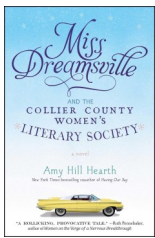


Information, Answers & Reviews

Booksplus Discussion, Sunday Nov. 2 at 2: Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society



[view in catalog](#)

What happens when an energetic, middle-aged Bostonian moves to a sleepy town in Florida in 1962? First, she starts a radio show under the persona of Miss Dreamsville and secondly forms a book club. Ex-Bostonian Jackie Hart starts a ruckus when she invites people of other races and sexual persuasions to the club in a decidedly racist, homophobic town where a divorcee is considered socially-risky and improper.

Narrated by a lovable octogenarian, Dora, who does not fit into Naples herself, this novel discusses important issues such as racism, feminism, and homophobia while presenting an interesting mix of characters. With a backdrop of serious and important issues, it provides a humorous and entertaining read.

In her debut novel Amy Hearth manages to take on both the Ku Klux Klan, North versus South, the nature of community, and newcomer angst to Naples, Florida. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 29, 2014

[Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society](#)

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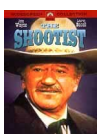
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The Shootist



[view in catalog](#)

A while ago I wrote about one of my favorite John Wayne Movies, *The Quiet Man*. *The Quiet*

Man was a romance and a departure from the War and Western films that John Wayne was most well known for. My second favorite John Wayne film, *The Shootist* is also a departure from his usual role even though it is a western, it is the story of an older gunfighter now battling a greater battle; cancer. Seeking a place to spend his last days, he takes up residence in a boarding house run by a widow who is against everything the gunfighter's life represents while her teenage son harbors a secret desire to be just like the old shootist .

The cast for *The Shootist* is among the best. Besides 'The Duke' as the shootist J.B. Books, the film features Lauren Bacall as boarding house owner Bond Rodgers and Ron Howard as her son Gillom. Despite the film's title you won't find a lot of shoot outs in the film. It's the story of a dying man, who wants to die with dignity and perhaps regain a little taste of the life he could have had if his life had not taken the violent turn it did. Yes, John Wayne is still the tough guy, but his view is now tempered as he faces his cancer and the knowledge that there is nothing he can do to win his battle against it. Each character must in the end examine themselves as they are faced with Books' mortality and eventual death.

Posted by Keith C. on October 28, 2014

[The shootist \[Motion picture : 1976\]](#)

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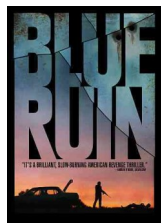
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Blue Ruin



[view in catalog](#)

Here's one of my favorite American movies I've seen this year. I heard about this while it was making the rounds on the festival circuit last year and finally got a chance to check it out recently. It won the FIPRESCI prize at the Cannes Film Festival last summer (the international critics' prize for best independent feature). While it's worth checking out for the Virginia set cinematography, it is primarily a suspense film about how revenge never goes the way you want it to. [Read more](#)

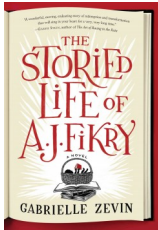
Posted by Brandon R. on October 27, 2014

[Sights and Sounds](#)

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The Storied Life of A.K. Fikry



[view in catalog](#)

Like bookstores? Like islands off the coast of New England? Favor novels that feature an orphan and a single dad? Drawn to love stories especially ones where the couple start off at each other's throats? Have a thing for rare manuscripts especially those of Edgar Allen Poe? If so this charming book-celebratory novel is just your thing.

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry begins with publisher's rep, Amelia Loman (?a tall dandelion of a woman") disembarking from a ferry to visit a small bookstore on Alice Island to go over the winter accounts for her publisher, Knightley Press. The owner, the very curmudgeonly A.J. Fikry, is decidedly unfriendly and shocked by the fact that the old book rep has not come. Loman tells him that he has died and then proceeds to push her favorite book, a memoir by a widower dealing with his bereavement.

For Fikry this hits too close to home but he does not tell Alice why. He has recently lost Nic, his intelligent and beautiful wife while she was pregnant with their first child. Fikry begins a delightful rant about all the books he does not like: postmodern, post apocalyptic, magical realism, ones with multiple fonts, children's books, poetry, YA, etc. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 22, 2014

[The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry](#)

[Fiction](#)

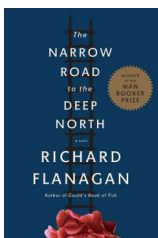
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Man Booker Prize Awarded to Australian Novelist



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The Man Booker Prize winner for 2014 was announced on Tuesday. Richard Flanagan, a popular and highly-regarded Australian novelist, won it for his book *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, a historical novel set during WWII.

It's about the construction of the Thai-Burma railroad, known as the Death Railway. For an odd bit of symmetry, Flanagan's father, who worked on this railway during World War II, died on the very day that Flanagan finished his book.

If you follow book news, you already know that this is the first year that American authors have been allowed to compete for the Booker, and two Americans made the short list: Karen Joy Fowler (*We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*) and Joshua Ferris (*To Rise Again at a Decent Hour*)

[\). Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 16, 2014

[The Narrow Road to the Deep North](#)

[Award Winner](#)

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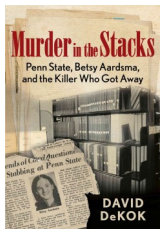
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Murder in the Stacks



[view in catalog](#)

If one single event stands out in the memory of my first semester in State College, Pa., it's the murder of an English graduate student that happened in the library. Before reading this book, I would have guessed it occurred just a week or two into term, rather than toward its end?so much did it color life for the rest of my college experience in Happy Valley, Pa. Yes, this remote mountain valley in almost the exact center of Pa. is actually named that.

Most of my dorm-mates felt absolute terror after the murder. They literally would not leave the building alone after dark. I remember big gangs of young women walking together in a phalanx toward the library to study. I joined them one night, but that was it. I could not time my departures and arrivals and function in such a timid, emotionally-wrought group.

And though this horrible crime happened decades ago, it still has not been officially ?solved.? But the author, a Harrisburg journalist, has come up with some compelling facts that point to a specific fellow grad student. A student in fact that went on to continue his PhD studies and remained on campus for four or five more years. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 13, 2014

[Murder in the stacks : Penn State, Betsy Aardsma, and the killer who got away](#)

[Crime](#)

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