Books Are Us

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The parlor of the inn also has floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, and books abound on nearly every surface and in every guest room. The whole description depicted "Cuttlefish House" as an appealing place, especially to bibliophiles, though Bernie initially made a reservation to go there to please his girl friend, a lover of "all things English.

Then, of course, the novel turns dark, not the least reason being a snowstorm that strands all the guests and staff at the inn. The library is also dark, when Bernie sets out at night to find the rare copy of "The Big Sleep." He hears furtive whispering coming from the library, his plans are foiled, he retreats to his room, and the next morning, a nod to Agatha Christie ("The Mousetrap").

The book early on includes mention of a "very helpful librarian" at Columbia University (when Bernie was researching Chandler and Hammett). More writing is devoted to the description of "Cuttlefish House" and its "classic formal library," an enormous room, with built-in shelves as high as the twelve-foot ceiling, running the length of the room, with a wall of windows on the opposite side. A fireplace was at one end, with "a fire crackling in the stove." The room was dark, and Bernie could not see the book on the shelf behind him. He looks up and sees the librarian's face. She says, "Good morning. How can I help you today?"

An interesting fact about this book is that it was written by a real librarian, who actually worked in one of the libraries described in the novel. This adds an extra layer of realism to the story.

The book ends with Bernie finding the rare copy of "The Big Sleep" in the library, where the mystery had its beginning. He solves the murder and discovers the truth behind the library's mysterious past. The book is a great read for fans of mystery and library-themed fiction.

Check out http://www.libraryblock.com for an entertaining Website and to learn more about the author.

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So, where are we in our world of intellectual content and services? Are the security concerns significant enough to prevent librarians from using these libraries in their work? Part of the issue is that the technology is not always available, and there are concerns about privacy. However, with the increasing use of digital technologies, many libraries are looking for ways to provide access to their collections.

Of course, there is the issue of cost. Many libraries are looking for ways to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Some have looked to the cloud to help solve these issues.


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