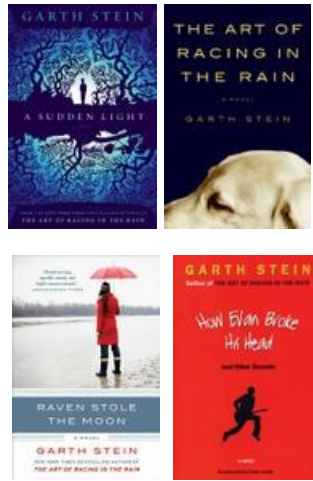




Sunriver Books & Music  
 January 2015  
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*Happy New Year!*  
*May 2015 bring good health and happiness to all!*



Coming Soon!

Saturday February 14, 2015 at 5:00 at the SHARC Center

Garth Stein—*A Sudden Light*.

It has been six years since *The Art of Racing In The Rain* blazed onto the New York Time's Best Seller's List for an astounding run of three years. The wait is over, Garth's new release, *A Sudden Light* is brilliant! It is my pick for the best Fiction of 2014!

Sign up early to attend!  
[sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or 541-593-2525

**Upcoming Author Appearances**

Saturday February 14th 2015 at 5:30 PM at the SHARC Center, *A Sudden Light* by Garth Stein

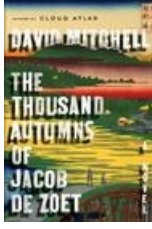
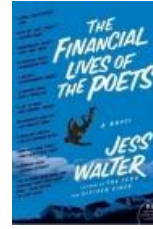
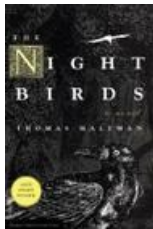
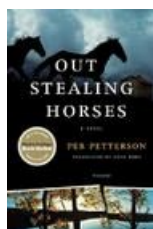
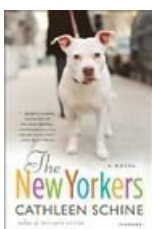
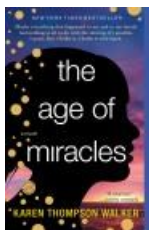
Saturday May 2nd 2015 *New Hikes In Eastern Oregon* by Bill Sullivan

Saturday June 27, 2015 Jane Kirkpatrick, Phil Margolin, and Greg Nokes.

Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may be limited for some events. Check our web site, [Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com), for changes and additions.

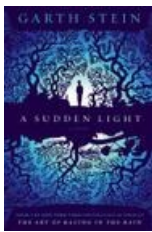
*Book Clubs have always been a big part of Sunriver Books & Music. This month we announce the results of our Book Clubs voting for their favorites of 2014. In addition to our Book Clubs that meet in the store for discussions, we also offer the Book of the Month Club, a subscription that brings a surprise book every month. January is the first of a New Year of selections.*

Purchase a **Book of the Month Club** subscription and every month brings something different to read. It is a great way to find new authors or stories. I try to select books for the **Book of the Month Club** that are wonderful to read but a bit more obscure, to introduce you to an undiscovered treasure. I take seriously the honor of choosing books for you. Past selections include *The Age of Miracles* by Karen Thompson Walker, *Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama, *The New Yorkers* by Cathleen Schine, *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson, *Holy Fools* by Joanne Harris, *Devotion* by Howard Norman, *Night Birds* by Thomas Maltman, *Widow's War* by Sally Gunning, *The Financial Lives of the Poets* by Jess Walter, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* by David Mitchell, *The Free World* by David Bezmozgis and many others. I can whole heartedly recommend each of these books! What will 2015 bring? Purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription and enjoy the surprise every month. For the full year of 2015 with the books picked up in the store costs \$186.78 or \$210.78 mailed in the USA. The first six months of 2015 cost \$92.89 picked up in the store, \$105.89 mailed in the USA.



## The Votes are in for Our Book Club's Favorites of 2014. Here are the winners!

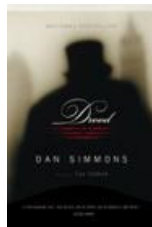
### Fiction Book Club's Top Four.



1. Since 2008's mega hit, *The Art of Racing In The Rain*, we have all been eagerly awaiting the next novel from Garth Stein. **A Sudden Light** more than rewards us. A vulnerable 14 year old encounters the ghost of his ancestor when he visits the family estate north of Seattle for the first time. Distressed over the estrangement between his parents, Trevor is taken by his father from Connecticut to the Pacific Northwest where his family were timber barons in their glory days. All that remains of their vast wealth is the 200 acre forested estate where his grandfather is sliding into dementia. Trevor's Dad and his enigmatic Aunt intend to sell the property curing their financial ills thus paving the way to a rosier future. Sounds simple but the execution proves a lot more complicated. When the obligations of the past meet the desires of the future in the hands of a confused teenage boy this novel shines. We have something grand to anticipate, Garth Stein will be here Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup>, see page 1.



2. **Zorro** by Isabel Allende is a swashbuckling adventure with lots of daring do. Allende gives the reader a new view of Zorro, beginning her story with the courtship between an untamable Shoshone warrior and a Spanish Hidalgo, proud of the purity of his lineage. Their son, Diego, would grow to manhood with a passion for justice and a willingness to put his life on the line, again and again. Diego has quite the hair raising childhood, prone to wicked conspiracies to overthrow bullies, sometimes involving the use of a wild bear. As he grows older, his opponents become more challenging and more deadly. Sent, as a teenager, from his California home to Spain he studies, becomes a master at fencing, and matures but remains a trickster. The story is great fun to read! It encourages an open mind and the willingness to stand up for the rights of the oppressed.

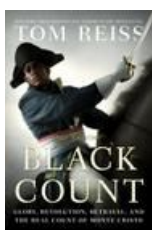


3. **Drood** by Dan Simmons is a dark compelling tale that blends real events from Charles Dickens life with the story of his unfinished manuscript, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Wilkie Collins acts as narrator as his friend, Charles Dickens, slips ever further into the dark side of London life after meeting the unsavory Edwin Drood in the aftermath of a train wreck. Opium dens, fiends from the underworld, men with too many mistresses all take a part. The story is gripping and involves two of the greatest talents of their day using quite a bit of real biographical detail from their lives. There is drama and suspense, starting with the very real train wreck. This is a page turner!

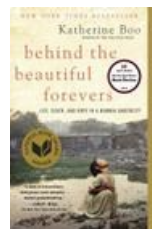


4. **Where'd You Go, Bernadette** by Maria Semple is a hoot! If you are looking for something fun to read, look no further. Bernadette's husband accepted a position with Microsoft. The family moved from LA to Seattle settling in a huge old fixer in a prime part of Queen Anne Hill. Bee, their precocious daughter, goes to a private school where the Moms are heavily involved. Bernadette fails to fit in, spectacularly fails to fit in either with the Microsofties or the Old Money crowd. She hunkers down in their huge derelict house, avoiding social contact. Fifteen year old Bee aces her report card earning a promised reward of a family trip to Antarctica setting in motion Bernadette's meltdown. Bernadette goes AWOL. Bee starts assembling documents, searching for clues to the whereabouts of the missing Bernadette. Maria Semple has a lively writing style filled with humor!

### Non Fiction Book Club's Top Three.



1. **The Black Count** by Tom Reiss, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Truth can be stranger than fiction. Much of *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers* were inspired by Alexandre Dumas' father, General Alex Dumas. Born on the isle of Haiti to a black slave and an amoral French aristocrat father, Alex's rise was most unexpected. He rose to be a General in the French Army, a brilliant tactician and a man well respected by his troops. Swaggering, handsome, fearless and principled, he was a thorn in Napoleon's side. Napoleon did not like rivals, if you were to choose an enemy, he should be avoided. General Dumas life reads like a story from one of his son's novels.



2. **Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity** by Katherine Boo. Annawadi is a slum nestled against the opulence of luxury hotels lining the Mumbai airport, dire poverty living side by side with travelers with wealth and ease. The truly amazing aspect of this book is the common ground built by Boo, a Pulitzer winning journalist, and the people of Annawadi. They allow her to know their deepest thoughts and fears. Families strive to get ahead, neighbor fights neighbor, murder and mayhem happen, and Boo is there to bear witness. It is paced like a thriller, very readable. Boo's intimate portrayal makes you care about the characters. There are some beautiful scenes in this well-crafted report on life in an Indian slum.



3. **My Beloved World** by Sonia Sotomayor. In the long history of the US Supreme Court she is only the third woman to have served and the first Latina. Her story is an inspiration, a truly amazing rise from poverty to a seat on the bench of the highest court in the land. Sotomayor grew up in a Bronx housing project, her father was an alcoholic who would die by her ninth year. Afflicted with juvenile diabetes, she learned to give herself insulin injections. This was a child surrounded by people playing out a low hand in the card game of life, no role models of successful people to copy. What she saw day in and day out was the struggle of those in poverty, without a safety net for the bad times their lot inevitably entailed. Despite her lack of resources, this little girl determined to be a lawyer. Through hard work and intelligence, she made it to Princeton, then Yale Law School. She spent time in the New York County District Attorney's office and was appointed to the Federal District Court before the age of forty. In 2009 Sotomayor was appointed to the US Supreme Court, an Incredible and inspiring journey from her humble beginnings. Sotomayor shares this story with her reader, laying bare her life-story with openness heretofore unknown in Supreme Court Justices. As an odd aside we have a variety of people shop in the bookstore. A few have met or personally known Justice Sotomayor and are united in describing her as a truly nice, caring person. So not just driven, also very kind.

## Classic's Book Club's Top Selections with a Tie for 4th Place.



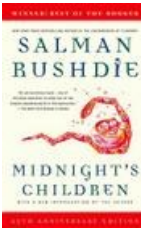
**1. *Bleak House*** by Charles Dickens. Jarndyce vs Jarndyce has been making its way through Chancery Court for decades, whole herds of attorneys made their careers shepherding this case with its many tentacles through the halls of justice. Dickens worked for a time as a law clerk and later had his days in court on copyright law for his books. He skewers the British legal system with gusto in this story chock full of subplots and amusements. This is Charles Dickens at his best, blending humor, betrayal, social commentary, and a rollicking good story. I don't want to give away the plot, but it is a grand story worthy of the master.



**2. *The Count of Monte Cristo*** by Alexandre Dumas. A swashbuckling tale of daring, betrayal, injustice and redemption, it will keep you up reading! Edmond Dantes' dreams are coming true, he has attained the position of Captain and is about to marry the woman he loves. Then everything changes. Falsely accused of being a Bonapartist, he is condemned to life in prison. Learning of a treasure on the Isle of Monte Cristo, he vows to escape. Both the world and Dantes have changed much during his years in prison. The writing is brilliant, the characters vividly brought to life, and the story zestfully full of intrigue and action. This is a book you will reach the end and be sorry there are not more pages!



**3. *Plainsong*** by Kent Haruf is one of my favorite books. Haruf captures the spirit and life of a farming community in Colorado perfectly. In winning the National Book Award, *Plainsong* was described as "a novel of wisdom and grace". Tom Guthrie's wife is living a life of blue Mondays. Unable to defeat the miasma of despair defining her life, she moves out leaving Tom alone to raise their two boys.. A bully at the school where Tom teaches menaces his sons, and causes heartbreak. The bachelor brothers, Raymond and Harold, know cows. They are comfortable with all things bovine; know them, like them, and understand them. Young women are an alien species to the old bachelors. But this is a farming community, a place where people know each other's business and pull together; the brothers have a huge reservoir of kindness. When a pregnant 17 year old girl needs a home, they take her in and do their best to make her welcome. As the lives of the characters intersect, Haruf writes with such perfect harmony you will feel transported to this Colorado farming community.



**4. *Midnight's Children*** by Salman Rushdie. In 2008 the prize for the Best of the Bookers was awarded, the best winner of a Man Booker Prize in the prior forty years, the winner was *Midnight's Children*. Rushdie is probably most well known for writing *Satanic Verses* and the subsequent fatwa calling for his murder and putting a bounty on his head. Bookstores (Cody's on Telegraph Avenue and several in the UK) were actually bombed just for carrying the book! People died and were injured for *Satanic Verses*! Its Japanese translator was killed, Turkish translator attacked, Italian translator stabbed, and Norwegian publisher shot. The publicity around *Satanic Verses* overshadows the awarding winning *Midnight's Children* but both are marvelous examples of the well written word. *Midnight's Children* is the story of partition, full of historic resonance. Saleem Sinai is born at the stroke of midnight August 15, 1947, his twin the new nation of independent India. But Saleem has another twin of sorts; he was switched at birth with Shiva, enjoying the fruits of a wealthy family while Shiva, the rightful heir, is given to a street musician. 1001 children are born within an hour of the birth of India. They are bound together in fantastical ways. Saleem has great powers of telepathy, but it does not bring joy. He also has a prodigiously large snout, resulting in several less than flattering names.

While the story takes the reader to dark places, the violence, corruption, and despair attendant on partition, it is also written with wit and verve, Rushdie can be playful, melodic and devastating, he brings all his creative power to *Midnight's Children*.

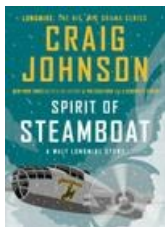


**4. *A Christmas Carol*** by Charles Dickens. Throughout his life Charles Dickens was involved in helping those less fortunate, in having a social conscience. He proved works of fiction can cause positive change in society with *Oliver Twist*. Dickens was concerned about children. When he was a child, Dickens was sent to work at a blacking factory due to his parent's penury. As an adult he was sensitive to the plight of children with limited prospects. He believed education could pave the way to a better future for the children of poverty and was involved in providing free schools. In the story Ebenezer Scrooge is a tight fisted man holding little sympathy for those around him. On Christmas Eve he is visited by three ghosts; the ghost of Christmas past, the ghost of Christmas present, and the ghost of Christmas future. What these ghosts have to show him changes his life profoundly. This is an entertaining, heartwarming story that has been continuously in print for over 150 years, it has stood the test of time.

## Travel Essay Book Club's Top Choice.



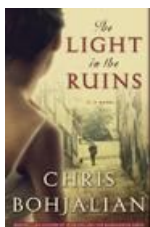
**1. *Educating Alice: Adventures of a Curious Woman*** by Alice Steinbach. The Pulitzer Prize winning journalist so enjoyed her yearlong sabbatical to Europe described in *Without Reservations* that she decided to paint on a bigger canvas, have a grander adventure. Quitting her job on the Baltimore Sun, Alice heads out to far off places. As in her earlier book, Alice combines her travels with learning. She attends a cooking school in France, learns to herd sheep with a Border Collie in Scotland, and takes in a geisha meeting in Japan. She travels to Havana, immersing herself in Cuban culture. In England she tours the land of Jane Austen. Everywhere she goes, Alice stays involved and open to her experiences. Her writing style is lively and her books are a lot of fun.



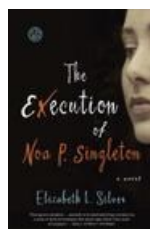
1. **The Spirit of Steamboat** by Craig Johnson. As the story opens, Sheriff Walt Longmire is indulging in his Christmas Eve tradition, reading a copy of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* when a young woman walks in his office looking for the former sheriff. Her visit sparks a trip down memory lane to 1988, Walt's first year as sheriff, on a night the heavens hurled a storm of ferocious violence at Wyoming forcing down a medevac flight carrying a young girl from Montana to the trauma center in Colorado. The child is the victim of a horrific accident, if she does not reach the trauma center in Denver soon she will die. There is only one plane in the Durant airport, a relic from WWII, with the heft, speed, and power to fight it out in such a storm. There is only one man capable of flying the old Dinosaur. Former Sheriff Lucien Connolly flew such a plane April 18, 1942 off the flight deck of the USS Hornet along with 80 other men led by Lieutenant Jimmy Doolittle, men known as Doolittle Raiders. They were headed to Tokyo then on to the China Sea, a long way with limited fuel over hostile territory. Lucien doesn't scare easy. Walt is determined to try saving the little girl. He asks Lucien Connolly to take on another mission in an old relic of a plane with the odds stacked against him, the former sheriff does not even flinch. Unwilling to face the very good chance of being scattered all over the Wyoming landscape, the personnel from the medevac will not go back out in the storm. The little girl needs trained medical attention in flight, another man from WWII is willing to face the odds. Doc survived Hitler's Germany; he is not backing down from the storm. Walt's courage was tested in the jungles of Vietnam, he was not found wanting. When the question on the table is who will risk his life to save another, Walt's reply is "...it's a question of what you have to do, what you have to live with if you don't." Another inspiration Craig Johnson used is a big, black horse named Steamboat described by Jack Bowers as *the closest thing to perpetual motion that ever wore hair*. Read this book any season and it will keep you on the edge of your seat, make it a Holiday ritual to re-read. Craig Johnson manages to tell a story of great courage and compassion while seasoning it with humor.



2. **Cuckoo's Calling** by J. K. Rowling. She wrote the book using a pseudonym, Robert Galbraith, in a bid to separate her new book from her rather prominent name, giving it a chance to be evaluated on its own merits. It caused a stir when the true identity of the author was revealed. Ms. Rowling doesn't write for money, her Harry Potter series fixed that issue. She is donating the proceeds from *Cuckoo's Calling* to charity. This is a sophisticated, mature work. If you are looking for fast pace and a high body count, this is not the book. If you enjoy well developed, quirky characters and a complex mystery, this is just the ticket. Rowling takes time to let the reader get to know her characters. Cuckoo is a mega-star super model who went off the balcony of her deluxe apartment falling to her death. John Bristow, her brother, an attorney, is not persuaded by the suicide ruling. He hires London PI Cormoran Strike to solve the mystery. Strike may have a somewhat flexible moral code, but he does have a sense of honor he prefers not to violate, and this case challenges his flexibility. It seems far too much like taking money when the outcome is foregone. Cuckoo ran with a fast crowd (think drugs and drink), had just participated in a very public fight with her bad boy boyfriend, and her family background was wealthy but dysfunctional. All the evidence and her background point to the gorgeous young woman leaping to her own demise. Strike is broke and Bristow is going to spend that detective fee money with someone so he begins his inquiry. Strike is a big bear of a man who came back from the fighting in Afghanistan missing half a leg; he far prefers using his powers of observation and deduction to strong arm tactics. Robin, Strike's new secretary, finds working for a PI more interesting than her prior secretarial postings. I liked the repartee and developing relationship between these two characters. It was also refreshing to have a detective who grows to respect the intelligence and skills of his secretary without any intention of seducing the young woman. Cuckoo is a lot more complex than her supermodel persona would indicate, Strike carefully peels back the layers of her façade revealing the striving young woman contained therein. The writing is excellent, the characters engaging, and the story very moody and complicated, all the elements of good mystery.



3. **The Light in the Ruins** by Chris Bohjalian begins in 1955; a woman in an apartment in Florence will open her door to a killer, a monster who cuts the heart out of his victim. Before WWII the Rosati family lived well in their Tuscan estate, Villa Chimera. There were two handsome sons, a beautiful daughter, and a daughter-in-law who gave them two boisterous grandchildren. They were a happy family until the ominous clouds of WWII roll across their serene blue sky. The terror that was to come began the day a German and an Italian officer visited Villa Chimera demanding to see the Etruscan ruins located on the estate. The Germans were moving antiquities from Italy to Germany; the Italian Army had little influence to stop the pillaging by their stronger ally. As the war turns against the Germans, life at Villa Chimera becomes more complicated. Now, a decade later, Francesca Rosati lies dead in her modest apartment, her heart cut from her body. It will be the task of Detective Serafina to discover the identity of this brutal killer. Serafina also bears scars from the war; she fought against the Nazis with the Partisans. The secrets of the past may be intruding on the present. As Bohjalian takes the reader back into the years of WWII, he does so skillfully, presenting Italian soldiers in Mussolini's army, Partisans, and Germans as complex characters. There can be good or bad on either side. This is one of the best works of fiction I have read on WWII with vivid, complicated characters.



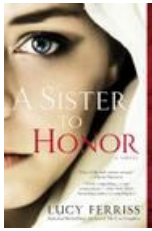
4. **The Execution of Noa P. Singleton** by Elizabeth L. Silver. Two strong willed, formidable women anchor the story, Noa on death row for the murder of Sarah Dixon and the victim's mother, Marlene. As the story opens, Noa is six months away from execution, her appeals exhausted, when Marlene Dixon has a change of heart and decides to submit a petition for clemency on Noa's behalf. Marlene is a high powered lawyer, at the sentencing hearing she eloquently beseeched the court to give Noa a death sentence. Now she has formed a group in opposition to the death penalty. A newbie lawyer at her firm, Oliver Stansted is to be her front man, meeting with Noa to go over any circumstances that may offer justification for clemency. Marlene has an ulterior motive. Noa refused to testify at her trial, Marlene wants to know what happened on the day her daughter died. For ten years Noa has been sitting on death row, perhaps she is ready to tell her story. Elizabeth Silver is an attorney who has been involved in death penalty cases. She brings this knowledge to her story, giving it a nuanced feel and an ability to tackle complicated issues. There are many twists and turns, surprises along the way, as Noa's story moves toward that split second that changed everything.

## Staff Recommendations.

### Nancy Nelson Recommends.



**The Perfect Mother** by Nina Darnton. Jennifer Lewis seemingly has the American dream. Her husband is successful. Her children appear to be well adjusted and bright. Emma, the eldest, is enrolled at Princeton and is currently involved in a student exchange, studying in Spain. Then, one very late night Jennifer and her husband get a desperate call from Emma. "Someone was killed, Mama... They think I did it." Jennifer flies to Spain the next day, and the story starts to unravel. Emma is uncooperative with police. Why? What is she hiding? Is she a victim too? How well does a mother really know her daughter? What is Emma capable of doing? These are questions that come up as the facts slowly spill out. This is one of those books where I wish I could have dialogue with a couple of the characters. But, it seems to be that we often see better in retrospect, in books and in life. This one really grabbed at my heartstrings.



**A Sister to Honor** by Lucy Ferriss. In this engrossing story of two Pakistani siblings attending a university in Boston, Massachusetts, we see tragic results set into motion when two cultures clash. Shahid Satar is a soccer star in his own country, and so, has been granted a scholarship in the U.S. He has persuaded his parents to allow his sister, Avia to also attend university. She is offered an academic scholarship. The expectations of her family and culture for her are very limited. However, Shahid is able to convince his parents that Avia is honorable and trustworthy, and that he will take care of her. One day Avia's stepbrother back home discovers a picture of her on line, holding hands with a man. The family is scandalized. Consequently, Avia's life is in danger. She is afraid of her family. The gentle and kind brother she loves so dearly could also be the one to end her life. Friends and associates of the two young people in the U.S. cannot grasp the severity of her apparent "crime". Avia is unable to make them understand how strict the code of honor is, and the consequences of breaking that code. Tradition, honor, betrayal, and love are central themes to this very well told story, transcending both cultures. The story continued to build in tension until the climax.

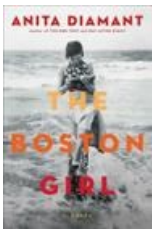


**Etta and Otto and Russell and James** by Emma Hooper. The story begins with a letter from Etta to Otto informing him that she has never seen the water, that she will walk to the coast, (over 3000 kilometers away), leaving Otto the truck, and she will remember to return. Etta, 83 years old, lives in Saskatchewan. As her great adventure proceeds, she meets James, who fits into Etta's adventure in a strange but sweet way. He accompanies her through a good portion of the cross country trek. The story goes back to when Etta, Otto and Russell were young, just before World War II. Etta was the school teacher in a one room schoolhouse. Otto and his close friend, Russell were two of her students. Russell was immediately taken with Emma. The war disrupted the hopes and dreams of so many. Young boys with a passionate sense of duty left home in order to give what they could to the war. Etta waited for Otto to return. In the meantime, Russell, who was exempt, kept her friendship, and loved her from afar. Otto patiently understands that Etta needed to leave, as he once left so long ago. Russell cannot fathom the idea of Etta doing such a

thing, and sets out on his own journey to find her. In the interim both men find within themselves qualities that they had not before known. Etta discovers that the journey matters more than the destination. Her connection with Otto is very strong, enabling them both to reach one another beyond time and space. I found Etta, Otto, Russell, and James, all to be endearing characters, especially Etta. I was charmed by the ending.



**After the War is Over** by Jennifer Robson. In 1919, Britain is licking its wounds after four long years of a horrid and merciless war. Millions have died, while many are left in dire circumstances, often unable to even find the resources to satisfy basic needs. Charlotte Brown and other women have determined to do what they could to change things, providing financial assistance and offering help where possible. A newspaper editor gives Charlotte the opportunity to express her views, hiring her to write a weekly commentary, thus enabling her to speak for those disenfranchised who do not have a voice. Soon after, she encounters her former employer, the Earl of Cumberland. Though he still causes her heart to flutter, she knows that her only choice regarding him is to put him out of her mind forever. In the meantime, Charlotte's articles are getting a lot of attention. Awareness from the upper classes, those who have the power to help, is increasing. The question remains as to which direction Charlotte's life will take.



**The Boston Girl**, by Anita Diamant. Addie Baum is a Jewish woman born to immigrant parents in Boston, in 1900. In 1985, Addie's youngest granddaughter, Ava, asks her how she came to be the woman she is today. So, Addie begins her story from the year 1915. Her parents are suspicious and fearful, afraid to allow their daughters any kind of opportunity that might make them less marriageable, or that would bring any kind of scandal to the family. Against her parents' wishes, Addie joins a library group for girls. The friendships she forges there lead her to discover her own voice, her own value as a person. She shares her discoveries, rife with mistakes and successes, life lessons learned in a rapidly changing world where young women struggle to find a place. We see a young naïve girl, held back by her family interests and obligations, blossom into a wise and competent woman. Addie's story held my interest from cover to cover, told with humor and imagination. I felt myself smiling and quietly applauding her life, the generous and kind soul who got to see her grandchildren realize their own successes as well.



**The Heart Has Its Reasons** by Maria Duenas. Blanca Perea is a college professor in Madrid, Spain. Her life seems perfect. She is successful, happy, with a husband and two grown sons. Then, her husband, Alberto tells her he is in love with another woman and is leaving her. Blanca's perfect world is shattered. Desperate, she flees Madrid, responding to an ad, she is hired to work at University of Santa Cecilia, near San Francisco, California. It is her job to probe into the history of a long deceased writer and former professor of the University, Andres Fontana. As Blanca immerses herself into his life, she becomes captivated by the things that drove him, his ambitions, his relationships, and his ill fated lost love. The relationships between Fontana and some of the people with whom she works come to light in an unexpected way. As she untangles the hidden agendas and lies, she finds within herself a strength that enables her to pursue a new life, with new possibilities.

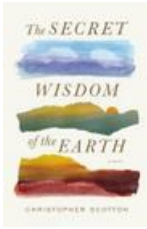


**Descent**, by Tim Johnston. In this heart rending book, the story begins with Caitlin. She is 18 years old. She is a runner, in her daytime thoughts and in her dreams, a runner, undefeated in her senior year of high school. The plan is to attend a college in Wisconsin, her home state, by way of the scholarship she has earned. Life looks good. One crisp early morning she goes running through the mountains in a Colorado resort town, her brother following on his bike. That is when the abduction takes place. Caitlin is gone, her brother badly injured, her family's life forever changed. Is she alive? That is the question that her parents and her brother must grapple with as they each begin to dwell in their own purgatory of uncertainty. Grant, Caitlin's father and her brother, Sean take up residence in Colorado during and after the investigation. Her mother remains in Wisconsin, staying with her younger sister, Grace, Caitlin's aunt. The book is about these people and their relationships. It gives the reader a microscopic view of how this family deals with their tragedy, bringing in issues and events from the past that hugely impact their ability to cope and to hold together as a family. So then we wonder, what really happens to all of them, as well as Caitlin's fate. The ending is surprising.

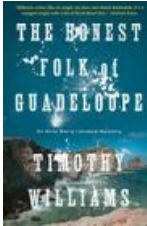
The story is intriguing, captivating, terrifying, and realistic, attributes that form a really good read.

## Staff Recommendations.

### Deon Recommends.



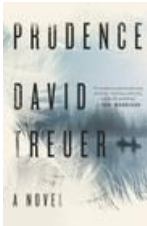
**Secret Wisdom of the Earth** by Christopher Scotton. Guilt can be such a ruinous emotion, easy to engender too. Kevin's little brother dies tragically causing his mother grief so deep it is catatonic, his father blames him. Trying to heal, Kevin and his mother retreat to Medgar, a tiny town in Appalachia, where Kevin finds an admirable role model and compassionate counseling in his grandfather. He will help the teenager battle the guilt that is consuming him. Evenings the men in town gather on the front porch with Kevin's grandfather for a drink and conversation. Buzzy, a teenager wise in the ways of the hills befriends Kevin showing him the trails and treasures of Appalachia. There is a serpent in this hillside paradise. Mountaintop mining is turning the hills, a landscape of centuries, into flat top oblivion. Kevin's grandfather and the local hairdresser, Paul, form an opposition to the mining in an attempt to save their hills, their health, and their heritage. There are many threads to this story, set so richly in its Appalachian environment. The characters draw you in, as they strive, heal, and fall victim to their circumstances. This ambitious novel is a paean to the beauty of the Appalachian hill country, a touching coming of age story, a tale of greed and betrayal, as well as a celebration of the bonds of friendship.



**The Honest Folk of Guadeloupe** by Timothy Williams. Caribbean island life is both the setting and a part of the story; Guadeloupe comes alive on the page, from its natural beauty to its vibrant communities. French-Algerian judge Anne Marie Laveaud is an interesting protagonist. She does her best to balance being a single mother with a demanding career. A prickly woman, she is fiercely independent but has developed an interesting relationship with her assistant Trousseau, these two porcupines occupy a small office, hold each other in high regard, and manage to offend each other with regularity. He is an entertaining presence in the story. Judge Laveaud has been investigating the suspicious suicide of a prominent environmentalist, he just happened to jump to his death while the police were in his office. Her inquiry is making people in high places nervous. The murder of a white tourist on a lonely beach takes precedence in this island where the tourists power the economy. A speedy arrest and conviction of the culprit to calm any worries of the tourists is essential. Clues are lacking, information conflicted, and the path to the truth difficult to follow, an interesting mystery indeed..



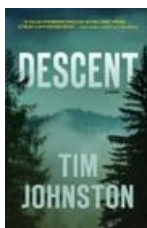
**The Magician's Lie** by Greer Macallister. The Amazing Arden is known for her beauty and her trademark illusion, cutting a man in half. Law officer Virgil Holt is in the Waterloo, Iowa audience the night in 1905 when she switches from using a saw to a fire ax. Later Arden's husband is found murdered with that ax beneath the stage. The culprit is all too obvious. Heading home in the night, by bizarre coincidence Virgil runs into the fugitive Arden. The forlorn woman persuades Virgil to listen to her story; he will have one night to decide her fate. Fans of the Night Circus will enjoy this tale of magic and murder.



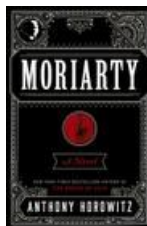
**Prudence** by David Treuer. Life for a couple lone young girls in the backwoods of Minnesota is hard and dangerous, even more so if they are Native American. Prudence is barely in her teens, her sister just 9 when they arrive near the Pines resort with tragic timing. A German escaped from the POW camp, Frankie Washburn is home at the Pines on leave from WWII, eager to show his manhood by capturing the escapee. Frankie's best friend Billy and Felix, the Indian caretaker who has been as close as a father to him, join the party to hunt down the fugitive. When their paths cross the results will shape the rest of their lives. Haunting and powerful, the story shows the consequences of a moment's action. Illustrating with clarity the risk of being other than the ruling class, how powerlessness can turn to despair.



**West of Sunset** by Stewart O'Nan. F. Scott Fitzgerald was one of the most brilliant authors of the Jazz Age, his **Great Gatsby** a work of genius. By the late 1930's Fitzgerald had squandered his early promise on strong drink. His last years were spent in Hollywood toiling as a script writer. He fell in love with Sheilah Graham, a statuesque British gossip columnist. The major players of the day are present on the pages. His friend Hemingway shows up embroiled in the Spanish Civil War. Dorothy Parker works at the same studio, writing scripts too. Fitzgerald takes an apartment at the Garden of Allah where he forges a friendship with his neighbor, Humphrey Bogart. This is a fascinating look at the golden age of Hollywood through the perspective of a flawed but brilliantly talented man. O'Nan does Zelda Fitzgerald no favors in his portrayal of the doomed woman; however the pages on Zelda are thankfully brief. The story's focus is F. Scott Fitzgerald's last years and their intersection with Hollywood's golden era, it shines in that regard.



**Descent** by Tim Johnston. Life lay like a shining path before her, this golden girl who could run like the wind, already accepted to a good college on a full scholarship, with the gift of a vacation before she buckled down to studying in the fall. Caitlin picked the Rocky Mountains for the family trip, a place of infinite beauty, jagged tall peaks, and miles of trails to run. It was not to be, this glorious future that shimmered so closely before her. Joyous and bursting with the energy of youth, she got up early for a run on the first sunshine filled day of vacation, accompanied by her younger brother on a mountain bike. Tragedy was about to visit this family. In the aftermath of Caitlin's disappearance, each would suffer pangs of guilt, remorse, and loss. What do you do when a loved one vanishes? At first police and search parties comb the mountainside, searching the paths, the underbrush, diligent and somber. As time wears on, the chance of a successful outcome diminishes, and eventually the family is left alone with their anguish. The mountains are vast; the missing girl could be anywhere! Now they must face the future. Her brother is eaten up with guilt; he was with her on that run! The mother, at first so busy with the searchers and putting up flyers, sinks into depression. The father refuses to give up and leave those wild, lonely mountains without his child. He needs to know what happened, a yearning for retribution burns within him. How could he have brought his child to such a place of solitary wilderness? As time moves forward, they each must come to grips with the past and begin taking steps forward. The driving force of this story is Caitlin, a golden girl full of promise. Tim Johnston expertly mixes a heart in your throat thriller with the compassionately told story of a family and a conclusion that will leave you breathless. Interesting characters populate the novel.



**Moriarty** by Anthony Horowitz. Reichenbach Falls, a wild chasm of swirling water, failed to claim Sherlock Holmes, but what of Moriarty? What happened next? As the story opens, Scotland Yard Detective Athelney Jones and Pinkerton investigator Fredrick Chase head to Meiringen Switzerland to view the remains. Chase is in Europe in pursuit of an American master criminal, Clarence Devereux, who has eluded authorities for years and built an underworld empire. His methods are brutal and usually successful. Chase convinces Detective Jones that Devereux planned to partner with Moriarty and will now take on Europe alone, ushering in a reign of brutality and mayhem heretofore unknown in Britain. Chase and Jones decide to collaborate in the common goal of stopping Devereux. They soon become fond of one another, as they face an increasingly violent foe. There are so many shocking twists this story is bound to surprise.

Staff Recommendations, releasing in paperback.

Sue Halvorsen recommends.

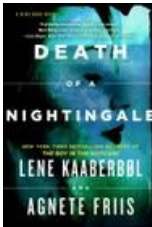


**The Winter People** by Jennifer McMahon. This book goes back and forth through time periods, from the early 1900's when a horrific murder rocks the small community to present day when a woman goes missing in the same place. The story is told through the perspective of various characters as the time periods shift. There are several twists and turns from the beginning when young Sara comes upon her school friend walking in the woods, a friend who was buried two weeks ago. I think the characters come alive with the wonderful telling of this story. I will happily recommend this book to all readers.

Nancy Nelson recommends.



**And The Dark Sacred Night** by Julia Glass. This is a very touching story about the importance of choices one makes while creating a life, the impact of family, and defining moments of life for the characters involved. Kit Noonan was always alone, the odd boy out. His single mother raises him alone until he is about nine years old. Then she marries a widower, Jasper, who has two boys of his own. Kit's mother, Daphne, will not reveal the identity of Kit's biological father. Daphne divorces Jasper, leaving Kit to finish school while in Jasper's care. He grows up, marries, eventually has a couple children, and still yearns to know the paternal side of his family. One day he finds himself broke, jobless, aimless, and already forty years old. Kit's quest to discover his other family connects him to his own life in ways that no one could possibly anticipate. Secrets tumble out like precious hoarded gems. There are consequences and lessons for all concerned, some of which are unfortunate. Kit is compelled to take a good look at the meaning of family and who he really is. I found this story to be heartwarming, and engaging, dealing with issues of family, relationships, and how sometimes simple choices can be life altering, touching others in unforeseeable ways.

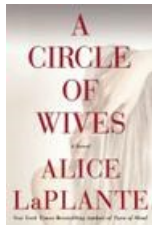


**Death of a Nightingale** by Lene Kaaberbol There are two parallel stories told in this exciting mystery. The main story is about a beautiful young Russian woman, Natasha, accused by the Ukrainian authorities of murdering her husband. She manages to escape with her young daughter to Denmark. Subsequently she is sent to a Danish prison for the murder of her fiancée. There are many clues that seem to demonstrate her innocence, but someone prefers that the truth be left unknown. The second story line takes place around 1934 when Stalin was in power. Oxana, also called the nightingale of the people, and her younger sister Olga are featured. The dreadful circumstances of their lives have tentacles that reach far into the future, and collide with the fate of Natasha and her daughter. The mystery builds and builds in intensity until it is almost impossible to put the book down.



**The Pearl That Broke Its Shell** by Nadia Hashimi is a story about the struggles of young women within Afghani culture. The focus is on a young girl, Rahima. Her father is addicted to opium, thus he does not help his family function. Females do not go out in public unescorted by a male. It is therefore difficult for girls to go to school or to buy groceries. In desperation, Rahima's mother and aunt decide to make her a bacha posh, that is, a girl dressed as a boy entitled to full male privileges. This ploy is only permissible until the girl reaches puberty. For Rahima puberty at age 13 is also the age at which she is sold into marriage. As tradition dictates, her two older sisters must marry first, and so are also sold, to relations of Rahima's husband to be. Her aunt in the meantime tells Rahima the story of her great-great grandmother who was also called upon to live out the same kind of charade. Both stories gradually unfold together throughout the book. The aunt's story gives courage and hope to Rahima as she grows up within her own marriage trying to find ways to survive her circumstances. The question is: how well will she succeed?

Then, what becomes of her two sisters and the rest of her family? What happened to her great-great grandmother? This is Rahima's story, but it is also a character study in what happens to people when they have no power or say in their own lives. How much is changing now? This story is so well told and interesting anyway. It is not just Rahima's, it belongs to an entire culture. And yes, after all that was said and done, it gave me hope.



**A Circle of Wives**, by Alice LaPlante. John Taylor is found dead at the exclusive Westin Hotel in Palo Alto, California. He was well regarded among his peers as being one of the best plastic surgeons in the country. He was kind, empathetic, and charismatic. Dr. John's specialty was helping children who had deformities, sometimes pro bono. He was also the husband of three wives. After the death notices are published, and the funeral rites are in progress, the extra wives show up, and the story begins. Each of the wives presents her version of life with John and life after. They each give the reader subtle clues to the solution of the crime as Dr John's life and theirs unfold. But they were not the only people with possible motivation to kill, as the reader comes to learn. The story was a really well told murder mystery that was an insightful tale of marriage, trust, love, and betrayal. So good!

Deon recommendations.

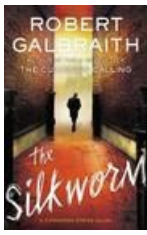


**A Novel Cure** by Ella Berthoud and Susan Elderkin. Passionate readers will have fun with this tome. Berthoud and Elderkin suggest a book for every issue. Have a falling out with your best friend? No problem. Pick up a copy of **So Long, See You Tomorrow** by William Maxwell. Hung-over? Reach for **The Little White Car** by Danuta de Rhodes. Nauseous? Read Evelyn Waugh's masterpiece **Brideshead Revisited**. This book is a treasure trove of great suggestions for almost everything that may ail you. It should be a part of every dedicated reader's library.



**Cold Storage Alaska** by John Straley. Clive is finally getting out of prison, after seven long years. His priorities are retrieving his dog and his money, and then heading North to Alaska to reconnect with his mother and brother in the tiny village of Cold Storage. Miles served his country in Iraq and then returned home to be the EMT, actually the only medical help, in his small hometown. While his brother was dealing coke then doing time, Miles was the dutiful brother, taking care of their mother, fighting in a war, and then attending to the medical needs of their small community. The two brothers hardly know each other anymore, but Clive is determined to turn over a new leaf and wants to build a relationship with his Miles. While the story is written as a screwball comedy, with a cast of quirky characters, it has deeper moments too as the townsfolk deal with the elements, the remoteness, and their relationships to each other.

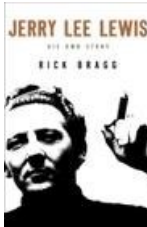
## January 2015 Book Clubs.



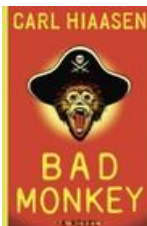
January 12<sup>th</sup> the Mystery Book Club discusses *Silkworm* by Robert Galbraith (J. K. Rowling). When J.K. Rowling debuted Cormoran Strike in *Cuckoo's Calling* she used the pseudonym Galbraith to give the book a chance on its own merits rather than be overshadowed by the fame of Rowling. *Silkworm* is a bit more violent than *Cuckoo's Calling* but all of the good stuff is still there; great characters, beautiful writing, intricate plotting, and a witty turn of phrase. Cormoran Strike is a likeable detective; intent on doing a good job, caring, intensely private, and carrying an interesting array of private demons. His years in the military give him a gravitas that lends itself well to his trade. He is ably assisted by Robin, a gorgeous strawberry blond engaged to an uptight young man employed in the financial sector. Robin started out as a temp in *Cuckoo's Calling* where she proved her worth, now she wants a larger role and is upset when Cormoran seems to see her more as an uber competent secretary than a budding detective. *Silkworm* begins with Lenora Quine seeking Cormoran Strike's help in tracking down her erstwhile husband, author Owen Quine. It isn't unusual for Owen to leave the family for parts unknown, but usually he is not away so long. His absence is causing complications at home and Lenora wants him found. Owen is the sort who delights in ruffling feathers; his latest book is blazing a trail of upset players in publishing. Agents, other authors, editors, publishers are portrayed in humiliating detail and most are furious. Cormoran finds Owen, murdered in the same horrific manner as a character in his book. Suspects abound, yet the police seem interested in the wife. Rowling has fun skewering the world of publishing.



January 19<sup>th</sup> the Fiction Book Club discusses *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce. Harold retired six months ago; he leads a quiet, unassuming life with his wife Maureen. At the breakfast table he is taken by surprise when Maureen, hands him a letter from Queenie, a woman he has not seen in twenty years. Co-workers at a brewery, Queenie was a pal, a woman he befriended and wronged. Emotion overwhelms him reading that she is dying; words fail him as he writes an inadequate reply. What do you say to someone in these circumstances, what words would bring comfort or acknowledge properly the debt owed? Intending to send his message Harold sets out for a post box, and keeps walking. A note does not seem sufficient; Harold keeps walking from post box to post box ultimately deciding to walk the roughly 600 miles across England to Queenie, having faith she will wait for him, believing his pilgrimage will give her more life. Harold left home with just the clothes on his back; no cell phone, no knapsack, no map, no preparation. Somehow it seems right. From a phone booth he conveys his decision to Maureen; the unexpected news puts her into a tailspin. Their marriage has been mostly a sham for a long time. As Harold walks, he awakens to the world around him. He realizes there are many people living quiet lives, such as his own, who also have dark secrets and personal tragedies to overcome; he is not alone in his burdens. He learns the names of plants, discovers the beauty of sunsets all over again, bonds to the rolling hills, and begins to see his life in new terms. Walking is a way of experiencing life in a new dimension from the usual rush down the road in an automobile. Harold has time to reflect, to remember the good times but also to acknowledge his role in the bad times. Maureen's reactions are just as intense. The journey is a way for them to find a way back to each other, if they choose. He grows, and reflects on what his life will mean in the remains of his days. Nancy Nelson also liked *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, she has a much better review on our website at [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com)



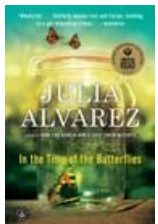
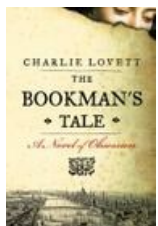
1-26-15 the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses *Jerry Lee Lewis* by Rick Bragg. In the 1950's two sons of the South changed musical history. One would be called king, but both called down lightning from the stage leaving behind a world marked by fire. Their names, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley, have a place in history. The pop idols of the day will be forgotten after the fifteen minutes of fame allotted by Andy Warhol while the truly gifted avoid obscurity; their brilliance, often burning far too quickly, keeps their memory alive. Another very talented son of the South, Rick Bragg, is the right man to tell their stories. He gets it. *Jerry Lee Lewis* comes alive on the page! When that ten year old white boy with the shock of golden hair stood in front of a crowd and belted out for the first time "Wine spo-de-odie" you can hear it, you can feel the raw power, the destiny, because Rick Bragg makes you see *Jerry Lee Lewis* in all his tangled up, crazy wild, exuberance. The music claimed the boy, owned the man. That the kid survived long enough to create a sound all his own and rock the music world is a miracle. The Killer was a hair raiser from a young age! Thank God somebody didn't lock that kid up in a reformatory and put him on strong drugs! The world would have lost so much music! His life had ups and downs. The intersection between man and woman caused some trouble; he was a wild thing, not meant to be tamed. For a generation, my generation, this was the music. Jerry Lee would strut onto the stage, toss that mane of golden hair, and let loose! Oh my, that boy could play the piano! Rick Bragg does the man justice. From his crazy wild bridge climbing youth to his days of glory, his fall from grace, and his fierce determination, his need, to bring his music to the people, Bragg paints him true. References to other influences in music (country, soul, blues, and jazz) are fascinating. Rick Bragg did just fine by *Jerry Lee Lewis*. I am glad the Killer is alive to read his story, I think he will be pleased. Read Rich Stonehouse's review at [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com) for another perspective.



### Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM

- February 9th 2015 *Bad Monkey* by Carl Hiaasen [Mystery Book Club](#)  
February 23rd 2015 *Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt [Fiction Book Club](#)  
March 9th 2015 *The Bookman's Tale* by Charlie Lovett [Mystery Book Club](#)  
March 16th 2015 *In The Time Of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez [Fiction Book Club](#)  
March 23 2015 *Where Angels Fear to Tread* by E.M. Forster [Classics Book Club](#)  
April 6th 2015 *An Officer And A Spy* by Robert Harris [Mystery Book Club](#)  
April 13th 2015 *Boys In The Boat* by Daniel James Brown [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)  
April 20th 2015 the Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea selection [Fiction Book Club](#)  
May 4th 2015 *The Son* by Jo Nesbo [Mystery Book Club](#)  
May 11th 2015 *Travels With Charley* by John Steinbeck [Travel Essay Book Club](#)  
May 18th *Fourth of July Creek* by Smith Henderson [Fiction Book Club](#)  
June 1st 2015 *The Home Place* by Carrie La Seur [Mystery Book Club](#)  
June 15th 2015 *The Bartender's Tale* by Ivan Doig [Fiction Book Club](#)  
June 29th 2015 *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean [Classics Book Club](#)

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



If you are involved in a club or gathering that would enjoy space in Sunriver Village, please remember the Village owners have kindly provided space in the loft area above Sunriver Books & Music. The space is available for uses compatible with the bookstore during Sunriver Books & Music's hours of operation. To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music.

E-readers are changing the landscape for books, not always in gentle ways. Many Independent Bookstores offer e-books for sale, including Sunriver Books & Music. On the right hand side of our website, [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com), you will find information on buying e-books. We hope that you consider an Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating purchasing an e-reader, please know that Amazon's kindle dictates your e-books be purchased from Amazon while the I-pad, the Sony e-reader, and others allow you the freedom to choose.