

JUNE MUSINGS

SHARON VIRTS



## **In June's Light**

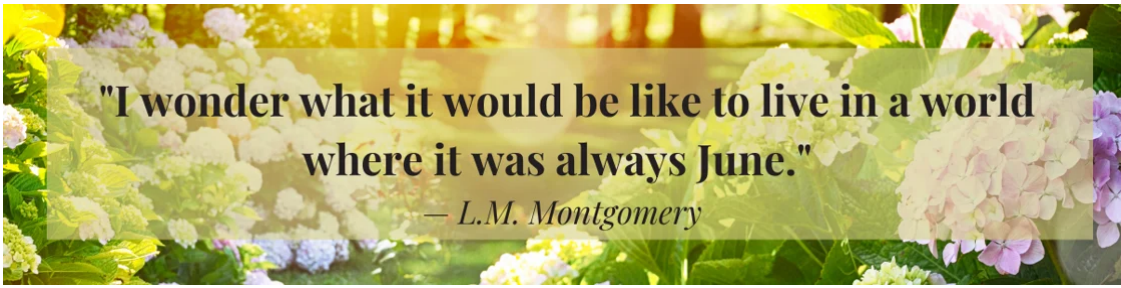
### **A Walk in November's Shadows**

As the June sun warms the world around us, the characters in my novels tread a starkly different path—they are creatures of November's chill. Unlike the jubilant blooms of spring, my characters embody the eerie, haunting atmosphere of a cold, stormy November.

This choice is deliberate. I find profound beauty in the complexities of darker, quieter moments. Through storm-laden skies and whispers of the cold wind, I explore the depths of human emotion and resilience. As you delve into any of my

novels, you will travel alongside characters shaped not by the loveliness of June, but by the profound, shadowed introspection that only November can inspire. This is especially true of my protagonist, Jane Gray Wharton, in *The Grays of Truth*, and the empathetic Emily Lloyd in *Veil of Doubt*. And whether you love him or loathe him, the brooding Armistead Mason in my first book, *Masque of Honor*, exudes the bone-chilling darkness of a late autumn night, forcing those in his circle to face their worst fears.

But my protagonists—Jack in *Masque*, Powell in *Veil*, and Jane in *Grays*—are survivors: bright lights shining through the miasma. With strength and perseverance, ultimately they find their way. I invite you to join them on their journey to June. I promise it's a ride you'll remember long after the final page.



**"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world  
where it was always June."**

— *L.M. Montgomery*



## GRAYS OF TRUTH

Advance Reading Copies (ARCs) of my upcoming release, the [GRAYS OF TRUTH](#) have arrived! If you are a Bookstagrammer, book blogger or bookseller and are interested in giving a review, please reach out to me [via email](#). I would love to send you the uncorrected proof and welcome your independent feedback. For everyone else, the book will be released on October 29 and you can preorder your copy at [AMAZON](#) or wherever books are sold.

“A vivid and compelling tale that is equal parts murder mystery and well-researched historical fiction. Devotees of true-crime featuring heroines who refuse to give up, you’re in for a well-crafted ride!

SUSAN MEISSNER

USA Today bestselling author of *Only the Beautiful*

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## VEIL OF DOUBT

I have been super busy with book talks, walking tours and meeting with book clubs discussing all the twists and turns in *Veil of Doubt*.

If you would like for me to speak to your book club either in person or on ZOOM, [simply drop me a note.](#) I'm happy to join you if my calendar allows.

(Pictured below: The *Veil of Doubt* Walking Tour and the Tavistock Farm Book Club)



[Buy Now](#)



## The Inspiration of Selma

It is amazing how our surroundings inspire our lives. For me, there is no better inspiration than a historical place or old building, and I am so blessed to actually live in one!



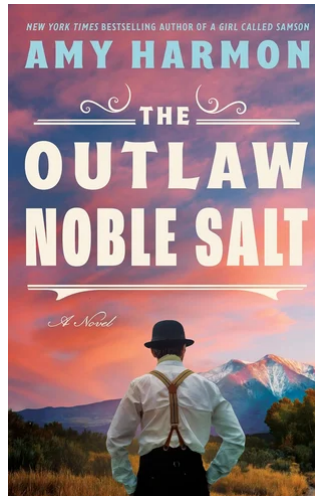
We hosted the Garden Club of Virginia earlier this month as part of their Heritage Horticultural Field Day. Watch the video below to check out some of the incredible "before and after" photos of Selma's gardens.



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## **Notable New Releases in Historical Fiction**

Each of the new books featured this month has been awarded a 4-star-plus rating on GoodReads and are all in my #TBR (To Be Read) pile. Let me know what you think should you get to them before I do!

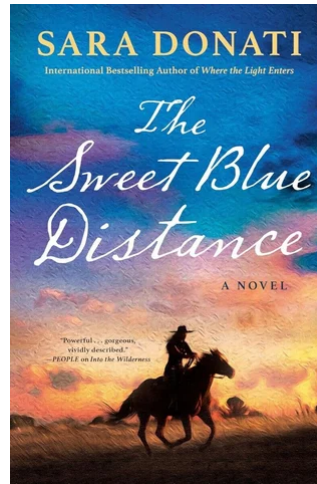


### **The Outlaw Noble Salt**

**by Amy Harmon (4.6)**

Amy Harmon brings us a sweepingly romantic tale of risk, redemption, and what happens when America's most famous outlaw falls in love. When infamous outlaw Butch Cassidy decides to go straight, he discovers that too many of the powerful men he crossed won't let bygones be bygones. To have a chance at a new life, he'll have to become someone else entirely. Amy will join us in July to discuss her book in my #ReadWithSharon bookclub.

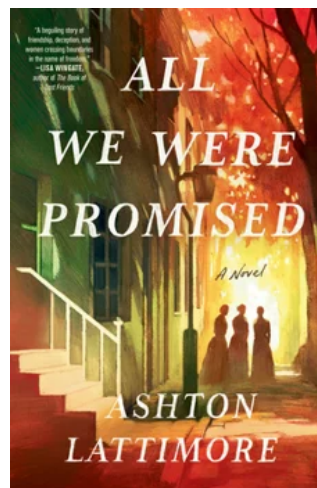




### ***The Sweet Blue Distance***

**by Sara Donati (4.5)**

A young midwife travels west to the New Mexico Territory to care for women in need and faces dangers more harrowing than the ones she's fleeing in this epic tale of survival, redemption, and love from Sara Donati, the international bestselling author of the Wilderness series.



## *All We Were Promised*

by Ashton Lattimore (4.5)

A housemaid with a dangerous family secret conspires with a wealthy young abolitionist to help an enslaved girl escape in volatile pre-Civil War Philadelphia. I have not read Ashton Lattimore before, but her resume is impressive. She is an award-winning journalist and a former lawyer.



## *The Secret Keeper*

by Genevieve Graham (4.6)

From bestselling author Genevieve Graham comes a gripping World War II novel about two sisters who join the war effort—one as a codebreaker and the other as a pilot—and the secrets that threaten to tear them apart.

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## Journaling Challenge

Summer is upon us and so is my June Journaling Challenge. Sometimes I find it easier to express myself through artwork rather than the written word. So this month (and maybe throughout the summer), I encourage each of you to explore your creative side by including doodling and drawing in your journals. Use water color in your backgrounds, or glue bits of ephemera to your pages--anything that expresses your mood or makes you feel happy. Some days I don't write at all, but instead simply scribble random illustrations in colorful inks on the pages of my journal. The choice is yours and I am here to help! Each Friday I'll provide a journaling prompt to give you ideas on how to more fully explore the power of artful and creative journaling. Simply follow me on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).



**#ReadWithSharon**

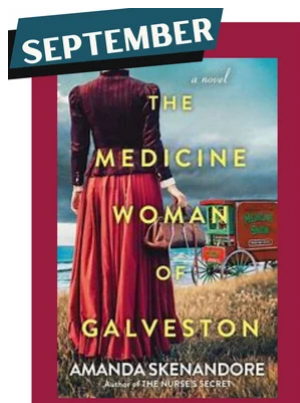
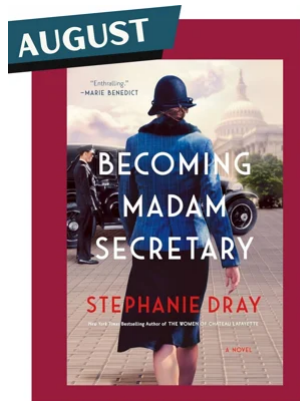
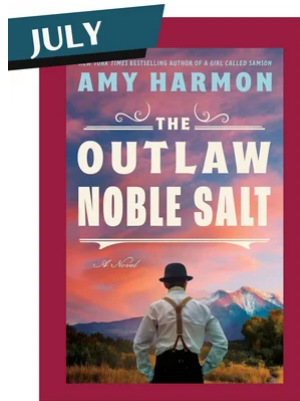
## Historical Fiction Book Club

Get ready for an awesome line up in my **#ReadWithSharon** book club. On June 27 at 7pm eastern, we will discuss our June read, *All the Glimmering Stars*, with author Mark Sullivan. (Mark also cowrites with James Patterson!)



The #ReadWithSharon book club only reads current release (within the last year) historical fiction and I do my best to pre-read every selection before making the pick. Most months, the author joins us via zoom and you are able to ask questions during the discussion. Meetings are the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm eastern, and never go longer than an hour. For meetings you miss, you can access our zoom discussions with the authors on my [YouTube Channel](#).

If you love stories from the past, this club is for you. You can sign up for free [HERE](#)



"History tells us what people do;  
historical fiction helps us imagine how they felt."

– Guy Vanderhaeghe

**Let's dive into SUMMER and a GREAT BOOK!**

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