

Afterwords

DECEMBER 2024 | ISSUE 31

THE BOOK EATERS by Sunyi Dean, *Reviewed by Lizz L.*

Devon may look human but is far from it. Devon is a Book Eater, which is exactly what it sounds like - she eats books instead of food, absorbing the stories and information and enjoying the taste of certain papers, inks and stories over others. Her son, Cai, is a Mind Eater - his food is the mind of humans, which absorbs their personality and experiences and drains them of sanity and sometimes life. Devon and Cai are on the move, hunting for a rare drug called Redemption that will allow Cai to eat books instead of minds. This is a problem for members of The Family, the over-seers of the remaining Book and Mind Eaters - they want to control both Devon and Cai which (as comes out through flashbacks) would not be great for Devon OR Cai. They are short on options and friends, but determined to save themselves and the few friends that they make along the way. This book is a little bit adventure story, a little bit mystery, a little bit weird and very much a found family story. I really enjoyed the secret world that Sunyi Dean built for this story and would love to see a sequel she hints at towards the end. This was a really fun read around spooky season and great for lovers of books about books.

DEATH IN THE DOWNLINE by Maria Abrams, *reviewed by Val P.*


I absolutely loved this twisty thriller debut! Centered in the world of a women's beauty brand multi-level marketing company, this book captures the feeling of coming back to live with your parents as an adult, the mortifying ordeal of reconnecting with old friends and acquaintances, and getting in over your head when trying to find a new career. And then there's the murders. This book had me guessing from the get-go and made me laugh out loud more times than I can count. This was an incredibly strong debut and I can't wait to see what this author does next!


IF YOU CAN HEAR THIS by Faith Gardner, *Reviewed by Jill R.*


Listening to this book was a delight, narrator Reba Buhr did a wonderful read of Faith Gardner's prose. I'm admittedly late to the "high school sleuthing club" sub-genre of mystery, but I think this was a great kick to get me into it. POV character Posey was a sweetheart with a determined streak a mile wide and seeing the other AV club members through her eyes was a very good decision on Gardner's part. The mystery of Ms. Moses' disappearance was carefully paced in its clues and red herrings, and I found myself theorizing right alongside the AV club. Some of the side characters were cliched in their "disgruntled townsfolk" roles, but it felt more gratifying than distracting when they were involved. I actually really liked all the twists and blurred lines of Sal and Ms. Moses' relationship, how it led to so many misunderstandings, while actually being a very caring reflection of what teachers everywhere wish they could do to help their students.

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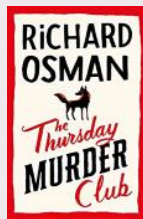


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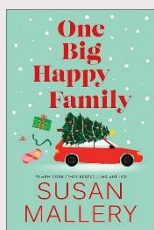
DECEMBER 2024 BOOK CLUB PICKS



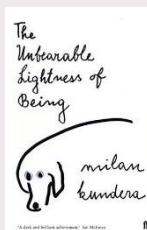
Romance,
1st Weds @7pm



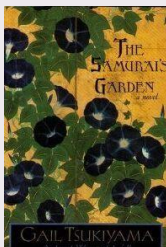
Mystery,
2nd Weds @7pm



Bad Moms of Parker,
2nd Thurs @6pm



Classics,
3rd Weds @7pm

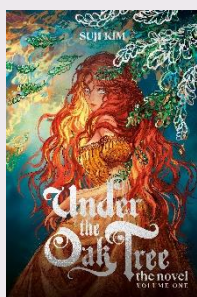
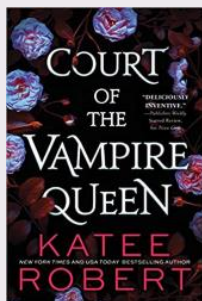


Daytime,
3rd Thurs @1pm



Horror,
3rd Fri @7pm

Meghan's Short Stack (Upcoming Reads)



EVENTS ARE AWESOME!

Dec 2 CIDER MONDAY - Come shop in-store and enjoy 10% off EVERYTHING - plus, have some spiced apple cider and donut holes on us!

Dec 4 ROMANCE BOOK CLUB 7-8pm - discussing *Love and Other Conspiracies* by Mallory Marlowe

Dec 7 BOOK FAIR FOR GROWN UPS at FICTION BEER PARKER 5pm - tickets on EventBrite!

Dec 8 DOUGLAS COUNTY PRIDE BOOK CLUB 11am-1pm - Please join us for this LGBT social group to discuss any and all books you are reading!

Dec 10 AUTHOR EVENT 5-7pm - Shaylin Gandhi will be in-store signing copies of her new book *When We Had Forever* and chatting with Romance and Romantasy customers! Come in to meet this Colorado author and grab her new book and her romantasy book *Once Charmed, Twice Cursed!* We will have drinks available to purchase from Perfect Blend and other treats during this event!

Dec 11 MYSTERY BOOK CLUB 7-8pm - discussing *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman

Dec 12 BAD MOMS OF PARKER BOOK CLUB 6-7pm - discussing *One Big Happy Family* by Susan Mallery. Please BYO snacks and drinks!

Dec 14-15 IRON HORSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS - mention you are with Iron Horse Elementary at checkout and a portion of sales will be donated to their PTO!

Dec 18 CLASSICS BOOK CLUB 7-8pm - discussing *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Milan Kundera

Dec 19 DAYTIME BOOK CLUB 1-2pm - discussing *The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama

Dec 20 NEW RELEASE/ HORROR BOOK CLUB 7-8pm - discussing *Christmas and Other Horrors* edited by Ellen Datlow

Dec 24 CLOSING AT 4PM

Dec 25 CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

Dec 31 CLOSING AT 4PM

Jan 1 CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

BETTER KNOW A BOOKSELLER: Meghan Voigt

Favorite Vocabulary Word: *Posit*

Desert Island Book: (Right now?) *Love and Other Conspiracies* by Mallory Marlowe

Favorite Reading Snack or Drink: *A Spicy Chai Latte or a Peanut Butter S'mores Latte*
Describe Your Ideal Reading Spot: *Outside, under a tree with a warm breeze and sunshine, and a plush blanket*

Describe Your Actual Reading Spot: *My Bed with my dog, Geordi, cuddling next to me (which is also great)*

Bookish Bucket List Destination: *Honestly, I don't have one yet - but I'm open to recommendations!*

Songs I Know By Heart: *"Say it Right" by Nelly Furtado, "I'm Already Gone" by A Day to Remember*