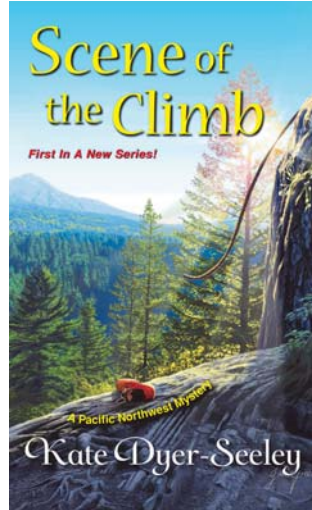




Sunriver Books & Music

July 2014 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Saturday July 19th at 5:00 PM Katie Dyer-Seeley will give a presentation on **Scene of the Climb**. If you enjoy cozy mysteries this story is a treat! Set in Oregon, it uses its northwestern location beautifully. Meg's father was an award winning journalist for Oregon's prime paper. Following in his footsteps seemed natural; she achieved a degree in journalism from the University of Oregon and assumed she would be working for her father's paper. Assuming does not always work out well; newspapers are under siege and writing jobs hard to come by. No sooner did Meg graduate than the paper lay off forty reporters, it was not an auspicious time for a fledgling journalist. Camped out on the couch of her best friend's loft in Portland's tony Pearl district, Meg's job search was going nowhere. Until she stopped by the local coffee shop one morning and ran into Greg, editor of Northwest Extreme, who just happened to be looking for a new reporter. There was just one tiny issue, the magazine was for extreme sports and the new reporter needed to be an enthusiast. Meg has the credentials and the talent to write, but she is a wuss in the out of doors, mild hiking about the extent of her athletic

prohess. With all the brashness of youth, she decides to fake it, using her friend's adventures on her resume to get her foot in the door. After all, what could go wrong? Quite a lot it seems. Her first assignment takes her hiking at Angel's Rest in the Columbia River Gorge with a group of uber athletes competing in Race The States, a contest that could net the winner a million bucks. Meg is not even close to up to this kind of hike and woefully unprepared. Did I mention she is also afraid of heights? When a body plunges over the cliff, Meg's investigative instincts kick into high gear putting her in danger. At the end of the book there are useful outdoor tips. This is a perfect summer read, especially if you enjoy cozy mysteries, the northwest, and the out of doors!

Author events are free and we will have refreshments and drawings for prizes. Please call 541-593-2525, e-mail sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday August 2nd at 5:30 PM **A Quilt in Time** by Arlene Sachitano
Saturday August 16th at 5:00 PM **Fourth of July Creek** by Smith Henderson
Saturday September 6th at 5:00 PM **A Light In The Wilderness** by Jane Kirkpatrick.

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, for changes and additions.

Sunriver Books & Music Book of the Month Club

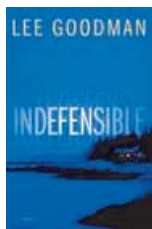
Purchase a **Book of the Month Club** subscription and receive a surprise book every month! This is a fun way to find a new authors or new books by favorite authors. Subscriptions make great gifts too! We care that the **Book of the Month Club** selections are wonderful novels. I take choosing the month's books very seriously and enjoy spending time deliberating over the choices, trying to pick the best books for you.

Past selections have included **The Kitchen Daughter** by Jael McHenry, **The Black Hills** by Dan Simmons, **Atlas of Unknowns** by Tania James, **Day After Night** by Anita Diamant, **Crossers** by Phillip Caputo, **Sunnyside** by Glen David Gold and **The Cailiffs of Baghdad, Georgia** by Mary Helen Stefaniak. What will the second half of 2014 bring? Purchase a **Book of the Month Club** subscription and discover the surprise every month. **Book of the Month Club** subscriptions for the last six months of 2014 with the books picked up in the store cost \$90.94 or \$102.94 mailed in the USA..

Thanks, Amazon, the indies will take it from here.
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Staff Recommendations

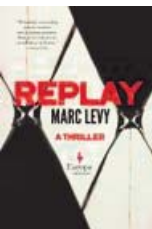
Nancy Nelson recommends.



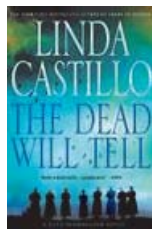
Indefensible, by Lee Goodman Cassandra is out bird watching when she comes upon a couple of men burying someone. She reports the incident to the police. Nick Davis, a federal prosecutor, is called to the scene of the crime. It is an otherwise lovely day. He thinks the chances that this is not to be taken seriously are great. So, he brings his young teenage daughter, as though going to a picnic. Even after a body is found, thus verifying Cassandra's claim, Nick is rather cavalier about the possible danger to a potential witness. He is entertaining romantic notions, which sadly, he will not be able to pursue. There is a leak of information, likely connected to his people, and more bodies are found. In the meantime Nick begins to fear for his daughter and his family. He doesn't trust anyone, most particularly his close friend and colleague. Worse yet, he realizes that he is a prime suspect for one of the murders. The story continues to build tension almost to the end making it hard to put aside.



Last Night at the Blue Angel, by Rebecca Rotter. Naomi Hill is beautiful, talented, and ambitious. She is forced to leave her home town and family when the father of her closest friend discovers a secret which, in the 1950's is unforgiveable. Naomi ends up in Chicago, becomes a jazz singer and a single mother. Her friends, a loving group of misfits and loners, help her raise her daughter, Sophie. She has finally found the family she needed in them. The rest of the story, told by Sophie gives a 10 year old child's perspective. Here we meet Jim, the only stable part of Sophie's life. He and Sophie take care of Naomi, though Naomi remains oblivious to both. I wondered how the relationship between mother and daughter would eventually play out. Naomi, also neglected and undervalued as a child, loves her daughter, but craves fame more. This is a well written and engaging character study that had me hooked very early on.



Replay, by Marc Levy. Andrew Stallman is a reporter for the New York Times. He has been advanced from writing obituaries to investigative reporting. One morning he is jogging his usual route along the Hudson River when he feels a sharp pain in his lower back, and he collapses. When he awakens, Andrew discovers that it is 2 months earlier than when he was attacked. He knows that he was murdered; this is not just a bad dream. It is a second chance for his to correct his mistakes, and possibly to save his own life. He hires a former police detective who helps him to discover the many people who might want him dead, including someone very close to him. Andrew is investigating the systematic torture and murder of thousands of Argentine citizens who disappeared when a new governing body took control of the country. As he follows his own footsteps back to Argentina, new revelations come to light. The question remains, will Andrew find his murderer in time? And if he does, will he be able to prevent his ominous fate?



The Dead Will Tell, by Linda Castillo. It is 1979. A burglary gone awry has resulted in the murder of an Amish father, the death of his children, and the disappearance of his wife. About 30 years later, the daughter of a prominent realtor is finds her father hanging from the rafters of his barn. Soon another brutally damaged body is found. An Amish peg doll is left on both of the bodies giving the police reason to believe that a serial killer is loose and has only just begun to vent his rage. In the meantime other upstanding members of the town are receiving notes with accusations like "murderer". No one is talking; everyone involved has secrets to protect. As threads of the past unravel and infringe on the present, the reader is presented with facts which are reminders that even small seemingly insignificant actions can have major consequences.



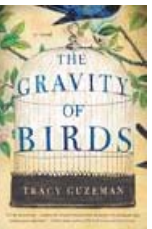
Never Coming Back, by Tim Weaver. Journalist David Raker is an investigative reporter who writes about missing victims. After his wife is murdered, and he barely escapes death himself, David makes it his mission to discover what has happened to the missing, "to bring them back into the light", giving surviving family members some peace of mind. Out of the blue, an old girlfriend of his shows up and asks him to look into the disappearance of her sister, Carrie. One day the house was empty. The whole family was just gone, with no apparent explanation. The police seem to have stopped their investigation. When David takes on the case, more people die under very suspicious circumstances, anyone who might have any information. The story shifts from quaint English fishing towns, where the missing family lived, to Las Vegas. In the quest for the truth, some of the facts that surface are quite surprising. This was such a page turner that from start to finish, not easily put aside.



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.

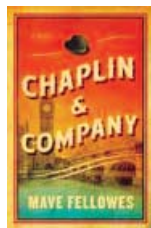
Now Available in paperback.



The Gravity of Birds, by Tracy Guzman. The story begins at a lake retreat in New York state. Thomas Bayber, a young artist with great promise meets the Kessler family. The two teenage daughters, Alice and Natalie are enamored by Thomas. Jealousy unalterably affects the lives of all three of these characters for the next forty years. In those years Thomas becomes famous. Alice and Natalie disappear. Thomas informs his friend, an art professor, Dennis Finch that there is one more painting he had done that had never been shown. Stephen Jameson, an art authenticator is enlisted to help them find the missing artwork, but they must first find Alice and Natalie. The reader slowly becomes aware of the connecting threads that bind all of these characters together in the past as well as the present leading to a surprising conclusion. It was a very well written love story mystery tinged with the sadness of what might have been. Thoroughly enjoyable!

Staff Recommendations

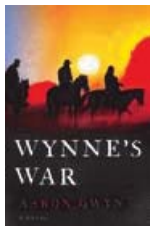
Deon recommends.



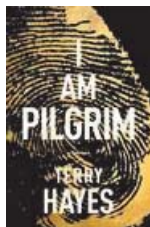
Chaplin & Company by Mave Fellows. Quirky stories, with characters that see life just a bit differently, told with charm and humor are a delight to read. **Chaplin & Company** falls comfortably within those ranks, filled with characters marching to the beat of their own band, living with zest. Odeline's mom, Eunice, lived a life ruled by numbers, a book keeper more comfortable with her ledger books than people, except for two weeks when the circus came to her small town. Eunice's guilty pleasure is comedy; she is smitten by the circus clown. Their brief liaison left her with a daughter to raise, a child with her own peculiarities. Odeline inherited her Mom's belief in numbers and her father's talent for theater. Orphaned at 18, she makes her way to London where she purchases a houseboat with her small inheritance and sets about finding the father she has never met. Along the way she meets a cast of entertaining people, from the canal warden to a political refugee. Told with verve and humor, this is a story that will keep you entertained!



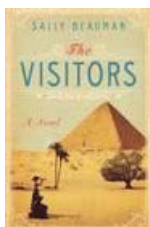
The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair by Joel Dicker. Marcus Goldman wrote a huge bestseller and expected the rest to be easy. Life in a great New York apartment, vacations to snazzy places where the in-crowd gathers, and literary acclaim for a string of novels. Instead he suffers a monumental case of writer's block, runs way past deadline, and endures threats from his publisher. Fearing the worst, afraid that his career is over, Marcus retreats to the Somerset New England home of his mentor and former professor, Harry Quebert. Harry, handsome and erudite, had his own bestseller and is regarded as an icon of the literary world. Thirty three years ago in this small village, a fifteen year old girl went missing. Bones are about to be discovered, buried in an inconvenient place. Their stories are about to converge. Harry will be arrested and Marcus will plunge into an investigation going all sorts of dark places attempting to clear the name of his mentor and friend. This plot driven story will keep you guessing!



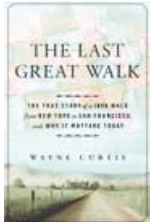
Wynne's War by Aaron Gwyn. Corporal Elijah Russell is horrified when a young horse wanders into a fire fight in Northern Iraq. Elijah has seen many horses and mules during his time in Iraq, but never an animal this magnificent, how it ended up in the middle of a battle he does not know. Without thinking of consequence or danger, Elijah exposes himself to the enemy and rescues the frightened animal. Iraq is a modern battlefield; his daring bit of horsemanship is captured on film, going viral making him the hero of the day. Captain Wynne needs his Green Berets trained in horsemanship for a secret and dangerous mission in the high mountain passes that form the backbone of Afghanistan, a territory that has claimed the men of many an army over time. He thinks this brash young soldier could be just the ticket for his mission. Elijah and his best friend are soon transferred to the command of the charismatic Captain Wynne, a man who inspires a fierce, unquestioning loyalty in his men. As the mysterious mission looms, Elijah will have choices to make that will haunt him all the days of his life.



I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes. Razor sharp writing and an intricate plot that keeps you guessing makes this a real page turner. It is also hard to describe because I do not want to give away any of the plot twists, and there are many. In New York City a woman is horribly murdered. The cop in charge calls in a contact from the shadow world. Ben Bradley is a stalwart man, as good as it gets, a cop with great heart who does his best to catch the bad guys but this one has him stumped. Jude (not his real name, just borrowed for the occasion, like many of his aliases) was probably the best operative of his time, whip smart and willing to take the hard actions. He tried to leave the company behind, but escaping the shadow world is not so easy and there will be one more mission. This one will endanger his life and his soul. At the crime scene in NYC, it is quickly apparent the killer used a book Jude wrote as a guide to the perfect crime. But is it? Or can these two dogged and brilliant men foil a murderer lacking any conscience? The story will travel from New York to Europe to the Middle East.



The Visitors by Sally Beauman. Lucy is eleven years old, sent to Egypt with her nanny to recover from typhoid. She meets Fanny Winlock, the two young girls develop a fast friendship. This is a time of heady discovery, the excavation of the tomb of Tutankhamun in Egypt's Valley of the Kings. Through her friendship with Fanny, Lucy is exposed to the men involved, Herbert Winlock, Howard Carter, and Lord Carnarvon. Beauman skillfully blends these historic figures into her work of fiction, giving an interesting portrayal of a fascinating historic event, and a feel for life under British rule in Egypt. If you enjoy historic fiction, this is an epic story!



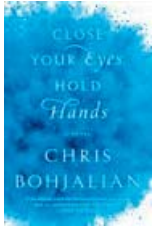
The Last Great Walk by Wayne Curtis. Boy howdy, people were tougher back at the turn of the century! In 1909 Edward Payson Weston, at 70 years of age, walked from New York to San Francisco. That would be over mountain passes, through the storms frequent in a western spring, across dry stretches of high desert. In 1909 Weston was not able to enjoy the benefit of high tech hiking books or lightweight water proof Gortex. Curtis's story is augmented by a paean to the benefits of walking and a lament of the way our country turned its back on travel by foot in favor of the speed of automobiles. You see a lot more if you slow down and go by foot. Walking is healthy, good for the environment and builds a sense of community. Weston's story is fascinating. He endured, kept putting one foot in front of another, and walked on.



War of the Whales by Joshua Horwitz. Whales navigate their world through a sophisticated use of echolocation. When they started beaching themselves in the Bahamas it was a clear indication something was seriously wrong. What was wrong was the Navy's secret program of flooding the ocean with high-intensity sound, throwing the whales' systems into turmoil. The book opens with this statement, "*Humans have persevered for more than 100,000 years, dominating life on land for the past 150 centuries. But whales have held dominion over the world's oceans for 50 million years.*" Researcher Ken Balcomb and Attorney Joel Reynolds joined forces to expose the Navy's role in the mass strandings of whales and to curb the Navy's practice of flooding the oceans with sounds harmful to its rightful inhabitants. It is a fascinating story about an ongoing battle.

Staff Recommendations

Deon recommends



Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands by Chris Bohjalian. Shall the sins of the fathers be visited on their children? Emily certainly feels the weight of intense hatred of the American public for her father. A nuclear plant in Vermont experienced a dramatic meltdown on his watch. The man was known to drink too much, was he drunk on the job when needed most? People lost lives, thousands lost their homes, a whole portion of the state will be uninhabitable for centuries, and the toll on the population's health is yet to come. Emily is at school, chatting with her friends, when the teachers start rapidly loading kids on buses to be driven far and fast. Rumors start flying, cell phones with news reports of the meltdown are opened, and hysteria spreads. Everything is upside down; no one really knows exactly how bad it is, or what will happen now. What does become apparent, to all but Emily, is the probability her parents are dead. As she feels the hatred of those around her growing, Emily runs. Convinced she is hated too, she ends up on the streets, finally accepting her parents have perished. Before the accident she lived in a nice house and was making plans for college, now she is sleeping on the floor of a drug dealer's home and selling her body for enough money to eat. Forging a relationship with a vulnerable young boy, Emily does her best to protect him. This is an engrossing look at what it might be like in the wake of a nuclear disaster. The portrayal of a teenage girl, overwhelmed at the outpouring of hate against her family for their role in the disaster, fleeing only to find herself in a worse situation is compelling.



The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing by Mira Jacobs. Emigrating from India to America, Thomas moves his wife and children far away from the influence of his mother and family. Set in Seattle, New Mexico, and India, the story intrigues the reader's curiosity about the fate of this engaging family. Ammachy causes the very rift she fears by clinging to her son and interfering in his life. Appalled that he married a "dark skinned" woman, she places the blame for his defection to America squarely on her daughter in law's shoulders, unwilling to believe her beloved son is eager to escape her reach. During a visit to India, relations reach a crisis, and Thomas cuts short the visit crushing his mother's dreams of his returning to the family home in India. Twenty years later, Thomas is living in New Mexico and having conversations in the night with dead people, an uncomfortable action for a brain surgeon. His wife Kamala, pleads with her daughter Amina to come home and help figure out what is going on with her father.

Amina is a photographer in Seattle, a talented woman with ghosts to excise, settling for a job taking photos of weddings rather than using her formidable talent. Their stories must come to terms with the past in order to move into the future. The key to their secrets hidden in that long ago visit to India. Amina's task is to solve the mystery of her family, her father's condition, and confront her future.



The Care and Management of Lies by Jacqueline Winspear. Abandoning for the moment her popular Maisie Dobbs series, Winspear leads us into WWI through the experiences of a trio of young people. Kezia, a vicar's daughter, is best friends with Dorrit from their early days as students at the prestigious Camden School for Girls. They grow into womanhood together, in and out of each other's homes. When Kezia accepts a proposal from Dorrit's brother Tom, rather than feeling joy for the closeness of the union, Dorrit wonders how the soft Kezia is going to manage as a farmer's wife. Turning her back on her farming roots, Dorrit lives in London where she has changed her name to Thea and become involved in the suffragette movement. Farm life is a new challenge for Kezia, she will have to learn to cook, heretofore in her father's home servants took care of those tasks. As rumors of war swirl then take form, Tom assures his young bride he will be staying on the farm, an Army fights on its belly and they will need farmers. When the village lads march off to fight the Huns, Tom feels it is his duty to go too, leaving his young bride, a woman unused to farm work, alone to run the farm in his absence. Reluctantly, Thea joins the war effort driving an ambulance. Kezia's responsibility grows and she comes into her own as a woman, writing letters to her husband of the meals she would cook for him. Food is a huge connection in the story. Because it focuses on these three people, the story illustrates what it was like for those who fought and those who stayed home working hard to keep things together.



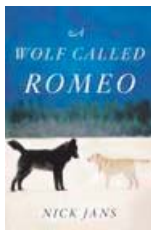
One Plus One by Jojo Moyes is romantic comedy tempered with a social edge. Ed, a highflying techie, sold the company he founded with his best friend for major bucks. A momentary indiscretion will bring it crashing down like a house of cards. Jess is the woman who cleans his high-end vacation home. She works two jobs, cleaning during the day and waitressing at a bar at night, trying to make ends meet. Her husband ran home to Mom, leaving her in debt with two kids to raise. She is exhausted, broke, and worried about her children. Ed and Jess live in different universes, their paths should not converge but they do. A series of unrelated events cause their worlds to collide. Ed has been taking stock and isn't entirely pleased with himself. In a weak moment he offers to do something totally unselfish and drive Jess along with her family, including their flatulent dog, across country to a math competition that means a lot to Jess's precocious daughter, Tanzia. Ed is the orderly sort, his luxury vehicle has never experienced the kind of turmoil a family with kids and a dog can inflict. Ed and his car have this in common. Funny, tragic, and ultimately hopeful, this is a charmer.



Vertigo 42 by Martha Grimes. An old friend puts Scotland Yard Detective Richard Jury in touch with Tom Williamson. They meet at **Vertigo 42**, a ritzy bar with a panoramic view of London. Seventeen years ago Tom's wife Tess fell to her death down a flight of stairs into an empty pool at their country estate. It was deemed accidental, the woman was known to have vertigo, but Tom believes his wife was murdered. Jury reluctantly agrees to take a look at the case. Five years earlier a little girl died of a fall down those stairs at a party his wife was hosting. The two deaths seem ominously linked. On the way to view the site of Tess's death, Jury stops off to see his friend Melrose Plant in the village of Long Piddleton. Strange occurrences are happening in Plant's neck of the woods. First a stray dog turns up, and then a woman's body dressed in an expensive red dress is found at the base of a folly. More bodies follow. Martha Grimes is great fun to read; she spices her tales with humor and builds a crafty mystery to boot.

Staff Recommendations

Deon recommends.



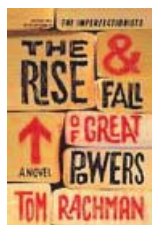
A Wolf Called Romeo by Nick Janis. Romeo was an amazing wolf! Forsaking the wariness that protects his species from the most deadly predator on earth, man, Romeo chose to connect. Nick Janis lived in Alaska for three decades; he was surprised when Romeo befriended the family dog. This intrepid wolf reached across that great divide between wild and domestic, to approach people and their pets in peace. What a rare opportunity, to know a wild wolf, to enjoy a rapprochement with a remarkable animal. There is a reason wild animals should be wary of humans, we are a dangerous, violent, deadly species. Romeo's acceptance of humans was repaid with violence; he paid the ultimate price for his close contact. Reading about Romeo and other animals who have made unusual friendships is heartwarming. Understanding what it cost him is engaging, if my curses have any power, Park Myers III and Jeff Peacock, Romeo's murderers, will suffer all the pains of Dante's hell.



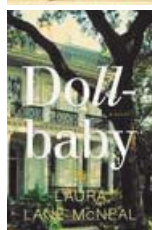
What Strange Creatures by Emily Arsenault. Theresa's been working on her PHD for seven long years, while she earns her living writing catchy phrases for a candle factory. Along the way she has a marriage end in divorce and string of failed relationships, marking the dissolution of each with the acquisition of another pet. She is up to four cats and a dog. Animals she gets, men can be more of a puzzle. The one constant relationship in her life is her brother Jeff. They ignore, more than they should, each other's faults. Jeff talks Theresa into dog sitting his girlfriend Kim's Puggle while she goes to visit an aunt, for just a few days. Theresa's peace, such as it is, will be shattered when Kim is found murdered and the evidence all points to Jeff. Could her brother really be guilty of killing someone? Yes he drinks too much, is upset about losing his job, and jealous of Kim, but could he be a killer? The police certainly think so. They are convinced they have their man. Theresa must discover more about the enigmatic Kim to uncover the truth. Wry humor, quirky characters, and an interesting plot make this literary mystery a winner.



Someone Else's Skin by Sarah Hilary. Great characters keep the reader invested in this taut mystery. DI Marnie Rome knows the role of victim; her parents were murdered five years ago. She is a determined survivor and a good cop. She is with her partner, Noah, at a women's shelter when a man makes his way into the dayroom and is stabbed by his wife. It is only through the quick action of Noah and one of the women that the man survives. On the surface it is an easy case, an abused woman defending herself against her tormenter. Yet each of the witnesses sees something slightly different. As the two detectives investigate, the violence continues. The detectives were at the shelter attempting to get another resident to testify against her brothers who blinded her in one eye for supposedly besmirching the family honor. Both story lines are full of tension and danger. While Marnie is an excellent protagonist, Noah and Ayana stole the book for me. They were compelling. Pick this one up, it tells an interesting story filled with remarkable characters.



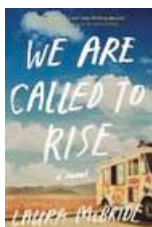
The Rise & Fall of Great Powers by Tom Rachman. Tooty owns a bookstore in a remote part of Wales where she leads a quiet life surrounded by the comfort of books. Preferring books to people, she has little contact with anyone other than a friendly, talkative employee. Her childhood and background leave a lot of questions unanswered. Tooty believes she will never really find the answers until one day the past reaches out to her, sending Tooty on a journey that takes her around the world unraveling the mysteries of her life. This is one of those books that is a sheer delight to read!



Dollbaby by Laura Lane McNeal is filled with all the eccentricity, humor, and gothic pathos expected of southern literature. Ibbey Bells is dropped off on her grandmother's doorstep by her mother in 1964, shortly after her father was killed in a biking accident. Ibbey's life is undergoing dramatic changes, from being the apple of her father's eye in Olympia, Washington to a derelict old Victorian mansion in New Orleans. Ibbey's grandmother Fannie, a woman she has never met, is known to be a mercurial, formidable woman with mental lapses. Ushered in by her grandmother's maid Dollbaby, she is installed in the servant's quarter in attic rooms at the top of the old house. Queenie, the cook, helps Ibbey navigate the storms of her grandmother's nature. Before arriving in New Orleans Ibbey had never met a black person, now these two women would be her new family. The crumbling old mansion holds secrets, hidden for decades, they will change everything.

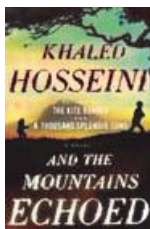


Flying Shoes by Lisa Howorth is a novel of the South. As such, it is populated by a large cast of highly unique and entertaining characters, spiced with humor, and has a tragedy at its heart. I admire Southern writers, they are able to put such heart into their stories while still bringing humor and originality to their story-telling. Mary Byrd Thornton lives in Mississippi, she has done her best to move past the tragic events of her childhood and get on with life. Thirty years ago her brother was murdered, the case stands unsolved. A phone call pulls her back to Virginia where detectives have identified a suspect. Complicating her travel to Virginia is Mary Byrd's abhorrence of air travel and a rare ice storm in Mississippi making driving a dicey option. Another complication is organizing her family to survive a week without her. More of a task than it would seem, her daughter is difficult, son into doing his own thing, and her husband is not generally that involved in running the family. It would be a mistake to view this as solely the story of a murder. It is the story of a woman, her resilience, her friends and family. It is also the story of an era in the south and small town life. Lisa Howorth has personal experience similar to her characters. Her brother was murdered, the crime remains unsolved.



We Are Called to Rise by Laura McBride takes the reader through serious themes, introducing characters that will touch the heart, and concludes with a feeling of grace and hope. Avis grew up in a hardscrabble existence, her Mom moving from boyfriend to boyfriend. She married determined to live a different way. For twenty nine years her life has been finely ordered and stable. Until her son returns from the Middle East with far too many demons and her husband leaves her for a younger woman. Bashkim, the child of Albanian refugees, takes comfort in school where the current project is writing letters to the soldiers in Iraq. Home is a battlefield, his father's years as a political prisoner left him angry and mistrustful. His wife and children often targets of his wrath. Luis and his partner Sam are legends, 91 live runs through IED infested Iraq, no one has even come close to their record. Now Sam is very dead and Luis is in a hospital stateside. Roberta, an attorney, is an advocate for children who are orphaned or worse, often on the street. The stories of these four remarkable characters will converge in a tragic moment. The question is where do they go from here? McBride explores the answer with ingenuity and compassion.

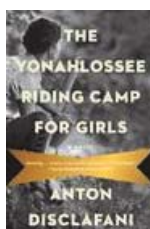
Staff recommendations.
Now Available in Paperback.
Deon recommends.



And The Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, can break your heart with a sentence. His latest is the powerful story of a brother and sister torn asunder. Abdullah's mother died giving birth to his sister Pari. The siblings bond was strong and deep, where Pari went Abdullah will be watching. His love for his sister was so great Abdullah walked for miles and gave away his shoes in trade for the feather of a peacock, a beautiful feather to add to Pari's collection. Their father's new wife, Parwana, is not cruel to them, but her love is reserved for her children, their half-brothers. Eking out an existence in a poor village on dry, unforgiving ground surrounded by jagged mountains, they have few resources. Life is hard. The winters bitter cold and deadly. Parwana's brother Nabi works as a cook in the house of a wealthy couple in Kabul. Circumstances will unfold that rip brother and sister apart. One will stay in war ravaged Afghanistan while the other emigrates to the west. Hosseini has written another powerhouse story that will keep you turning pages.



On Sal Mal Lane by Ru Freeman. Moving day on Sal Mal Lane the quiet is broken by the angelic voices of the four Hearth siblings. They are an attractive family; Dad has a job with government so they are on the upper level of the street's inhabitants. Suren is a handsome lad with a gift for music and math, Rashimi is beautiful and intent on doing right, Nihil's main interests are keeping his little sister safe and playing cricket, and Devi, the youngest, has a wild zest for life. Soon the children have acquainted themselves with the denizens of the street, formed allegiances and filled their days with cricket games and music. The lane is full of colorful characters. Sonna Bollings is the bad boy of the lane who hides his loneliness and hurt under a veneer of tough. All these lives on the little street get along despite their differences, until forces outside the lane intrude. Civil War is casting a shadow on the land. Very soon it will matter greatly if the household is Sinhalese, Tamil or Burgher, the religion Muslim or Catholic. What happens when the rhetoric of hate pits neighbor against neighbor? Sometimes something quite miraculous. Sometimes people refuse to succumb to the angry voices. Tragedy visits Sal Mal Lane as the country erupts in violence, but amid the destruction there are also uplifting, hopeful notes too. This is a powerful story, the writing lively and uplifting.



The Yanahlossee Riding Camp For Girls by Anton Disclafani. Thea grows up in a little piece of paradise, living on sprawling acreage, with miles between their spacious home and any neighbor. She was tied to this land and to her family, especially her twin brother Sam. It was a place and a family she thought she would never leave. Thea grew up without other children about except for the visits of her Aunt, Uncle and her cousin George. She rode her pony, was close with her brother, and looked forward to the visits of her cousin, this was her world. But Paradise often seems to include a fall, a serpent in the grass. Thea's world implodes at 15 when her part in a family tragedy renders her an outcast. Driven by her father to **The Yanahlossee Riding Camp For Girls**, she is left in a cottage dormitory with five other girls. In an instant everything in her life is changed. For the first time, she is not only around other girls but living in a dorm, in close proximity. The landscape is markedly different, high up in the Blue Ridge Mountains where the seasons change instead of the flat, tropical heat of Florida. The saving grace is the horses, for

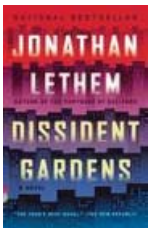
Thea is fearless on horseback. She finds her way again through her time in the saddle and the friendships she makes with the other students. Nervous, alone, and yearning for home when she arrives, by the time she is reunited with her parents she is no longer a frightened young girl carrying too much guilt, but a young woman ready to face the world. This is the story of her transformation.



Transatlantic by Colum McCann. From America to Ireland and back again the lives of the characters link with each other and the land. McCann twines the lives of his fictional characters with the stories of real figures from history. In 1845 escaped slave Fredrick Douglas comes to Ireland to further the cause of abolition, he speaks eloquently of the moral bankruptcy of owning humans, being treated as a possession, abused with no voice or justice. Conditions in Ireland shock Douglas, famine is raging, and potato blight has left the population starving. He sees the English overlord's indifference to the suffering of the poor and recognizes another form of moral bankruptcy. In 1919 Brown and Alcock will pilot their thin, delicate craft across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to land in an Irish bog. And in 1998 former US Senator George Mitchell crosses the Atlantic in a bid to bring peace to the troubled land. If you have an interest in Ireland, this is a fascinating. story.



Night Film by Marisha Pessl. Inventive plots with twists that will keep you guessing and subjects that make you think are hallmarks of Pessl's writing. Stanislaus Cordova is an edgy, disturbing, cultish film director who uses his daughter Ashley in his creations. At 24 she commits suicide. But why? And was it really suicide? Reporter Scott McGrath will not let go, he is determined to bring out the truth on Ashley. Pessl shades the story with dark magic, a touch of magical realism, and enough danger to keep the reader on the edge of their seats. Webpages, publicity pics, newspaper articles and all sorts of artifacts spice up the story. This is a very visual book. Expect Pessl to keep you guessing to the last page!



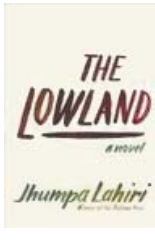
Dissident Gardens by Jonathan Lethem. Rose Zimmer, aka the Red Queen, is a force to be reckoned with, a maelstrom of a woman, passionate in her beliefs, staunch in her commitment to communism, fearless in her appetites, and domineering to her loved ones. Rose's history with the opposite sex has not been smooth. Albert, her aristocratic, handsome German Jewish husband, runs afoul of the leaders in the American Communist Party, leaving his wife and child behind as he returns behind the Iron Curtain to Germany. The story opens in Queens in New York circa 1955 as Rose is called on the carpet by the American Communist Party for her choice in lovers, the party's rulers do not like the color of his skin. Each of the characters is in some way touched or influenced by Rose. Miriam has her Mom's passion for activism; her love interest is an Irish Folk singer. Each generation has activists challenging the existing order for the downtrodden, from the American Communist Party of the 30's 40's and 50's to the communes of the 70's and the Occupy movement of today. Through it all Rose's influence speaks across generations.



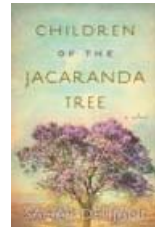
Ten Things I've Learned About Love A Novel by Sarah Butler. Alice has wanderlust; she travels the globe's more exotic locations always lured on to the next destination. She is the youngest of 3 daughters, the impetuous one, not a bit like her serious, conservative older sisters. Alice returns to London when she hears her father is dying. Daniel is homeless, a tramp living rough in London. Once he was part of the regular world, with a job and a future. A chance encounter at a museum led to a love affair that devastated him when it ended. Now he is sixty, alone, in questionable health, the one thing that keeps him going is the knowledge he has a daughter somewhere. He has never been able to find the girl, but circumstances just might change.

Staff recommendations.
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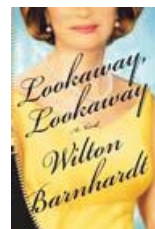
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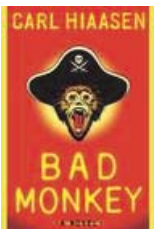
The Lowland by Jhumpa Lahiri . Subhash and Udiyan Mitra are as close as brothers can be, one completes the other. Subhash is dutiful and longs for understanding. Udiyan is his opposite, where Subhash grants his parents respect and obedience, Udiyan tests every boundary, getting them both in trouble more often than not, being forgiven frequently because who can resist his fearless zest for life. It is rebellious Udiyan not mild mannered Subhash who holds their parent's heart. Both brothers are wildly intelligent. When they reach college age their natures pull them apart. Udiyan is drawn into the Naxalite movement of the 1960's, a spectacular failure in an attempt to lift the multitudes out of poverty and abuse. Subhash travels to a remote corner of America to study. A tragedy will happen in the Lowland, the fate of each brother will affect the life of the other. I found the part of the story dealing with Subhash's relocation to Rhode Island fascinating, the melding of cultures, the idea of living within a culture but apart from it too. Lahiri's writing is, as usual, masterful. She makes you care for these two boys and their world.



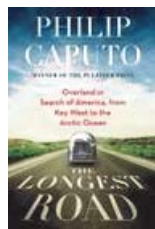
Children of the Jacaranda Tree by Shar Delijani. Iran under the Ayatollah was not a place welcoming of differing opinions or attitudes. The prisons were full of the young and the politically active along with the unfortunate caught in the fervor of those newly in power to exert their influence and squash any opposition. Told through linked stories, the novel opens with Azar giving birth to Neda in Evin Prison and comes full circle to end decades later with Neda involved with a political dissident. Each story connects to tell a whole but also stands on its own; Sherida discovering her father had been executed in the prison as a political dissident, Omid witnessing his parents arrest, then years later Omid as an adult remaining in Iran trying to effect change. The author was born in Evin Prison, her personal history lends a strength and passion to the prose of her novel.



Lookaway, Lookaway by William Barnhardt. This family just might define dysfunctional Southern style. Upper class and well aware of their place in society, they have far less cash and many more skeletons hidden in their various closets than their friends would ever guess. Duke is totally involved in the Civil War, a conflict fought 150 years ago that feels as real to him as yesterday. His wife Jerene keeps the family in line, or at least tries. This family is hard to keep on track. Her famous brother Gaston is an author with a highly developed taste for strong drink. Jerene and Duke's four children couldn't be more different. Jerilyn heads off to college determined to pledge the right sorority and marry well, she is woefully unprepared for the world outside her mother's control. Joshua sells men's clothing and trolls gay dating sites on the internet. Annie, a successful real estate maven, is a full figured woman who talks a lot about helping the working man. Bo is a preacher unable to relate easily to his congregation. Scandal and misadventure follow these characters wherever they go. The ending is priceless.



Bad Monkey by Carl Hiaasen is infused with his usual entertaining blend of chaos and humor. Yancy, a Key West cop, is in trouble over assaulting his girlfriend's husband with a home cleaning appliance, his choice of venue was unfortunately quite public and cell phone videos proliferated. His hot headed misbehavior may cost him a job he is both good at and enjoys. The new police chief has political aspirations; he is most concerned with keeping the local business community and tourists happy. When a fisherman snags a human arm the chief just wants it to go away. Yancy is curious about who was attached to the appendage and what might have happened to him. They are at cross purposes, but Yancy has the vain hope that solving the increasingly complicated mystery will put him back in the chief's good graces after his rather public plunge into YouTube notoriety. Adding to Yancy's trouble is the new house next door. I feel for Yancy, I also live next door to an unattractive gargantuan edifice constructed with no sensitivity to either the community, the environment, or aesthetics. Like the house next door to mine, the new house next door to Yancy totally fails to blend into the forest. Haven't these people heard of conspicuous consumption, carbon footprints, or obscene opulence? Fortunately for my neighbor I do not have Yancy's streak of retaliatory invention, but it did make me chuckle. Then there is the monkey, an animal with a serious attitude issue. The action goes from Yancy's campaign against his next door neighbor in the Florida Keys, to Miami, to the Bahamas.



The Longest Road by Philip Caputo. Pulitzer Prize winner Caputo is known for telling stories about complicated people and far off lands. Two watershed events, the death of his father and the approach of his 70th birthday, sent him on an amazing journey. A decade earlier Caputo had marveled at the ties that bound Eskimo school children in an Inupiat village to pledge allegiance to the same flag as the offspring of Cuban refugees in Florida. Diverse and chaotic, somehow this vast nation worked, blended together into a whole greater than the parts. But things have changed; by 2011 the economic meltdown had stripped the middle and lower classes down to the bare bones while the top 1% gobbled the country's assets leaving little for the rest. The country seemed to be pulling apart rather than together. Caputo was facing his own mortality, the realization that his 70's might have greater restrictions than his earlier years. He needed a grand gesture, a quest. He would drive pulling an Airstream trailer from Key West Florida to Deadhorse Alaska, a journey of epic proportions, accompanied by his two dogs, Sage and Sky. Along the way he would take stock of the country, gauge its divisions and see if he could find that united spirit. Sage was older and deaf, enabling her to completely ignore his frantic pleas and jump into swift rivers. Sky was young and full of the young dog crazies. Caputo soon decided that perhaps leaving the wife at home was not such a grand idea, his journey need not be solitary, so wife Leslie came along. This enabled Caputo to build up husband points for such ideas as sending his wife off alone on a wild goose chase through grizzly country on foot. Clearly being married to the man is a bit of an adventure regardless of the travel. It is an enjoyable story of a grand American journey by a gifted author.



The Last Train to Zona Verde by Paul Theroux who has had a decade's long love affair with Africa, and perhaps like any intense relationships it has hit a rocky patch. Paul first came to Africa as a bright eyed, bushy tailed Peace Corps volunteer. His son was born in Africa; it has emotional baggage for him. The passing years have brought changes, both to the continent and the man. Western intervention failed to be the panacea the planners and dreamers imagined; instead the continent has fragmented into fractious countries with myriad problems and disenfranchised populations. Paul has changed too in the years between his twenties and his seventies, always a fiercely independent individual, he has grown less willing to risk his neck in overcrowded careening busses, sleep in bug infested hovels, or bear witness to the suffering of the masses. This trip has a bittersweet quality, it is an opportunity for the reader to share a passionate traveler's realization that he might not need to do the truly rugged, crazy dangerous, hard travel anymore. The emotional journey to a realization of the changing limitations he faces as well as reaching a sense of acceptance enriches the writing. That is not to say that Paul Theroux has gone soft, he is still giving us a great trip. He goes overland from Cape Town South Africa on to Namibia, into Botswana and Angola, covering a lot of territory, 2,500 miles. His elephant safari in Botswana is a treasure! There is intensity to this trip, recognition that this might be the last trip to Africa and a desire to see it clearly. Paul says it best: *"Knowing that a return to Africa for me was probably out of the question – how much more can these bones take?– made me want to be scrupulously truthful. None of it was trivial, all of it was meaningful; everything I saw mattered much more."*

July 2014 Book Clubs.

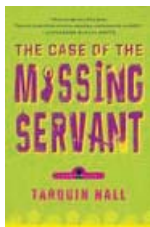
Summer afternoons on the deck with a good book are to be treasured. This July our book clubs will be reading some very enjoyable literature. We are so proud of our book clubs! These people are such good company and dive in so willingly to all kinds of books! I appreciate their generosity of spirit, enthusiasm and their joy in reading. Book clubs are a great way to connect with other passionate readers; I do not think you will find a nicer group of people than our book clubs. I thank every one of them for being a part of Sunriver Books & Music. Book clubs meet on Monday at 6:30.



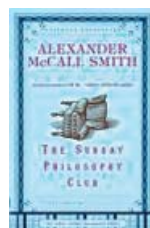
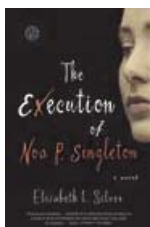
July 14th the Fiction-Classics Book Club discusses *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas. A swashbuckling tale of daring, betrayal, injustice and redemption, it will keep you up reading! Edmond Dantes' dreams are coming true, he has attained the position of Captain and is about to marry the 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!



July 21st the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses *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. His life reads like a story from one of his son's novels.



July 28th the Mystery Book Club discusses *The Case of The Missing Servant: From the Files of Vish Puri, Most Private Investigator* by Tarquin Hall. Set in hot, chaotic Delhi, this is the first of a delightful series. Puri is a likeable detective, a bit on the chubby side his wife and doctor insist on a strict diet he has great pleasure in surreptitiously avoiding. His mother takes an active interest in his cases, an interest her son would appreciate curbed. Much of the work of Puri's agency is routine, screening would be brides and grooms to make sure there are no unwelcome skeletons in the closet, that sort of thing. Nonetheless Puri is a good detective with keen observational skills. Ajay Kasliwal is a successful attorney who tackles governmental corruption. His maid goes missing; he may have had more than an employer's proper interest in the woman. Arrested for the murder of the maid, Kasliwal needs Puri's expertise to keep him from a very unpleasant fate.



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

Please note a couple schedule changes in the list below!

August 11th 2014 *The Execution of Noa P. Singleton* by Elizabeth Silver [Mystery Book Club](#)

August 25th 2014 *Beloved* by Toni Morrison [Fiction Book Club](#)

9-1-14 *The Sunday Philosophy Club* by Alexander McCall Smith [Mystery Book Club Month of Scotland](#)

September 8th 2014 *Letters From Skye* by Jessica Brockmole [Fiction Book Club Month of Scotland](#)

September 15th 2014 *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson [Classics Book Club Month of Scotland](#)

September 22nd *A Journey To The Western Islands of Scotland and the Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides* by Samuel Johnson and James Boswell [Travel Essay Book Club Month of Scotland](#)

October 6th 2014 *Zorro* by Isabel Allende [Fiction Book Club Banned Book Selection](#)

October 13th 2014 *The Light In The Ruins* by Chris Bohjalian [Mystery Book Club](#)

October 20th 2014 *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie [Classics Book Club](#)

November 3rd, 2014 *Black Betty* by Walter Mosley [Mystery Book Club](#)

November 10th 2014 *In A Sudden Light* by Garth Stein [Fiction Book Club](#)

November 17th 2014 *Behind The Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

December 8th 2014 *Spirit of Steamboat* by Craig Johnson [Mystery Book Club](#) and [Fiction Book Club](#)

December 15th 2014 *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens [Fiction Book Club](#) and [Classics Book Club](#)

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

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