

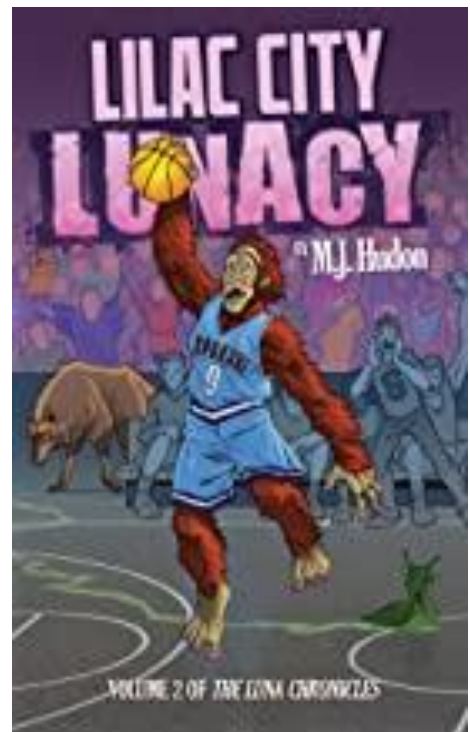
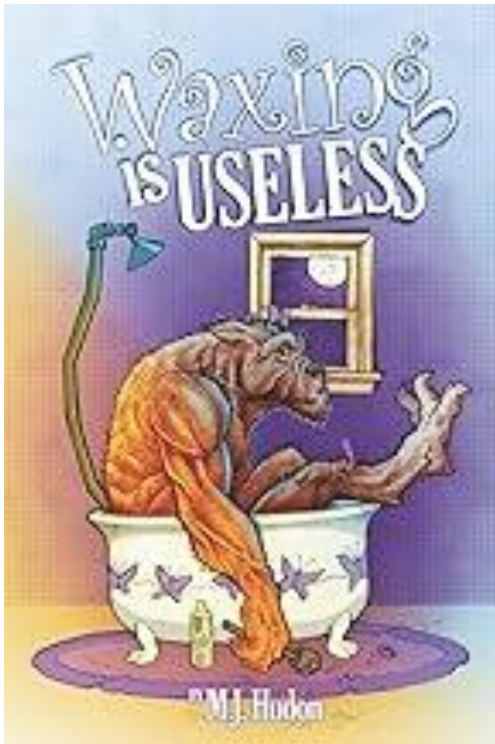


SASP

NEWS

February 2024

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



**Newsletter Submission Deadline:
February 25th for the March 2024
issue.**

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 to share knowledge and experience with those interested in writing and alternative publishing. Today, SASP is an organization dedicated to anyone interested 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 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 pm**.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers also meets the **third Saturday** of each month in the social hall of **St. Francis of Assisi Church**, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane.

Meetings begin at **2:00 pm**. We must be out of the room and building by **4:00 pm**.

We will often 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 website to connect with members' webpages. 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 other members' work are expected to provide a review.

Note: Your name tag is yours to keep and maintain. We provide space to display your books, but *you* must bring them to each meeting.

2024 Officers:

President: *Carl Northup (Nathaniel Bennett)*
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Member: *Mary De Bord*
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Member: *Bob Weldin*
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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

Videos of many of our presentations are available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsself-publishers>

Cover: Waxing Is Useless and Lilac City Lunacy
by Spokane Authors member M. J. Hudon

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member M. J. Hudon writes stories that take a unique look at the mythical werewolf. Both of her tales are set in her hometown of Spokane and also involve someone coping with chronic illness. Learn more about M. J. and her books by visiting her member web page:

www.spokaneauthors.org Go to "MEMBERS, scroll down and click on her name.

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OUR FEBRUARY MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, February 9, 2024, at the Corbin Senior Activity Center, 827 W. Cleveland Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The Lower South Room will be open from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.

Ben, our speaker has a graduate degree in writing fiction and will talk about character development, punctuation, and sentence structure. Be ready to discuss whatever you are working on. Bob Manion will also tell us about a new method of approaching and talking to potential customers while doing a book signing.

We will also meet at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at St. Francis of Assisi, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The conference room in the social hall is available from 1:30 to 4 pm.

Plans for this meeting are still in the works, but we hope to focus on the craft of writing at these alternate meetings. Quite possibly this meeting will feature a group discussion.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings to all,

I hope this month has been a productive time of writing for all of you. It has been for me. I was house bound for the duration of the extreme cold weather. And, I don't recommend this, but a bout of acid re-flux, at 2 in the

SASP NEWS

morning, spawned a new story for my book of shorts. Not the inspiration I normally look for, but hey, I'll take what I can get.

Now on to the upcoming meeting... at this meeting, February 9th, we will have a guest speaker that has a graduate degree in fiction writing. Ben will be talking about *character development*, with a secondary subject of *punctuation* and *sentence structure*. Ben invites as much discussion as possible from all of us. So, bring something you are currently working on, be it a short story or novel. If your work is of the non-fiction variety, character development is still just as important so please bring it.

Remember, if you get to a point in your writing where you are pulling stumps and your 4x4 is stuck in the mud, there is a whole list of folks in our roster that might be able to lend some traction.

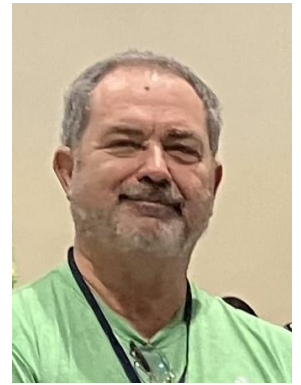
Hope to see all of you on the 9th.

Carl Northrup / Nathaniel Bennett

President

Author of:

The Ant Doctor and A Penny for Your Thoughts



FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

During the cold snap we experienced on the Saturday we were to meet at St. Francis, Carl, Dave, and I talked about some needed changes. One of the subjects was due to the

number of members at the regular Spokane Authors meetings. We may change the configuration of the members' seating. Instead of having tables and chairs all facing in the same direction, we thought a School Circle would be best. That is a technique that allows each person to see all



the other attendees. I believe seeing each other is important and promotes more interaction. We just may try the circle style at this coming meeting.

Secondly' if time permits, I will relate to you how my recent book signing on the 27th of January at Barnes & Noble in the valley went. I changed the way I approached and talked to people. I would usually sell up to ten books at an all day, six-hour signing event. In a four-hour signing session, using a new technique, I sold almost forty books. Like I said, if time permits, I will relate to you what I did that was different. That leads to another area I will bring up, *writing reviews*.

I hope to see as many of you as possible. If you have a friend who is interested in what we do, writing, bring them along. My mother used to say: "The more the Merrier!" Maybe that is one reason I had seven sisters, eh, I love them all. But it was hard at times... Have a happy day, see you at SASP!

Bob Manion Vice-President

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER



Each month when I send out the newsletter, I also enclose an updated copy of the roster. I hope you are checking this, both to make sure your contact information is correct, and also to see if you are up to date on your dues. If you do not have a "24" in the 4th narrow column to the far right of your name, we show you as not yet paying for the current year. Remember! In a month or so, those who are not paid up will come off our website's "MEMBERS" list. There will be no link to your Member

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Webpage.

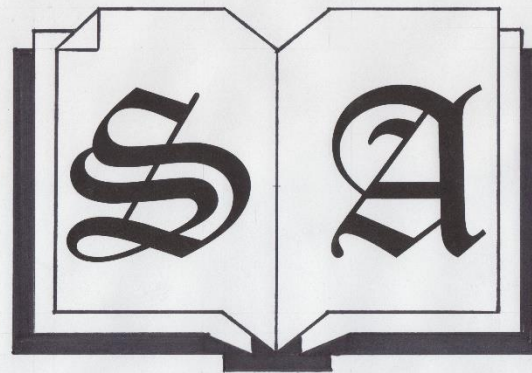
Speaking of the roster, if you haven't noticed, there is a second page or "sheet 2." This provides a basic amount of information about each of our members... what we write, skills we may have and wish to share with others, and so on. (I think Carl talks briefly about this in his column.) Again, let me know if that needs to be updated or completed. I can only include what you provide to me. As always, feel free to let me know of any upcoming author-related events you may have scheduled. I can't add them to the website or include them in the newsletter if I don't know about them. Please allow some lead time so word about your event(s) can get out to your fellow writers.

If you have visited our website lately, you may have noticed that in a couple of locations I've posted a potential new logo for our organization. This is a result of something that was mentioned at the special meeting we had back last March, the one in which we decided to meet at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. The thought was that we should maybe drop the "self-publishers" part of our name. Even though I am proud, as I am sure many of you are as well, to be self-published, there are those who are turned off by the expression. My thought is that we don't really need to change the name, but rather we should emphasize the "Spokane Authors" portion and minimize the "Self-Publishers" part. So, when I think of it, I've been trying to do just that as I put the newsletter together and put items up on

the website. I've also devised a new logo that leaves out the "Self-Publishers" part. Let me know what you think, and maybe one of these days we'll vote on it, if we need to go that route.

Here's the logo idea.

Spokane



Authors

Don McE...

February 2024

OUR JANUARY 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met at the Corbin Senior Activity Center at 2:00 pm. on Friday January 12th. In attendance were Thomas Benner, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon Miller, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, her friend Bob, potential new member Leslie, Mikel and Mrs. Stevenson.

Our speaker was Alexander Manzoni, who was also our speaker for February of 2023. He brought us up to date with his writing projects and shared the first chapter of his soon to be released novel, *The Spokane Story*. He also noted that he is soon to become a father. Following his presentation, we had an intensive question and answer session. (Visit the SASP U-Tube channel for a video of his presentation.)

Following our break, newly elected president, Carl Northrup announced the possibility of moving our meeting back to a restaurant/buffet type of location. He suggested the Canaan Buffett in Northpoint Plaza, just off of Hwy 2 and Holland Ave. If we should choose to go there, it would allow us to move our regular meeting back to Thursday. Currently, we are still booked into and paid up for meeting at the Corbin Senior Activity Center through April. That should give us time to decide on a possible move. In addition, we would move our meeting day back to Thursday.

Our new vice-president, Bob Manion put in a good word for a book on writing by Whitworth Professor Gordon Jackson.

We held a drawing for a small number of door prizes, decided we were done for the day and went our separate ways.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers also met on Saturday, January 20th, at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Perhaps the weather that day or the condition of roads meant that only Carl Northrup, Bob Manion, and Dave McChesney showed up. While waiting to see if anyone else would be in attendance, the three

SASP NEWS

talked about a variety of topics, some of which related to writing and publishing. We hope to make the organization more centered on the craft of writing, rather than simply celebrating the writing and publishing successes of an ongoing stream of guest speakers. While we will continue to have guest speakers on occasion, particularly at our Friday Corbin Senior Activity Center meetings, we'll focus more on open forums and presentations relating to the art and craft of writing, publishing, and marketing.

We may have a presenter at our Friday, February 9th meeting. In case we don't, please come prepared for an open forum, round table, or circle discussion. Many of us have knowledge and abilities we could share and pass on to our fellow writers. We can also share a little of what we have done or are trying to do. Perhaps others in the group would have ideas and suggestions for us. As this might be seen as something new for SASP, it might make sense to start at the beginning. We might want to talk about some of the more basic things connected with writing and then move ahead through revision, editing, publishing and marketing. Once we cycle all the way through, we could go back and start over.

Spokane Authors is sad to note that Marion Lehman, wife, life partner, editor, and more for member Col. Chuck Lehman has passed away.

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.

Please check yours and contact your webmaster 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 webmaster know!

National Independent Bookstore Day

Celebrate the Day at Auntie's Bookstore on Saturday April 27. More information will come as the date gets closer. (Note: Auntie's is not involved in this event, other than to provide a location for it.)



(Spokane Authors participants have already been identified.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Auntie's Bookstore:
Local Authors Book Club**

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday February 7, 2024, at 2:00 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

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday February 21, 2024, at 7:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

**Auntie's Bookstore:
Local Authors Book Club**

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday March 6, 2024, at 2:00 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

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday March 20, 2024, at 7:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

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")

To speed your search, add the provided ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code (ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www.amazon.com) Example: [www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B008TXC332) or: [www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1936178044) ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

Karen Jean Matsko Hood

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

Tom Wallace

To Kill a Poacher: A Psychological Case Study in Empathic Health and Applied Spirituality
0595475442

Ed Des Autel

III Minutes to XII **B07B3YDPLK** 1641382511

Marilee Hudon

Waxing Is Useless
Lilac City Lunacy

B07HY4Y85T 172128186X
B0BSVB117K B0BSJ6CFV4

Joan Carter

Gray Swallow

B07PXM1VXC

Sonja Mongar

Two Spoons of Bitter

069205524X

Michael Zargona

Turn Red Tomorrow
Sixteen Hooves Thunder

B07Q7TNLTC 1092144404
B08LHK5PKF B08LJPKCM2

The Sunset of all Sorrows

B0CQ87THCL

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

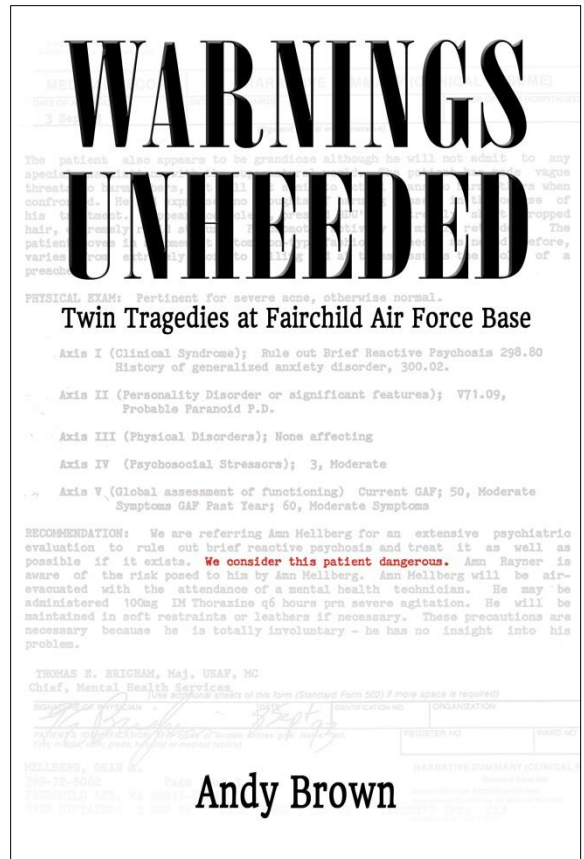
Betting on the Night

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FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we pick up where we left off in the December issue. Reviews are presented here in the same order as they appear on our website.

We post reviews of members' works written by other members, reviews of members' books by non-members, and reviews of books by non-members reviewed by our members. We'll leave a review up as long as either the author of the book or at least one reviewer is a member of Spokane Authors.



Reviewed by James B. Parry

This is a first-person account of the 1994 twin tragedies at Fairchild Air Force Base: a mass shooting followed by a B-52 crash four days later – written by the very airman who took out the shooter! It's a thoroughly gripping book that would make a thoroughly gripping movie, as it has an *In Cold Blood* vibe. Although this is Mr. Brown's first book you'll be amazed by his excellent, professional, matter-of-fact writing style.

Having lived in Spokane all of my life I vividly recall these two incidents but knew few of the details. Brown provides all of those details. Besides having been in the middle of the bloodshed he has researched the heck out of both tragedies, finding that both were quite preventable had any of the "professionals" taken the time to think things through. Hundreds of interviews, medical records, and other transcripts show that colossal mistakes in judgement were made. They seemed like two unrelated events, but Brown has tied them

together by showing us that both were caused by warnings that went unheeded.

Towards the end of the book, Brown discusses the trauma experienced by all involved – that continues to haunt them still. Andy has had a particularly difficult time of it but has finally made peace with it. He currently has a good job and a wonderful, supportive family.

A fast-paced, exciting (and sad) book with a good ending.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

I was living in Spokane in 1995 when the events depicted in *Warnings Unheeded* took place. I remember being glued to the TV, waiting for any bit of news to explain what was happening. We heard how the hospitals were filling up and sketchy details, film of, what looked like, every first responder in the county gathered together. There was one of those info bites that they kept repeating about the young man who stopped the rampage. I remember my heart aching for him and I thought *this will change his life forever*. I never was giving the answers I needed, but frequently thought about that day and the brave young man who saved so many more lives.

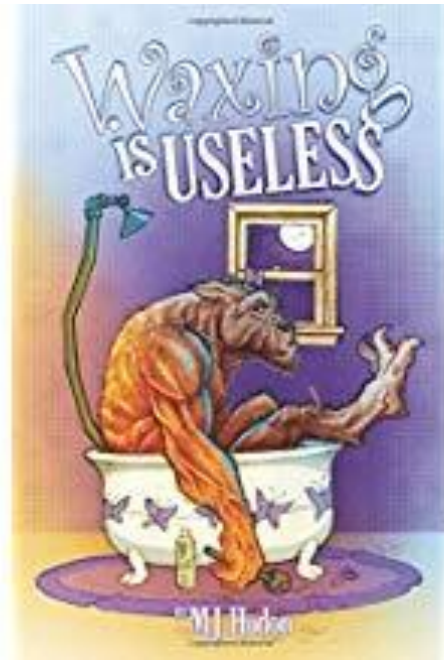
Imagine my surprise, 22 years later, when that same young man stood up to speak at my writers group. I nearly burst into tears! Andy spoke to us of that day and about the research he had done to put this book together. It was clear that I was right all those years ago; his eyes revealed that he is still haunted by the events, not only the one he was involved in, but also the tragic B-52 crash later that week.

Mr. Brown has finally answered all my questions and more, not only in the minute-by-minute telling of the events of that day, but of the histories of the shooter and all those involved. He tells the story in a fair and completely non-judgmental way. Just the facts. And with those facts, he lets us decide where to lay the blame.

Recently, a former military man, with a bad conduct discharge for violent acts, entered a church and killed 26 people with a gun he

should never have been able to buy. He did buy it because the military “forgot” to put him on the list. My first thought when I heard the news, was of Mr. Brown. After all these years and so many *unheeded warnings*, they still foist their damaged men out onto an unsuspecting population with no back up plan.

From the eyes of an author, *Warnings Unheeded* is very well written, extensively researched, on-the-edge-of-your-seat, best non-fiction book I’ve ever read.



By M.J. Hudon

Reviewed by James B. Parry

Don’t judge this book by its cover (or by its playful title.) It is quite a serious (with some humor) fantasy, horror, thriller, murder mystery about a seemingly ordinary family. Turns out, Mom (Miranda) has a weird recessive gene that causes her to turn into a wolf whenever stressed. Events gradually reveal this to her, and later to her family, as her lupus and problems at work worsen, not to mention the stress caused by her two teenage children.

This is a different kind of werewolf book. These wolf/humans are here to HELP humankind. (Not to worry: There is a hideous - and odoriferous - monster lurking at all times

in the background.) Apparently, many people have this hidden wolf gene. These “werewolves” then become “Guardians” protecting us normal human beings. Miranda must decide if she wants to become a Guardian (which would greatly lessen her lupus symptoms) or stick with her regular life.

There are many surprises in this book including a few murders, a kidnapping, and a sort of exorcism. Exciting and well written. It was hard to put it down. Normally, I read a few pages of a book in bed each night before the book puts me to sleep, but *Waxing Is Useless* kept me reading for hours – until my wife would yell at me to turn out the light.

Buy a copy, and you, too, will be glued to this book.

Reviewed by Sue Eller

A nameless evil lurks in the side streets and back alleys of Spokane, Washington. Unseen, but felt by the more sensitive human residents and smelled by the Guardians of the mid-sized metropolis, it hunts the sweet taste of its next victim, a vulnerable soul.

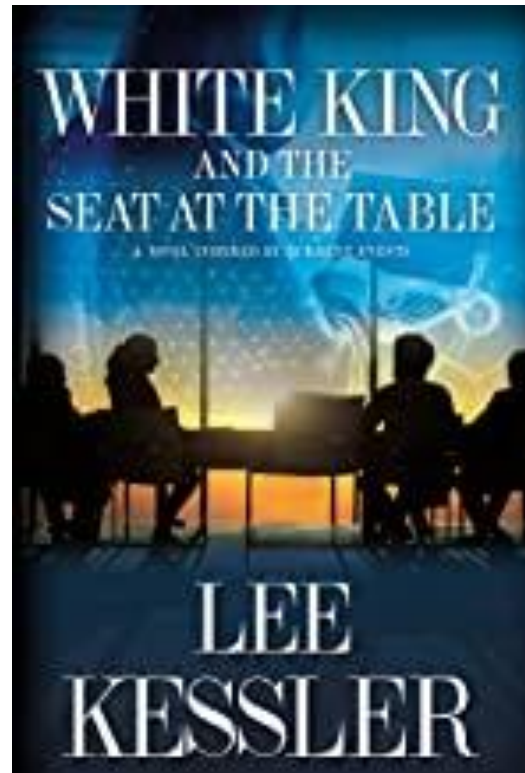
Hudon contrasts the horror of the hunter’s depravity and destruction with the tale of a bumbling housewife as she discovers her very own superpower. Creative cusswords are not only G-rated but hilarious. Humor and hope are interwoven skillfully with terror and trepidation as the author reveals the true nature of the Guardians and the reader discovers that, at least for some, *Waxing is Useless*.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

The clever cover of *Waxing is Useless* intrigued me and made me want to read this book. Turns out it’s a story of a woman named Miranda Moon who is fighting a serious illness. She doesn’t know it, but she is about to meet up with a pack of werewolves called the Spokane Guardians who will change her and her family’s lives forever. These wolves are helpful and protect us humans from very dangerous, evil creatures who stalk our streets

and neighborhoods searching for innocent victims.

Ms. Hudon has written a very creative story with many interesting characters. I found this book to be a real page turner, never dull or boring. I enjoyed reading it and I recommend it for one and all. So buy this book and find out why waxing is useless!



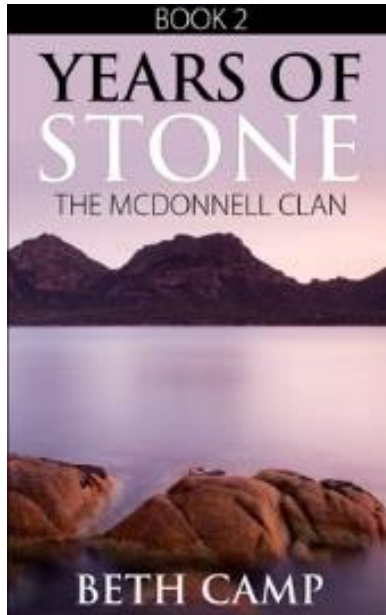
Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

As I read this book, it reminded me of events that are going on today. It’s about a cabal made up of eight men and one woman from different nations, who want to create a new world order. They will do this by using deep fake videos; social media sites that are a form of addiction; using no critical thinking but emotions over facts; create pandemics with unlimited variants that can be used whenever to control the people, thus, succeeding in select population reduction. They will control the world’s currency by using digital currency. And they will feed the media lies, for they realize that if a lie is told often enough, it becomes the truth and many will refuse to

believe the real truth. In fact it will be ignored, dismissed, often to their own peril.

How will the world be saved from these evil tyrants? From the counterattack of three young intelligence operatives, the former head of the CIA, and their helpers, patriots all, fighting to save our democracy. They discover that "hate" is at the root of all our problems. You have to be taught to hate. What do they do with this knowledge? You will have to read the book to find out.

Kessler has created a story with lots of twists and turns and surprises, especially at the end. It's well-written with interesting characters. I recommend this book for all who follow politics and care about our democracy. Anyone up for a game of "Hate"?



Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

When I got the news of a release party for *Years of Stone*, I put it on my calendar. That morning I arose to pouring rain and high winds, the weather was dismal. I had to drive to the other side of Spokane, to a new and unfamiliar area, and run across a flooded parking lot, but nothing would deter me from finding out what happened to Mac and Deirdre.

I was not disappointed.

Years of Stone follows Mac and Deidre to Van Deimen's Land, now known as

Tasmania. Ms. Camp has woven the love story into the history of the time. I had no knowledge of Van Deimen's Land before reading this book. To my surprise, within days of finishing, several documentaries popped up on TV. I was so excited to see the places and hear again the history. You know how you feel when a city is in the news that you have been to and loved? That's how I felt.

Years of Stone had a satisfactory ending, but I want to know what happened to the rest of the McDonnells. Now, I have to wait again....

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

In the year 1842 Deidre Scott and Mac McDonnell, the man Deidre loves and left Scotland for, are on a ship headed for Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania). Before they reach their destination, a storm comes up and their ship runs aground on an outcropping of rock. Through dangerous conditions, they must find their way to the beach and later to Hobart Town. Mac is a prisoner and has a sentence of seven years of hard labor to serve. He is beaten and treated very poorly. Deidre has promised to wait for him and must find work to support herself. Her dream is to be a schoolteacher and have her own school. She is befriended by Lady Franklin, the wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land. Lady Franklin is a good friend and tries to help Deidre and Mac when she can. But can Mac be saved when he is transferred to Port Arthur, the worst prison of all? Will Deidre and Mac ever be able to build a normal life for themselves?

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. *Years of Stone* is book 2 of *The McDonnell Clan*. Camp is a very talented writer who writes an engaging story that the reader can truly get caught up in. It's a historical fiction book with well-defined characters and a wonderful love story. I recommend it to one and all.

Available as an E-book on Amazon's Kindle and as a Paperback on Create Space.