



# SASP

# NEWS

August 2021

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



*August sun and smoke from 2017*

**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.

**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. 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. **July 29<sup>th</sup> for the August 2021 issue.**

## 2021 (and continuing) Officers:

**President:** *James Parry*  
(509) 325-9922 jimparry@q.com

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

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

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

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

## Advisory Board:

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

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

**“Like” the SASP Facebook Page:**  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679](https://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)

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2 pm. on Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Golden Corral on N. Division Street. With the rise in Covid cases lately, we debated cancelling again. Instead we have opted to keep the meeting room scheduled and invite those willing to get together informally for the afternoon. We will not have a speaker or any planned program.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello again fellow SASPers and SASPerillas,

It appears that we're all going to meet once again, for the first time since March of 2020! (Although the increase in the number of new daily cases in Spokane County has me worried.) It will be wonderful to see everyone after a year and a half! I'm assuming all of you who can get vaccinated, will be vaccinated before August 5<sup>th</sup>. *[The above was written a week ago. We now seem to be in a state of purgatory.]*

Dave previously sent out some sad news – that long-time member, Joan Carter, who attended nearly every meeting (along with her granddaughter,) had passed. She was an artist as well as an author and all-round super nice person. Most of you will remember that Joan even volunteered her home on Day Mount Spokane Road for us to hold a big book sale a few years ago. She will be missed.



Food for thought:

In food court a verdict is determined by a jury of your peers.

I let a pasta chef borrow my car and he returned it all denty.

I switched the labels on all my wife's spices. I'm not in trouble yet, but the thyme is cumin.

From this point forward, it appears that Covid is now a Darwinian thing.

Stay safe,

*Jim*

## COURTESY OF OUR VICE-PRESIDENT



With Sarah Santacroce

(This is) an excerpt on a podcast on book marketing with Sarah Santacroce and Joanna Penn. To listen to the complete podcast or read the transcript, visit the following link:

<https://www.thecreativepenn.com/2021/07/19/gentle-book-marketing/>

“Find opportunities where people can really hear you talk about the story, the backstory also of your book, and hear the real you and not just the marketing pitch of the book, because that's where you bring more of you.

“Another thing I have seen some authors do recently is a webinar or a collaboration actually where they got on a webinar with three authors. And then the idea

was to each talk, not just about the book, but about ideas from the book, so they had a common seem to the webinar. And then at the end, they just invited people who hadn't bought the books yet. If they're interested, go and buy the books of all three authors.

"I found that a beautiful collaboration because oftentimes as authors, just like as entrepreneurs, we do everything alone, and that's hard. To sell a book all by yourself, you have to create an audience around it. So think maybe also about collaborating more with others where you have a common audience. It doesn't have to be exactly the same topic, but they often overlap."

*One of the best things we do at SASP is to help each other market our books. We have done group book signings in various venues. We have written reviews for each other's books and posted them on our SASP website, on Amazon where possible, and on our own web pages. We*



*have also promoted each other to many of our own followers. Fantastic job, everyone!*

*Sue Eller*

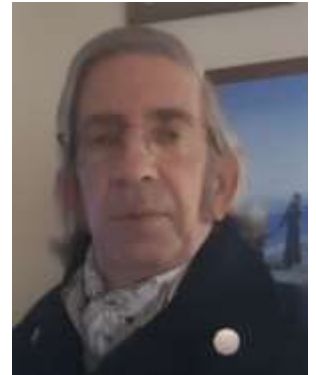
## **FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER**

Like everyone else, I've waited impatiently for July to pass so we could once again meet as a group. Now that longed for day is only a week ahead of us. But Covid cases are mounting and this Delta variant seems to be so much more potent than the earlier strains, that many people are concerned. Honestly as I write this, I'm not sure if we will press on and meet as scheduled or if we end up cancelling and trying it again in September. If we do meet, I'd more than likely be there, but I know many are worried about

things, so I would not blame them if they decide not to attend.

As editor, web-master, and treasurer, it seems that I am also the center of communications for the group. I don't mind that at all, because that's what I think I should be doing in filling these roles. I enjoy keeping you all connected, passing along information about your upcoming book signings and so on. I like building your member web-pages to post on our web-site.

At the same time I ask for a little bit of help in doing these things. First of all, try not to wait until the last moment to have me send word out to other SASP members about your event. Particularly if you contact me on the SASP e-mail, I might not see it for a day or so, and then your announcement might be at the proverbial last minute. I'm happy to send notice of your event along to fellow SASP members by way of e-mail, to place in SASP NEWS or on our Program Page if there is sufficient lead time. But I don't believe it is my job or duty to put it up on your social media... Facebook, Twitter, etc.



That's up to you, although if I see it I more than likely will Retweet or Share it.

Lastly, if your member web-page needs to be updated, let me know. Have you written and published another book? Do your previous or current books have new editions? Have the links to the changed? Do you have a new updated bio or a new author head shot you'd like to have incorporated? All of these are reasons for updating your member web page.

If you do send something to be posted or updated and I don't seem to get to it in a reasonable matter of time, just let me know again. Remind me.

And now, from the Treasurer's desk...

When the pandemic began we extended everyone's dues by a year. If you had last paid in 2019, you were given credit for 2020. If you

last paid in 2020, you were credited for 2021 and so on. For those folks who joined during the pandemic, we also extended their membership an extra year. But as we get back to meeting and being an active organization we will no longer automatically extend memberships. At the same time we will not cancel extensions already in place.

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. Once we are meeting again, you may also bring you payment to a meeting.

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 JULY 2021 MEETING

Due to the Corona Virus/Covid 19 pandemic, we did not meet on Thursday, July 1, 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/blurbs/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

## MEMBER UPDATES

### New Books!

Your editor's third book is now available at [www.amzn.com/dp/B09BC9P9WL](http://www.amzn.com/dp/B09BC9P9WL) currently in paperback format only. Other formats will be forthcoming.

Here is the back cover blurb, along with the final version of the front cover.

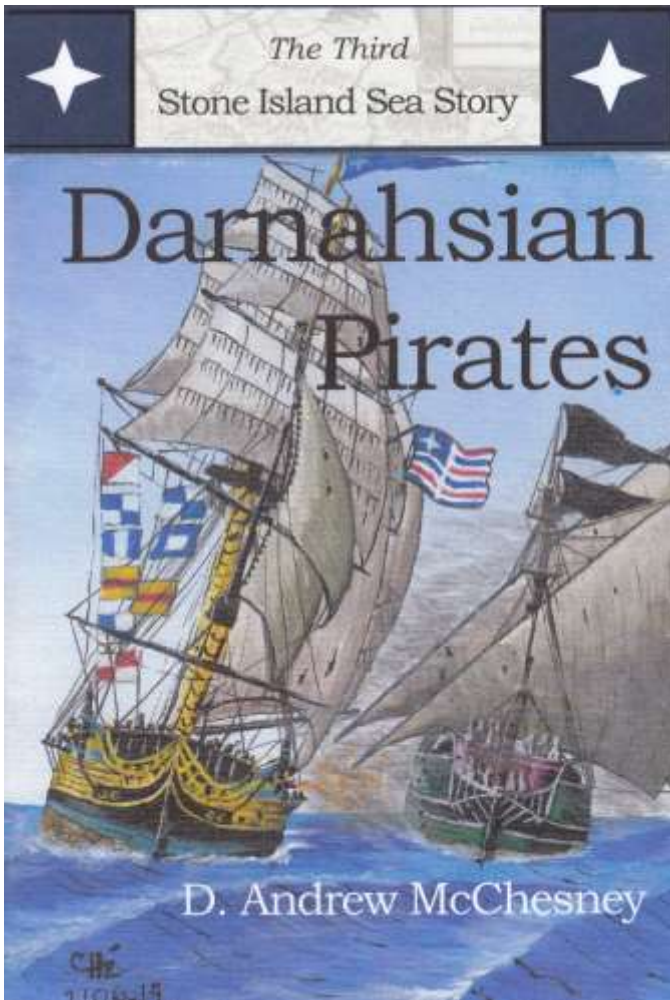
A final broadside roared from the port battery, sending twelve-pound shot and massive clouds of musket balls and jagged pieces of scrap metal—langrene—into the Darnahsian Pirate vessels. Splinters buzzed through the air. Lines snapped, their freed ends slicing like whips. Mooring bits, fife rails, handrails, and other deck furniture disintegrated. Bits and pieces of what had been human beings splattered the bulwarks and deck.

"Get those lines across!"

Grappling hooks soared from the schooner's port side and lodged in the pirate's hull and rigging. The lines were drawn tight, and the two vessels lashed together. In the bows, the Kalish warriors continued their ungodly howl as they unleashed volley after volley of arrows into the amassed pirates. At Sergeant Lincoln's order, blue-coated marines stepped to the rail, avoiding the seaman securing their guns. When he gave the word, they raised their muskets as one, and at the command, "Fire!" let loose a volley into the exposed enemy on deck. Then they fixed

bayonets and prepared to board.

“Boarders away!” yelled Pierce, springing for the rail.



Having returned to England and reuniting with Evangeline, Edward Pierce once again sails beyond the ocean's edge, accompanied by his beloved and two additional vessels. At Stone Island, they despair to find her father absent. Pierce now embarks across dangerous waters, leading a combined naval expedition charged with rescuing several Vespican governors held for ransom by the Darnahsian Pirates. Among them is Harold Smythe, Evangeline's beloved Papa.

(Thanks Kate and Sue for the Beta reading and editing, and thanks Sue for all the help with formatting and cover design. Dave)

## 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)  
(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.)

### Tiffani Harvey:

<i>A Journey to Independence</i>	1533499438
Revised and retitled <i>Freedom Seeker</i>	
<i>Growing Independent</i>	1533499926
Revised and retitled <i>Freedom Seeking</i>	

### Fred Jessett:

<i>My Name is Tamar</i>	B00DH3REWO
<i>Drummer Loves Dancer</i>	B073H2RP7P
<i>Getting Past Point No Point</i>	1725865211

### Lewis Meline:

<i>Lies Exposed! The Truth about Diets...</i>	0997915501
---	------------

### J. B. Rivard

<i>Illusions of Magic: Love and Intrigue in 1933</i>	
<i>Chicago</i>	B01EGSC8N8 0996836306
<i>Illusions of Magic: The Movie</i>	B0751RL53G 0996836330
<i>Low on Gas: High on Sky</i>	B07V2V48XD 0996836349

### Larry Danek

<i>I'm the Ghost in this Body: The Nomadic Ghost</i>	B01I0Z500Q
<i>Jed's World</i>	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)  
*Pioneer Ghost: A Story of the Nomadic Ghost* B0957397G1 B094TCDGZG (pb)

**Esther J. Hildahl**

*Meadow Pond* B072FS1CLL 154244828X  
*Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude* B07177PLGX 1542451248  
*Marie's Marvelous Tomato* B073SFTS74 1548307653  
*Poopie the Fly and Friends* B07HNQLKMW 1724038427

**Russell H. Ford**

*Depop* B019NGA00Q 159849175X  
*Re-Ring* B011RW4XVY

**Wayne Kyle Spitzer**

*That Thing We Killed Comes a Ferryman* B076QF8XZY  
*The Tempter and the Taker* B074SJF1TJ  
*The Pierced Veil* B074SV557F  
*Black Hole, White Fountain* B074STJMGW  
*To the End of Ursathrax* B074SY83RW  
*X-Ray Rider 1* B074SWXM61  
*X-Ray Rider 2* B0755QN1N6  
*X-Ray Rider 3* B0755PY9NB  
 Algernon Blackwood's "The Willows," a  
 Scriptment B0755QPM67  
 Flashback B07575JDFS  
 Flashback Dawn: "Naaygi" B07689XLTX  
 Flashback Dawn: The Devil's Snambnala B07836PYT5  
 Faraway, Nearby B078NHDKZN  
 Behind a Pale Mask B076PNH7V8  
 Wet Bark 1973289415  
 Killer in the Looking Glass B077RJ463S  
 Lean Season B0779DM1QH  
 How About a Coke and Some Fries? B074VD53SF  
 Flying the Fog Roads of Cascadia B077TPR77D  
 Red Marillion B077WTSXZN  
 Coffin Road B077M3ZHWP  
 B076XQY5FK

Napoleon B076FBPRYV

**Azalea Dabill**

Falcon Heart B00VOEQXIO  
 Falcon Flight B019YRTIRO  
 Lance & Quill B010ZD7PVS  
 Path of the Warrior B00W4JYHL8  
 Falcon's Ode B075ZZBPKR  
 Nightshade & Knitbone 943034109

**Karen Jean Matsko Hood**

*Blood Heiress* 1592108857  
*Bloom of Autumn Gold* 1592102166  
*Huckleberry Delights* B0045U9U34 1596493852  
*Transracial Adoption* 1594346690  
*Transracial Adoption Guide* 1594346704  
*Petting Farm Fun* B00H5X0Y2E 1594346186  
*Finding Rudolph* B074JZPG9X 1598082957  
*Morning Reflections* B00DH70LVG 1930948557

**FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS**



By Sue Eller

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

In the not too distant future, all of Earth is united as the Federation of United Countries and United Peoples. Realizing the possibility of invasion from space, Becky Johnson designs a defense system to protect the planet. On her way to the initial activation of the

system, Becky disappears and earth-changing events begin to occur.

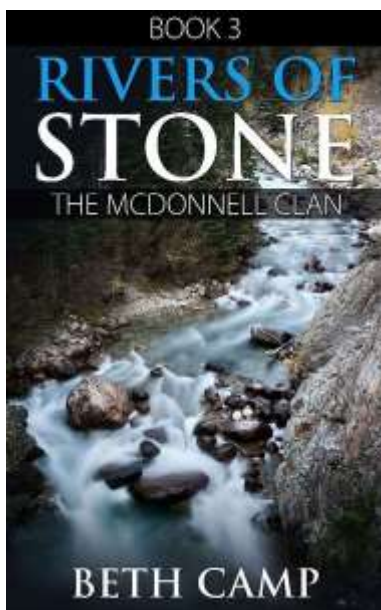
This small book, which can be read in a fraction of the time required for most, packs an amazing story into a relatively small package. There is an understated but noted parallel with Biblical history and prophecy. Many characters appear to be modern versions of those from Scripture, identified in the story by more modern contemporary names.

The author does a marvelous job of combining Science Fiction with Biblical history and prophecy, while stirring in a bit of sarcastic humor and irony. The final result is certainly plausible, although not what we are led to expect by traditional interpretations.

*Return to Armageddon*, ISBN 9781477655726 is available on Amazon, both in paperback and Kindle formats.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Mr. McChesney already said it all better than I could. I would add that it could have been longer. It is nice to read a book that doesn't take a month to read, but I wanted more of this future world. Perhaps there will be a sequel someday, to let us know how her version of the world turns out. Perhaps Becky and David's grandchildren?



Reviewed by Sue Eller

Catriona McDonnell's greatest fear is deportation back to Scotland, where she would never see her beloved husband, Dougal, again.

Beth Camp brought me so completely into the story of Catriona and her trek across the continent, that I found myself shivering and hungry. Her descriptions of the characters' experiences and feelings, of life in the primitive areas of Canada and the northern United States, and the hardships explorers and settlers endured, draw the reader into the story as few writers can. If you enjoy historical fiction, adventure, and a quest driven by love and hope, you will enjoy *Rivers of Stone*.

Reviewed by Betty Deuber

In her third McDonnell novel, *RIVERS OF STONE*, Beth Camp tells the story of a new bride, Catriona, who declines traveling to the Americas' east coast with her family as an indentured servant. Instead, she chooses to sail to the Americas on the Hudson's Bay Co. ship, Prince Rupert, as a hired-on-hand—disguised as Cat, her husband's brother. They dock at Hudson's Bay fort, York in September 1842

When Catriona's husband, Dougal, and his younger brother, Colin, are sent west with a brigade, Catriona/Cat stays behind at York, working as clerk and copier. Losing her advocates and protectors, she constantly looks over her shoulder in fear of someone discovering her deception. Nor only here, but throughout the novel, the reader feels Catriona's deep anxiety about the pretense, about sleeping in the same room with unwashed men and how she endures the severe winter climate in northern Canada.

Catriona/Cat acquires strength and stamina of a young man, and picks up the fort's lingo. Yet the reader gets a chance to know her as a woman when she shows her true female feelings in secluded places. When Dougal doesn't return in a year, like he promised, she desperately tries to hide her fear of



abandonment. Later, when Dougal's letters stop, Catriona grieves in solitude. Then she buckles up and joins a brigade going to Vancouver in search of Dougal. The reader is intimately involved with the young woman as she—struggles in her four year search—endures the blizzards, floods and treks over the Canadian Rockies beside rough-tough furmen, buffalo hunters, scoundrels, breeds and friends.

*Rivers of Stone* is an interesting read. Compliments to Beth on the thorough bibliography she provided, as well as how she kept the narrator -third-person-direct throughout the novel. I would have liked to have followed a map of Catriona's journey

Reviewed By D. Andrew McChesney

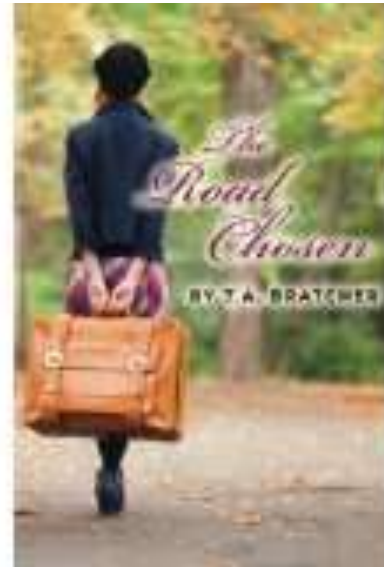
In Scotland, in the first half of the nineteenth century, countless farmers were forced off their land so wealthy landowners could devote the countryside to pasturing sheep. As a result of this forced upheaval, Catriona McDonnell, her husband Dougal, and his brother Colin hire on with the Hudson's Bay Company. Known as Cat, she disguises herself as a boy and pretends to be a third brother.

Once arriving at York Factory on the icy shores of Hudson's Bay, she is soon put to work as a clerk in the trading post. Soon Dougal is sent to Fort Vancouver while she is forced to remain behind. Not only must she cope with her husband being away, she must maintain her identity as a boy, lest she be sent back to Britain. This then is the story of her trials over the next several years. During this time she makes friends, enemies, and nearly gives up hope of ever being reunited with Dougal.

Extremely well written, *Rivers of Stone* excels in authentic detail of the time. The suspense as Cat maintains her masquerade and her longing for Dougal continues at a high level throughout the story. Also notable is her willingness to make friends with, and to be friended by those of other origins, including members of the Cree Nation.

This is an entertaining, informative, and absorbing read. It is Book Three in the story of *The McDonnell Clan*, but it need not be read in sequence with the first two volumes. It is truly a stand-alone work, and its quality should convince readers they need to read the other stories in the series as well.

## The Road Chosen



T. A. Bratcher

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

This story begins when Grace is born to an unwed drug addict and is adopted by an older couple, who have two grown sons that they adopted many years ago. When she was thirteen, her parents decided to move from England to the United States, eventually settling in New Hampshire. Being very smart, she was placed in high school where she did not fit in and experienced brutal bullying. Her life took another turn when her mother became very ill and she had a life-changing decision to make that resulted in a violent altercation with her father. After that, she and her brother Lee set off on a fact-finding adventure to learn the truth about Grace's life.

*The Road Chosen* is a book well worth reading. It's different, interesting, and never boring. Bratcher has done a wonderful job of bringing her main character, Grace, to life. The reader truly cares about her as she searches

for a meaningful life and cheers her on as she struggles to overcome one obstacle after another.

This book is available at bookstores and online.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Ms. Bratcher has shared a compelling, sometimes heart-wrenching, tale about a young girl's struggle to survive high school bullies and an unconventional family dynamic. At one point she caused me to burst into tears, while sitting in my car in a parking lot. (You'll know where it was when you get there)

It is sometimes hard for those of us who had 'normal' childhoods, to believe these things really happen, but they do. It is also hard for us to be confronted with these realities, but we must.

This book really opens your eyes as to what might be lurking in the past of those around us. One never knows what hardships and horrors might have been the norm for the person we see on the bus daily. The old adage, "walk a mile in his shoes" is so true. Ms. Bratcher allows us to walk along with Grace, to experience with her, as she suffers through her teens and comes out a strong, caring, young adult. I know there is more to her story and I hope we get to read it. Grace's story will stay with me for a long, long time.

Reviewed by Sue Eller

Grace's life is filled with challenges most of us never have to face. An orphaned child of a drug addict, she is adopted by a couple who eventually move from England to the United States. Through adversity she maintains a positive outlook on life. *The Road Chosen* encompasses true and lasting friendships, unconditional love, the importance of family, and a positive outlook on life. The author draws the reader into Grace's story and creates memorable and loveable characters. Note: some scenes are too intense for young children.

Available at local bookstores in the Spokane area, across the United States, and in the United Kingdom. Visit T. A. Bratcher's website: [www.tabratcher.com](http://www.tabratcher.com) for more information.

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

This story is about Grace, a young teenage girl who has just moved to the States from Europe. Her first year of high school in North Conway, New Hampshire is not a very happy one. Being an outsider, being from Europe, and being very smart means she is not accepted by the local students. She ends up being brutally bullied and makes only one friend.

Later in high school when she is named valedictorian of her class, she is beaten by two boys and put in the hospital. Then her life takes another tragic turn when her mother becomes very ill.

After that, Grace and her brother Lee go to Europe to learn the truth about Grace's early life and why her elderly parents adopted her after raising their two sons, who were also adopted. Many surprises await Grace as she learns the truth about her biological mother and her past.

I highly recommend this book. It's well written and a good read. *The Road Chosen* is available at bookstores and online.