

The Reader



25 Years of Literary Leftovers Bookstore

Issue 14

Sept./Oct. 2026

BOOKSELLER'S COLUMN

Invigoration

Eily McIlvain, bookseller

At the time of writing, our second week of Bookmanager is underway. Bookmanager is a DOS-presenting point-of-sale/inventory software designed for bookstores, and used by booksellers across the country who are lucky enough to clear the waiting list. A list of features and functions would give you some idea of how it transforms our workflow and capacity, but I think that would be a bit too much shop-talk. I have something more personal to tell you.

Within a week of implementing Bookmanager, our team (with help from our families) built and stocked shelves that had been sitting in boxes in our black hole of an office for months. We rearranged that office, another task we'd been putting off, the same weekend. We had our first staff barbecue—the first time we've been together outside of work in almost a year. In the midst of learning a completely new system and navigating (numerous) surprises and challenges, we've executed things that had been indefinitely put off.

Implementing Bookmanager—which despite the learning curve is clearly designed to make our lives more organized and professional—has concentrated us mentally and emotionally. Changing times are frustrating, testing, and taxing. But they are also invigorating. The more we undertake, the better it feels to undertake more. It feels natural. It feels right. I hope that you can see (and feel) that in the shop the next time you visit.

POETRY CORNER

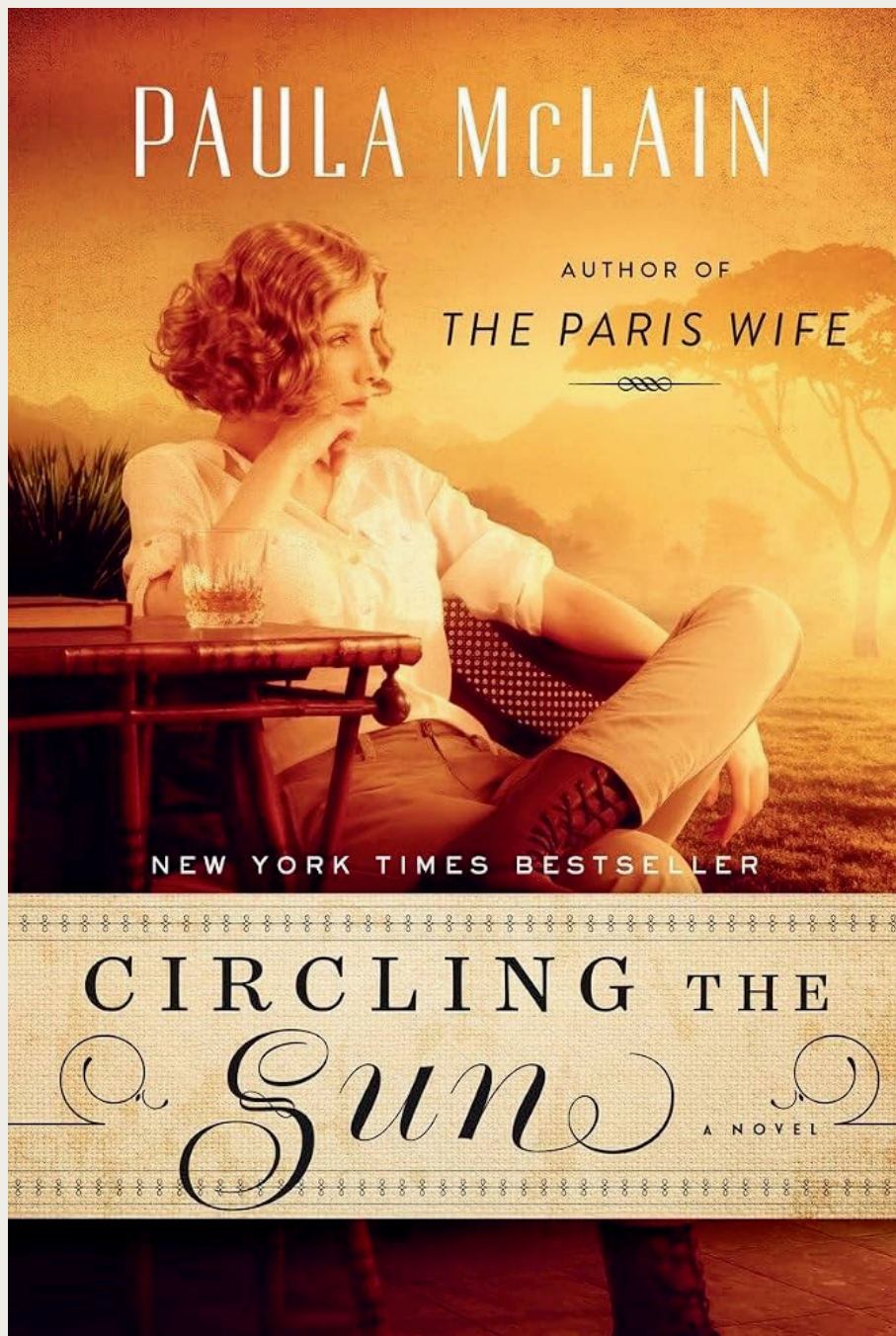
Benediction

Carol Hayes

Carol Hayes is a life-long writer and poet. She currently lives in the Pacific Northwest.



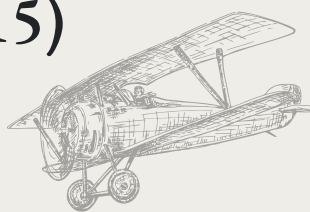
Glowing sunset
blessing sand,
blood of sun's decline.
Smothly slipping,
touching water,
silken sheen of tide.
Amber into burnished dark
with purple hues of night,
gently blending wave by wave,
till sound replaces sight.



BOOKSELLER'S REVIEW

Circling the Sun (2015) by Paula McLain

reviewed by Eily McIlvain, bookseller



“Searching out something important and going astray look exactly the same for a while, in fact.”

Beryl Clutterbuck is raised by her father in British East Africa (now Kenya), where she grows up alongside her father's racehorses and the hunters of the local tribe. She survives a lion's attack at nine years old and makes an unhappy marriage at sixteen. She separates from her first husband and becomes the youngest horsetrainer to be licensed, and the first female. From brilliant and wild East Africa to her watery, separate, native England, she becomes one of the most infamous women of her time.

McLain frames the events of the novel with Markham's record-setting east to west flight from England to North America. The flight scenes are unbelievably moving, but just as moving are the racing scenes, and the scenes between Markham and her reserved father.

What McLain invents, she discloses. Her research and sincerity in portraying her subject are clear. Readers of Markham's memoir *West with the Night*, as well as readers totally unfamiliar with her, will be surprised and pleased by McLain's interpretation of the inimitable horsewoman, aviatrix, and writer Beryl Markham.

FROM THE PROPRIETRESS

Season of Change

Heather Erwin, proprietress



Lately, I've been thinking a lot about what makes a place our community. Battle Ground is carrying something very heavy with the recent loss of one of our young people. This isn't the place to retell the story, but we are heartbroken. We know that behind everything we hear and read, there are families, friends, classmates, teachers, and teammates living with a grief most of us cannot comprehend.

These past few months have exposed some fractures in our town. Residents have found themselves divided over City Council proclamations and the City Manager changes. There have been thoughtful conversations, but also moments when our differences have seemed larger than our shared life together.

Yet small towns have a way of reminding us that shared life matters. Our kids attend school together. We cheer for the same teams, celebrate together, help when a neighbor is hurting, and grieve together. Being a community has never meant agreeing on all fronts; it means remembering that the person across from me is my neighbor. One thread I've experienced in American life is compassion and care for our neighbors, especially during times of great trial. I hope we can continue to disagree and still find our way forward together.

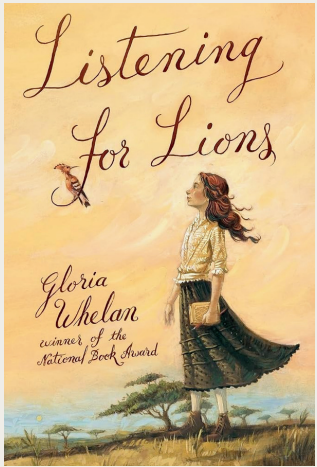
In more ordinary ways, life at Literary Leftovers is changing too. August 19th, we launched our new inventory and point-of-sale software. For us, this means learning a new system while manually entering more than 16,000 books into it—just as we head into some of our busiest months. We'll make mistakes and things may take longer, so your patience while we find our footing means a great deal. We're also grateful to everyone who participated in our silent auction; you helped us raise a quarter of the cost! And we think you'll agree it was worth it when we unveil our new website, where you'll be able to browse our inventory, order from home, create wishlists, and more.

November will bring one of my favorite traditions back to the bookstore: our annual K–12 Art & Poetry Exhibition, and we begin accepting submissions September 1. Before long our store will be covered with the imagination of Battle Ground's young people.

This season has given us painful reminders of how precious life is, and that community is built on the decision to show up for one another despite pain and disagreement—because people are important, and every one of us matters.

The Little Reader

Reading inspires us to dream.
Dolly Parton



THE LUCY CHRONICLES

Listening for Lions

by Gloria Whelan

reviewed by Miss Lucy,
as related to, Corrie Albertson,
Children's Program manager

Lucy was a bookstore cat who loved to fall asleep on top of books, because when she did, it transported her into their stories. She wasn't quite sure how to explain the phenomenon. She wasn't dreaming. She wasn't time-traveling. And she wasn't teleporting—at least she didn't think so; she still wasn't entirely sure what teleporting was. (Maybe she was bookporting? Bookjumping?) Whatever it was, she loved it. Usually. Less when there were obnoxious rats or bad guys or stinky stuff inside of the books.

Today, she fell asleep on top of a book and woke up in a bedroom. There was a young girl crying on the bed there. Lucy wanted to help, but she didn't want to startle the girl. At the bookstore, she could make people feel better just by letting them pet her, but maybe it was best to introduce herself first.

"Meow."

"Who's there?!" said the young girl, looking around.

Lucy jumped onto the bed and began to purr. She found that most humans liked the sound, and it calmed them.

"Hello, where did you come from?" said the girl reaching out to feel Lucy's soft fur with her fingertips. In some of the books, Lucy could talk, but in this story all that came out when she opened her mouth again was another, "Meow."

Sitting up, the girl wiped her eyes, pulled Lucy onto her lap, and said, "My name is Rachel. I mean it was Rachel—now my name is Valerie." Then she started crying again. "I used to live in Africa with my parents but they died, and I was going to be sent to an orphanage, but my neighbors convinced me to pretend to be their daughter Valerie. They told me that I'd be doing a good thing pretending to be this sweet old man's granddaughter here in England, but they were just using me to try and get his money. I don't know what to do."

Lucy tried her best to show the girl that she understood by meowing and purring. It seemed to work, because Rachel said, "You're right, I have to tell the truth. But I'm not sure what will happen to me."

Lucy comforted Rachel until they both fell asleep.

When Lucy woke, she was back in the bookstore, but she wanted to know what happened to Rachel. Do you know? If you do, please come and tell Lucy, or if you'd like to find out read *Listening For Lions* by Gloria Whelan.

YOUTH POETRY

Pink Flowers

by Claire W.



Pink flowers, pink flowers, I love pink flowers do you?
Do you? Do you like pink flowers?
If you don't it's okay you might like other colors like pink, orange, yellow, red, blue, green.
I very much like blue, a very pretty color indeed.:.
but most of all I like pink!

BOOKSHOP NEWS

K-12 Art Submissions Are OPEN



We're requesting art and poetry submissions from local students (including homeschoolers) in grades K-12, for our fourth annual K-12 Community Calendar, and Art & Poetry Exhibit.

Calendars will be available for purchase at Literary Leftovers beginning in November. All proceeds will fund our Children's Program, which offers free weekly and seasonal activities for children of all ages in our community.

Submissions open September 1st, and close Saturday, October 17th, 2026. Submissions should be submitted in the shop or by email to literaryleftoversusedbooks@gmail.com, and should **include the student's full name, grade, and a phone number or email address** where we can contact participants. Only submissions formatted in landscape orientation will be selected for the calendar, but portrait orientation is accepted for the art exhibit. (By submitting, permission is granted for Literary Leftovers to reproduce and sell said artwork and poetry.)

In addition to being featured in our calendar, we will also show ALL submissions in the shop on **Thursday, November 12th during our K-12 Art & Poetry Exhibition.** (Students whose work has been selected for the calendar will receive a free calendar, and all students who have submitted receive a coupon to the bookshop.) The exhibition will also go on tour to the Battle Ground Public Library and The Park at University Place, a local retirement community.

At Literary Leftovers, we believe that art and literature is good for youth and our community at large. Our selections in no way reflect a judgment on the merit of anyone's work. We believe, most of all, in the joy of art for art's sake.

OPEN SUBMISSIONS

4th Annual Literary Leftovers
K-12 Community Calendar

Art by Nick Kask, grade 5

Submissions close on October 17

Art & poetry can be submitted digitally or in person. Only landscape-oriented submissions will be considered for the final calendar

Proceeds from the calendar benefit our Children's Program

On November 12, we will display ALL submissions at our annual K-12 Art & Poetry Exhibition

813 W. Main St., Suite #105, Battle Ground, WA. 98604



YOUTH REVIEW

Two Big Feelings: Happy and Sad

by Marta Drew

reviewed by Jack L., age 4

Two Big Feelings is about a boy going to the store to get his cousin a birthday gift and cake. The boy was tired so he had big feelings. He understood he did not get anything but by the end of the trip he was too overwhelmed. His dad helped him calm down and he took a nap.



Schedule

LEGO CLUB

at 10am Tuesdays & 4pm Thursdays.

STORYTIME WITH CORRIE

with special guests once a month

at 11am Tuesdays, right after Lego Club.

JUNIOR BOOK CLUB

please sign up online

at 3-3:30pm each 3rd Thursday of the month

Upcoming

K-12 ART & POETRY SUBS OPEN

September 1

LOCAL AUTHOR PANEL

September 1

K-12 ART & POETRY SUBS CLOSE

October 15, 6-7:30pm in the shop

THE BOTTLED BOOK CLUB

sign up online to receive address

September 10, 6pm, \$5

October 8, 6pm, \$5

OVERSTACKED BOOK CLUB

September 24, 6pm at the shop, \$5

October 22, 6pm at the shop, \$5

Accepting submissions!

Tues.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5

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