



# SASP

# NEWS

January 2019

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



*Moon and fog, taken last January*  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

**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. (**January 30<sup>th</sup> for the February 2020 issue.**)

## 2019 Officers:

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**“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!

Please join us **Thursday, January 2, 2020** 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.**

Our speaker is set to be **Blair Miller**, a member of the local Science-Fiction and Fantasy Writers Group.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

With shopping, wrapping, decorating, and food preparation garnering most of my attention, I've paid little heed as to what I wanted to put in this newsletter. I have, however, come up with these three items:



First of all, I hope each of you had a merry Christmas whether or not you're Christian, and/or a happy Hanukkah whether or not you're Jewish, and/or a wonderful Winter Solstice whether or not you're Druid.

Secondly, on a sad note, one of our founding fathers, Joe Meiners, recently passed. He's the reason we're all here enjoying camaraderie and fellowship in our Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers organization. (Thanks to Joan C., Sue E., and Dave M. for first reporting this.)

Lastly, let's all make a New Year's resolution to devote more time to (and enjoy) WRITING!

*Jim*

## FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER

I hope all had a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and wish everyone a Happy New  
**SASP NEWS**

Year. Our web-site seems to be back in operation. Updates and changes I make actually show up on the web-site. We are, for the time being, back with the old hosting service, and most importantly to our old URL or domain name.

I've been trying to Tweet links (and cover pictures) for SASP member's books available on Amazon and/or Kindle. I have discovered, somewhat to my chagrin, that I don't have everyone's books listed. I've discovered two in the past couple of days. If your book is available on Amazon/Kindle and not listed in SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE, please let me know. Let me know if you have new books that need to be added. (The full list is on the web-site under NEWS. It is now large enough that we only print portions of it in each issue of SASP NEWS.)

Should we start a similar list for members' books available on Barnes and Noble On-Line/Nook or other similar sites? Let me know if you want such lists created, and if your books are available on those sites.



As Treasurer... last year we ended up with fifty-nine paid members. We currently show twenty-five folks paid up for the New Year. If you haven't yet paid for 2020, you are welcome to pay dues at upcoming meetings or mail them to our Post Office Box. I check mail every Friday and immediately deposit any received dues. As we move farther into the New Year, those whose dues aren't current will be removed from the MEMBERS page on the web-site, and their member web-pages will not be accessible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blair Miller".

## OUR DECEMBER 2019 MEETING

(Compiled by Linda Sonntag and  
Dave McChesney)



Jim started the meeting with a couple of jokes, of course, and wished us all “Happy Holidays.”

“What’s black & white and falls down the chimney at Christmastime? -- Santa Klutz!”

“How much does a Santa Uber driver charge? – Nine bucks.”

Our guests today were Michael, who is working on a graphic novel, and Cherise Marshall who has written and plans to self-publish and medical thriller.

The major portion of the day’s program was given over to our annual December Open Mic session. Caryl Briscoe-Michas led off an excerpt from her memoir describing her start in the entertainment business. Bob Weldin talked a little about his in progress book and read the back page blurb for it. Chuck Lehman cited an early scene from *Rogue 6*, his military adventure story set during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Joyce Caudel read an excerpt from a Middle Grade book she’s written. Her protagonist, a 10-year-old fifth grader, is in the police station which she describes as smelling like wet dogs and gym socks. It’s noisy and many people are yelling and using profanity. Her mother would not approve so she’s glad her mother isn’t with her. A lady in a red tank top and shorts with pink hair tells her, “Call a

lawyer so you can go home sooner.” She didn’t think that was appropriate dress for the police station. Joyce captured everyone’s attention and has a way of telling this story that made us all want to read the book!

Dave McChesney shared a slightly romantic, slightly erotic scene from his as yet unfinished third book, tentatively known as *Darnahsian Pirates*, while Larry Danek entertained us with a bit from his latest Ghost book. Dave Reynolds talked a little about his book, *Not Forgotten: A Pacific Northwest Family Brings Their Soldier Home*, and read a couple of the letters that had been published in it. This is the true story of his uncle, Lester LaVerne “Verne” Zornes, who was killed in World War II. The book was recently featured in the *Spokesman-Review*. He also announced a book signing at the Southside Senior Center, scheduled for Monday, 9 December.

Esther Hildahl shared a portion of her current work in progress, in which a flying squirrel talks to the main character, telling him it’s woes. Linda Sonntag read a poem about not remembering winter. She also read an excerpt from Tiffani Harvey’s work book, as Tiffani was unable to be there. Henry Sasser read a short story set in the Star Wars Universe.

Guest and soon to be member Wendy Spencer provided us with food for deep thought when she related being told, that Christians should never feel stressed, but only blessed. Guest and new member Cherise Marshall read from her Medical Thriller. The excerpt, told from the point of view of a hospital security guard, concerns a strain of encephalitis which she had researched and incorporated into the story.

As usual, we ended the day with drawing for various door prizes. Do to circumstances, we did not get a list of prize winners, but congratulations to all who took something home. We will meet at the usual time and the usual place on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, 2020. Information on our next speaker or program will be provided as soon as it is available.

## 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](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net), [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto: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](http://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



The day after Christmas, this article appeared in the Spokesman-Review, detailing SASP member Esther Hildahl's winning of a Pre-Teen Fiction, Northern Lights Book Award.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net) or e-mail [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto: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.

**Note: Frankie Doodles has changed hours and INWG is currently looking for a new meeting site. When one is found, we'll let you know.**

## BOOK SIGNINGS

Newly joined SASP member **Midge Cline** is working hard to have two book signing events every month until May and plans to have a booth at the **Lilac City Comi-Con** in June. At each event she plans to sign books alongside cover artist, Ryker Murdock.

For **January**:

### First Friday Art Walk Spokane

At: **Wiley's Bistro**

**115 N Washington St.**

Friday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>: 5p-9p

Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup>: 10a-4p

Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup>: 10a-4p

At: **The Flour Mill**

**621 W Mallon Ave**

Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup>: 10a-4p

## 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](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)

**Asia Rachel Cohen**

*Fire of Thorns* **B07YW6838N 1973671298**

**Lauri "Midge" Cline**

*Prey to the Order: An aon Lah Hathra*

*Adventure* **B07Z48BR56 1700086456**

*Wyndham Hall*

**B07FY59VRP 1723480436**

*Shadow Blades (The BREED Fae Chronicles)*

**B07MDT8B52 1791691226**

**Kylea Carter**

*Out of the Sands* **B01E4FARAE**

**Johanna Price**

*Raising Buckshot:*

*A Family's Experience with Autism*

**B00RKH993A 1483420205**

**Wayne Kyle Spitzer**

*That Thing We Killed* **B076QF8XZY**

*Comes a Ferryman* **B074SJF1TJ**

*The Tempter and the Taker* **B074SV557F**

*The Pierced Veil* **B074STJMGW**

*Black Hole, White Fountain* **B074SY83RW**

*To the End of Ursathrax* **B074SWXM61**

*X-Ray Rider 1* **B0755QN1N6**

*X-Ray Rider 2* **B0755PY9NB**

*X-Ray Rider 3* **B0755QPM67**

Algernon Blackwood's "The Willows," a

Scriptment **B07575JDFS**

Flashback **B07689XLTX**

Flashback Dawn: "Naaygi" **B07836PYT5**

Flashback Dawn: The Devil's Snambnala

**B078NHDKZN**

Faraway, Nearby **B076PNH7V8**

Behind a Pale Mask **1973289415**

Wet Bark **B077RJ463S**

Killer in the Looking Glass **B0779DM1QH**

Lean Season **B074VD53SF**

How About a Coke and Some Fries?

**B077TPR77D**

Flying the Fog Roads of Cascadia **B077WTSXZN**

Red Marillion **B077M3ZHWP**

Coffin Road **B076XQY5FK**

Napoleon **B076FBPRYV**

**SASP NEWS**

**Azalea Dabill**

Falcon Heart **B00VOEQXIO**

Falcon Flight **B019YRTIRO**

Lance & Quill **B010ZD7PVS**

Path of the Warrior **B00W4JYHL8**

Falcon's Ode **B075ZZBPKR**

Nightshade & Knitbone **1943034109**

**Karen Jean Matsko Hood**

*Blood Heiress* **1592108857**

*Bloom of Autumn Gold* **1592102166**

*Huckleberry Delights* **B0045U9U34 1596493852**

*Transracial Adoption* **1594346186**

*Petting Farm Fun* **1594346186**

*Finding Rudolph* **B074JZPG9X 1598082957**

*Morning Reflections* **B00DH70LVG 1930948557**

**Tom Wallace**

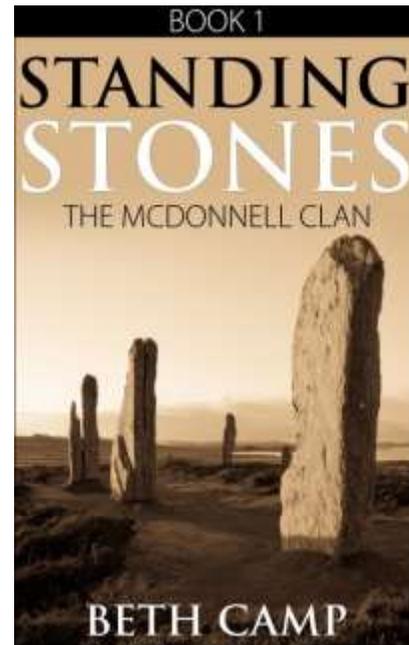
*To Kill a Poacher: A Psychological Case Study*

*in Empathic Health and Applied Spirituality*

**0595475442**

**(Note: As we move into 2020, those who last paid dues in 2017 will be removed from our roster and their books will be taken off this list.)**

**FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS**



Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Having recently joined Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers group, my first newsletter told me of the release party for Beth Camp's new book, *Standing Stones*. I went, thinking it was only right to support fellow authors, even if we hadn't met.

At first glance of the cover, I knew I had to buy it. Later that day I found myself transported to a time and place I have only ever wondered about. Being of Celtic descent, I was aware of the Orkney Islands, but had no idea what a hard life the people there lived. Ms. Camp painted a perfect picture of the day to day life of the wonderful characters she created. When they are forced from their homes, we follow the McDonnells as they try to find a new life.

This book ends in a way that had me begging for more. I waited, very impatiently, for the second book to be released.

Reviewed by Bob Hildahl

Mac McDonnell and his brother Dougal are both fishermen, trying to make a living off the sea. Mac, his sister, and three brothers live on Foulksay Island in northern Scotland. There they live in a stone cottage owned by Lord Gordon. When Lord Gordon wants to evict small farmers from their homes because he wants to use their land to raise sheep, Mac leads a protest against him. This results in Mac being arrested, the McDonnell's boat confiscated, and the family home destroyed.

Beth Camp is an excellent writer who has created an interesting story with great characters and dialogue. The story is a page turner, which encourages the reader to just keep reading and not stop! *Standing Stones* is the first book telling the continuing story of the McDonnell clan.

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

## Stillpoint

By Patricia Campbell Kowal

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

As readers we often prefer a certain author, a certain genre, or a particular theme in our reading. Many of us are loathe to step outside of our preconceived and often narrow range of reading opportunities. As bookstore customers and library browsers, we make many of our decisions based on the cover illustration and title. It is a shame that we do, for often that story that does not appeal to us at first glance can turn out to be an inspiring and uplifting read.

Such is the case with *Stillpoint* by Patricia Campbell Kowal. Because of the title and the cover, my first assumption was that it was probably a little too feminine and a little too self-analytical for my reading tastes. But, having won a copy of it at my second ever SASP meeting, and having had it graciously autographed by the author, I determined that I would read it, and that I would try to keep an open mind as I did so.

Was I ever wrong regarding my first impressions of the story! I found it to be a touching and emotionally moving story, nearly a lifelong "biography" of a very likable, believable, and yet fictional character. The writing itself is clear, concise, and inspiring; qualities that allow the reader to progress steadily through the story without the need to reread or try to guess at the author's meaning and intent. As with all exceptionally well written stories, I found that I lost track of my surroundings and was physically present, perhaps as a silent observer, in the events unfolding on the page.

*Stillpoint* encompasses Sam Barsby's life, from his childhood in Vermont, through a cross country hobo-like train trip during the Great Depression, his military service in the Pacific during the Second World War, and his migration to Australia. It covers his times of great loss and sadness, as well as his moments of extreme joy and happiness. The story pivots on that instant in Sam's life when, with help of a Native Australian, he gently drives away the despair and agony of his suffering and begins to look forward to a continued existence. This is his *Stillpoint*, that moment when directions change but there is no movement at all. It is a rebirth, a renewal,

and following this, Sam eventually returns to his boyhood home for one last visit.

*Stillpoint* is a very well written, uplifting, and inspirational story. I most strongly urge everyone to read it and to pass it along to others so that they might read it as well.

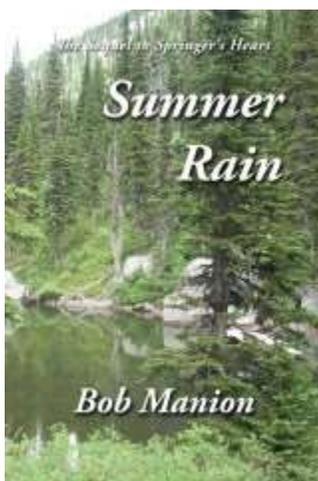
*Stillpoint* was published in 2005 through Vantage Press, Inc. and at that time had a cover price of \$12.95. It carries an ISBN of 0-533-14782-4.

Reviewed by James Bartlett Parry

Ms. Kowal skillfully weaves past with present in this intriguing romantic, tragic epic. Through chapters that alternate time periods, we witness wars and other calamities between brief respites of love and happiness. All of this happens through the eyes of several generations of the Barsby family.

This style of writing is difficult to pull-off and, in many books, confuses the reader, but Kowal relates her tale in a skillful and seemingly effortless manner that truly makes the story flow. She masterfully details the ambience of each location and era.

The first page will draw you into Sam's dreams of flying geese - that eventually take him on an odyssey around the world. Brace yourself for a plethora of tragedies (but there is, ultimately and thankfully, a happy ending).

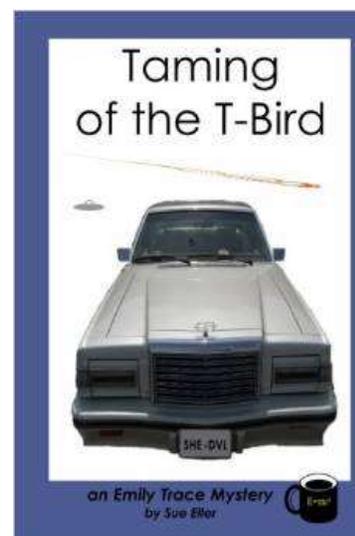


Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Sara Bennett is a Smokejumper, earning her living by parachuting out of airplanes to fight forest fires. On a training and qualification jump she is injured. While recovering she meets a young doctor that she feels may be the man in her life. At the same time she is forced out of the Smokejumpers and becomes a Ranger with the Federal Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Service. Here she meets fellow Ranger Randy Springer. They soon become a team in a number of ways.

On the job, their pursuit of lawbreakers goes way beyond tracking down the occasional poacher or the fisherman with an expired license. Escaped prisoners, illicit drugs, terrorists, and corruption at the high levels of government make life interesting for Sara and Randy.

This was an interesting and entertaining story, one that was difficult to put down. It nicely combines action, romance, great characters, with an appreciation of both the wild lands of America with deep respect for those in the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement. It is a fitting sequel to Manion's earlier *Springer's Heart*.



By Sue Eller

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Private investigator Emily Trace is called upon to determine why the classic car runs great, except at a certain spot along the road.

Delving into that situation also reveals problems with the internet and strange lights in the sky. As Christmas time approaches, and as the coldest snowiest winter in years engulfs the town, she tackles these mysteries while also investigating the deaths of her late husband, his grandfather, and most recently, an arson fire. She is aided by a deputy sheriff, her office staff, a former teacher, and friends who are not from this world. Is there an extraterrestrial plot to conquer Earth? Will she discover and stop it in time?

Sue Eller writes in an easy conversational manner. The story is in first person; as if the reader is listening to Emily relate her tale while sitting at the kitchen table drinking cup after cup of coffee. Even the little asides, which writers today are admonished to avoid, fit right in with the casual tone and add, rather than detract from the narration. While the story is for the most part light and perhaps even *cozy* in nature, it also touches on some deeper darker aspects of human nature.

This blend of Science Fiction and Mystery is enjoyable, easy to read, and hard to put down. *Taming of the T-Bird* is available on-line in both e-book and paperback versions, and in bookstores near the author's home of Spokane, Washington.

Reviewed by Bob Hildahl

This is the second book of the *Emily Trace Mystery* series. It's about Emily Trace who has a detective agency in Spokane, Washington called "E.T. Investigations." She drinks coffee to excess, which I can clearly identify with, and she has an amusing "bird" clock in her office that sings out different bird songs on the hour. It's wintertime, snowy and freezing cold.

The story begins with her first client telling her a strange tale. He purchased a used T-Bird, but every time he drives it home from work, it quits on him at the exact same spot. At the same time, bright lights swoop over him and seem to be headed for Tekoa Mountain. Then the car starts right up again! Can Emily solve this mystery?

While she is working on the T-Bird mystery and the possibility that aliens are trying to take over our planet, her mother-in-law's house burns to the ground. And the fire marshal suspects arson. Could this be related to her husband, Jared's unsolved murder? After all, this was the reason she started her detective agency to begin with.

If you like science fiction and mysteries, you must read this book. It is well written with great characters. The story is exciting and it's a hard book to put down from the first chapter to the end.

Available in Spokane area bookstores and on Amazon and Kindle.

Reviewed by James Parry

In this, the second in the Emily Trace Mystery series, Emily, through her E.T. Detective Agency, continues her relentless pursuit of her husband's killer. However, she, once again, (because of the misinterpretation of "E.T.") finds herself entangled with clients wanting to find the cause(s) of supernatural happenings. Emily is able to solve all of their extraterrestrial problems, but we will have to wait for the third book to find out who caused her husband's death. Is it related to the alien problem or is it a totally separate case? Stay tuned.

A well-written, fast-paced book in which Emily speaks to the reader in a first-person, conversational tone. A wonderful, easy read that's out of this world! Great for the sci-fi fan and/or the murder mystery aficionado.

Available at Auntie's, Hastings, & Amazon (*I think?*)

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Well, Sue Eller has done it again! The sequel to Meadowlark Madness is every bit as engaging and entertaining. The whole gang is there with a few new additions. Emily is getting used to clients "from out of town" and handles them with her usual humor and quirky asides. But all is not fun and games. There are sinister

things happening in her private life and Darla might also be in danger. Ms. Eller touches on the pain and fear of domestic violence with grace and sincerity. If you liked the first one, you must get 'Taming of the T-Bird'. Dang, I must have a cup of coffee ...

Reviewed by Larry Danek

A really entertaining book!

This is the second in the Emily Trace series by Sue Eller and I found it to be as good or better than her first one. It's a sci/fi/mystery story that is entertaining and fun to read. I couldn't put it down.

I recommend this book to one and all.