



# Sunriver Books & Music

## October 2014

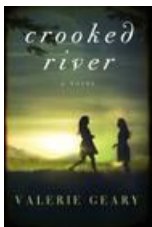
### Newsletter

[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)  
541-593-2525



Some talented authors will be in Sunriver! Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 Craig Johnson, author of the popular Walt Longmire series set in Wyoming, returns with his latest, **Wait for Signs**, a collection of short stories featuring our favorite sheriff and filling in some of his back story, letting the reader know the characters in new and entertaining ways. Those of us already acquainted with Craig Johnson's Walt Longmire series will delight in seeing Walt in different situations while those new to the series will find this a perfect introduction. Vic and Henry Standing Bear have some stellar moments, let me just say I never thought we would find Vic in quite the situation she encounters in **Messenger**.

**Wait for Signs** releases on October 21, we are happy to pre-order for you. Craig Johnson's November 11th event will be held at SHARC, sign up early to attend, he is a very entertaining speaker. All of the other October and November events will be at Sunriver Books & Music.



Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM Valerie Geary will give a presentation on **Crooked River**, set in Central Oregon. This engrossing debut tells the story of two sisters who see the world very differently but overcome their youth and grief in a quest for justice.

Sam McAlister was 15, her sister Ollie 10 the year their mother died suddenly shattering their sheltered lives in Eugene, Oregon. The sisters' father, Bear, has never been a stable presence. He lives without electricity in a Teepee erected in a meadow along the Crooked River near Terrebonne Oregon. Honey gathered from beehives brings him a modest income, enough to pay a paltry rent to the farmer whose meadow he calls home. Sam spent several summers with her father in the meadow, for Ollie it is all new and alien. Bear is an outsider in the community, his bushy hair and beard, solitary existence, and lack of social graces keep him apart. The sisters have barely arrived at their father's Teepee when they find the body of a woman floating in the Crooked River. Numb from the death of their mother, the girls do not tell of their disturbing discovery. Of course, the police, aided by an abundance of incriminating evidence, focus in on Bear as prime suspect. Both girls know Bear is innocent, Sam from all the summers spent in his gentle care, Ollie because the shimmerings, spirits of the departed, have told her so. A killer is loose, their father on a fast track to jail, and two young girls are alone in their quest to make things right. Geary uses the spectacular landscape of Central Oregon beautifully. The story grabs you from the first page and keeps you involved as secrets are revealed and it moves to the dramatic conclusion.

Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM Peyton Marshall will give a presentation on **Goodhouse**, it is sure to be an interesting event. Marshall's novel shows a flair for getting to the heart of the matter with memorable characters.

In a future world the gene associated with violent crime has been identified; the children who carry it are housed in reformatories. The idea starts as a way to take these at risk children, train them to control their impulses, then release at maturity those best able to reintegrate with society. The rest, those unable to control their impulses, would be more closely monitored. It doesn't sound horrific, after all who isn't in favor of curbing vicious crime? But separating a population, marking them as "other" never turns out well and this is no exception. Marshall sets her story in the infamous Preston Youth Correctional Facility in lone California, a place of horrible cruelty that marked many young lives and in La Pine, Oregon. The fictional **Goodhouse** lives up to the legacy. Violence among students is rife. Cameras monitor every aspect of the children's lives. They are demeaned, controlled, and in fear of the demerits that will judge their suitability to reenter civilian life someday. A band of religious zealots called Zeroes has another solution; the children carrying this gene must be purified by fire. Only when the earth is cleansed of them will the environmental degradation that has been wreaking havoc on the planet be cured. James, the story's engaging protagonist, arrives at the lone **Goodhouse** after Zeroes destroy his former facility in La Pine Oregon killing everyone he knew. Traumatized and lonely, he finds the lone **Goodhouse** harsh. James is a likeable character; you will want him to do well. Bethany, a free-spirited technological whiz kid, takes a shine to James complicating his life immeasurably. Her father is the medical director at the facility and may possess secrets dangerous to James. The scenes with Bethany zing with a wild energy, she may be James salvation or his doom. Peyton Marshall tells a chilling story of a future world where fear, bigotry and surveillance are allowed full expression and free thinking curbed. Her characters have such strong humanity; they will make you root for them. This is a story that stays with you. I find myself thinking about these characters often.



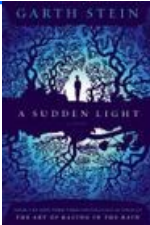


Since his first book, ***Terror of Living***, I have wanted to bring Urban Waite to Sunriver Books & Music. He is an incredibly talented author with razor sharp prose. Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM Urban Waite will give a presentation on ***Sometimes the Wolf***. We are honored to be able to share this author with the community. Deputy Bobby Drake has been living down his father's legacy for a long time, twelve years. His father, Patrick, was

Sheriff in their small town in the foothills of Washington's North Cascade Mountains until he was sent to prison for running drugs. Now he is out on parole and Bobby is not sure how he feels about the man. Bobby's whole life changed course when his father was arrested, resentments simmer under the surface. He is responsible for his father yet worried that he cannot trust the man; there are so many things that feel odd for him. When his father went to prison Bobby took over the two bedroom family home. Having his father in the smaller of the bedrooms, Bobby's childhood room, while

he shares the bigger room with his wife Sheri feels strange. Sheri kept in touch with Patrick over the years of his incarceration; she feels sympathy for the man, considers he has paid his debt to society and deserves a new chance. There is tension in the marriage. On his father's first day of freedom a wolf is spotted. Bobby has been helping Fish and Wildlife Officer Ellie Cobb hunt poachers. Ellie, excited about the return of these magnificent predators, wants Bobby to help her track and collar the animal. But the past is not finished with the Drakes. There are bad men who have unfinished business with Patrick and an easy acquaintance with violence. The past still has secrets to reveal. Urban Waite writes gritty, sharply drawn novels. Their sense of place adds to the reading pleasure as the dark quiet of the mountains sets the tone of this suspenseful story.

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



#### 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 three years. The wait is over, ***A Sudden Light*** is brilliant!

Contact us to pre-order ***A Sudden Light*** and sign up to attend the free events.

[sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or 541-593-2525

Sign up early to hear great presentations from popular authors!

#### Upcoming Author Appearances

Tuesday November 11th at 5:30 PM at the SHARC Center, ***Wait For Signs*** by Craig Johnson

Saturday December 6th at 5:00 PM ***Falling From Horses*** by Molly Gloss

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

Saturday March 28, 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.

#### And Now A Word from Sunriver's Intrepid and Talented Troupe of Thesians!

The Sunriver Stars will be starting out their fourth season with a fun murder mystery - "Murder's in the HEIR" - the audience will get to vote who they think is the murderer at intermission - so even the cast won't know "who did it" until the vote comes in!!

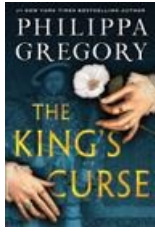
The play will be Oct. 24th at 7, the 25th "dinner theater" dinner (catered by Marcello's) at 6, play at 7 and the 26th at 2. They will be held at SHARC. You may buy tickets from any actor..or email [nanfoote.ssct@gmail.com](mailto:nanfoote.ssct@gmail.com) for more information.

The Stars will also be holding their first fund raiser at SHARC on Oct. 29 - a "Halloween Hoot" from 6-8. Costumes, silent auction, food! Please come support the STARS!!

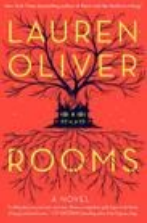


## Staff Recommendations.

### Sue Halvorsen Recommends.



**THE KING'S CURSE** by Philippa Gregory. The King's Curse is an exceptional working of the curse supposedly laid on the Tudor family after they killed the Plantagenet child heirs to King Edward III's throne. Henry VII is cursed by the women who become his mother in law and wife. The curse is: Henry's son and grandsons will not live. Henry VII turned out to be a greedy, unpopular ruler. Unfortunately for England, it is Arthur who dies and not Henry VIII. We all know that Henry VIII does not have a son who lives beyond infancy. Henry VIII is a cowardly, self-centered man, who gives a pardon one day and the next will have pardoned person killed for treason or no reason. It is an exceptionally researched and well written account of Henry VII and Henry VIII's reign from the Plantagenet point of view of Margaret Plantagenet Pole of York, Countess of Salisbury, our narrator. She is hostess to the Prince and Princess of Wales and as such becomes one of Katherine's supporters as well as a trusted Lady In Waiting. She is there for each of the six children's births and must tell Henry when each male child dies. She is also governess and at times guardian to Princess Mary. To make this book even more interesting, her family is also involved with almost all of Henry's reign as courtiers, hunting partners, friends, and a scholar, right up to the time they are sent to the Tower. Hearing the Tudor reign from her view is fascinating. The bibliography of seven pages alone makes this book worth reading.

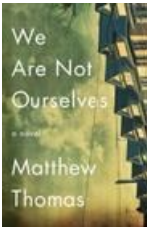


**ROOMS** by Lauren Oliver. **Rooms** starts with ghosts and humans vying for possession of the same house. An estranged father has just died. The family consists of ex-wife, Caroline, who is a drunk, Daughter, Minna, a single mother in her late twenties, son, Trenton, who is still at prep school, and a six year old granddaughter, Amy, and they take turns telling their stories. The ghosts, Sarah and Alice, also have their own chapters. At first it seems to be all about the house and family problems, but then you get interested in the people and want to see how they turn out. It also has a run away, a younger mistress of the deceased, and a young ghost who enters the book to help the mix of unhappy people and ghosts figure out their pasts and achieve their futures. It all comes to a juicy climax.

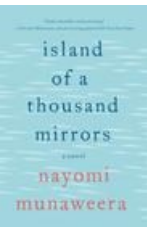


**BITTER GREENS** by Kate Forsyth. I will never eat parsley again. This is good story for younger and older adults who enjoy the fairy tales we grew up with and like the idea of finding a history for them. I did not realize that the Rapunzel story was Italian and set in Venice and vicinity. This is the story of an evil witch and a young girl who she claimed as payment of a debt of parsley and other bitter greens for a pregnant woman. We hear the story as it is told by one of the nuns to an exile of King Louis IV's court, Charlotte-Rose de la Force. Charlotte is a woman who does not do the expected. She comes to the attention of the King as a young girl who doesn't realize she should not out ride him. The King, of course, never forgets. She is an intellectual in a court that does not appreciate women who prefer solons and composing stories, poems, and plays to the conventional womanly activities of listening to stories, poems, and plays. Charlotte of course does write and attend solons. This story swings between Charlotte's story as she is sent to a nunnery and Rapunzel's story in a way that is well written and enjoyable.

### Nancy Nelson Recommends.



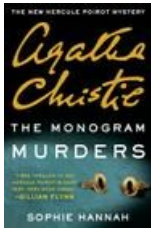
**We Are Not Ourselves**, by Matthew Thomas. This is an epic story of Eileen Tumulty, her family, and the culture of New York Irish immigrants from the 1950's to present day. At just nine years old Eileen was very capable, doing much to care for her alcoholic parents. It was then that she developed a huge hunger for a better life, while also nurturing a courage and strength that were to see her through the hardships that awaited. Her dreams were to have more, to live in a house, to have more space, to matter more, always more and better. Eileen was always an excellent student, striving to be the best in her class. That led her to earning a nursing degree. While her peers were getting married, Eileen waited until she found someone who would make something more of his life. The man she married, Ed Leary, was a college professor and a research scientist who showed a great deal of promise. Caring less for material wealth, his dream was to continue with research and teaching. He eschewed promotions, didn't care about a larger paycheck. Eileen is surprised and frustrated by this attitude as she tries to persuade him to take advantage of the opportunities that come his way. So, again in adult life, she pushes for the things that money and position can buy, alone in her pursuits and dreams. Most of the story is told from her perspective, although her son Connell also presents his take on life as well, giving the reader a larger view of the family dynamics and his struggles with growing up in a world much different from that of his parents. Eventually Eileen persuades her husband to move from their flat to a more expensive nicer neighborhood. This is where her story takes an unexpected turn and Eileen's life dramatically changes. She tries desperately to hide a secret and to keep the family together. Life lessons not to be ignored also await Collin as he grows into the young man who has learned the importance of empathy. The story is rife with the little wisdoms of everyday life and change. It held me fascinated throughout.



**Island of a Thousand Mirrors**, by Nayomi Munaweera. In this epic story of civil war in Sri Lanka there are two races and cultures of people living on the island, the majority Sinhala and the minority Tamil. In this very class conscious country, the general feeling of the Sinhala towards the Tamil is at best one of utter disdain, at worst violent and dismissive hatred. Yet in the midst of it is a beautiful island where anything will grow easily without much attention. The waters of the Indian Ocean are warm, blue, and inviting. But, the hateful words that are in the air call for the removal of the Tamil. Roving gangs of youth seek Tamil to plunder and destroy, whatever their age. Of course the desire for retribution for horrors committed by some of the Sinhala is just festering. The narrator presents a story of friendship and love between a Sinhala and a Tamil family, but time and circumstance will not allow for it to thrive. Eventually the Sinhala family will leave for America. Among the Tamil, the need for vengeance and the abject hatred of all things Sinhala is growing. A little girl with dreams of her own is forcefully recruited to join the Tamil forces. She is only fourteen when her life is thrown so sadly asunder. Yet in spite of the hateful violence people live and love, have families and friendships. The story leads the reader through so much of things to be cherished about this war torn place that it becomes difficult to understand how so many could lose their sense of humanity, their ability to empathize with people. This is a book that can break your heart for the horrors and sadness, and yet fill you with hope for the courage and kindness of some. For me, I am changed for the experience of reading it.

## Staff Recommendations.

### Deon Recommends.



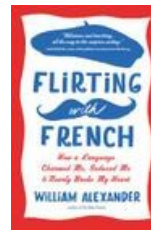
**The Monogram Murders** by Sophie Hannah borrows Dame Agatha Christie's cerebral detective Hercule Poirot in the process creating an engaging new sleuth of her own, Edward Catchpool. Pleasant's Coffee House in London serves excellent coffee, Poirot is enjoying a cup when a frightened blond woman rushes in, clearly worried she is being followed. Her evident distress moves Poirot to approach, she pleads with him to do nothing. Meanwhile Catchpool is badly shaken by the murder of three people. He has seen his share of dead bodies as a Scotland Yard detective, but this is different. A cufflink was placed in the mouth of each victim, this killer is unusual and, Catchpool fears, probably deviously difficult to catch. Hannah is respectful of Agatha Christie's character and style, letting us enjoy another outing with the brilliant Poirot.



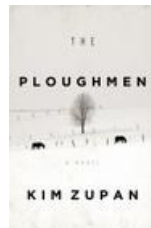
**Leaving Time** by Jodi Picoult. Jenna Metcalf was a toddler when her mother disappeared and her father was committed to a mental institution. Her grandmother does not want to discuss the disappearance or invest her emotions in seeking the whereabouts of her daughter. Jenna spends her time reading her mother's scientific journals and surfing the internet, hoping for clues as to what happened at the New England elephant sanctuary the night a woman died, her mother disappeared, and her father's reason fled leaving mentally incapacitated. Alice Metcalf was a research scientist studying grief in Elephants; the chapters dealing with her life among the elephants are mesmerizing, filled with grace. The story alternates between Jenna's search and scenes from Alice's life. A decade has passed as the story opens; Jenna has saved every dime, now at 13 she is ready to search in earnest. Virgil Stanhope, cynical private eye who is haunted by the one case that went wrong when he was a cop, and Serenity Jones, a psychic living in poverty after being publicly disgraced, are Jenna's posse as she delves into the secrets of the past. Picoult used data from real ongoing Elephant research and historical background in her story. It adds a richness and veracity that centers the story and gives engages the reader.



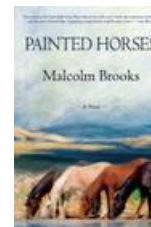
**One Kick** by Chelsea Cain. Kick spent five years a kidnap victim. Those years fractured her identity, she no longer feels like the safe little girl who stepped out the door of her family home at the age of six. Reinventing herself as Kick, she will no longer be a victim. She will be strong! At 21 Kick is an expert at martial arts, lock picking, knife throwing, and marksmanship. If she goes down again, she will go down fighting. Kick lives in an apartment in Portland Oregon. Just up the Interstate in Washington two children go missing. The abductions haunt Kick, she spends hours fruitlessly driving the freeway looking for the white van implicated in the disappearance. John Bishop has reasons of his own for being interested in the disappearance of the children. A former arms merchant with deep pockets and a deadly demeanor, he offers Kick the opportunity to aid him in finding the kidnapers. It is an explosive proposition.



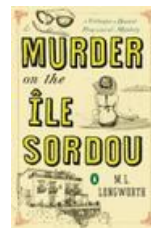
**Flirting With French** by William Alexander. If you have reached a certain age, always meaning to pick up a second language but distracted by all your other priorities, you may find that procrastination added some difficulty to the task. Like Alexander, I have always intended to learn a second language, or why not go for three? My cousins live in Europe and are proficient in a plethora of tongues. It's a bit humiliating to be the American with only English while they can chatter happily away in their native language, English, French, Spanish, Italian, right proper little chatterboxes. Harrumph! While here I am with just the one language. So Alexander's determination to learn French at 57, several decades after the optimum age for language absorption, is an interesting subject. He tries the Rosetta Stone computer course (tried that too!). A biking vacation in France with his wife (who seems to have a natural ear for language) only makes him more determined to learn. And he does several things I would strenuously avoid, like having a before and after MRI of his brain to see if his language studies caused any physical changes. The writing style is lively and the story line is interesting. There is hope for us older aspirants to a second language.



**The Ploughman** by Kim Zupan. Valentine Millimaki is low man on the Totem Pole at the Cooper County Sheriff's department. He is a quiet man, not standoffish, just careful of the words he chooses. Solitude is comfortable for him, his best times spent with his dog tracking the missing. Lately their excursions take them into wild places that have claimed their victim, arriving too late to save the lost or injured. Valentine's wife is a nurse, not so used to the loneliness of their remote home, and impressed with the prestige and wealth of the doctors she works with daily. Her husband's forays into the wilderness somehow don't connect in her mind as just as potentially lifesaving as her own efforts. And sometimes, as they have been lately, not so much so. John Gload is an old man and a stone cold killer. He is legendary, known for his hatred of cops, and his care in avoiding incriminating evidence, the Sheriff's department is elated and a bit taken aback when they capture the elusive man. Valentine spends his nights guarding the prisoner, the two men talk. Gload sees the innate goodness in Valentine and the young deputy finds solace in the old man's words. As their conversations deepen, Gload opens up about his troubled path, and Valentine revisits some of his own secrets. Character drives this story. I found Valentine Millimaki fascinating.



**Painted Horses** by Malcom Brooks. WWII was over, the country, flush with victory, was eager for progress. Catherine is enchanted by the ancient world, an eager student of archeology; London, Egypt these were places that fueled her dreams. When she is challenged for her lack of interest in the American West and an opportunity knocks, she heads west to survey a canyon, to see if it holds any significant archeological interest that would impede building a dam. The land is stark, vast, and empty. The landscape is overwhelming to this college girl from the east. She crosses paths with John, a man finely attuned to the spirit of a horse but generally a loner when it comes to his fellow man. He opens Catherine's eyes to the beauty of the west and the grandeur of the canyon she was hired to survey. Her time is short and there are forces of a darker nature gathering against her. The lyrical prose makes takes the reader into the canyon lands of the west.

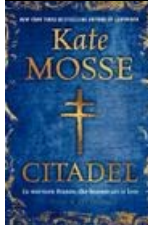


**Murder on the Ile Sordou** by M.L. Longworth is a paperback release. Fans of Agatha Christie will find much to like in this modern tale set on an island off the coast of France, not far from Ile d'If where Dumas' **Count of Monte Cristo** was imprisoned. A luxury hotel is welcoming its first group of guests. They will enjoy absolute seclusion as the island does not have cell phone service or fast internet. Judge Antoine Verlaque and his companion, law professor Marine Bonnet, are looking forward to spending time together amid the rugged spectacular beauty of the island and enjoying the peace and quiet. That peace will be shattered when one of the guests is murdered. Who is the killer? The American couple? The poet? The widow? The Parisians? Or could it be one of the staff?

Sue Halvorsen Recommends.



**After I'm Gone** by Laura Lipman. A good story of love and trust gone wrong. Dad, a con man/father/friend, is indicted and as he is about to go to jail he disappears. His friends go on as though he did not cost them a great deal of money, they laugh about the lack of payment (especially to the federal agents). His family, however, goes on without any money or assets, except the house. While the feds are in pursuit the family endures the trouble and woes of being without funds. The ending is wonderful and ties up all of the mysteries that we are working on throughout the book.



**CITADEL** BY KATE MOSSE. Three different stories are being well told in two different time periods. The first story is set in the 4<sup>th</sup> century of a monk hiding a potential book of the bible (codex) that the Church not only does not want included, but wants destroyed. The main story is set in WWII and tells of collaborators and partisans. The third story is of one of the collaborators helping the Nazi's and a collector search for the codex and the archeologist (partisan) who is trying to find it first to help save France. The codex by its abilities becomes the focal point of book. If you enjoyed the Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown, you will find much to enjoy in this perfect marriage of thriller pacing, captivating characters and an intricate plot.

Nancy Nelson Recommends.



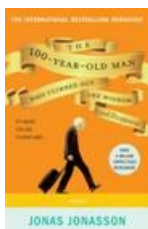
**The Third Son**, by Julie Wu.. The story takes place in 1943. Taiwan is occupied by the Japanese. Saburo is the narrator. During an air raid the 8 year old Saburo is fleeing home when he comes upon Yoshiko, another fleeing student. They both narrowly escape the bullets from an American plane, finding a safe place until the bombing stops. Saburo cherishes this moment for the rest of his life. Yoshiko talks about her family and her life. She is well loved. Saburo, on the other hand is at best dismissed, at worst physically and verbally abused. As Saburo grows up the reader is informed of the responsibilities that one inherits in this culture. Saburo dreams of freedom. After the war the Japanese leave only to be replaced by the Chinese Nationalists. They are at least as severe. Saburo's dreams seem unattainable. We see the gentle Saburo summoning the strength it takes to fight for love, education, and for the chance to make the choices required of him to master his own life. On reading about the third (and least wanted) son, Saburo, it was second nature to root for him, to feel his pain, and the joy of his successes. It was also reward-

ing to read about the circumstances surrounding the history of Taiwan, and to get a glimpse of how the people of the island were personally impacted by their cultures, their governments. I very much liked this book



**Orphan Train**, by Christina Baker Kline. The story begins with 91 year old Vivian introducing herself as someone who believes in ghosts from her past. Her parents emigrated with her from Ireland to New York City when she was a little girl. In 1929 she becomes an orphan. The reader is then introduced to 17 year old Molly, also an orphan. The year is 2011. Molly is in danger of going from a foster care home to juvenile detention. Vivian offers her a chance to complete her court-ordered hours of community service by helping the older lady clean out her attic. The story shifts back in time to Vivian's childhood. She, with hundreds of other orphans is shipped across the country to the Midwest in pursuit of people wanting to take on a child. This is a story of two people who have been disappointed repeatedly, left on the outside of relationships, abused, neglected, ignored, growing up learning to mistrust, and to adapt in order to fit in. This is thus described: "And so your personality is shaped. You know too much, and this knowledge makes you wary. You grow fearful and mistrustful. The expression of emotion does not

come naturally, so you learn to fake it. To pretend. To display empathy you don't actually feel. And so it is that you learn how to pass, if you're lucky to look like everyone else, even though you're broken inside." So, yes this is a story of loss and extreme hardship, but it is also a story with a promise of love and hope, a very worthwhile, well written story.



**The 100 – Year Old Man...** by Jonas Jonasson is one of the most delightful books I have been privileged to read. As our story begins, Allan Karlsson has just turned 100 years old. At the nursing home where he resides, a birthday party is being staged in his honor. Allan wants no part of this. He wants his own life back, with the ability to make his own decisions, and to drink his Vodka if he so chooses. So, still donning his bedroom slippers, he climbs out of the window of his room, finds his way to the bus station, buys a ticket to wherever the soonest bus will take him, and disappears. He, however, also takes with him the very large suitcase that he was entrusted to watch while awaiting his bus, this after he has decided to say "yes" to life. The reader might correctly suppose that this suitcase has a huge effect on our hero's experiences. The story winds around taking the reader into the very interesting past and the suspenseful present of Allan's adventure. Allan, as a young man was interested in explosives, and in due course, became an expert in the field. With this knowledge and his very affable demeanor, he inserted himself in some key aspects of history, becoming acquainted with such diverse people as President Truman, Chairman Mao, Franco, and De Gaulle. As the older man, he turns otherwise dangerous situations into something much more manageable with less dire and often humorous consequences. This book was so very engaging and entertaining that I highly recommend it to one and all.



**The Light Between Oceans** by M. L. Stedman. This is a book that stirs the emotions. In the end I found myself smiling through my tears. Tom Shelbourne has just come to the town of Point Partageuse after having served his tour of duty at the Western Front of WW I. He is a kind, sensitive, meticulous man who wants only to put the horrors of the past four years behind him. He begins a new life as lighthouse keeper on the lonely desolate island of Janus Rock, and fairly soon after marries Isabel. The two are happy, planning on a family. Isabel eventually has two miscarriages, then a baby who is stillborn. She is devastated. One night the miracle happens. They hear the sounds of a baby crying. A shipwrecked boat is found. Inside are a two month old baby girl and the body of her dead father. Tom is ready to report the incident, but Isabel talks him out of it. They keep the little girl, raising her as their own. Tom is both disturbed by the moral ambiguity of keeping this secret, and enchanted with the ba-

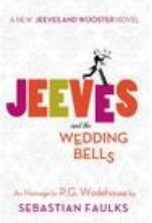
by. As they eventually discover the identity of the mother, they are faced with the problem of telling the truth. Isabel cannot. Throughout the rest of the story the reader is drawn into the heartbreaks and the complications brought on by their initial decision to keep this secret. Whatever they do, someone will be hurt. I found I could not put this book down as I experienced their losses and their joys. The characters were very believable, the main characters endearing. I loved this book and highly recommend it.



**Staff Recommendations, released in paperback.  
Deon Recommends.**



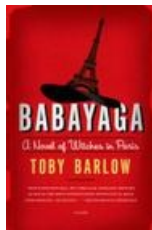
**The Purchase** by Linda Spalding. The road to perdition is paved with good intentions, or so they say. Daniel was a good man, a Quaker, and a fine upstanding member of his community. When his wife dies he does not have the heart to turn out the serving girl he procured from an orphanage. He has five children to raise, one just a babe, as his community will not abide a single unmarried woman living in his home, he marries the girl only making matters worse in the process. Shunned by the Quakers over the unseemly haste of his marriage to Ruth, he decides to leave Pennsylvania for the frontier land of Virginia, a place where the community allows a bit more freedom. Except Daniel takes his beliefs with him, he is an ardent abolitionist. Now in this new land it is not so easy to stay true to his beliefs while his neighbors own people as property, keeping them in harsh conditions and using whips to impose their will. The story of Daniel's family, how they grow, how they fit in with their neighbors is both interesting and thought provoking. While Daniel always means well, his choices often lead him into uncomfortable, sometimes tragic, situations. I liked Ruth, she is given so little but gets out there and makes the best of her life.



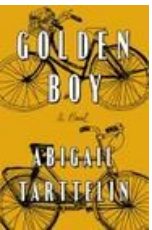
**Jeeves and the Wedding Bells** by Sebastian Faulks. P.G. Wodehouse created memorable characters in Jeeves and Wooster, the brilliant butler with a solution to every mishap and the bumbling aristocrat prone to getting himself into many a sticky wicket. I have read and enjoyed all of P. G. Wodehouse's hilarious Jeeves and Wooster stories. It is a real treat to see them in the pages of a new novel. Sebastian Faulks' homage is highly entertaining and written in a style compatible with the original, I think P.G. Wodehouse would be pleased to see Jeeves and Wooster out and about again after all these years. All the familiar elements are here; a love affair stymied, miscommunications leading to hilarious consequences, and a contretemps that only Jeeves can solve.



**A Star For Mrs. Blake** by April Smith. WWI was, as wars generally are, a bloody, horrific conflict, leaving in its wake field upon field of white crosses. Buried in foreign lands, American boys left behind grieving mothers an ocean away. In 1929 Congress funded travel for Gold Star mothers to visit the cemeteries where their sons were buried. The women came from a variety of backgrounds, many of them suffering the financial hardships common in the Great Depression. The story focuses on Cora Blake, a widow who lives with her brother-in-law to take care of her dead sister's children. Cora's life is circumspect. She is the librarian in a small, remote village. She also works in the fish packing plant when work is available to make ends meet. Cora's son Sammy died in the final days of the war. Being part of the Gold Star program gives her a chance to honor her son and finally see where he is buried. The women in her group face the tensions of differing socio economic stations, but pull together when the chips are down. As the women progress through the countryside of France, secrets are revealed, and they face an unforeseen crisis, friendships will be made, and each woman will be changed by the experience. While the women are the focus of the story, and their story is indeed interesting, the character I found most compelling is Grif, a war correspondent hideously wounded in the fighting.



**Babayaga** by Toby Barlow. Defying description but great fun to read; it may sound strange in the explaining, but everything works. This is one of the most entertaining novels I have read this year. We start out with a beautiful witch with spectacularly bad aim (the spell went awry resulting in a black eye and more attention than anticipated). A wealthy dead man impaled on a spike leaving a matronly widow and a mysterious missing mistress. Then there is Inspector Vidot, a man well suited to solving such mysteries. That is until he is turned into a flea. It is hard for a flea to solve a murder, just finding transportation around Paris is a huge undertaking, but Vidot is resourceful and very aware he needs to figure out the puzzle to regain his former self before the short life expectancy of a flea expires. Let's not forget some of the other main characters; Will is an ad executive who through a series of escalating misunderstandings ends up way too involved with the spy guys. Oliver, an urbane charmer, digs Will in even deeper. Elga is a crotchety old witch, resentful of having her life disrupted from the fall out over her younger, prettier colleague's fatal high jinx. Blended all together it creates a heady stew of great writing, inventive plotting, and a novel that is sheer fun to read.



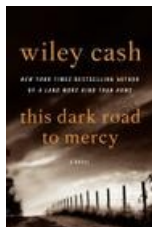
**Golden Boy** by Abigail Tarttlin. Max is a golden youth; a sunny disposition, quick to smile, with a halo of baby soft golden hair. He is smart, handsome, intelligent, fun to be around, and a gifted athlete on the football field. Girls flock to him, boys find him an amiable companion. Max is the opposite of his younger brother Daniel who is bright but irritable and determined. Daniel is so definitely not a morning person. Max has never given his parents, Karen and Steve, a difficult day. But Max is special. Karen and Steve have sworn him to silence. When a childhood friend betrays Max's trust the family will be forced to face the cost of keeping their secret. Book Club groups, pay attention to this one. It has rich topics for discussion. Should a child be coached to keep secret his very nature if disclosure would put him at risk? Who should make decisions that will change the tenor and nature of a child's future life; the parent? Or the child? Add in the dilemma of the effect of the secret on the highly public nature of Karen's career as a successful attorney and Steve's political aspirations. What makes the story even more compelling is the caring of this family, they all want to do what is right for each other, and they just have very different views on what that might be.



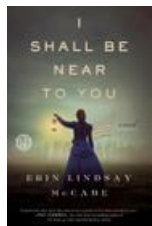
**Deceived** by Randy Wayne White. Hannah is a big girl, tall and muscular, independent as all get out. The women in her family have a record of failed relationships and misguided choices that make Hannah leery of commitment. Doc Ford is similarly aware of the risks inherent in opening up or letting down your guard. Somehow this prickly couple is attempting to forge a relationship. Hannah works as a fishing guide and part time PI; she inherited the business from her uncle. As the story opens a flying fish puts one of her charters in jeopardy tossing two customers in the water, an uncomfortable occurrence for a fishing guide. Hannah's mother is certain something happened to one of her close friends, she sends Hannah to check on the woman starting a series of events that go back twenty years to an unsolved murder.

## Staff Recommendations, released in paperback.

### Deon recommends.



***This Dark Road to Mercy*** by Wiley Cash. The road to hell is paved with good intentions. The Dark Road to Mercy is paved with a few too. Easter and Ruby learn early that life can be a struggle; they made do with little in the way of creature comforts. Their Mother loved them; she just suffered from poor taste in men and a weakness for masking her pain. Easter is twelve years old when their Mother died; as they adjust to life in state care Easter stays beside her little sister. It has been years since the little girls last saw their Daddy, Wade, a minor league baseball player and full time maker of questionable decisions. Wade wants to turn over a new leaf, do right by his daughters. The state is less than eager to hand over the children he abandoned, so again Wade takes the easy way spiriting his daughters away in the middle of the night. Trouble is, Wade made another questionable decision when he took a bundle of cash from the wrong man, someone willing to send a goon after him with violent intentions. Robert Pruitt has a history with Wade, not a good history, he is happy to take on the job helping Wade depart the earth prematurely. If there are little girls involved, well Pruitt is not squeamish. All that cash was from a heist the cops are eager to solve, but no one is too interested in the missing little girls, other than their court appointed guardian, Brady. The story shifts from these varying perspectives. Easter's voice rings bright and true. And you can't help having sympathy for Wade, even as you shake your head at the choices he makes. Wiley Cash is a master at writing stories about people living on the edge, trying to get by and in the process creating chaos.



***I Shall Be Near To You*** by Erin Lindsay McCabe. Rosetta finds the out of doors far more to her liking than the needlework expected of a woman. She grew up poor, scrabbling to get by, helping her father work their small farm. For a man lacking sons, her interest is welcome. Time marches on, Rosetta grows into a young woman who turns the head of Jerimiah. As his wife, she is watched over by a mother-in-law unused to women in the fields, Rosetta is now expected to lead a more normal life. Times, however, are not normal. The south and north are torn asunder by the Civil War; young men head off to battle with dreams of valor and a quick victory. Jerimiah and Rosetta want to move to Nebraska, start a farm of their own, working together. He figures using his pay from fighting in the war; they will be able to make that dream a reality. Besides, the other guys are enlisting and he could not bear to be thought cowardly. In his wildest imaginings, Jerimiah never believed Rosetta would follow after him, dressed as a young man, ready to fight and die by his side rather than let him face the carnage of war alone. The author used historic records of the women who did fight in the Civil War dressed as men. She crafted a story that makes a woman's experience of war seem quite real, Rosetta is a determined young woman and an interesting character. I really enjoyed the way the author explored the reasons a woman might chose to fight, how that would change her, and the costs she might bear for her actions.



***Alex*** by Pierre LeMaitre. ***The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*** marries ***Gone Girl*** in this disturbing, fast paced, edge of your seat story with twists and turns that will keep you guessing to the last page. There is one type of case Commandant Camille Verhoeven does not take, kidnapping. His pregnant wife, Irene, was kidnapped, no one saw her alive again. Verhoeven had a breakdown, unable to live with the grief of losing her or the guilt of being unable to save her. Verhoeven does not investigate kidnappings, until the night a woman is snatched off the street, with no leads and no other detective available. Verhoeven knows time is critical as he steps back into a role he sought to avoid. Alex's kidnapper is a brutal man, quick to use violence. She is hoisted naked into a cage where he plans to watch her die. Alex is tough, but will she be tough enough to withstand the terror and depravation? Just when you think you have the plot figured out, this author will pivot down a different twisted alley. Hang on for a wild ride!



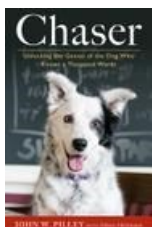
***The Humanity Project*** by Jean Thompson. This author has a way of getting to the heart of her characters, flawed people trying to do their best in a world not always kind. Here she shifts perspective from individuals, linked through proximity or circumstance. Linnea survives a shooting at her high school; she is left feeling guilty and tarnished by her enmity to one of the victims. She is sent to live with her father, Art, a man unprepared for and confused by the challenges in raising a troubled teenager on his own. Art lives next door to Christie, a nurse for an eccentric wealthy woman, Mrs. Forster, running a charity, ***The Humanity Project***. Connor, Mrs. Forster's handyman, lives with his single Dad, Sean, an out of work regular guy facing the loss of his home. Each of these characters faces challenges trying to survive as best they can. Gently touched with humor, the story gives a human perspective to issues of the day while entertaining.



***Eva's Eye*** by Karin Fossum. Who can resist a detective who takes his dog along for the ride when he goes to questions suspects? Karin Fossum imbues Inspector Seger with personality. I liked this character; his forthrightness, kindness, and perseverance in pursuit of the truth. Don't offer him easy answers; he will do what it takes to put together the pieces of the most complex puzzle. In this case, he will need all his determination for it is a tangled web indeed. A man goes missing, presumed dead. He was last seen leaving to show his car to a prospective buyer. Months later his body washes up on the shore of the river by a popular walk, Eva and her daughter Emma discover the corpse. Eva goes to the closest phone kiosk ostensibly to phone the police then dials another number and leaves. Months earlier a prostitute was murdered in her bed. Leads have been scarce. What is Eva afraid of? Eva and Seger are interesting characters in the hands of a clever, inventive author.



***Oleander Girl*** by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. On the eve of her wedding Korobi Roy's beloved grandfather dies of a heart attack. Orphaned at birth, Korobi Roy was devoted to the grandfather who raised her. The young woman was always curious about her mother, but her grandfather forbade discussion of his daughter, the subject too painful. Korobi Roy's grandmother bowed to his wishes. His death unleashes secrets that shake the young woman's belief in everything and send her from India to America on a quest to discover her roots. It is a quest that will change her life in major and formidable ways. This is a powerful and entertaining novel, you will cheer for Korobi Roy. I enjoyed it immensely.



***Chaser*** by John W. Pilley. Chaser is a border collie with a remarkable vocabulary, over a thousand words. While border collies are the Einstein's of the dog world, retired psychologist Pilley believes many dogs can learn just as well as Chaser. Dogs like to have tasks, they want to be busy and involved with their human. Pilley spent time with Chaser and challenged her to learn. He knew the value of play and reward, using them in teaching her language skills. If you love dogs, this is a fun book to read.



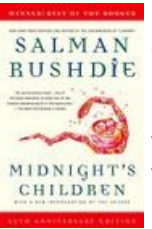
## October 2014 Book Clubs.



Banned Book Week this year was September 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>; it is probably no surprise that we are not in favor of the banning or censoring of books. Annually, to acknowledge Banned Book Week, our Fiction Book Club selects a Banned Book. This year's selection is **Zorro** by Isabel Allende to be discussed October 6<sup>th</sup>. Fiction Book Club shall have a rousing good time discussing a swash-buckling 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.



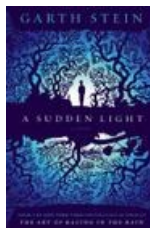
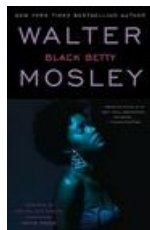
October 13<sup>th</sup> the Mystery Book Club discusses a novel set in Italy. **The Light in the Ruins** by Chris Bohjalian begins in 1955; a woman in an apartment in Florence will open her door to a killer, a monster who cuts the heart out of his victim. Before WWII the Rosati family lived well in their 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.



October 20<sup>th</sup> the Classics Book Club discusses **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 best 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**.

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

Please note a couple schedule changes in the list below!



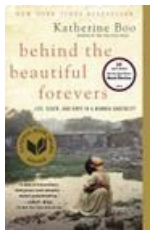
November 3rd, 2014 **Black Betty** by Walter Mosley [Mystery Book Club](#)  
November 10th 2014 **In A Sudden Light** by Garth Stein [Fiction Book Club](#)  
November 17th 2014 **Behind The Beautiful Forevers** by Katherine Boo [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

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](#)

### 2015!

January 5th 2015 **Silkworm** by J.K. Rowling (alias Robert Galbraith) [Mystery Book Club](#)  
January 12th 2015 **The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry** by Rachel Joyce [Fiction Book Club](#)  
January 19th 2015 **Jerry Lee Lewis: His Own Story** by Rick Bragg [Non-Fiction 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 as well a search feature for e-books and print books. In support of Independent Booksellers publishers sometimes offer specials that we pass onto you. Watch our website to see when they are available. We greatly appreciate your support and hope that you consider your Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating the purchase of 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.