

JUNE MUSINGS

SHARON VIRT



How Restoring Selma Sparked a Five-Book Journey

When I first walked through the doors of Selma Mansion, I wasn't looking for a story —I was looking for home. *But the walls had other plans.*

Nestled in the heart of Northern Virginia, Selma was grand but crumbling. It had seen generations pass

through its halls. As we began restoring it, the stories hidden behind its veneer started to emerge. I discovered something unexpected: a tale so rich in drama, legacy, and conflict that I felt compelled to write it.

Selma was originally owned by U.S. Senator General Armistead Mason. But it wasn't Mason's political legacy that first captured my attention—it was the violent tragedy that unfolded between him and his cousin, Jack McCarty. Their deadly duel left Mason dead and McCarty forever altered.

That haunting story became the foundation for *Masque of Honor*, the first novel in my five-book series in **Fields of Honor**. On January 27, 2026, *Masque of Honor* will

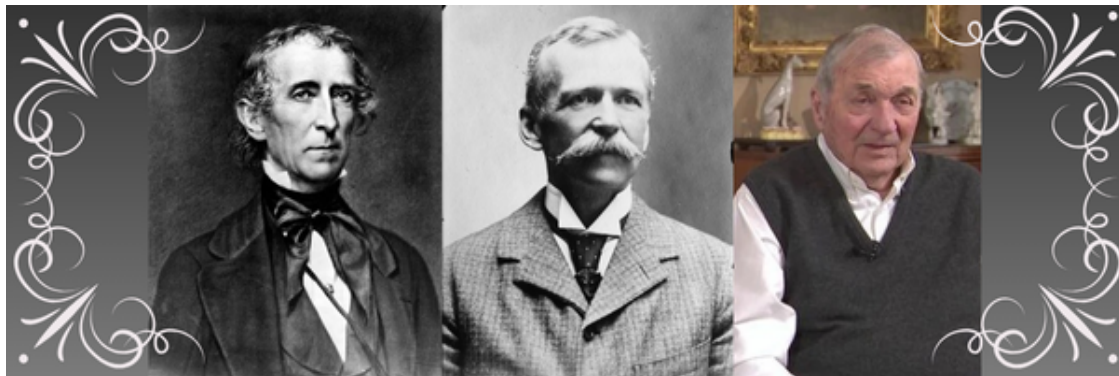
be re-released with new scenes, expanded chapters, and a new epilogue that will thread through the rest of the series. But the duel was only the beginning. As layers of plaster at Selma were peeled away, I found myself peeling back layers of Jack McCarty's character as well. Who was he beyond the man who pulled the trigger?... <[READ MORE](#)>



Best Historical Fiction: *The Grays of Truth*

The Grays of Truth took the top award for Historical Fiction by the International Book Awards. Between its bestseller status and this award, I am humbled by the novel's success. I hope you had the opportunity to read it! If not, you can get your copy at [AMAZON](#) or wherever books are sold.

From 1790 to Today: The Living Bridge to President John Tyler



In case you missed this on my Facebook feed, I wanted to share this incredible story again—because it's just too amazing not to!

With the recent passing of Harrison Ruffin Tyler, we say goodbye to the last living grandson of President John Tyler, who was born in 1790 and took office in 1841. Yes—*grandson*. Thanks to two generations of late fatherhood (President Tyler was 63 when his son Lyon was born; Lyon was 75 when Harrison came along), this

remarkable lineage spanned more than two centuries - **three generations spanning 222 years!**

But Harrison was more than a historical curiosity. A chemical engineer, founder of ChemTreat, and passionate preservationist, he restored Sherwood Forest Plantation and helped save Fort Pocahontas, all while quietly shaping the institutions of Virginia. His life was a living bridge to America's distant past—and a testament to legacy, innovation, and purpose.

Read the Story & Watch the Family Story!

When does a joke become a dad joke?
When it becomes apparent!



What I've been doing the month ...

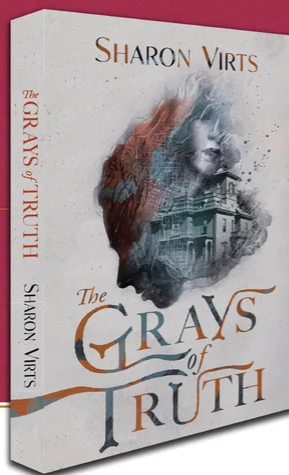
Lots of Book Clubs, Book Tours, and Discussions on Virginia History!



Many of you have taken me up on joining your book club for a private discussion or book tour. The women of NSDAR had a private walking tour of *Veil of Doubt* earlier this month (photo top left). I met the Loudoun County Women, Wine & Books

Meeting at Blue Frog Vineyard to discuss *The Grays of Truth* (photo top right) as well as the Creighton Farms book club.

I had the honor of being a guest speaker at the the Lovettsville Historical Society where I delivered my lecture titled, **Tariffs, a Stolen Election, and Elitism: The Politics of Loudoun County in the 1820s.**



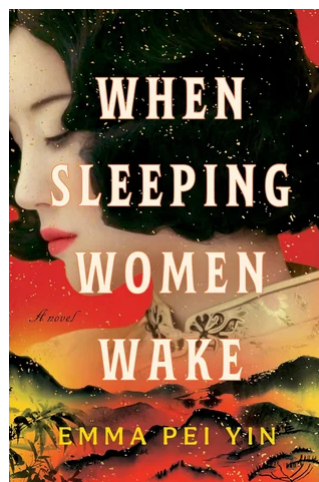
Have Sharon Attend Your Book Club Meeting

20% off your purchase of ten or more books

[LEARN MORE](#)

June New Releases in Historical Fiction

Check out some of the new releases in historical fiction that have just hit bookstore shelves this June.

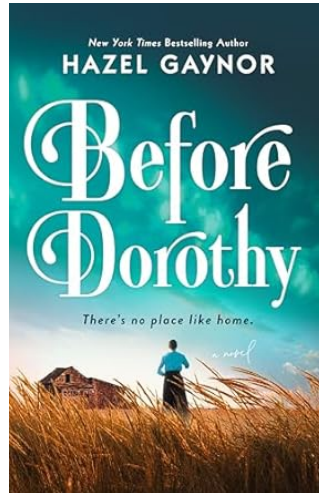


4.41★ on Goodreads

When Sleeping Women Wake

by Emma Pei Yin

Set during the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong in World War II, *When Sleeping Women Wake* follows a mother, daughter, and maid whose lives are upended by war. Torn apart by violence and forced into resistance, each woman discovers extraordinary strength. This harrowing, heartfelt debut is a powerful story of survival, love, and the quiet force of women's resilience amid history's darkest hours.

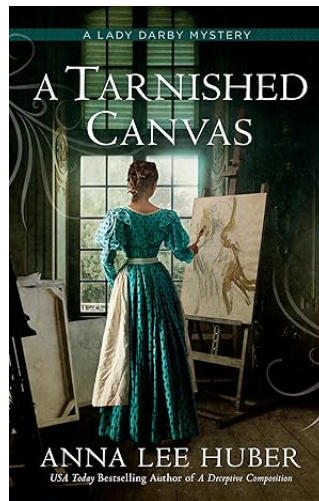


4.40★ on Goodreads

Before Dorothy

by Hazel Gaynor

Before Dorothy by Hazel Gaynor reimagines the life of Aunt Em from *The Wizard of Oz*. In 1920s Chicago, Emily Gale sets out for Kansas, chasing the American dream. But years later, as the Dust Bowl looms and secrets from the past resurface, Emily must protect her family—including young Dorothy—and redefine what home truly means in a world filled with hardship, hope, and heart.

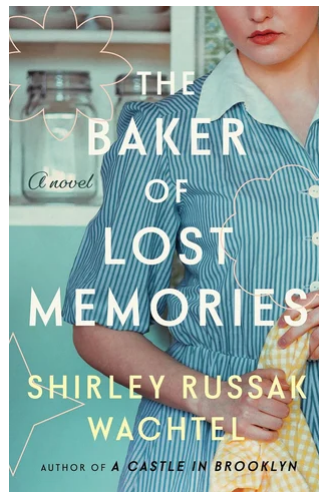


4.35★ on Goodreads

A Tarnished Canvas

by Anna Lee Huber

In *A Tarnished Canvas* by Anna Lee Huber, Lady Kiera Darby's quiet winter of painting in Edinburgh is upended when a deadly collapse at an art auction reveals a calculated crime. As Kiera and her husband Gage investigate, they uncover a chilling plot—and realize Kiera herself was the true target. A gripping historical mystery where art, deception, and danger are masterfully intertwined.



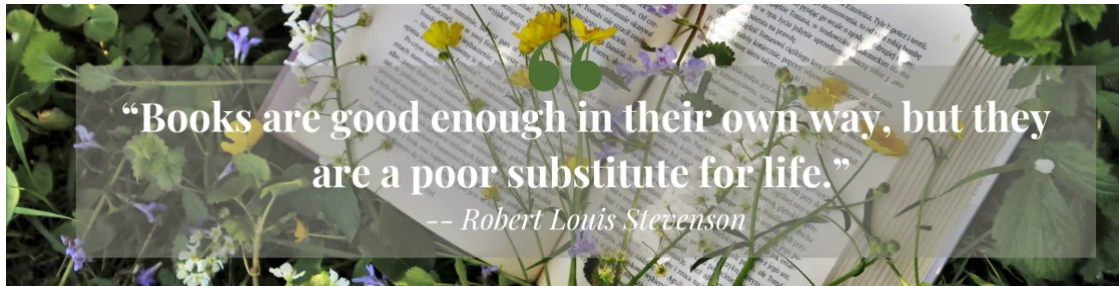
3.79★ on Goodreads

The Baker of Lost Memories

by Shirley Russak Wachtel

The Baker of Lost Memories by Shirley Russak Wachtel is a poignant, multigenerational story of family, friendship, and forgiveness. Set in 1960s Brooklyn, Lena chases her dream of becoming a baker while uncovering haunting family

secrets left behind in war-torn Poland. As love and loss shape her journey, Lena learns that healing often begins with the memories we try hardest to forget.



June Journaling Challenge: Standing in the Light

June arrives with long days and golden evenings—a season when everything seems to stretch toward the sun. It's a time of fullness, warmth, and light. And yet, even in all this brightness, we're invited to reflect: What parts of ourselves are we finally ready to bring into the light?

This month, use your journal to explore your personal season of illumination—what you're ready to honor, express, or let shine.

Each day, ask yourself:



- ☀ What am I no longer hiding?
- ☀ Where in my life do I feel most alive and lit up?
- ☀ What truth or talent within me is ready to be seen?

Pick up your pen, and let your writing begin!



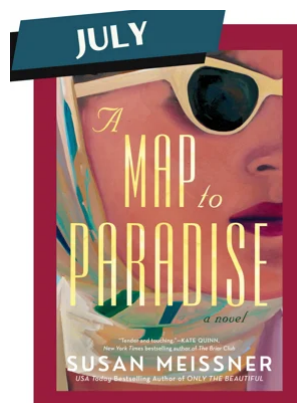
#ReadWithSharon

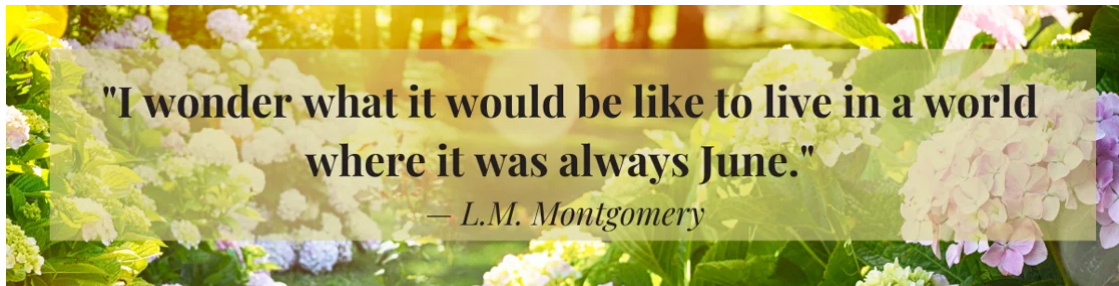
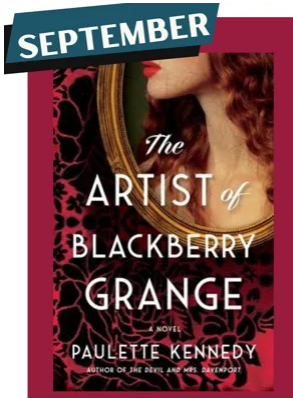
Get ready for an awesome line up in my [#ReadWithSharon](#) book club. On Thursday June 19 at 7pm eastern, we will discuss, ***The Queens of Crime*** with author Marie Benedict—where five renowned women mystery writers in 1930s London, including Dorothy Sayers, Agatha Christie, and Ngaio Marsh, form a secret society to challenge the male-dominated Detection Club.



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](#)





Here's to summer and the possibilities that it brings!



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