

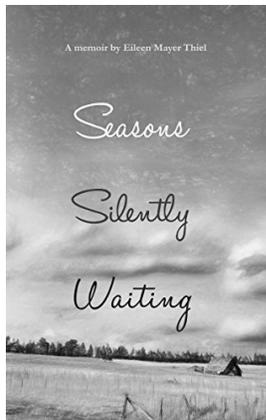
BOOKMARKS

Summer 2016 Newsletter ~ The Bookloft ~ Your hometown source for books and more ~ Enterprise, Oregon

New Books of Local Interest

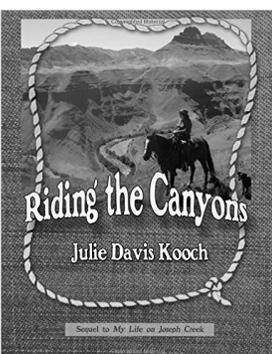
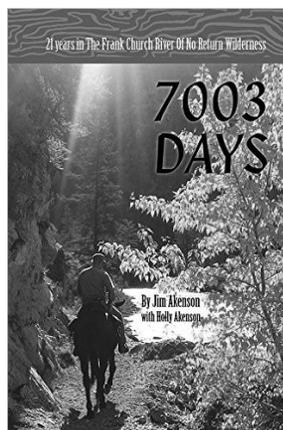
This is certainly the year of the Wallowa county memoir! Following Pam Royes's wonderful *Temperance Creek* and Fred Hauptmann's amazing *Damn, I Shot My Horse*, there are four more fascinating books by local authors.

Eileen Thiel grew up in California and led a sheltered life there. When she met and married potato farmer Gene Thiel, her life changed dramatically. Her memoir, *Seasons Silently Waiting* is a beautifully written account of her years as a farmer's wife. Coping with everything from a difficult mother-in-law to the tense situation between small farmers and large agri-businesses, she learns and grows in both determination and faith. 17.00



My Heaven in Hells Canyon by Violet Shirley Wilson tells another story of a rugged woman living in rugged circumstances. The Wilson family lived in Hells Canyon in the mid-1900s. Violet, the 4th child of a family of eight, tells the captivating story of her life spent dealing with the constant challenges of this country, but also reveling in its beauty. Her book includes many photographs of her family's life and the places they lived. 19.95

In 1982, **Jim and Holly Akenson** moved to a log cabin in the back country of Idaho seeking adventure and challenge. They managed Taylor Ranch, the University of Idaho's wilderness research station for the next 21 years. *7003 Days: 21 Years in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness* is their account of those years spent tracking wolves and cougars, packing mules and doing ranch work and introducing students to the rugged Salmon River Mountains. 17.50

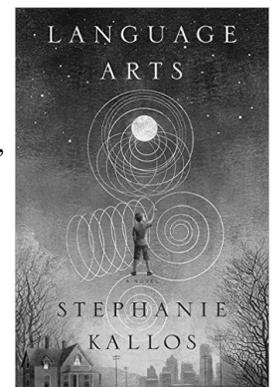


Julie Kooch has written a sequel to *My Life on Joseph Creek*. *Riding the Canyons* takes her readers along as she pursues her "first love", riding the serenely beautiful and rugged canyons rims and breaks of the Wallowa country. These fascinating and sometimes hair-raising stories are illustrated by over four hundred color photos. 27.50

What Mary has been reading...

LANGUAGE ARTS by Stephanie Kallos

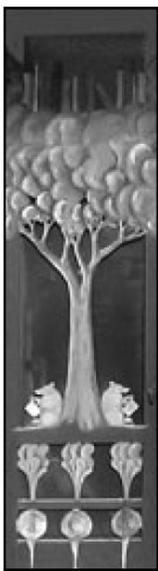
Charles Marlowe is on summer break from the private school where he teaches in Seattle. His daughter Emmy has just gone off to college on the east coast. Now an empty-nester, Charles decides to clean out a room full of boxes which contain mementos and other artifacts collected over the course of his life. As he goes through box after box, he is forced to revisit various times, places and people which then provide the narrative for this novel. Charles' subject at school is Language Arts, a subject that came into being when he was in the 4th grade in the 1960s. That was also a time when the Palmer method of cursive writing was taught and Charles' teacher was a particular fan of this method. Through his proficiency in the method, Charles was one of 10 students chosen for the new Language Arts program. He did well and even won an award for best story given by the Seattle Times. He also befriended a classmate with a learning disability and over time helped this boy a bit to improve his communication skills.



Now, in the present, Charles is a divorced father of two. His son Cody is autistic. Charles and his wife were forced to put Cody in various group homes when he reached an age at which they could no longer care for him during his outbursts and sometimes violent behavior. Ironically, Charles has had to watch his son lose his language abilities beginning at the age of three.

As she did in her precious novel, *Broken For You*, Kallos takes a theme and weaves it through her story in many different ways: Charles's teaching career, Cody's loss of language, the importance of teaching 4th graders how to express themselves through written words, how language can be expressed visually in art forms other than words. All these things are explored in this thoughtful and intimate look at one man's life. 14.95

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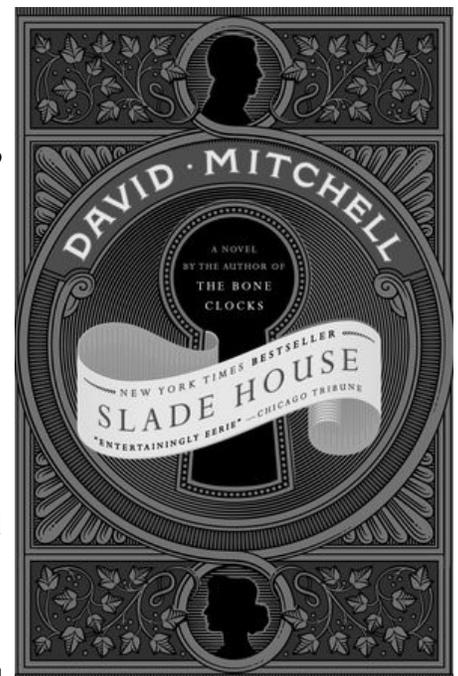
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SLADE HOUSE by David Mitchell

I am a big David Mitchell fan and thoroughly enjoyed his previous books, *Cloud Atlas* and *The Bone Clocks*. I like his unusual structuring and complex stories weaving around each other and moving through time and place. But if you felt that his previous books were a bit daunting to read, you might try this latest novel. It too contains the multiverse of past books, but *SLADE HOUSE* is a more straightforward story. Slade house is a haunted house. Located at the end of a narrow twisting alley, it only appears every nine years when its inhabitants need to lure victims in for shall we say, nefarious purposes. Creepy yet not terrifying, this novel builds suspense while Mitchell reveals pieces of the whole story bit by bit. His characters are unusual and as he moves the story forward in nine year leaps, his narrative reflects each time in its own quirkiness. 16.00



LISETTE'S LIST by Susan Vreeland

Do you feel like taking a trip to France? This latest novel by the author of *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* provides that experience as well as a bit of World War II history and a look at the lives and paintings of several artists who lived in Provence before and during the war.



In 1937 Lisette and her husband move from Paris to Roussillon, a small village in the south of France to take care of his ailing grandfather. Lisette has a hard time adjusting to life away from Paris, but gradually adjusts to life there as the grandfather, Pascal relates to her the story of some amazing pieces of art he has displayed in his cottage. As a younger man, Pascal acquired the paintings through personal friendships with Cezanne and Pissarro. Knowing he has limited time left, Pascal painstakingly relates to Lisette the story of each painting as well as their personal and artistic significance.

As the novel progresses through the war years, Lisette has to cope with the many changes and hardships that result. One of the challenges she has to face is the loss of Pascal's beloved paintings. Lisette spends years after the war trying to recover them while she remains stranded in the village in the hard post-war years. She learns much about her own strengths and that of the villagers she has come to know and love over the years. Through it all, there are beautiful descriptions of the countryside, the people, the food and the Provençal lifestyle. The book is lyrical, lovely, tells an interesting story and is a perfect summer read. 16.00