

SASP

NEWS

April 2021

Another "Stay Home Stay Healthy" Issue. Here's hoping we don't have many more of these.



While Covid-19 is still a concern, it looks like we may be closer to once again meeting in person.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573



Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers (SASP) began in 1998 when *Chuck O'Conner, Elmer Freeman, Joe Meiners, and Dan Vollmer*, Spokane area authors, formed a club in order to share knowledge and experience with those interested in writing and alternative ways of publishing. Today, SASP is a large non-profit organization dedicated to anyone with interests in any aspect of writing and art. Members include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, journalists, illustrators, editors, publishers, printers, writing instructors, and many others. Monthly luncheon meetings provide inspiration and education by way of knowledgeable and entertaining guest speakers, and the cheerful camaraderie of people sharing common interests and goals. Membership is open to all who love writing, art, and interesting people.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers **meets** the first Thursday of each month at **Golden Corral**, 7117 N. Division Street, in Spokane.

Presentations begin at **2:30 pm**. The room opens at **2:00 pm** so members and guests can dine, visit, join, pay dues, browse, and perhaps buy each other's books. After short break, members and guests relate their accomplishments, mention upcoming activities, and we draw for door prizes. Members and guests must be present to win.

Attendees are requested to buy lunch upon entering the establishment, and to leave an appropriate tip for the waiter/waitress.

Due to the Pandemic we are currently not meeting. When we do meet, we will let everyone know the place, the day and the time.

Membership benefits include listing on the SASP website, www.spokaneauthors.org. Many members provide short biographies and links to external personal websites, creating more marketing exposure. Current members may list and describe their published works on the SASP website and offer their work for sale at meetings. (Visit the "members" page on our web-site to connect with members' web-pages. Our "links" page connects to interesting on-line locations, including those of many SASP members.)

Guest speakers inform, inspire, and entertain with a variety of topics designed to provide knowledge about writing and publishing.

SASP members are encouraged to purchase or trade completed works of and with

fellow members. They are also encouraged to donate copies of their work as door prizes. Winners of others' work are expected to provide a review.

Note: SASP no longer transports name tags and display books to and from meetings. Your name tag is yours to keep and maintain. Please take books you provide for display. We provide space for displaying your books, but you must bring them to each meeting.

Submission Deadline: Items to be included in the next edition of SASP NEWS must be received by the editor a week prior to the next scheduled meeting. (Or when the next meeting would normally be held. April 29th for the May 2021 issue.)

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"Like" the SASP Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679

"Join" the SASP Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1646364128981815/>

OUR NEXT MEETING!

This pandemic seems to be dragging on longer than we expected. At this point it's hard to predict when we will be able to meet again. Until then, until vaccines are distributed in sufficient quantities, stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out and about, and maintain your social distancing.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Hello there my fellow SASPers and SASPerillas,

Garsh, still no meeting. Would have been on April 1st – and that's no joke! Still have my fingers crossed for sometime this summer.

Hey, did you read the March 7th *Locally Writ* column

in the Spokesman-Review? Author Ike Andrews offers some good advice: First, he says it may take something powerful and/or dramatic in your life to spur you on to complete that novel. Andrews had put a manuscript aside - until a near-death experience jolted him back to work. (Hopefully, it doesn't have to be that traumatic to kick you into high gear!) He explains further that the experience gave him fresh eyes and a new sense of purpose.

Another bit of Ike advice is the old: Have a habitual time, place, and established writing structure. His routine consists of starting his writing early in the morning using only pen and paper. Andrews does no editing at this juncture; he just writes and writes. When he transcribes his longhand drafts to his

computer, only then does he start the editing process. Andrews states, "Find an environment where you feel comfortable expressing yourself, and then make that a discipline. There are times when you really don't feel like writing, but go ahead and sit down there and keep trying. Sometimes it doesn't come easily, but sometimes it flows like a stream."

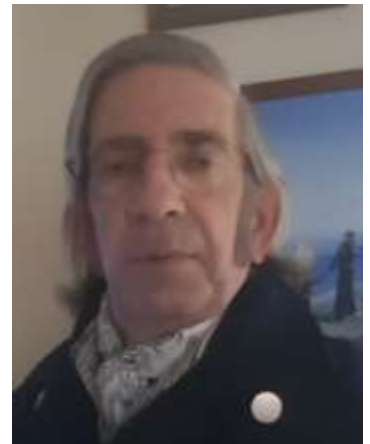
Or, I follow the advice of Ernest Hemingway. He always poured a tall glass of whiskey and set it behind his typewriter. He would then force himself to write a chapter before he took a drink.

From a great literary character: Live long and prosper,

Jim

FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER

As April arrives we enter the second year of not being able to meet in person. But as they say, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and hopefully it is not an oncoming train. Every month that goes by in which we can't meet means we are one month closer to being able to do so.



I had my first shot a week or so ago. Even that seems to add a bit of a glow to that light far away. Overall, my optimism is soaring, compared to what it was a few months ago. And as I've mentioned a time or two, if you want to share any Corona Virus/Covid 19 experiences with your fellow SASP members, I'll be glad to pass it along to the group.

If you have a chance, visit our web-site and check out your member web-page. Let me know what corrections and updates it needs. If you have new books, book information, bios, headshots, etc., send it along and I'll try to get

it updated as soon as possible. If you do not have a member web-page available on the web-site, check and see if you are up to date on your dues.

Because of the Pandemic we haven't been screaming for dues, but if you want to pay, the easiest way is to mail a check or money order for \$15.00 to:

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573

I check the mail weekly, and if we receive any dues payments, I take those payments directly to our financial institution for deposit.

If you are ever looking for our mailing address, it's on the front cover of each and every issue of SASP NEWS. It's also on the Welcome Page and the Membership Forms page of our web-site. I hope that helps.



OUR MARCH 2021 MEETING

Due to the Corona Virus/Covid 19 pandemic, we did not meet on Thursday, March 4, 2021.

MEMBER WEB-PAGE GUIDE

1. Name and photo/headshot
2. Brief biography
3. Links to web-site, blog, or other on-line locations.
4. Information about any books published.
 - a. Book cover shot/thumbnail
 - b. Brief description/blurb/reviews
 - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other
 - d. Locations where available.
5. Send as much information as possible to: daveeva@comcast.net, authors@spokaneauthors.org, or
Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573

Check out other member web-pages at www.spokaneauthors.org. Click on the "Members" button and then on the member's page you wish to view.

Contact your web-master if your page needs to be updated or corrected

MEMBER UPDATES

Hi Everyone,

My latest project is described in the new blog on the Illusions of Magic website: www.illusionsofmagic.com/illusions-of-magic-book-blog

Also on the blog is a tribute to journalist Mildred Aldrich and a mention of Arthur Duray's world land speed record. His record car, the *Gobron Brillie*, was driven by sprockets and chains—like a bicycle. I hope you enjoy it !

J. B. Rivard, Author-Illustrator

Low on Gas – High on Sky

Finalist:

ABF "Best Book," IAN "Book of the Year"

Winner: "Reviewer's Choice"

www.illusionsofmagic.com/low-on-gas-high-on-sky-by-jb-rivard

NEW BOOKS

Three of our members have just published or are about to publish new books

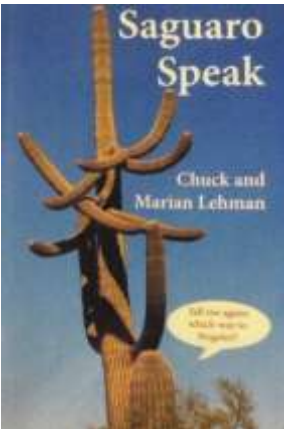
Sandy Mason:

Into the Fire B08Z2GX2TC

Ed Pulaski, inspired by vivid letters from his uncle about the wild west, wanted some adventures of his own. He left home at age 15, crossed the continent alone, and arrived in the Idaho mining country when he was 16. A hero in the making, his adventure turned to horror, his truly was a trial by fire.



Col. Chuck Lehman:
Saguaro Speak (By Chuck and Marian Lehman)



Stroll through a verdant Sonoran forest and “hear” the mighty Saguaro cactuses talk to you through their unique body language. Spike and Barb will guide you to many of their prickly neighbors and reveal their incredible lifestyle.

The Apostle’s Wife B07NJ4DFCW
179039239X



Aliza the wife of a simple fisherman named Simon, is thunderstruck when her husband announces he and his business partner are leaving their business to follow a man known as Jesus of Nazareth. She is suddenly without income and nearly destitute! For three years she sees Simon, now known as

Peter, only occasionally. Her resentment mellows somewhat as she develops into a first century entrepreneur' but she refuses to accept Jesus' message - a new covenant with God. "The Kingdom Of God is at hand," he tells all who will listen.

While Peter is away, Aliza is abducted by an old enemy. She escapes but is pursued relentlessly while trying to reunite with her husband. A Roman centurion, and recent convert, befriends Aliza and Peter while Jesus is brutally executed. The officer's encouragement moves Aliza to look closer at Jesus' message of redemption. Finally, Aliza receives a miraculous vision which changes her attitude and her new life with the Apostle Peter.

Double Exposure

Cal and Jill are sent on a romantic European honeymoon by multinational mining giant Candica – on the condition that they repossess the company jet, which was sold to, but not paid for by a wealthy Saudi national. They must locate the plane in Bavaria, fly it covertly out of an underground



bunker, and evade the law enforcement organizations of several counties. They seek assistance from a pair of CIA operatives, a Moroccan prince, and a Middle Eastern sea captain. They are relentlessly pursued by a deranged Russian sniper who tries several times to kill them. The final battle erupts on the high seas, off the coast of Somalia.

Dave McChesney:

Darnahsian Pirates: The Third Stone Island Sea Story



(Cover is not yet available.)

Having returned to England and reuniting with Evangeline, Edward Pierce once again sets sail beyond the ocean's edge, this time accompanied by two additional vessels. Upon arrival on Stone Island, Evangeline is devastated to discover her father absent. Pierce once again finds himself sailing dangerous waters as he leads a combined naval expedition to rescue several Vespican governors, including Harold Smythe, Evangeline's beloved Papa, held for ransom by the Darnahsian Pirates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: Many events have been cancelled or postponed to a later date because of the current Corona Virus/Covid 19 outbreak. If cancellation or change isn't indicated here, please check to see if it is still taking place.

Contact daveeva@comcast.net or e-mail authors@spokaneauthors.org to get your event listed.

On Going:

The **Inland Northwest Writers Guild (INWG)** used to meet the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at Perkins Restaurant and Bakery, 12 East Olive Ave., (downtown) Spokane, WA.

Currently they meet on-line via Zoom, and typically send out a notice and invitations to join in a few days before the event.)

As always, let me know of any upcoming writer related events you might have coming up and I'll try to get them listed on the web-site's "Programs" page and here in SASP NEWS.

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many SASP members' books are on Amazon and/or Kindle™ (We print short parts of the list on a rotating basis. The complete, and hopefully up to date list is available on the web-site, under "NEWS")

(Contact the editor/web-master at daveeva@comcast.net or at authors@spokaneauthors.org to get your Amazon/Kindle books listed)

To speed your search, add the provided ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code (ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www(dot)amzn(dot)com/dp/)
Example: www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332
or: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044
(Recently it seems Amazon is assigning its own unique ASINs to the paperback editions of books, rather than using the ten-digit ISBN as they previously did. In the future we will

attempt to point this out in individual listings.)

B. J. Campbell:

Close Calls: True Tales of Cougar Bob

1936178044

Bob Manion:

Santa's Heroes

1936178095

The Tree House

B004IZLHLE

The Tree House (new edition)

1946882003

Springer's Heart

0978850742

Summer Rain

B00ZM3S2IM

Vampire and the Cop

B00ZM4BBOS

Retitled *Vampire Justice*

0996864415

Sabrina's Promise

0996864407 097885070X

Sandra L. Mason:

N is for Nativity

517614880

(Illustrated by Natalie J. Apodaca)

Into the Fire

B08Z2GX2TC

Stan Parks:

Jakob's Ladies

1532910762

Tiffani Harvey:

A Journey to Independence

1533499438

Revised and retitled

Freedom Seeker

Growing Independent

1533499926

Revised and retitled

Freedom Seeking

Fred Jessett:

My Name is Tamar

B00DH3REWO

Drummer Loves Dancer

B073H2RP7P

Getting Past Point No Point

1725865211

Lewis Meline:

Lies Exposed! The Truth about Diets...

0997915501

J. B. Rivard

Illusions of Magic: Love and Intrigue in 1933

Chicago

B01EGSC8N8 0996836306

Illusions of Magic: The Movie

B0751RL53G 0996836330

Low on Gas: High on Sky

B07V2V48XD 0996836349

Larry Danek

I'm the Ghost in this Body: The Nomadic Ghost

B0110Z500Q

Jed's World

B00MWDJ1YY

Jed's World (New, Revised Edition)

B08HSPQPG6 B08HW4F323L

Ghostly Reunion: A Nomadic Ghost Story

B077KHR33M

The Runaway Ghost: Story of the Nomadic

Ghost (Vol. 3)

1986978605

Ghost at the Border

B089S6TWXT B089M1D93T (pb)

Mountain Secrets is Joyce Nowacki's third novel. She writes historical fiction, combining historical periods with places where she grew up in North Idaho. I look forward to reading her first two novels: *The Other Side of the Fence*, 2010, which is an historical novel about Chinese immigrants, and *The Magic of Ordinary Times*, 2012, which is about growing up in North Idaho during the 1950s,

From Write Offsite Publishing, 2018, 211 pages

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

Mountain Secrets

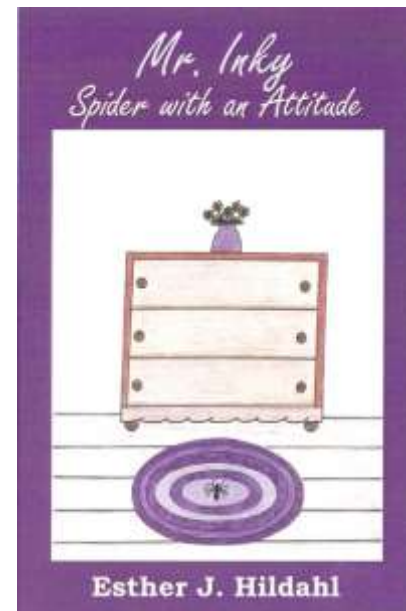
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By Joyce Nowacki

Reviewed by Bob Weldin

The setting for *Mountain Secrets* is Rathdrum, Idaho and vicinity, prior to and during the early days of Prohibition, 1919 and 1920. A young woman is on the run from cops and Chicago mobsters, carrying secrets and a satchel of money. She rides the trains, changing her name and destination frequently, until she ends up at Rathdrum. She meets Ralph, the bartender, and becomes a popular singer at his bar until she is recognized by a mysterious stranger. Ralph hooks her up with moonshiners who take her to their mountain hide away. The locals conspire against the laws of Federal Prohibition. There is a mysterious murder and the young woman's secrets are found out.

The author does a good job of describing the characters and the physical surroundings. Likewise, she does a good job of distinguishing the hickish drawls of moonshiners from the slicksters from Spokane, Seattle, and Chicago. The story is a quick enjoyable read, but my wife and I agree that the sudden conclusion left us with many unanswered questions. However, that seems to be the modern trend for novels... maybe that's the setup for a sequel.



Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

I must admit that I spent most of my life terrified of spiders. I never killed them, I just jumped on a chair and yelled for someone else to come and do the deed. At some point, well into my adult years, I realized their worth and turned to 'catch and release': much to the dismay of my grandchildren.

Now that I have read *Mr. Inky*, I'm so glad that I don't have the blood of innocent crawling creatures on my hands.

Ms. Hildahl tells a delightful tale about the budding relationship between ten year old Victoria and her unexpected 'roommate.' But wait, it's not just about that! Hidden in the story are lessons about things like not judging others who are different, there just might be a

wonderful friend inside. It addresses the topic of bullying, and teachers and parents not really listening to their children and how it makes the child feel. It touches on the angst of the everyday fifth-grader in a touching and respectful way. There is even a stinky brother, (a subject dear to my heart, having one of my own). It is full of great characters, found in every school, and artfully woven into the tale.

It is a perfect read for fifth and sixth graders and this grandma can attest to the fact that it is fun to read to younger ones. I'm sure that the lives of countless creepy-crawlies will be saved as the children learn that all creatures have a place in our world and should be left to do their jobs.

Reviewed by Sue Eller

The last thing 10-year-old Victoria Wyatt wanted to find in her bedroom was a spider. How did Victoria go from wanting to squish it with her flip-flop to wanting to protect it against the classroom bully? Author Esther Hildahl spins a tale of a most unlikely friendship and leaves the reader with a whole new perspective on spiders – especially talking ones. A delightful chapter book that I highly recommend to children of all ages. *Mr. Inky, Spider with an Attitude* is available at the Hastings Book Stores in Spokane, Washington and at Auntie's Bookstore, also in Spokane.

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Vicki Wyatt is a normal ten year old except for the fact she shares her bedroom with a spider. A spider that talks!

Vicki tells her family the spider talks, of course, they do not believe her. She must be imagining things. Vicki's brother, Neal, teases her and tells some of the boys at school about Vicki's 'talking spider'. Vicki gets into a fight on the playground, with the meanest kid in school. They both get sent to the principal.

The real excitement begins when Mr. Inky agrees to go to school, in a glass jar, for Vicki's science project. Since no one believes her, she tells the class her spider is just an ordinary house spider. The meanest kid in

school calls Vicki a liar. Mr. Inky can't help himself and with a booming voice lets the class know he is really a talking spider. Mr. Inky escapes and chaos breaks out as the whole school searches for him.

I found *Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude* by Esther J. Hildahl to be a delightful story any child will love to read or have read to them. The characters seemed very real to me and brought back memories of my childhood on the playground. I'm going to think twice before squashing another spider.

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Vicky Wyatt's reaction when she sees a spider in her room is natural. She's going to kill it. However, this spider is unusual and in order to save his live, reveals to Vicky that he can talk. His gamble pays off and he is spared. Mr. Inky, as he is later named develops a sometimes cantankerous relationship with Vicky.

Larger problems result for the fifth grader because no one believes her story about a talking spider. She eventually has to see the school counselor and in an attempt to calm things down says she made the whole thing up. But when she takes Mr. Inky to school for a science project, things get out of hand and Mr. Inky is forced to speak in front of the entire class in order to protect Vicky.

This was a fun read, a book that while written for elementary school age readers, is entertaining for those of any age. Most notable is the way in which the author captures the feel of being in the fifth grade. That brought back a number of memories, and in itself recommends this book for all.

Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude is available in several Spokane area bookstores.

Reviewed by *Northern Dawn Awards*

When ten-year-old Vicki Wyatt finds a house spider in her bedroom, her first instinct is to kill it. Perturbed Mr. Inky, the spider, tells Vicki to spare his life. He wants to continue living under the dresser. After all, it's his

home, too.

At first Vicky is not happy with this new arrangement. What if Mr. Inky bites her?

However, when Mr. Inky goes missing, she changes her tune. When he comes back, she realizes it's pretty cool having him around, even if he does have bad grammar.

Then disaster strikes when her brother tells the whole school that Vicki thinks she has a talking spider living in her bedroom. As a result, she is excluded, teased, and even sent to the school counselor.

Later, Mr. Inky reluctantly agrees to go to school as part of Vicki's science project. Will he survive Rory Picklebok, the meanest kid in the fifth grade? And what happens when his secret is discovered?

Hildahl's nineteen years of teaching has served her well, as she clearly knows the minds and concerns of the middle-school crowd. Preteens will clamor for Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude because it's a whole lot of fun. Parents will also appreciate that it is well-executed and a clean read.

MY FIRST 90 YEARS



(Sorry, no cover image currently available)

By Hap Murphy (An autobiography)

Reviewed by Bob Weldin

Henry "Hap" Murphy was a story teller with a remarkable memory for names and details. Except for a few years in the Army

during WWII, and a short time at Lake Roosevelt, Hap spent his active life on and around the lakes and rivers of Northern Idaho. He was born in Coeur d' Alene (CDA) and spent his early youth on the banks of the Pend Oreille River at Dover; at that time a bustling sawmill town. His father worked for the Dover Lumber Company and was in charge of the tug boats that towed the logs to the mill. Hap occasionally went with his father on two or three day trip up Pend Oreille Lake for a tow of logs for the mill. He tells several stories of his mischievous boyhood in and around Dover.

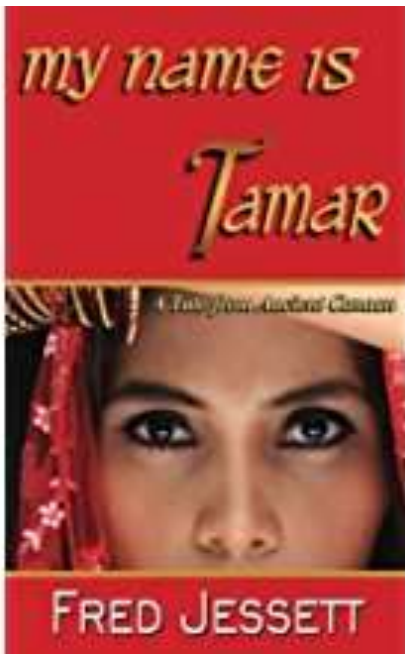
Hap became a tugboat captain and spent most his adult life on or near Lake CDA living a full and rich life around family and friends. He worked hard and sometime played hard. He tells stories of Harrison and St. Maries when they were bustling, rowdy towns with bar fights and brothels. He tells stories about making and selling home brew and moonshine during Prohibition. He tells of the 1933 flood and how tough it was for some people during the great depression.

He learned to cook on the tug boats or while batching in his boat house, tied up at the CDA beach. Army cooks were famous for being sloppy and bad. Hap was so good at KP duty that he rose to chief cook and was the pride of his unit. He later opened the Boat Drive Inn Cafe in CDA for more than a decade.

My First 90 Years is a good read, and of special interest to those who grew up in the CDA area. Or maybe you just want to remember the men who piloted the tugs and walked the tow lines, to get the logs down the river and across the lake to the sawmills.

Reviewed by Robert Hildahl

This book is about Hap Murphy who for most of his adult life was a tug boat captain who moved logs up the St. Joe River to Lake Coeur d' Alene and to the sawmills. Being a good storyteller, it's full of many entertaining, interesting, and humorous stories. I really enjoyed reading *My First 90 Years* and I recommend it to anyone who likes a good read.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

My Name Is Tamar tells the story of a young Canaanite girl, whose character is taken from the Bible, Chapter 38 in the Book of Genesis. The author tells her story as he imagined it might be. When she is fourteen, she is married to the eldest son of a Hebrew man named Judah. Judah has high hopes that she will produce heirs, especially sons, but instead she experiences rape and much abuse. After her husband dies unexpectedly, she marries Judah's second son who is also cruel and he, too, dies. Judah does not offer his third son because he is afraid that he might die, too. Meanwhile, Tamar is desperate to be married and have children. In disguise, acting as a prostitute, she decides to seduce her widowed father-in-law, who she feels is a good and decent man. This was a very dangerous thing to do, for she could be put to death.

This is a well-written book with well-defined characters. It's a page turner and a good read. I've always enjoyed reading stories taken from the Bible and Jessett did a good job describing what life was probably like back in Biblical times and how poorly and unfairly women were often treated.



Reviewed by Sue Eller

Jan Vasquez, a specialist in animal behavior, finds herself face to face with a dinosaur. A living, breathing, and hungry dinosaur. Her top-secret government job is to find a way to communicate with it. As she draws nearer her goal, strange events lead her to believe someone is trying to sabotage her work.

Wayne Kyle Spitzer shows his mastery of the novella with his succinct character development and plot line. His use of a nine-minute countdown near the end drives the story to its conclusion while it keeps the reader on the edge of his seat.