

## GO! STAFF

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## SUBMIT NEWS

Submit your event information by Monday for publication the following week (two weeks in advance is even better!). Go! Magazine is published Wednesdays in the Wallowa County Chieftain and Blue Mountain Eagle. It publishes Thursdays in The Observer, Baker City Herald and East Oregonian.

## ADVERTISING AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Baker City Herald

541-523-3673

The Observer

541-963-3161

East Oregonian

541-276-2211

Wallowa County Chieftain

541-426-4567

Blue Mountain Eagle

541-575-0710

Hermiston Herald

541-567-6457

## What we're into

## 'MISS BENSON'S BEETLE' AND THE HERMISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S BOOK CLUB

If you've ever had enough of an unfulfilling life and wished to escape, then you might just find a friend in "Miss Benson's Beetle," Rachel Joyce's 2020 novel. I read it at the Hermiston Public Library's book club, Bookminders, a few months ago. I love the book and the book club, and I recommend both.

First, the book...

In "Miss Benson's," a middle-aged woman is a disrespected, unappreciated teacher in England. She lives alone. She has never had a true romance, or even experienced adventure. One day, however, she finally has enough. She suddenly leaves her job, walking away from everything to plan a trip to the other side of the world.

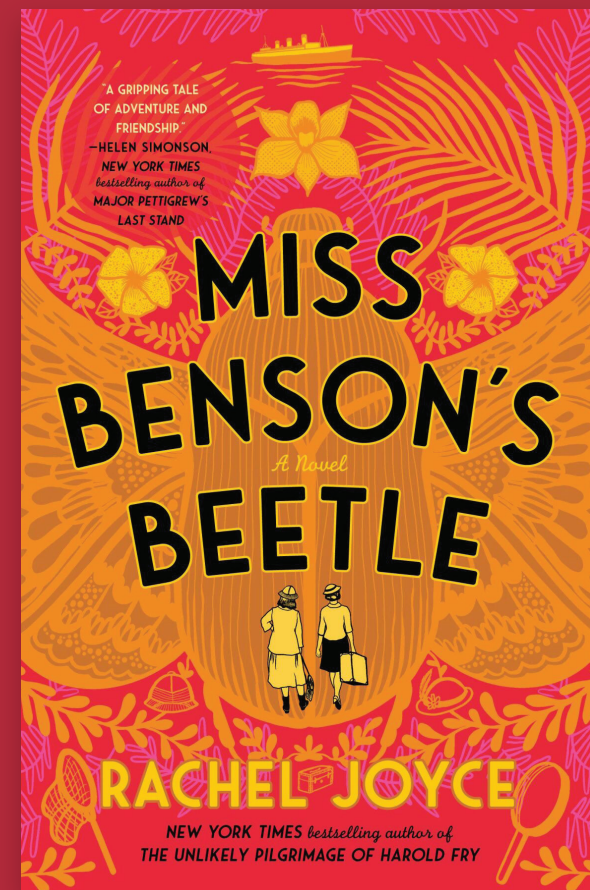
Not wanting to go alone, she befriends a second woman, who is strange and has a mysterious past. Together, the pair travel to foreign countries and form a tight

friendship, all the while trying to accomplish their mission — finding a rare beetle, hitherto uncategorized by British entomologists.

I feel a bit guilty for making this book my favorite, because I do not think it was written for me. Much of the novel is about female friendships and women's struggles in a patriarchal society. As a man, I can sympathize and try to understand but I cannot relate. I think, if I were a character in this book, I might even be a villain, even though I would try to be otherwise. Through bumbling or pettiness, I would probably be a foil to the protagonists. This is a bummer.

Still, I love this book for its adventure and its look into exotic cultures and times. I also love its situation. When I wished to start a new life and have adventures, this book was there for me.

Now, let me tell you about my book club, which is also uplifting. There, I meet people I still barely know. Yet we share our thoughts and feelings about life as we also discuss a different



book each month. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Public

Library. I hope to see you there.

— ERICK PETERSON, EDITOR,  
HERMISTON HERALD

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