



# SASP

# NEWS

April 2023

## Illusions Of Magic

The MOVIE



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

J. B. Rivard &  
Anya Carlson



**We've Moved!**

See inside for information about our  
new meeting Location and day!

**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 **second Friday** of each month at the **Corbin Senior Activity Center**, 827 W. Cleveland Ave., Spokane.

Presentations are slated to begin at **2:00 pm**. After a 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. We must be out of the room by 4:30.

We will continue to provide refreshments such as bottled water, cake or cookies. We set up a collection jar for those who wish to help reimburse whoever brings such refreshments.

**Membership benefits** include listing on the SASP website, [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://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. We provide space to display your books, but *you* must bring them to each meeting.

**Submission Deadline:** Items for inclusion in SASP NEWS must be received a week prior to the last day of the month preceding the issue month. **(April 23rd for the May 2023 issue.)**

### 2023 Officers:

**President:** **Sue Eller**  
(509) 499-2012 author@emilytracemysteries.com

**Vice-President and Public-Relations:**  
**Marilee Hudon**  
(509) 325-9465 mjnoduh2@gmail.com

**Secretary:** **Linda Sonntag-Noble**

**Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master:** **Dave McChesney**  
(509) 325-2072 (h) daveeva@comcast.net  
(509) 768-6178 (c)

### Advisory Board:

**Member:** **Chuck Lehman**  
(509) 299-7802 cmlehman4@yahoo.com

**Member:** **Esther Hildahl**  
mr.inky@yahoo.com

**Member:** **Bob Weldin**  
(509) 327-2897 minersquest@comcast.net

**"Like" the SASP Facebook Page:**

[www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679)

**"Join" the SASP Facebook Group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1646364128981815/>

**"Follow" us on Twitter:**

<https://twitter.com/AndAuthors>

**Contact us at:** [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org)

**Cover: Illusions of Magic: The Movie by SASP Members J. B Rivard and Anya Carlson**

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

### NOTE CHANGE IN DAY AND LOCATION!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Corbin Senior Activity Center, 827 W. Cleveland Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The Lower South Room will be open at 1:30 pm, and we will need to be out by 4:30 pm.

Enter the building through the south entrance from the parking lot. Take the elevator to the basement. Step off the elevator and the room will be to your immediate right.

Our speaker will be fellow Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers member Bob Weldin.



### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

One thing never changes  
Change is inevitable

Since some of the Covid19 restrictions lifted and we began to meet in person again, our SASP group has experienced several changes. We began meeting at the Golden Corral with about eight people attending the first meeting. Our numbers increased gradually, and we began to schedule speakers. In April of 2022, we had a speaker who had traveled from the Moscow-Pullman area to talk to the group, and some of the staff at the buffet place decided to seat people in the room with

us. They also tried to restrict us to half the available space. It was not a fun experience, and I don't believe it was much fun for the family they seated in the room with us.

For the next meeting, member Beth Camp found us a new home at the Shadle Library. We thought we had secured a regular space in that facility, but as they got busier, confusion reigned once more, and we had to search for a different venue.

With the help of long-time member Bob Weldin, we have secured a meeting room at the Corbin Senior Center at 827 West Cleveland Ave (corner of Cleveland and Lincoln). There is plenty of parking (which was a major issue at the library) and you can enter the building, take the elevator to the basement floor, and take a sharp right when you get off to enter our new meeting space. We had to pay rent, but we paid for a year to make sure our space was reserved. The cost was nominal, and the Corbin Center was happy that we were going to meet there. The only drawback is that we had to change our meeting day to Friday.

Bottom line: we will meet at the Corbin Senior Center on the second Friday of each month, beginning with April 14<sup>th</sup>. We have access to the room from 1:30 to 4:30. Our meeting will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m., with a short break at 3:00 and a business meeting and drawing for door prizes to follow. Meetings will adjourn no later than 4:15, and we always need volunteers to help with cleanup afterward. We do not have to move or put away chairs or tables. We can sell our books within the meeting, and so can our speakers, if they so desire. We can have snacks and drinks like we did at the library, and we will talk further about that at this month's business meeting.

Thanks to everyone for helping us through this, the latest change. One good thing about it: if things change, that just means we



are still alive and kicking. See you on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Corbin Senior Center.

*Sue Eller* President

## FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello everyone,

Our April 14th speaker will be SASP member Bob Weldin. After his presentation, we have a bit of business to catch up on. I'd like everyone to bring a list of any upcoming events for our authors. Events might include seminars on writing, opportunities to sell books, readings from other authors, etc.



Also, if you are not on social media but have an event coming up that you'd like to have promoted, please either send a picture of yourself to my PR account:

[SASPworks4u@gmail.com](mailto:SASPworks4u@gmail.com)

or tap me on the shoulder at the meeting and I'll take a picture of you there.

I look forward to catching up with you all. See you soon!

*Marilee Hudon* Vice President

## FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

Like many of you, when we settled in to meeting at the Shadle Library, I thought we had found a home. Alas, it turned out not to be, and once again we find ourselves relocating, both to a new location and a new day of the week. As it is anytime something is disrupted or changed, there will be obstacles to overcome, but I believe we will handle it all and move on.

Last month I talked a little about the deadline for submission of material for inclusion in SASP NEWS. I'd like to once

**SASP NEWS**

again note that this is not a final hard deadline. If something arrives two or three days later, I'm sure there will still be time for it to be included. And again, if I know something is coming, I can possibly wait a day or so longer for it. I just want to send out the newsletter as close to the first of the month as possible. That way everyone will have it well in advance of our meeting.

Remember to contact me if you want any upcoming events mentioned in SASP NEWS or on the web-site's Programs page. If you mention it at a meeting, I might not get it recorded accurately or at all.

There are still several members who have not paid dues for this year. Please try to pay no later than our April meeting. After that, those with unpaid dues will no longer be listed on the Member Page on the SASP web-site, and there will be no link to the individual's Member Web-Page. Those who last paid in 2020 will be removed from the roster and taken off the e-mailing list. Any of their books that are on Amazon will also be removed from the web-site or included in the excerpt that appears monthly in SASP NEWS.

Paying dues is easy. You can pay at any SASP meeting, or you can send 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. I also try to notify anyone who pays that the dues payment has been received... usually by way of e-mail.

If your personal situation means paying dues will pose a financial hardship, please contact a SASP Officer or Advisory Board Member. We will see what we can do to accommodate you.

On a final note, THE REAR ENGINE REVIEW, the newsletter of the Inland Northwest Corvair Club, which I also happen to edit, was named Newsletter of the Year for 2022 by the Inland Northwest Car Club Council. I'm shown here moments after being presented the quite unique trophy at the annual



Show No Shine Event on Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>.



*Dave McChesney*

## OUR SPECIAL MEETING!

Compiled by Dave McChesney

On Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> several members of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met at the home of President Sue Eller. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Bob Weldin, Marilee Hudon, Larry Danek, Carl Northrup, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, and Dave McChesney.

The primary reason for the meeting was to agree on and establish a new meeting location for the group. While we thought we had found a home at the Shadle Library, things did not work out. While those at the Shadle Library had welcomed us and were willing to work with us, it seems the larger Spokane City Library system was not. There are (were) rumors they believed our presence would

establish conflict with another group headed by a relatively well-known local writer. Thus, once our March meeting ended on the afternoon of March 9<sup>th</sup>, we no longer had a place to meet.

During our March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, President Sue Eller announced the meeting at her place on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>, saying that anyone who wanted to come was welcome. Meanwhile, once our regular second Thursday of the month meeting ended, fellow SASP member Bob Weldin stopped by the Corbin Senior Center and spoke to them. He then called Sue and suggested it as a place for SASP to meet.

On Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>, Sue and Dave McChesney, visited Corbin Senior Center, spoke to members of the staff, and had a chance to visit the potential meeting room. They were favorably impressed.

When the above-named individuals met on Tuesday, Corbin Senior Center was the only actual place proposed, and those attending voted unanimously for us to meet there in the future. Following the Tuesday meeting, Sue and Dave returned to the Senior Center and finalized arrangements for our use of the place. Bob and Esther Hildahl tagged along to see the new meeting place, and Carl Northrup came by a while later.

While we now have a meeting location for at least the next year, there are a couple of things that should be noted. First and probably the most important is that we had to change the day of the week on which we meet. Sorry but it was the only time the room (or any room) was available at the time we need. **We now will be meeting on the second Friday of each month.** Arrangements have been made for the room to be available to us from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. We'll start our meetings at 2:00 pm and conclude all business at 4:00 pm or so. That will allow us time to clean up and vacate the place by 4:30 pm.

If you enter the building from the parking lot, which is to the south of the building, take the elevator to the basement. When you get off, the meeting room is immediately to the right. If you come in a different entrance and can't find it, ask for the *Lower South* room.

Additionally, they charge for use of the room, and we have paid \$50.00 per month for

a single half day per month, or \$600.00 a year. If we can keep our membership levels high enough, we should not have to raise dues to cover this new expense. We also have a bit of a surplus at present, so there is no immediate financial hardship on the organization.

Other items discussed:

Merilee said she'd checked on the possibilities of meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Church but wondered about access for handicapped individuals. It was put forth as a possible meeting site if we decide to set up a second evening meeting each month.

We discussed dropping the "self-publisher" portion of the group's name, as it is possible that expression still has negative connotations with some. We also talked about SASP sponsoring a trip to the PNWA Writers Conference in Seattle in September for our president, Sue Eller. Hopefully she would then bring back valuable information for us all.

None of the last items were decided upon, but there is a good chance you will hear about them in the near future.

## OUR MARCH 2023 MEETING

Compiled by Linda Sonntag-Noble  
and Dave McChesney

On Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, Spokane Authors once again met at the Shadle Library. In attendance were: Roger Aschenbrenner, Thomas Benner, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Mary DeBord, Sue Eller, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Marilee Hudon, Fred Jessett, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Rich McKay, Carl Northrup, Kate Poitevin, Linda Sonntag-Noble, and Bob Weldin.

Because of time constraints imposed by the library, we started the meeting promptly at 2:00 pm. President Sue Eller called the meeting to order and introduced our Vice-President Marilee Hudon, who introduced our speaker.

Our March speaker, Trent Reedy, is the author of 13 books, his first being *Words in the Dust* inspired by the true story of an Afghan girl

who received the gift of rhinoplasty during Trent's service when American troops were stationed in her village. He wrote it while working towards his MFA in children's literature at Vermont College after leaving Afghanistan. Born in Iowa, he now lives in Spokane. He told us he had always wanted to be a writer. He talked about the quandary of objections to using obscenity or references to sex or violence in his books since he writes young fiction.

His book, *Enduring Freedom*, coauthored with his friend Jawad Arash, actually put his friend in some danger of retaliation by the Taliban.

Other books include the "McCall Mountain series", inspired by his love of hunting and fishing and growing up in beautiful McCall, Idaho. His latest, *Fishing in Fire*, was published in 2023. All his books are available on Amazon and Kindle.

Refreshments were available, but because of time constraints, we did not have the raffle today at the break.

Because of the situation with the Library, Sue announced a special meeting would be held at her place on Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm to discuss it and search for a different place to meet.

## 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](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net),  
[authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto: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](http://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. Have you recently published a new book, or have you by chance republished an old one? Let your web-master know!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

The INWG will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, April 19th, at 7 PM. They plan to discuss the all-important query letter. (Last month's ZOOM meeting was cancelled due to a family emergency, so the same topic is again up for discussion.)

For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

### SASP Member Peter Quint says...

I will be one of the headlining authors during the Get Lit! festival next month in April. I will be involved in a couple of events:

**\*Headlining Author** during the **Community Open Mic** event hosted by Broken Mic. I will be doing a voice interpreted American Sign Language reading from a chapter in my novel "Resilient Silence" and other authors will have a chance to read from their works. It will take place from **2:00 to 3:00 PM on Thursday, April 20th** at the **Hive** on Sprague Avenue.

Here is the web link:

<https://getlitfestival2023.sched.com/event/1JHYn/community-open-mic>

**\*PMQ Deaf Author Table** at the **Get Lit! Book Fair** which will take place at the **Montvale Event Center** on **Saturday and Sunday April 22 and 23** from **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**. Signed copies of my novel will be

available to purchase. There will be over 25 other "bookish" vendors on hand so it will be a good local event for authors and readers.

Here is the web link:

<https://getlitfestival2023.sched.com/event/1KC26/book-fair>

## 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](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net) or at [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto: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](http://www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332)  
or: [www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044](http://www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044)

If you are overseas or shop in a different Amazon Marketplace, the URL will be as required for that location, but the ASINs, the numbers provided here will remain the same.

### M. Kari Barr

*Once Again Tales of Destiny*

**B07H8Q5CJD 1732140103**

*They Came From the Sea (D. P. Waters, co-author)*

**B07FDK1VKG 1722744367**  
(audio) **B07GC5WXS2**

*Thinktacular Thoughts (Illustrated by Stoyan Dobrev)*

**B07GNYD2C4**

*Rain on Me: Poetic Frenzy*

**B07GNVPQX9 1468123378**

*Arcadium Autum Emporium: Tales of the Gate Keeper*

**173214012X**

**Dennis Held** *Betting on the Night* **0966861280**

### Gena Bradford

*I Can't Rest Now, Lord! I'm Responsible...*

**1072677067**



## Phillip Jones

*The Casebook of Thadeus Rede & Other Stories* **B00HWXAWTW 1492181730**  
*Inventions and Discoveries: A Trip Through History* **B00FBHNFRW 149038460X**  
*Forensic Science for Writers: A Reference Guide* **B008Y2MX8S 1475267207**  
*Criminal Investigators, Villains, and Tricksters: A Trip Through History* **B00DVP4YHQ 148279960X**

## Gail Saunders

*Cluckenstein: The Halloween Chicken*  
**1946882054**

## Lauri "Midge" Cline

*Prey to the Order: An aon Lah Hathra Adventure* **B07Z48BR56 1700086456**  
*Wyndham Hall* **B07FY59VRP 1723480436**  
*Shadow Blades (The BREED Fae Chronicles)* **B07MDT8B52 1791691226**

## Kylea Carter

*Out of the Sand* **B01E4FARAE**

## Johanna Price

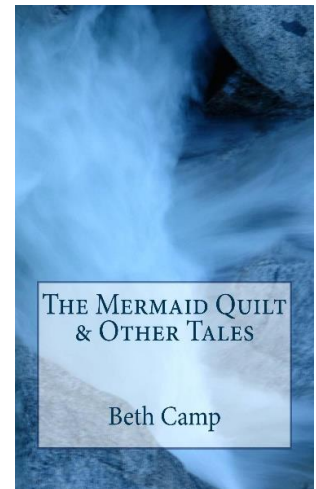
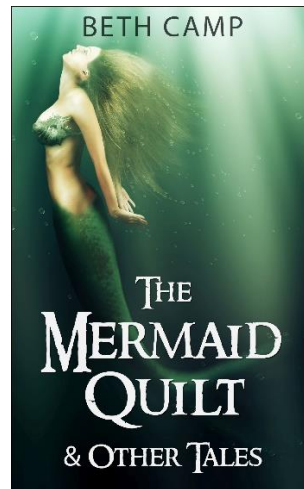
*Raising Buckshot: A Family's Experience with Autism* **B00RKH993A 1483420205**

## George Critchlow

*Travels with Vamper: A Graybeard's Journey* **B0787NRJ8Y 1506905277**  
*The Lifer and the Lawyer* **B08QRY3259 1725278367**

## FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

Reviews featured here are typically those written by our members of books written by our members. On occasion one may find a review a member wrote of a non-member's book, or a review a non-member wrote of a member's book. Each month we try to share a small portion of the reviews that are posted on our web-site. Once we reach the end of those reviews we start over.



Reviewed by Sue Eller

A collection of short stories and poems centered around the myths and legends of mermaids, *The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales* will entertain and delight the reader. Some of them are poignant, some a bit scary, but all will leave the reader with a sense of the magical world under the sea. A good book to pick up for a quick break, since each story or poem is a stand-alone piece, although once I started reading, it was hard to put down.

*The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales* is available at Amazon.com and CreateSpace in paperback and on Kindle and Smashwords in e-book format, or through the author.

## Mountain Secrets

(Sorry, no cover image available)

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

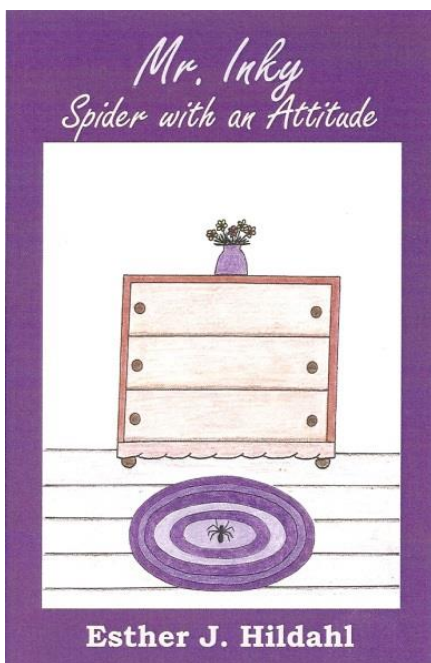


moonshiners who take her to their mountain hide away. The locals conspire against the laws of Federal Prohibition. There is a mysterious murder and the young woman's secrets are found out.

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.

*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.



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 crawly 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 life, 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 have 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.