hearted River**, an intricate mystery with a Hemingway connection. We have a limited number of signed first editions.

The Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz is an English Country murder, a bit of an homage to Dame Agatha Christie, and a clever mystery with a wicked twist.

Death on Tap by Ellie Alexander is an entertaining, cozy mystery set in a brewpub in picturesque Leavenworth Washington.

Buried in the Country by Carola Dunn is set in Cornwall where widow Eleanor Trewyn takes long walks with her dog and has adventures.

Jane Kirkpatrick writes historical fiction set in the northwest based on extensive research rescuing the stories of strong women that might otherwise be forgotten. We have signed copies of **All She Left Behind** (the story of a woman's determination to be a physician in the late 1800's in Oregon), **The Memory Weaver** (about Eliza Spalding who survived the Whitman massacre as a child of ten), **A Light in the Wilderness** (about a black woman who traveled the Oregon Trail then had to go to court in Oregon to protect her rights), and **This Road We Traveled** (about a woman who traveled the Oregon Trail in her 60's then went on to make contributions to her community).

Valerie Geary's **Everything We Lost** is a page turner about the bond between a brother and sister and strange occurrences. This is one of those interesting stories that will entertain you, often keeping you on the edge of your seat, and at the same time make you think about important issues such as tolerance and loyalty.

Diana Abu-Jaber is one of my favorite authors. Her memoir, **Life Without a Recipe**, celebrates the lives of her father and grandmother, recounts the adoption of her baby girl, and includes recipes.

Animals Strike Curious Poses by Elena Passarello is a delightful series of essays about famous animals through history. It was chosen as one of the New York Times' Top 100 of 2017. We have limited signed stock.

Surprise someone with the thoughtful gift of a book signed by the author! We have limited stock of several other titles too.



Stocking Stuffer Ideas!

Book-lights, Chico Bags, Cute sticky notes. Bookmarks. Workout journals. Book journals, coloring books, brightly colored pencils, calendars. Longmire Days posters signed by Craig Johnson for only \$3.

Shop Local This Holiday Season!

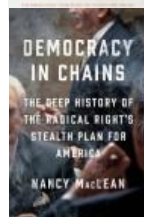
Sunriver has several great clothing stores, specializing in outdoor wear, fashion, imported traditional fabric wear, or clever sweatshirts. Even the Flyfishing shop has comfortable clothing and gifts! The Artists Gallery has beautiful, locally created works of art. The Lazy Daisy has many gift ideas. Rocks and crystals make unique gifts. There is a jewelry store (great for a special gift!), toy store, flower shop, and bike shops. In the business park, the Camp Abbott Trading Company has many items. There may be the perfect gift for everyone on your list right here in Sunriver. Avoid the crowds, park easily, and we all truly want to make your holiday shopping a pleasure. Ask us for suggestions!



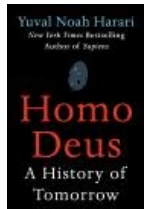
Top Ten Non-Fiction



You Don't Have To Say You Love Me by Sherman Alexie is a heartfelt and deeply moving memoir about family, love, loss and coming to grips with the best and worst of his childhood and his relationship with his mother. Told in the form of 78 poems and 78 essays, one each for the years his mother was alive. Throughout Alexie reveals a complicated relationship that could be loving and intelligent and then turn abusive, lying and mean. In the end this is a beautiful and honest tribute to the remembrances of his mother.



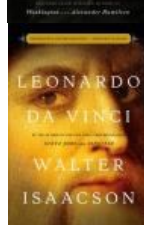
Democracy in Chains by Nancy MacLean. The radical right has a stealth campaign to make libertarian ideas of governance mainstream and to fundamentally alter the rules that our democratic form of government has operated under since the founding of America. Using the ideas of the economist James McGill Buchanan from the early 1950's the far right has used their vast wealth and influence to implement the ideas of Buchanan and others to undermine unions, restrict voting rights and privatize social benefit programs. Reading MacLean's well thought out book, it is apparent that Democracy itself is under attack and we ignore this danger at our own peril.



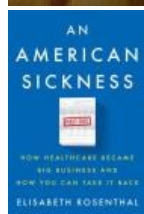
Homo Deus by Yuval N. Harari. Harari's previous book ***Sapiens*** looked backwards in time at where and how humanity came from. With ***Homo Deus*** he looks toward the future and how humans will use their purpose on Earth to take the place of war, famine and disease. What destinies await humanity as technology helps us overcome death or prolong or even transcend life itself. How will we overcome our destructive patterns to the environment before we die out prematurely and waste all that we have achieved? ***Homo Deus*** gives us scenarios that are hopeful as well as a complete nightmare.



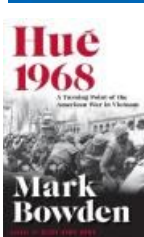
Grant by Chernow. Grant's life, often caricatured as a loser, drunk, a poor businessman and a brutal Union general in the Civil War. Chernow has reexamined the historical facts and concludes that Grant's reputation is vastly different from earlier biographies. After brilliant service in the Mexican War he resigned his military command and suffered bad business dealings. When the Civil War broke out, he rejoined the Union army and rose through the ranks to become one of Lincoln's best generals. He then served two terms as President, best known for scandal and his fight of the growing Ku Klux Klan and carrying out Reconstruction. Publishing his memoirs before his death Grant elevated his stature in the eyes of history.



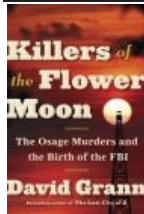
Leonardo da Vinci by Walter Isaacson. Leonardo da Vinci's life was one of two worlds intersecting: science and art. Isaacson's wonderful and detailed biography tells a story about his genius both in artistic pursuits as well as scientific discoveries and investigations. His artistic side is well known. The ***Mona Lisa*** and ***The Last Supper*** are two of his more famous pieces. But his passion for curiosity, careful observation and imagination fueled his desire to know how things worked as well as how they looked. A misfit his entire life-illegitimate, gay, vegetarian, left handed- he was able to affect his world by his genius and talent.



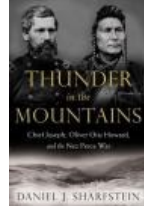
An American Sickness by Elisabeth Rosenthal is an expose on the dysfunctional, expensive and unresponsive healthcare system in America. Why does America spend twice as much on healthcare as the next 10 industrialized countries combined? Healthcare is now big business, combined with big Pharma, doctor's organizations, and the health insurance industry, each one coordinating among themselves to extract the largest amount of money for the least amount of beneficial healthcare. Rosenthal offers common sense and transparent ideas on how to fix this mess and help effect lasting and comprehensive reform.



Hue 1968 by Mark Bowden is an ambitious and well documented book on the Tet Offensive in Vietnam with the capture of Hue as its lynchpin. The battle for Hue would become a crucial turning point in the war. Over 24 days the battle would become one of the most fiercely fought urban warfare battles since WWII. Told from multiple viewpoints on both sides, the tide of the war would go from expected victory to a soul-searching exercise in achieving the best way to end the war and withdraw. This is a brilliant look at combat and the political pitfalls of this war.

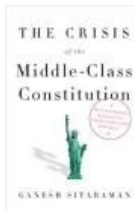


Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann. In the 1920's the U.S. Government moved the Osage Indian Nation to worthless land in Oklahoma for their reservation. Unknown to the authorities, but quickly discovered by the Indians, oil was discovered and soon the wealthiest per capita people were the same Osage tribe members. Whenever there is wealth that belongs to people that are easily divested of it by legal or other means, bad things happen. The Osage tribe soon began to experience many deaths by unusual means; drowning, poisonings, even being thrown down stairs or from moving trains. Even when there were investigations into these deaths, the investigators were killed. Law enforcement soon felt that a new way was needed to catch these killers. What would become the FBI was enacted and the killers were soon identified. Achieving justice was denied for the Osage tribe. This book is an indictment of the treatment that Native Americans endured as well as a thrilling story of law enforcement's early beginnings in a more modern age.



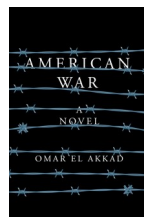
Thunder in the Mountains by Daniel Sharfstein is a wonderful account of the Nez Perce War and its two main adversaries, Oliver Otis Howard and Chief Joseph. It is an important historical study of two men who embodied different and opposite sides of the policies of the U.S. government's treatment of Native Americans. In the late 1860's Howard was tasked with the efforts of Reconstruction, viewing it as God's plan for him and the nation. Later his new mission was to force Indians to become Christian farmers. Meanwhile Chief Joseph and his tribe was resisting leaving ancestral lands when he met Howard and his mission to move the tribe or else. The nation was turning towards racial inequality and Manifest Destiny, while Chief Joseph and his flight to save his people embraced the struggle over the American Dream of who decides where and how and if there is a meaning of freedom and equality. Even though Chief Joseph lost that battle, he still encourages an acute discussion of those ideals today.

Top Ten Non-Fiction 2017.



Crisis of the Middle Class Constitution by Ganesh Sitaramen looks at the debate over economic inequality that is breaking out between the left and right, and believes that it is imperative that a strong and sizeable middle class is a prerequisite for America's constitutional system. At the time of our country's founding economic equality existed unlike most of Europe and previous generations. The founding fathers saw this equality as essential for the preservation of America's republic. Sustaining this equality is now becoming more difficult in today's polarized environment. Sitaramen posits a question: do we accept rising economic inequality and risk oligarchy or shall we rebuild our middle class and restore the equality needed to sustain our republic? The near future will determine our fate.

Top Ten Fiction 2017.



American War by Omar El Akkad is one of the most significant and powerful novels this year. What happens when a society is broken down with violent conflict? How is a terrorist created? Sarat, is a southern girl who loves her family, has a bright questioning mind, likes to be outside in nature, and grows into an attractive young woman. She will grip you right from the beginning of her journey, a life that will impact many, and will give a glimpse at the shaping of a human heart. It is 2074 when the Second American Civil War begins; the country is split along ideological and economic lines. Sarat's family is poor as dirt, living in an old container that is hot as the Dickens in summer and sounds like a kettle drum when the rain comes. Her father perishes; they flee to a camp for refugees where they stay for years. Little Sarat grows from a child to an independent minded teenager seeking answers to the reality of her situation. As the fighting intensifies and her world is torn asunder, her passions are shaped in response, turning her

into a fighter who will use any means in her power to defeat her foes. The story is narrated by Sarat's nephew, a college professor trying to make sense of that violent period in history and a horrific act that shaped both his family and the era.



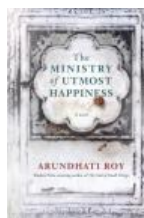
The Golden House by Salman Rushdie. On the day of Barak Obama's inauguration Rene Unterlinden wept for joy, he would weep again when the next president took office but for the opposite reason. Rene was in his 20's; he lived with his parents, both professors, in the Gardens, a New York neighborhood surrounding a private park. A young filmmaker hoping to make his mark, Rene is instantly drawn to the Goldenes when they move into the biggest house in the neighborhood. Nero Golden has three sons, a huge fortune and a secretive shady past. Rene watched them, began to write his screenplay about them. The oldest son, Petya, is a genius but afraid to go out of doors. Apu, the middle son, is a brilliant artist. The youngest son, D, was handsome but confused. Rene is accepted into their circle, giving him a ringside seat at their escapades, crimes, and perhaps eventually their

deepest secrets. As all of this turmoil is stirring up the residents of the Gardens, It seems the whole country has gone bonkers, electing the least presidential of Presidents, a clown with no experience, a joker whose exploits would have disqualified, possibly jailed, any other candidate for the top job. Now crowned President, he freely vents his message of hate and his narcissistic self-indulgence. Rushdie is one of the finest writers of our era, a grand master of the pen; able to tell a story with sentences so finely crafted they are sheer joy to read.



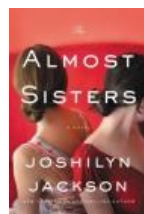
Lillian Boxfish Takes A Walk by Kathleen Rooney takes place on New Year's Eve as Lillian takes a walk around Manhattan, stopping at places of significance to stroll down memory lane, walking as 1984 turns into 1985. Lillian at age 84 is still vital and great company. She arrived in New York in 1926, finding employment as a copywriter for R.H. Macy's; by 1931 she was the highest paid woman in advertising and was beginning a successful career as a poet too. The highest paid woman, because in 1931 a woman, even a very talented woman, would not be paid the same salary as a man. There are so many things I enjoyed about Lillian; her belief in herself, audacity, interest in both the natural and cultural world of her neighborhood, and her joy in walking. Lillian relishes her independence, is actively involved in life, and resists her son's plea to move out of the city. Kathleen Rooney was inspired to write ***Lillian Boxfish Takes A Walk*** by the life of Margaret Fishback, who did achieve the status of highest paid woman in

advertising and a popular author of poetry.



The Ministry of Utmost Happiness by Arundhati Roy. Afrab was the prized boy child of a respectable family in Delhi, or so his father thought. But Mum was hiding Afrab's secret, hoping he/she would grow out of it. Instead Afrab is dazzled by bangles, delighted by fancy dress, and eager to become Anjum, to enter the House of Dreams embracing life as a Hijra. As the story opens many years have passed, Anjum has taken up residence in a graveyard, avoiding official notice. A peculiar abode perhaps, but Anjum has made it quite homey. Anjum's greatest desire is to be a mother, that desire will propel the narrative, eventually linking Anjum's story with that of Tilo and the three men who loved her. India is a country whose history includes dangerous times when neighbor turns on neighbor, Muslim on Hindu, Hindu on Muslim, and the streets run red in the blood of the innocent.

Arundhati Roy's story moves from comedy to tragedy and back again populated by a cast of endearing, quirky characters.



Almost Sisters by Joshilyn Jackson. Tragedy and humor blend as Jackson takes the reader on a journey that is fresh, original, and often hilarious. Jackson possesses a rare talent for writing in such a way that important social issues are explored while leaving the reader feeling happy. Leia Briggs has serious problems on the horizon, she is pregnant by Batman and about to find out her beloved grandmother is succumbing, in a most public way, to dementia. The Batman escapade was a total accident, well sort of; he was dead sexy after all. Leia is a popular illustrator of graphic novels, not prone to anonymous hookups; at a convention she imbibed too many tequilas and had her way with the masked crusader. She is thirty eight and single, she finds she wants this baby. Before she can tell her family she is pregnant by an anonymous superhero, a raft of distress messages arrive,

her 90 year old grandmother Birchie has gone off the rails. Leia is gobsmacked, she had no clue, although she lives in Virginia she kept in touch long distance with Birchie through phone calls and visits, never suspecting anything was awry. The Briggs founded their small Alabama town, they were wealthy and influential, still are, although Birchie and Leia are the last of their line (well until the arrival of Leia's surprise). The time has come that Birchie needs help. Leia will find there are secrets in that big old Victorian home that may bring dire consequences.

Top Ten Fiction 2017



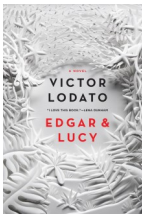
The Child Finder by Rene Denfeld goes into dark places with honesty, caring, and vulnerability. Naomi hunts for missing children, sometimes with amazing success, occasionally with tragic results. It is the only way she knows to keep her own dark history at bay. Naomi's life began at 9, when a group of migrant workers rescued the young girl as she ran terrified through a field into their camp, attracted by the light of their fire. She has no earlier memories, only the nightmares that haunt her sleep. On a trip to the Skookum National Forest to cut the perfect Christmas tree, Madison Culver age 5 disappeared without a trace. Snow made the search difficult, perhaps impossible, a cadaver dog tried to find remains, now three years later; the Culvers are asking Naomi to find their child. Common sense says the child perished in the forbidding wilderness but the Culvers cling to the hope that someone took her, that Madison is still alive. Naomi knows she may shatter their hopes, the weather was harsh, there was no one

around, and they were miles into the wilderness along a road with no traffic. Still, she will give it her all. Written with compassion and understanding, the story introduces great characters.



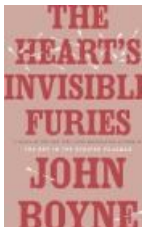
The Widow Nash by Jamie Harrison is written with assurance, beautiful prose, and occasional glints of a wicked sense of humor. Historic fiction is at its best in this sweeping novel featuring a strong woman, her brilliant but eccentric father, and the dark obsessive man who was both her father's business partner and her ex-fiancé. Dulcy Remfrey receives a distress call from Seattle. Dulcy normally travels with her father on all his jaunts, has since she was a girl of 15, this time she stayed behind. Walton Remfrey is an engineer and an inventor; he made a fortune traveling the world to places where the earth's wealth can be extracted, Montana, South Africa, wherever he finds an opportunity, his daughter Dulcy at his side. He keeps journals of his travels, financial affairs, and thoughts. Walton suffers from syphilis, has for twenty years, and in 1904 it was still a death sentence. He avoided some of the more horrific side effects of the disease, until now when it seems to have taken his mind. His ship docked in

Seattle, Walton disembarked without either his wits or the money from selling the mines in South Africa. His business partner, Victor Masling-en, wants Dulcy to come immediately and try to unravel Walton's nonsensical patter, search his journals for clues that she might understand to find the money. When Walton dies, the future for Dulcy is bleak; Victor believes he has her in his clutches. On the journey to take her father's body back east for burial, Dulcy fakes suicide and escapes, disappearing into Montana and reemerging as the Widow Nash. If Victor ever finds her she may not survive and he is not a man to give up easily. Dulcy is a vivid heroine, brave, intelligent, and unwilling to accept the limits on women imposed by her era; instead she risks everything for life on her own terms encompassing the possibility of joy and meaning.

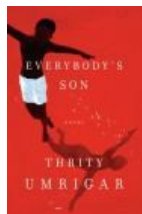


Edgar & Lucy by Edgar Lodato is a brilliant novel! This story of a child wise beyond his years and a mother with an unquenchable zest for life is one of those special novels that will stay with you long after the last page. Lucy grew up in a household that thoroughly avoided the definition happy. She escapes early, in her teens, with a handsome young Italian American, Frank, whose family is tight and loving. For a while, life is sweet, they marry, and move into his family home with his adoring parents and happiness seems possible. In far too short a time, Lucy is a young widow with a son to raise, living in the home of her in-laws. It is overwhelming for the free spirited, sexy young woman, barely out of her teens. After the initial shock and grief, she is not ready to be put on a shelf, so she dates, leaving her son in the care of his grandmother. Lucy's parents did not provide a successful role

model for being a good parent, she tries her best and she loves her son fiercely. Even so, the two women, grandmother and mother are raising a bright, emotionally perceptive, engaging son, Edgar is a charmer. Then tragedy strikes again when Edgar comes to the attention of a man with his own demons. The characters are so vividly drawn, so full of life and emotion. ***Edgar & Lucy*** are a delight!

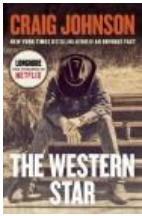


The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne. Catherine's teenage pregnancy led to public shaming by the priest during Sunday services followed by expulsion from her family and village. Never having traveled far, she boarded a bus headed for the big city where she would find both tragedy and joy. Catherine is a great character! Cyril Avery was adopted as an infant. His adoptive parents, an author and a financier, were financially privileged but not warm and fuzzy. When he is seven years old, Cyril meets Julian, though it will be several years before they reconnect, they form a friendship that is important to both. As teenagers, Julian is crazy for the ladies, but Cyril realizes he is different. Cyril is gay in a country where that designation can cost hard time in prison; homosexuality was not decriminalized until 1993! Cyril's story spans from the 1940's to 2015. As a teen and then a young man, Cyril is desperate to keep secret his sexuality. His secrets lead to pain for innocent bystanders, friends who discover he kept them in the dark on a major part of his character. The story moves from Ireland to Amsterdam and New York. This epic novel includes a lot of Irish history and culture. It is a lovely story about a flawed but worthy man, populated with many grand characters, and told with compassion.

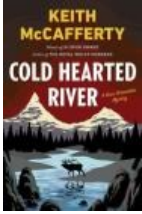


Everybody's Son by Thrity Umrigar. Anton was 9 years old in 1991 when his mother went in search of drugs, connected with her dealer, and spent the next 7 days in a drug induced haze while her son starved and sweltered. It was a hot summer, the temperature was 95 degrees and the windows to the apartment were painted shut, beyond the ability of the thin child to open. For his "safety" his mother had locked him into the apartment. Food ran out on day 3, about the time the electricity was turned off for non-payment, the telephone was disconnected earlier. Anton drank tap water, trying to stave off the hunger and heat. Finally, on day 7, weakened and worried about his mother, he threw a chair into a window and climbed out, cutting himself on a shard of glass. A kindly police officer picked him up when he noticed the child walking trailing blood. His "mom" was found a few blocks away, higher than a kite. She didn't mean to leave her son, just wanted a quick hit, but the dealer kept her high to work off her debt. Well, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. If Anton had died in that apartment her intentions wouldn't have done him the slightest good. Anton is desperate to be reunited with his mother; she is desperate to have her son back. Odd how a beaten dog will go back to its owner, a woman to her abuser, and a child is eager to return to a parent who could prove deadly. The law is involved now, so Anton is put in the foster system and the mother jailed. Judge David Coleman wants to help out a kid in dire circumstances. His wife, Delores, is a great mother; they live in a safe neighborhood with excellent schools. He is soon feeling a deep love for this golden child, he is filled with protectiveness and caring that carry him past boundaries in order to keep Anton. An excellent book club selection!

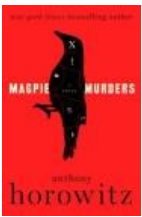
Top Ten Mystery 2017



The Western Star by Craig Johnson 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 halt the release of a prisoner. Along the way they stop off for firearm certification and meet up with some other officers for a drink and a little conversation. One of the cops notices a picture on the wall of the Western Star in 1972 with a group of Wyoming Sheriffs and one lone deputy, Walt Longmire, arrayed in front of the train. Memories take Walt back to his first days as a deputy, boarding the legendary train with his mentor, Sheriff Lucian Connolly, not at all sure he wants to be a cop, struggling in his relationship with his new bride, and still dealing with the effects of serving as a Marine in Vietnam. For the Sheriffs, the ride on the Western Star was an opportunity to relax, party a bit with other law enforcement officers, and have a good time (at least until the hangovers hit). On this ride, not all of the Sheriffs survive.



Cold Hearted River by Keith McCafferty. A couple encounters one of those sudden snowstorms where the temperature drops so cold it is painful to breathe. Of course things do not go well. Sheriff Martha Ettinger is left with haunted memories and an injured hand. Unable to drive easily, and unwilling to take a few days off, she enlists Sean Stranahan's help in going back to the scene where they find a fly wallet with the initials EH, coincidentally the same initials shared by one of the greatest American authors of all time. Patrick Willoughby, the president of the Madison River Liars and Fly Tiers Club was approached a few days earlier by a man purporting to sell fishing gear from Earnest Hemingway. Patrick hires Sean to investigate, Hemingway's fishing gear did go missing, perhaps the offer might be genuine. The action travels from Montana to Michigan, Wyoming, and ultimately Cuba. If you enjoyed ***The Paris Wife*** by Paula McLain, you will find additional stories of Hemingway in this literary mystery.



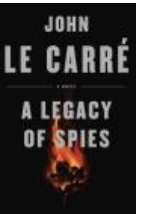
Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz is devilish grand fun! Susan Ryland has edited all of Alan Conway's bestselling Atticus Pund mystery series from the first book. Alan has just turned in the latest manuscript. Susan settles down to spend a pleasant weekend reading, soon engrossed in a clever mystery as Atticus and his assistant James are called to a picturesque English Village where the housekeeper of Pye Hall, home of Sir Magnus and Lady Pye, dies in what appears to be a tragic accident. However, all is not smooth sailing, Susan is convinced that something different is going on with this story, and there are clues within the mystery. Soon the reader is involved in two mysteries full of all those juicy stalwarts of the genre: greed, jealousy, and dark secrets along with a few murders to spice up the stories. This is a literary whodunit with some very inventive twists.



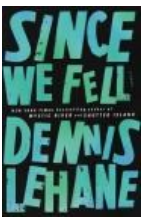
The Dry by Jane Harper. Twenty years ago Federal Agent Aaron Falk, then in his teens, left his childhood home in the farming community of Kiewarra under a cloud of suspicion. The only thing that saved him from a murder charge was the alibi provided by his best friend Luke. A teenage girl was dead, Aaron was prime suspect. Now Falk lives in Melbourne and tracks criminals in the finance sector, a job he does well. He enjoys the anonymity of the city, yet he left some part of himself behind with all the unanswered questions. Luke saved him all those years ago, now he is going back to attend Luke's funeral. Luke murdered his wife and son, and then took his own life, sparing only his baby daughter. But Luke's parents want to be sure; they want Aaron to repay the debt to Luke from years ago by investigating to ascertain if things might have happened differently than the official version. The local detective, Sergeant Greg Raco, is also troubled although all the evidence points to Luke.



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

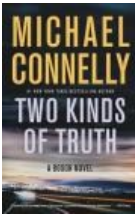


Legacy of Spies by John Le Carré is a dark, cynical look at the shadow world. Peter Guillam, one of George Smiley's minions, is summoned back to London, there are questions about an old operation that went seriously awry. Peter has been enjoying his retirement on his family property, a small farm in France. He left all the machinations and danger behind for a quiet peaceful life, now he is back in the game feeling his way through the official questioning, trying to avoid the traps inherent. Actions once thought heroic or necessary are current day considered actionable, it is a new order and he must beware. The story goes from the present back to the Cold War in the time of ***The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*** and ***Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy***.



Since We Fell by Dennis Lehane is a rip snorting story that starts with a bang and doesn't let up. It opens with Rachel, a former journalist, shooting her husband, who clearly has done her wrong in some way, wrong enough to anger her into raising that gun. Rachel was quite a rising star as a TV journalist when she had an on air melt down while reporting on the devastation in Haiti. Out of a job, her career in tatters, she retreated to her home. While her professional career is in ruins, and she is a virtual shut in, the rest of her life is pretty good. She has a loving relationship with her husband who clearly adores her, that is until he makes her mad enough to shoot him. Then things really get out of hand. Bad men with a predilection toward murder are hunting her, and the police may take a very dim view of the husband shooting episode. Rachel has either gone stark raving mad or has to run for her life or possibly both. Either way this is a wild ride with twists and turns coming fast and furious. I suspect Dennis Lehane had way too much fun writing this one and grateful to him I am, because I had just as much fun reading it.

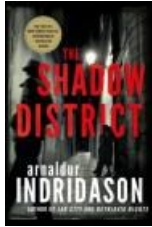
Top Ten Mystery 2017



Two Kinds of Truth by Michael Connelly has Harry Bosch fighting for his reputation and his life. Still volunteering his expertise to the San Fernando Police department, Harry is involved in the investigation of a double murder at a local pharmacy. The trail leads to some very dangerous people of interest to the DEA. Harry goes undercover putting his life at risk and exposing a link in the current oxytocin epidemic. Back in LA, his old department is calling Harry's integrity into question on an old case, a killer claims Harry framed him. Straight shooter Harry will have to join forces with his more creative half brother attorney Michael Haller to clear his name. All bets are off when Haller is involved!



Earthly Remains by Donna Leon. Commissario Guido Brunetti is good at his job, but the sadness from the cruelty people visit upon one another takes a toll. A couple weeks leave from the Questura, letting someone else deal with the bad guys, will give time to relax with people who have not committed lethal crimes and recover from his melancholia. Paola, his wife, swiftly arranges a stay at a villa on a quiet island in the lagoon, Sant'Erasmo, belonging to one of her relatives. Paola will stay in Venice with their children and her Henry James novels, while Brunetti goes to the island. The caretaker, David Casati, and Brunetti quickly form a strong rapport. They spend days rowing to islands in the lagoon. The physical exercise, beauty of the lagoon, and time outdoors are good for Brunetti. A violent storm assaults the island lashing winds, spectacular lightening, driving rain, high waves, rather impressive in its ferocity. The next day Casati is missing. Brunetti feels compelled to discover what happened to this man who quickly became his friend. Venice is a beautiful city; Leon captures its blousy glory, and charm. Brunetti is a kind man who loves his wife and children and tries to lead a good life.



Shadow District by Arnaldur Indridason. Current day an elderly man dies in his bed, the police do not find it suspicious. His neighbor is shocked, he may have been in his 90's, but he was in great shape. The medical examiner finds the man was murdered. But why kill a guy in his 90's? Time would take care of the problem before too long without the risk of a murder investigation. In 1944 Iceland was coming to terms with housing American soldiers, gaining independence, and trying to keep those same soldiers from the local women. It was a losing proposition as young women would sneak out of the house to meet their soldier beaus. The dead man had old clippings from the 1944 murder of a young woman. Konrad recently retired from the police, but the death of this man and the link to the past, of a murder committed the year of his birth in the neighborhood he grew up, catches his imagination. His former partner, admitting the police department is overworked, accepts his help and the game is afoot. Indridason presents a complex plot, with sympathetic characters, elegantly linking the time frames.

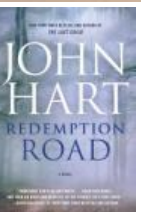
December 2017 Book Clubs.



December 4th the Mystery Book Club discusses **The Lake House** by Kate Morton. Set on a lushly gardened estate in Cornwall England, surrounded by woods, bordered by the lake, near the sea, is a perfect a setting for such a beautiful house. We see **The Lake House** in two time eras, its glory days in 1933 and in 2003 when it is abandoned and neglected. In 1933 **The Lake House** is home to Eleanor and Anthony Edevane, a handsome and devoted couple, and their three daughters, Deborah, Alice, and Clementine. Alice was a bright sixteen year old, spending her time writing stories in her journal. Every year a Midsummer Night Party was held on the estate, a huge occasion with bonfires, fireworks, gondola rides on the lake, music, and feasting. This year the party was expected to be especially joyous. The Edevanes had a young son, Theo, a jolly, beautiful baby adored by the whole family. Instead the fairy tale idyll of the loving family at **The Lake House** would end. In 2003 Sadie Sparrow is a cop with a few secrets of her own. She has broken a cardinal rule, becoming way too emotionally involved in the case of an abandoned little girl. Sent on a forced leave, she takes refuge with her Grandfather in Cornwall. Sadie loves being a cop, she is a good detective and is terribly upset about her current situation. While on a run with her Grandfather's two boisterous Labrador retrievers, she discovers **The Lake House** and becomes obsessed with uncovering its secrets. Alice Edevane is in her 80's and about to publish her 50th mystery novel. Alice is not at all certain she wants those secrets uncovered. Kate Morton writes stories to be enjoyed. They are populated by likeable characters, include glimpses of historic events, and the settings are lush. There is such humanity and compassion in her stories. For instance when Sadie is sitting in her Grandfather's cottage, she has a moment with one of his dogs: "*Ramsay had honored her by coming to sit upon her feet and she reached down to scratch beneath his chin*". That is how I feel about my animals!



December 18 the Fiction Book Club discusses **Small Great Things** by Jodi Picoult reviewed here by Nancy Nelson. Ruth Jefferson is a very bright and caring woman who has been working as a labor and delivery nurse for 20 years. She has done her best throughout her life to succeed, overcoming obstacles such as poverty, race, and accessibility to better schools. One day, after assessing a new born baby boy, the child's parents, both white supremacists, asked that she not be permitted to care for their child. The baby's chart is tagged by Ruth's supervisor, stating that she is not allowed to care for him at all. However, when the only nurse available to tend to the baby during a medical emergency is Ruth, she is faced with the dilemma of acting immediately, thus disobeying her supervisor's orders, or waiting and risking the baby's life. Either way she will have serious consequences She is subsequently charged with a serious crime. The story takes us through the intimate details of how it feels to be considered less than others based solely on the color of an individual's skin. We get a sample of what that means on a daily basis. Great book!



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

2018!

January 8, 2018 **Magpie Murders** by Anthony Horowitz [Mystery Book Club](#)

January 15, 2018 **Red Notice** by Bill Browder [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

January 22, 2018 **Constellation of Vital Phenomena** by Anthony Marra [Fiction Book Club](#)

February 5, 2018 **Redemption Road** by John Hart [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 19, 2018 **To The Bright Edge of the World** by Eowyn Ivey [Fiction Book Club](#)

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

