

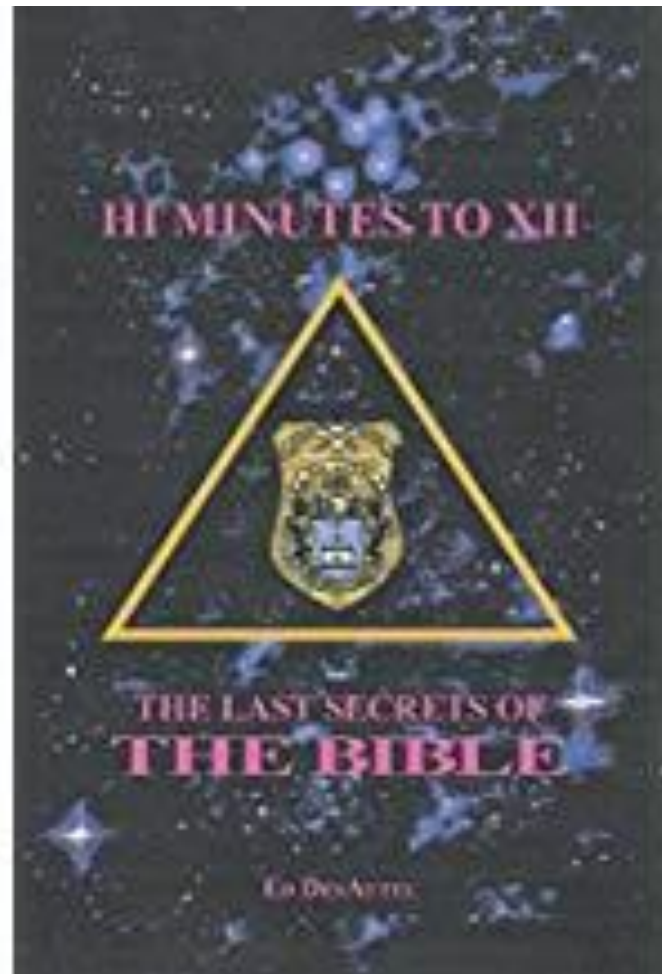


SASP

NEWS

August 2023

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

Presentations will begin at **2:00 pm**. After a short break, members and guests relate their accomplishments, note upcoming activities, and we draw for door prizes. We must be out of the room by 4:30.

We will 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. 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.

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 by the 25th of the month preceding the issue month. **(August 25th for the September 2023 issue.)**

2023 Officers:

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Member: **Esther Hildahl**
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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/>

"Follow" us on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/AndAuthors>

Contact us at: authors@spokaneauthors.org
Or: saspworks4u@gmail.com

Cover: III Minutes To XII: The Last Secrets of the Bible by SASP member *Ed Des Autel*

THE BOOK ON THE COVER...

... tries to explain some of the questions that modern man asks about the bible, mythology, and what does science ($E=mc^2$) have to do with creation? Who are the sons of God that called themselves watchers in the book of Enoch? Who were the giants of the bible? Where did they go? What is the meaning of 666, the number of a man in Revelation 13:18?

OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, August 11, 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.

SASP Member Beth Camp will speak.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Harvest Time Will Soon Be Underway



Photo: Sue Eller. Combine near Freeman High School

August is the month for the dryland farmers in our area to reap the fruits of their yearlong labors. It is also a harbinger that school will be in session before long. August is a time of endings – the end of summer, the shortening of daylight, and the end of the growing season for farmers and gardeners alike. It is also a time of beginnings – the start of a new school year, the journey toward fall and cooler weather, and the launch of another round of fall festivals and county fairs.

It is also time for us, as authors, to renew our goals for that next book, story, or poem. Let's face it: as the summer wanes, we turn our thoughts away from outdoor activities and retreat to our computers to pen a new idea. We also want to be prepared for the next round of craft fairs and other marketing events.

Even though it seems like a long way off, October and November will arrive soon. Make sure you have enough copies of your books to sell. (Last year, I sold out of my Emily Trace Mystery series before the events ended.) Make sure you also have some



supportive materials like business cards and/or bookmarks, a card reader (I use Square), and plenty of change for cash customers. It's always good to have a new book out, too. Because we are self-published, we don't have to wait for 2-3 years for our manuscript to become a book. However, we want to take enough time to do proper editing, have an attractive cover, and have enough books to carry us through the craft fairs and events in which we have decided to participate.

Good luck, happy August, and I'll see you at our next meeting on August 11 at the Corbin Senior Activity Center.

Sue Eller President

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT



Hello everyone,
 I hope this newsletter finds you all well and feeling creative. Our speaker for August will be our own Beth Camp (with help from Sue Eller). Beth will be speaking about diversity in writing.

This summer has seemed to fly by, and fall will soon be upon us. If any of you have events coming up, please remember to email the date and time to me at saspworks4u@gmail.com so I can advertise for you via social media. See you soon!

Marilee Hudon Vice President

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

To echo Marilee’s note above, let me know as well, if you have upcoming events. Depending when they are scheduled and when I receive the information about them, I can usually include them in the newsletter. As well, I can usually add them to the “Programs” page on the web-site. You can contact me at authors@spokaneauthors.org or at my home e-address.



One of the things Sue mentioned in her presentation at our last meeting was to use Expanded Distribution for books on Amazon. The benefits of doing so, I believe, are well worth it, but

Expanded Distribution changes the way the book’s price is divided between the author and the company. In the basic scheme of things, the author gets sixty percent, out of which comes the cost of printing. (Everything else is

profit or royalty.) In expanded distribution, the author gets forty percent. It might be necessary for one to set a higher cover price if going that route. The author’s forty percent needs to cover the printing costs, as well as provide some amount of royalty. I will be changing over and unfortunately, raising my prices slightly in the next few days. (No, this is not because of the slight rise in printing costs announced by Amazon in the past month or so.

As always, don’t forget to pay your dues, or if your Member Web-Page needs updating, contact me with the information.



OUR JULY 2023 MEETING

Compiled by Beth Camp and Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met at 2:00 pm. on Friday July 14th at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. Attending were: Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Beth Camp, Larry Danek, Jennifer Day, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Sandra Philbin, and Mikel Stevenson. Mrs. Stevenson attended as a guest of Mikel. We thank her for watching the entrance door to enable our members to enter. The Senior Center staff was away on an outing, and we could not leave the door open and unattended.

Sue Eller gave a very detailed and helpful presentation on "Marketing and Setting Goals." (See her extensive handout for more information. The handout is available by contacting Dave McChesney at the SASP e-address (authors@spokaneauthors.org) or his home e-address for those who missed the presentation or want additional copies.)

Some highlights of Sue’s presentation:

- * She offered to help anyone with questions about marketing and audiobooks.
- * Business cards and bookmarks can be obtained through Russ Davis at Gray Dog Press.
- * Gray Dog Press also offers help in getting ISBNs, or you can visit

<https://www.isbnservices.com> and get them for \$20.00 per ISBN.

* Sue mentioned that her cookbook, **The Gluten Free Gourmand**, has sold 200 – 300 copies through Frankie Doodles.

* Libraries require distribution through Ingram & Spark, so always select Expanded Distribution when publishing via Amazon as this automatically puts your book in Ingram Spark.

She also suggested:

* More titles give an author a better chance of being seen.

* One should consider all formats, paperback, hardcover, e-book, and audio book when publishing.

* If doing an audio book, one can consider reading it themselves or hiring someone to read it.

* Be sure to track inventory and sales.

Announcements/Other highlights:

* Sue announced she will step down as president in December.

* Sue noted that Sans Souci West, the community where she lives, is looking to have a book display in their community building.

* Marilee Hudon's second book, **Lilac City Lunacy**, is now out! Congratulations!

* People expressed interest in **EWUs Get Lit** and wondering if SASP has been active with this.

Bob Manion mentioned that Robert Dugoni will be in Spokane soon, and Bob said he talk to him about attending by a SASP meeting.

This year's Pacific Northwest Writers Association (PNWA) Conference is September 21-24. Early bird registration is now open at:

<https://www.pnwa.org/event/2023Conference>

Several possible topics were mentioned for future meetings:

* What's a media kit? (People seemed interested in more marketing info)

* Strategies for writing memoirs. (On suggestion was to write it in third instead of first person.) Additionally, some of our members have been approached about helping individuals write their memoirs. (Ghost writing?)

* How can we improve SASP participation in Craft Fairs? Could SASP have a table at the

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Corbin Senior Center's Craft Fair? Maybe individuals could combine CRAFTS with BOOKS in order to attract buyers of both? Last year, Corbin's Craft Fair was on December 5 from 9-5. More information can be obtained from Brian at:

recreation@corbinseniorcenter.org or calling (509)327-1584. Their website doesn't show the 2023 dates yet. <https://corbinseniorcenter.org/>

* Workshops or other activities for young people interested in writing? Young kids want to write stories too. Maybe we could institute a mentor program? We would need to collect e-mail addresses so we can contact interested parents. Sue suggested that people who have ideas about what times would work best for meeting with younger people (times and days), should send their suggestions to Dave, along with their experience in working with younger people. We need to think about weekends, evening, or after school, but should consider parents may be working.

As is customary, we ended our meeting by drawing for door prizes. Congratulations to all who were able to take a book or other item home. Our next meeting is scheduled for August 11th, once again at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. At this time we have not yet announced a speaker or program. (It has since been announced that fellow SASP member Beth Camp will be our speaker.)

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. Have you recently published a new book, or have you by chance republished an old one? Let your web-master know!

WHY I WRITE

By D. Andrew McChesney

Should you ever wonder *why writers write* and think about it for more than a second and a half, you might realize there is a different answer for every writer that is, was, or ever will be. Every writer has his or her own unique set of reasons and motivations for writing. That means I can only answer or attempt to answer for myself.

If asked why, I would say because I enjoy it. It's fun. I like being creative. I like the process and the challenge. Eventually, I usually like the results. For me and many others, I believe writing is an outgrowth of reading. Rarely do you find a writer who is not an avid if not voracious reader. Much of what I write is based on, influenced by, or inspired by what I read.

Writers also write for reward. It may be for a sense of self accomplishment, and/or recognition by others. Position and prestige as a writer certainly enter into the equation. For me, one of the greatest enjoyments of writing is sharing my work with others. When I do, my first hope is that people enjoy it and find it entertaining. If readers learn something, that's great, and if they are persuaded or convinced of something, that's an added bonus. If I primarily wrote something besides fiction, I might revise the order of those effects.

People also write for material gain... for money. Some earn a living, or generously supplement other income sources through writing. But writing for money, especially writing fiction for money is not always that

lucrative of a venture. It's a good bet that the typical mid-list fiction author has a day job or some other source of steady reliable income. This comes in handy when book sales aren't as brisk as hoped, royalty checks are smaller and less frequent than expected, or the advance on a new book doesn't carry as far to the left of the decimal point as it should.

We've all heard stories of writers who come out of nowhere while their books shoot to the top of the best-seller lists. Six months or a year ago, these individuals may have been dodging bill collectors, engaging in creative financing, and possibly facing eviction or foreclosure. Now they can afford to purchase any and everything they could want. It's a nice dream and one that has no doubt entertained nearly every writer at some point. While I admit that this ideal has passed through my brain, I realize it isn't practical. The more common-sense ideal is to someday break even, to one day get back from writing and publishing efforts, all that I have, and all that I am putting into them.

And yes, I was one of those writers with a day job, even though I then worked a night shift. At that time I planned to retire in a couple of years and use some of my available time for writing and publishing projects. Anything earned would supplement other retirement incomes. If writing allows me to keep gas in my truck, beer in the fridge, and take my lovely wife to dinner now and then, I'll be well satisfied.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Auntie's Bookstore: Local Authors Book Club

Will meet via Zoom on Wednesday
August 2nd, at 2 PM.

For more information and to possibly
join in, contact Linda Bond at
lindathewriter@gmail.com
or Auntie's Bookstore at
auntiesbooks@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, August 16th, at 7 PM. Khaliela Wright will give a presentation on Author Newsletters and their importance.

For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Auntie's Bookstore: Local Authors Book Club

Will meet via Zoom on Wednesday September 6th, at 2 PM.

For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com or Auntie's Bookstore at auntiesbooks@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, September 20th, at 7 PM. Frank Zafiro/Scalise will present: Police Procedurals: Getting it Right?

For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Garland Street Market

Whiles SASP members are no longer participating, this open-air market continues to take place every Thursday from 3:30 to 7:30 pm. in the parking lot behind The Gathering Place, at the corner of Post and Providence. It is scheduled to be in operation through the end of August. Learn more at: www.garlanddistrict.com/summermarket

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

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web-site, under "NEWS")

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
ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

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 B089S6TWTX 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
Poovie the Fly and Friends B07HNQLKMW 1724038427
Winter Stories B09BGF8TGL

Russell H. Ford

Depop B019NGA00Q 159849175X
Re-Ring B011RW4XVY

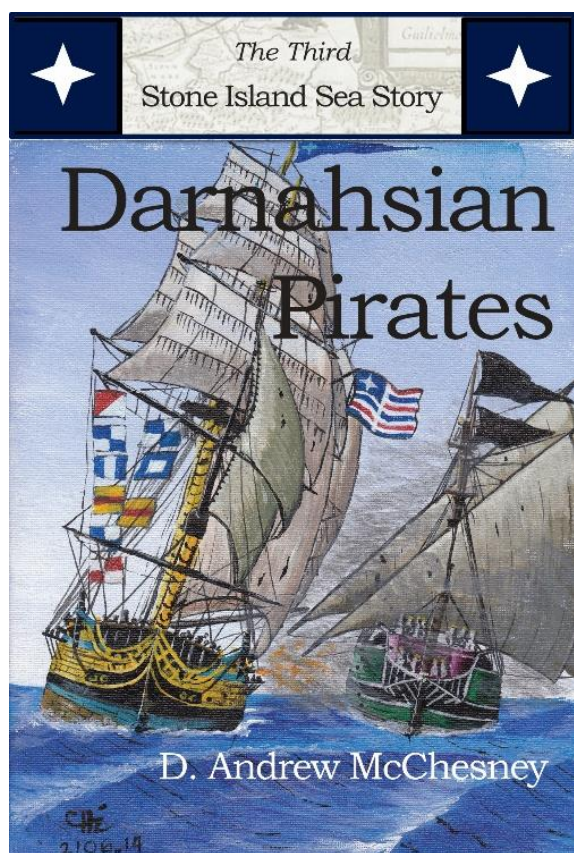
Karen Jean Matsko Hood

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

This month we've received a few new reviews, so we'll feature them before resuming our usual order.



Reviewed by Robert Hildahl

Another great book by McChesney in the *Stone Island Sea Story* series. This is the third book in the series, and it takes over where the second book left off.

After Edward Pierce's reunion with his true-love, Evangeline, they get married. Then they decide to go back to Stone Island. This time they have three ships. They end up having a fierce battle with the Pirates that are holding Pierce's father-in-law who is the Governor of Stone Island captive.

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for an exciting book that moves right along and tells a great story about a sea adventure and fighting pirates.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl (New)

Darnahsian Pirates begins with Edward Pierce back in England. Here he reunites with his beloved Evangeline. In his absence Evangeline has had a baby boy named Glenn Lewis, who Pierce eventually accepts as his own.

After a while, it's time for Pierce to return to Stone Island, which is beyond the ocean's edge. Evangeline and Glenn Lewis will go with him. Later, Pierce and Evangeline are married.

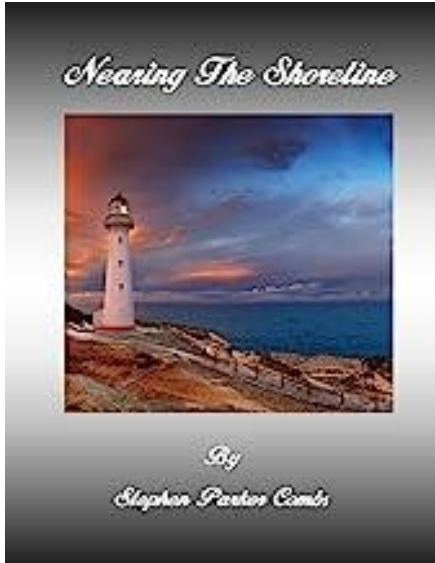
There's trouble brewing in this part of the world, involving the Darnahsian pirates, who they learn have kidnapped Evangeline's father. Thus, leading several vessels, Pierce is determined to defeat these lawless pirates and rescue Evangeline's father.

To cross to the other world, they have to convert established coordinates to ones they can use on charts of the other world. There are five transition points each vessel must sail through, where they completely disappear for a time.

As the story progresses, there are many adventures, problems to solve, and politics to deal with. At last Edward and his fleet go to war against the ruthless pirates. Many lives are lost, including someone who is very close to Pierce.

McChesney has written another wonderful story with an exciting battle scene. This book, the third in the series, is my favorite one. It has many interesting characters such as Dr. Robinson, the Kalish tribe, and Isaac Hotchkiss. The author is very knowledgeable about the age of sail, and it shows in his writing. I recommend this book for one and all, especially those who like to read about days of old.

Nearing The Shoreline



By Stephen Parker Combs

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl (New)

Local author Stephen Parker Combs has put together a wonderful book of essays, poems, and stories of well-known heroes and not so well-known heroes. It's a very inspiring, feel-good book. There's a lot to learn in it. I loved this book and I think everyone should read it.



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

While this is the fifth book in Larry Danek's series about the Nomadic Ghost, it is also a tale of the beginning. In this slim volume of sixty-nine pages, we journey back to the American West and join a wagon train heading to Oregon. Thirteen-year-old John Vanderwick travels alone and appears likely to not survive the journey. With help from the Nomadic Ghost, he continues on, aids others in the wagon train. Meanwhile the Ghost begins to understand his role in the afterlife and accomplishes a mission he has been chosen for.

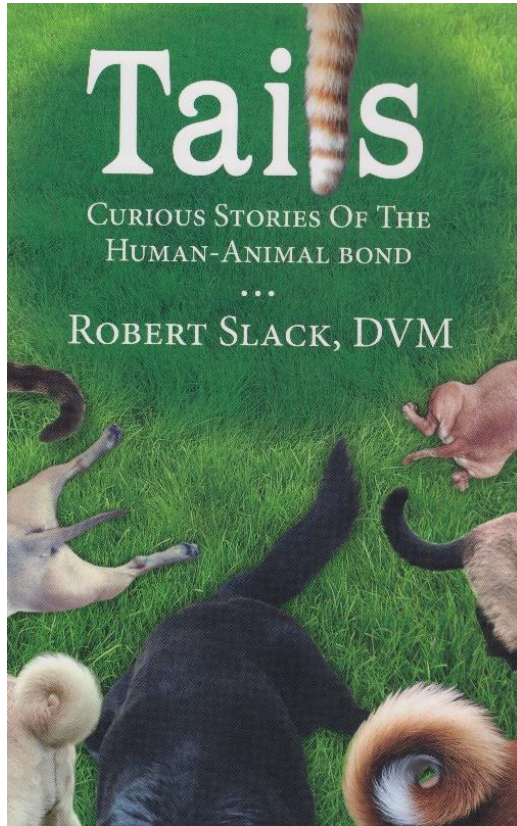
The story is meticulously told as if by the ghost himself and is a quick yet compelling read. It is available on Amazon.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl (New)

Pioneer Ghost begins when The Nomadic Ghost enters the body of John Vanderwick, a small, sickly thirteen-year-old boy, who has died after being left behind by a wagon train heading for Oregon. The ghost is not sure what his mission is and finds the body very weak and needing rest. However, they eventually catch up to the wagon train that had abandoned John. After eating and getting some rest, they decide to leave the train because the body is still too weak. Before leaving, the ghost/John is able to get a gun from one of the trail hands named Tom Brown. John already had a knife and a small bag with a flint in it.

As they rested and waited for a later wagon train, they killed six Indians and rescued an Indian woman named Ina and a little blond-haired girl around five years old named Patty. When more Indians attacked, Ina proved to be a very good shot. Afterwards, they ended up with twelve horses that had belonged to the dead Indians. Then they helped the wagon train they left, defend itself against an Indian attack, joining it, after a deal is made concerning the horses. Many things happen as the story progresses. When they reach Fort Henry, The Nomadic Ghost discovers the real reason for this adventure.

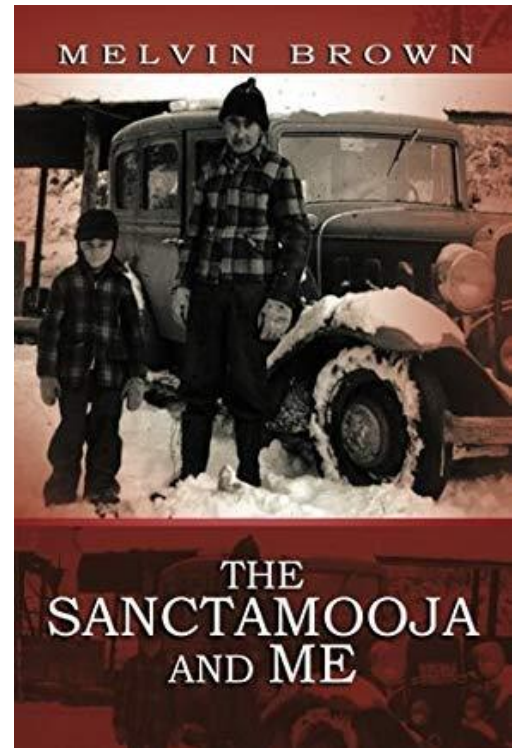
Once again, Larry Danek has written an exciting story with believable characters. It's well written and the story moves right along. I recommend this book to one and all, especially those that like ghost stories and/or pioneer stories.



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney (New)

Doctor Bob dedicated his life to caring for our animal friends and companions. As his career progressed, he noted the deep connections that develop between people and their pets. He chronicles those deep attachments, including those between him and his own furry friends in this wonderfully written book. Just be sure to have a box of tissues handy as you read it.

(We now resume our regular schedule or rotation of reviews...)



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

The Sanctamooja and Me is the author's story of his young life. Brown writes about his adventures in a very humorous way. Often his adventures and ideas were quite dangerous and it's a wonder he lived through childhood. I enjoyed reading this book and found that it became quite addictive. Most of the chapters are short and action packed, and I couldn't read just one chapter and stop. I had to read more and more to see what crazy thing would happen next. His characters—friends and relatives—were all very interesting and entertaining. The life and times of his childhood reminded me of my own childhood and brought back fond memories. This book was a fun book to read.