



SASP

NEWS

December 2019

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



Is Santa reading a SASP member's book?

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. 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. (**December 26th for the January 2020 issue.**)

2019 Officers:

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Member: *Tiffani Harvey*
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www.responsiblyindependent.com

“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

OUR NEXT MEETING!

Please join us **Thursday, December 5, 2019** at the **Golden Corral** on Spokane's **North Division Street**. The meeting room is open for dining, conversation, and general socializing at 2:00 pm. **Our meeting and scheduled presentation begin at 2:30**



As we have done over the past few years, our December meeting will feature an Open Mic session. Members and guests are invited to share a bit of their work with us. Individuals may read excerpts of up to five minutes in length from any of their work. A sign-up sheet will be provided.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A hearty thank you to the five SASP members who responded to my survey of two months ago. There was much good feedback, but one answer stood out. Bob Weldin's idea of getting more of our members more deeply involved in our organization struck a chord. We've long had a difficult time getting more people to step up. We truly need more involvement. We're running out of members willing to roll up their sleeves. I volunteered to be president, not because I was really hungry for the job, but because no one else offered to do it.



HOW to get more people more involved is the real question. Perhaps our new, younger members are key.

Elections of SASP officers are less than a year away. Now is the time to think about running. Or think about other ways of serving our organization RIGHT NOW. Maybe you can come up with ideas for our Ten-Minute Discussion sessions and/or led one of the Discussions. Or you can brainstorm original thoughts/items for door prizes. Or, your officers are thinking about offering a writing scholarship from SASP - maybe you can help. Or what about organizing another SASP anthology? Three people worked selflessly for hours, days, weeks, months on our first one (with a little help from us editors.) and are pooped out. We need some other comrades to take charge - some new blood. Other suggestions? Please help.

Again, I thank everyone who filled out the survey. And I thank, in advance, those who are about to lend a hand. Pearls in your oysters.

Jim

FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER

Since our December meeting and the traditional Open-Mic program is nearly upon us, I'm starting to look through my collection of work in attempt to find something to read. Once I find something, the next step is to ensure I can read the complete excerpt in the



allotted five minutes. To do that, I'll either read it aloud or pretend I'm reading it aloud. If I read as I would when reading to myself, I'll go way to fast. Then on the day of the Open-Mic I'll discover that what I read silently in four minutes and fifty seven seconds will take

me eight minutes and seventeen seconds to read to my fellow SASP members and our guests. And let's be honest, when we are listening to several people read, we start to get a little bored when a reader drones on for more than five minutes or so. So, if you are planning to read something during our upcoming Open-Mic session, practice it a little bit. Time it and make sure you can read the whole thing in the allotted five minutes.

At this point I'd like to add a word about our web-site. Our web-site (and our e-mail) is through Go-Daddy, and for the most part they have provided us with sterling service. Any deficiencies are usually the fault of your web-master not necessarily being a true master of the technology involved. However, in the recent past, Go-Daddy has opted to migrate our hosting from Windows to something called Plesk. All the notices I received with regard to this said it would be painless or seamless and implied I (we) could just sit back and watch it happen. Obviously it did not occur in such a fashion. I learned how to access the site and to make needed changes, but those changes weren't showing up. After a phone call and seemingly endless hours with their reps, we got it to show the updated version. But there was a glitch. Somehow the URL or address for the sight got changed. I called again, and I

understand they are working on it. I had an e-mail from Go-Daddy a day or so ago saying the "migration" had been delayed. Hopefully, when they do get it done, we will once again be able to access the site at spokaneauthors.org. Currently, if you really feel a need to visit the SASP web-site, try new.spokaneauthors.org If it turns out we need to utilize the new URL permanently, I'll let you know.

Finally, speaking in my alternate role of Treasurer, the end of the calendar/membership year is approaching. If you plan to continue your membership into 2020, you are welcome to pay dues now. If you wish to pay ahead for another year, that's great! (We currently have two members who are paid up through 2021.) Keeping your dues up to date is a good way to ensure your name and access to your Member Web-Page stays on the "Members" roster on the web-site.



OUR NOVEMBER 2019 MEETING

(Compiled by Dave McChesney)

No doubt to ensure we felt at home, President Jim Parry began the meeting with a few puns. Then we welcomed back former member Marian Sheafor, and guests Wendy Spencer, Morgan Walters (an illustrator), Loie Nagel, Amy Hobbs, and Patty. (Sorry, we did not get a last name.) Marian has rejoined, and Loie is planning to. We hope the other guests liked our group and decide to become members as well.

Tom Reppert, our scheduled speaker had recently found himself under the weather and was unable to attend and make his presentation on *Character Development and Time Travel*. Instead, fellow SASP Member Beth Camp spoke. She presented her thoughts and views on character development and delved quite deeply into the writing and creative process as



she applies it.

Marilee Hudon said she would be reading at Stephen Pitters upcoming event at the Shadle Park Library on Tuesday, November 19th. Sandy Philbin has signings coming up at a local Starbucks and at Ritter's Nursery, while Larry Danek noted he had done quite well selling books at recent arts and craft fairs.

Esther Hildahl announced her book, *Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude*, recently won a Northern Lights Book Award. She also passed along congratulations to Larry Danek for his recent success. In the near future Esther plans to sell books at a church craft fair in Cheney and not long after that at an event in Rathdrum, Idaho. Sue Eller mentioned that she had recorded our previous month's speaker and that the video was available on her You-Tube channel.

Tiffani Harvey noted she would be selling books at a couple upcoming events, including at the Mirabeau Hotel. Bob Manion told us he's been talking with the Pacific Northwest Writers Association about Spokane Authors becoming an affiliate. SASP members would be able to join PNWA for a reduced price and would have full access to PNWA events and activities.

Door prize winners included Esther Hildahl, Morgan Walters, Amy Hobbs, Marilee Hudon, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Chuck Lehman, Joyce Caudel, and possibly one or two more.

For our next meeting on December 5th we will continue our tradition of recent years and have an open mic session. Members and guests are invited to read a short excerpt of no more than five minutes from their work. A sign-up sheet will be provided.

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.
 - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other

d. Locations where available.

If you would like a member web-page that is as complete as possible, please e-mail information to daveeva@comcast.net, authors@spokaneauthors.org, or send to:

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

Please check out member web-pages on our web-site at www.spokaneauthors.org. Click on the "Members" button along the left and then on the member whose page you wish to view.

We are ready and willing to update and correct any web-page. Contact your web-master if you think your page needs attention.

MEMBER MILESTONES

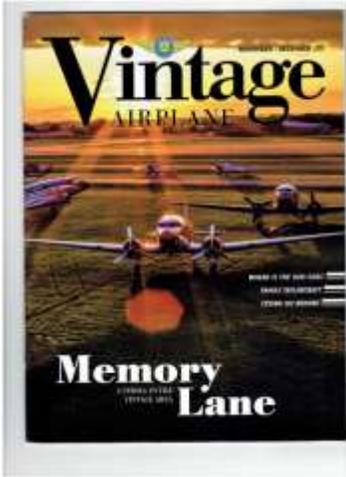
Last month we announced that **J. B. Rivard's** *Low on Gas-High on Sky* was one of five finalists in the IAN Book of the Year Awards. Since then, other accolades and information has come forth regarding this SASP member's book.

CAN THE SPOKANE SUN GOD BE FOUND?

A Clue Could Turn a Remnant into a Restoration worth Millions

Oshkosh, WI – The latest issue of Vintage Airplane, the Vintage Aircraft Association's (VAA) magazine, spotlights the hunt for Spokane's famous airplane. "Where is the Sun-God?" asks the top heading on the cover (below) of the November/December publication.

Landing at Felts Field on a summer day in 1929, the Buhl CA-6 airplane caused a sensation across the country. Piloted by Nick Mamer, the red airplane flew 6,200 miles, from Spokane to San Francisco, then on to New York City and back to Spokane – without landing. Refueled in the air by other aircraft, the Whirlwind-powered aircraft had been airborne for five full days. This flight broke the nonstop distance record by more than 1500 miles.



Following its welcoming by more than 10,000 cheering citizens at the Spokane landing-field, the Sun God was returned to the Buhl factory. In the Vintage magazine article titled "The Vanishing Sun God," Spokane author J.B. Rivard traces later

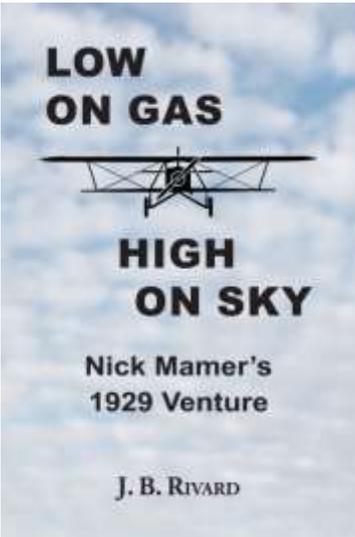
sightings of the airplane from Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1930 to its appearance in the International Aircraft Show at the St. Louis Arena later that year. In 1931, the repainted plane (tail number NC9628) finished fifth in the 7th Annual National Air Tour.

Vintage airplane enthusiasts have tried to locate the Sun God with the intent of restoring it. Local businessman Addison

Pemberton, a pilot and aircraft restorer, sought the Sun God a dozen years ago in Riverside, California. "Among the aircraft was indeed a Buhl Airedan," he said, but it turned out the plane was not the Spokane Sun God.

In October 1932 the famous plane was included in a court-ordered sale of the assets of the

Buhl Aircraft Company in St. Clair, Michigan, following company failure during the Great Depression. Despite searches, information on the airplane's location could not be found for years beyond 1932. Rivard, author of the book *Low on Gas – High on Sky* (on the flight of the Sun God), ends the magazine article by claiming the famous airplane should be restored and on display in a museum. Vintage magazine's editor, Jim Busha, asks, in the



article's tag end box, to contact him "IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION."

Spokane citizens and the aviation community eagerly anticipate the emergence of information following the magazine's publication. "A single clue could turn a scrap heap or a remnant into a restoration worth millions," says Rivard.

J. B. has more recently learned that *Low on Gas – High on Sky* is a finalist in the 16th Annual American Book Fest contest. It is one of five in the General History category. The national press release can be found at: <http://www.americanbookfest.com/2019bbapressrelease.html>



For Immediate Release
November 2019

Contact: American Book Fest
[E-mail Press Contact](#)

**THE 16TH ANNUAL BEST BOOK AWARDS
ANNOUNCE 2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Mainstream & Independent Titles Score Top Honors
in the 16th Annual Best Book Awards**

HarperCollins, Penguin/Random House, Simon and Schuster, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, TarcherPerigee, New World Library, Hay House, Rowman & Littlefield and hundreds of Independent Houses contribute to this year's Outstanding Competition!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

On Going:

The **Inland Northwest Writers Guild (INWG)** meets the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at Frankie Doodles in downtown Spokane, Washington.

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many SASP members' books are on Amazon and/or Kindle™ (We print short segments of this list on a rotating basis. The complete 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

Sue Eller:

Meadowlark Madness **B0097D599I**
(Corrected ASIN... incomplete in last issue.)

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 B01I0Z500Q
Jed's World B00MWDJ1YY
Ghostly Reunion:
A Nomadic Ghost Story B077KHR33M
The Runaway Ghost:
A Story of the Nomadic Ghost (Vol. 3)
1986978605

Esther J. Hildahl

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

Kathy Rae:

The Jewel of Hope: Book 1:
The Hope Trilogy 1500236578
Ducky Day or Yucky Day...You Choose
154139142X
Deprogramming a Bully: Book 1:
The Barber Chair Series B06W5NP6Y1

Margaret Albi Verhoef & Rita Gard Seedorf:

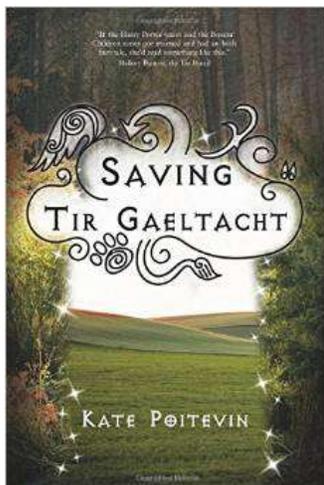
Letters from Brackham Wood B00JEMX656
Letters from a Wary Watcher B01EKOHO2C

Russell H. Ford

Depop B019NGA00Q
159849175X
Re-Ring B01IRW4XVY

(Note: As the year ends, books by members who have not been paid up within the past two years will begin to disappear from this rotating list.)

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Saving Tir Gaeltacht (Tcheer GAUL toc) is the story of four siblings and their cousin who step through a portal into a strange new world; a world of discovery and adventure. With their bond-mates--a Dragon, a Gryffin, a Winged Horse, a White Stag, and a Giant Wolfe--they soon discover they are here to save this magical world from the evil queen who rules it, and eventually they go to war to help restore the kingdom to its rightful ruler.

Poitevin has written a wonderful, exciting story with well-defined characters and a great ending, which does not disappoint. I liked that she listed the cast of characters, with a little information on each one, and had a pronunciation guide at the end of her book. I would recommend this book for sixth-graders to adults or younger if read aloud. There is so much to this story that you will want to read it over and over again.

Available at Auntie's, Hastings on Wellesley and East Sprague, Amazon, and Kindle.

Reviewed by Sue Eller

Kate Poitevin weaves an adventure for children of all ages and skillfully entwines the modern world and a timeless one. She paints a vivid picture of life in an old Celtic realm and makes her readers feel as if they could step into the book and be transported there

themselves. Rich with descriptions of the places, the people, and the other inhabitants of Tir Gaeltacht, the story itself moves her characters through situations common to us all, and gives them – and us – a chance to learn and grow.

Available at Hastings Books in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, Auntie's Book Store in Spokane, amazon.com, and the trunk of Kate's car.

Reviewed by James Parry

An epic fantasy destined to become a classic. Ms. Poitevin immediately pulls the reader in. She fully develops each character, so much so that I felt as if I knew each personally. And the same with the setting: It was as if I had actually alighted in this Celtic land with the child warriors - and their bond-mates.

Beautiful, descriptive writing with a great ending. Reminded me of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Would make a wonderful movie.

Reviewer Mallory Battista said it best: "If the Harry Potter series and the Boxcar Children series got married and had an Irish fairytale, she'd read something like this."

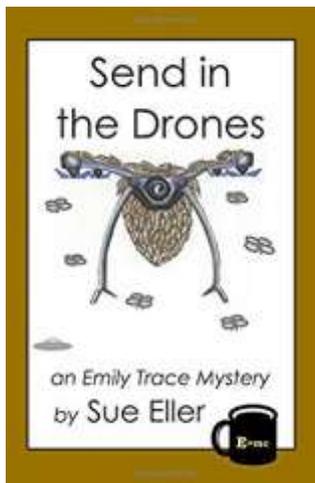
Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

On a summer camping trip, four children go on a dragon hunt with their grandmother. When a portal opens, they step through and immediately meet... a dragon. Thus begins the adventures of Taylor, Jordan, Zach and Zayne in the magical world of Tir Gaeltacht. That Celtic based world is in great danger and Taylor is expected to save it. Later joined by their cousin Gabe, they pair up with the dragon, a Gryffin, a flying horse, a giant Wolfe, and a white stag. With the help of people they meet, they set about rescuing the land from the evil queen's clutches.

I remember, as an elementary student, teachers reading stories to the class, a little every day, usually as class resumed after lunch. This is the ideal story to read in such fashion. It is long and complex enough to last for an entire semester, if not the entire school

year. Third graders and beyond would find it exciting to visit the world Ms. Poitevin creates each and every day. Because I read on my lunch break, I digested this tale took in much the same way, a little bit each day. As I progressed through the story, I found myself not wanting to put it down and anxiously awaiting my next reading session. Although I was anxious for the plot to be resolved, I did not want the story to end.

Besides being an exciting story, Ms. Poitevin weaves in a great deal of Celtic/Gaelic culture, customs, and legend. *Saving Tir Gaeltacht* is available from amazon.com in hardcopy and on Kindle™. It is also available in select Spokane area book stores and from the author herself.



Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

E.T. Investigations, some think the E.T. stands for Extra Terrestrial, therefore Emily Trace's client list consist of some strange creatures from outer space and some strange creatures from right here on earth.

Emily, high on caffeine, is told she has two days to vacate her office. The new owner wants to make the building into condos. That alone is enough to keep her whole staff and all her friends busy.

Control freak bully, Charley Russell, wants Emily to close her agency and marry him. Emily's house erupts in flames while she is sleeping, she escapes with her life. Later her car is totaled by a runaway driverless semi-

truck. Detective Burton decides Emily needs protecting. Of course, there are all those drones!

Emily finds the key to unlock the mystery of who killed her husband. I hope she can relax for a while, but I'm sure Sue is busy writing the next book in the Emily Trace Mystery series. I thoroughly enjoyed this story as I did the first two in the series. Sue's characters are very believable, in an out of this world sort of way. If you enjoy a good mystery with a Sci-Fi edge to it, you will *enjoy Send in the Drones* by Sue Eller.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Send in the Drones is the third book in Eller's Emily Trace Mysteries series. Like her other books this story is about Emily Trace's detective agency called E. T. Investigations and the current case they are trying to solve. This time it's about tiny drones that attack and then disappear in thin air.

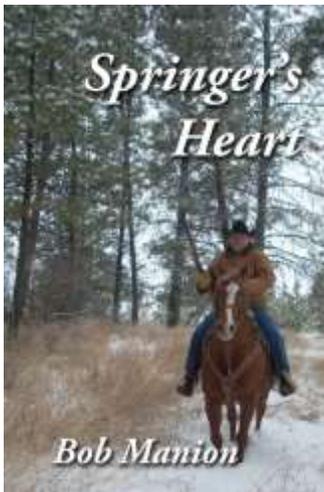
Emily and her employees and friends, three of whom are from outer space, are interesting and well-defined characters. One character is Jake, her former beloved teacher; another is Darla, her trusty secretary; and Detective Burton, who becomes her very good friend. And then there's her wannabe fiancé, Charlie Russell, who turns out to be a control freak and not a very nice person.

Plus, there are a few things stressing Emily out like having to move her agency in just a few days, her house catching on fire while she is sleeping, and her car being totaled by a driverless semi-truck. Who wouldn't be stressed? And I loved the descriptive way she described her beloved car, Silver Bullet, after it was hit, writing that it sat like a giant silver turtle, resting on its roof with its tires up in the air.

This book is a good read with a surprise ending that calls for another Emily Trace Mystery. I enjoyed reading this book and if you like a mystery with quirky characters, you will too.

Reviewed by Fred Jessett

Send in the Drones is a worthy successor to *Meadowlark Madness* and *Taming of the T-Bird*, the first two books about Emily Trace and her unwittingly named detective agency, E.T. Investigations. As with the first two books, her goal is to find who killed her late husband but she is constantly called on to look into unearthly matters. In doing so she has gained some important allies from another world. Now her friends help her close in on the murderer, while trying to protect her. No spoiler here, but Emily does have a serious coffee addiction. Read the book, her characters are real and the story is a most enjoyable read.



Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

All I ever needed to learn about the Marine Corp I learned in Springer's Heart.

Marine Sargent Hank Springer loves his life as a Marine but when the love of his life, Lori dies, Hank retires and moves his family to a ranch in Montana. There Hank fills his life with his growing family, orphaned children, ranch hands and the vast land of the beautiful Montana country side. Hanks heart is full of love for all of this but there is still something missing, a hole in his heart until the lovely Bess Clemons comes on the scene.

Springer's Heart is a story full of adventure and romance. Anyone interested in cowboys, cowgirls, rodeos and all the

excitement of a good western romance will love this story.

Reviewed by Jim Harris

I met the author, BOB MANION, three years ago at a writer's conference. This summer, I finally bought a copy of SPRINGER'S HEART (ISBN 978-0978850746, trade paperback, \$14.95). From my personal experiences of talking with the author, I knew he was a great storyteller. The book did not let me down. Before I go any further, I have to tell you that based on what the book says its category is "Romance/Western", I would not have purchased the book. I am not a fan of either "romances" or "westerns". SPRINGER'S HEART is mainstream fiction with romantic situations in a western setting (Montana primarily). There are some rodeo scenes thrown in for background that I found to be informative but not boring in the least.

The story begins with a horrific, fatal car crash. Then Hank Springer's life story unfolds with the one great romance of his life. That produces three great kids - two boys and a girl - who turn out to be wonderful adults. Hank serves in the U.S. Marine Corps for over twenty years. When Hank's wife dies of a serious disease, he moves his family to the ranch in Montana owned by his foster parents. The kids grow up and two move away while one son stays behind. Eventually Hank ends up being the foster parent for the three kids orphaned by the fatal car crash in the opening chapter. Total strangers meld into a happy family.

This happy circumstance begins to show cracks when Hank and his son fall in love. And it is a Mother/Daughter combination! Hank adopts another orphan girl who is being stalked by her mother's killers and who raped and nearly killed her. How it all ends makes a wonderful tale. These are characters you will fall in love with. You will find yourself cheering for them in good times and crying with them in bad times. I highly recommend this story for ALL readers. I am happy I did not let the "Romance/Western" keep me away from an inspiring tale.