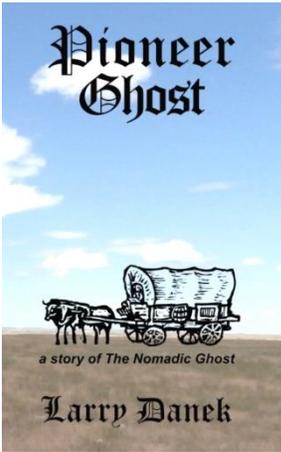
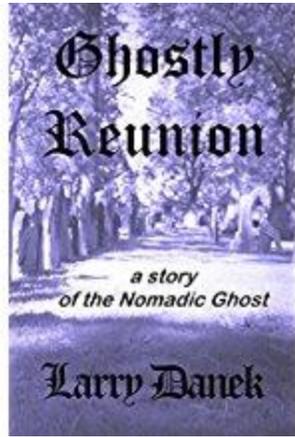
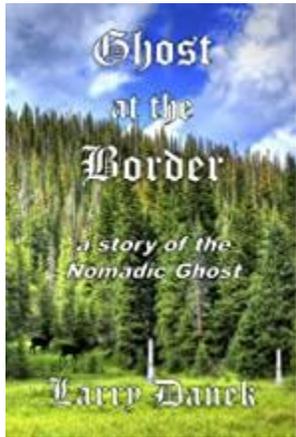


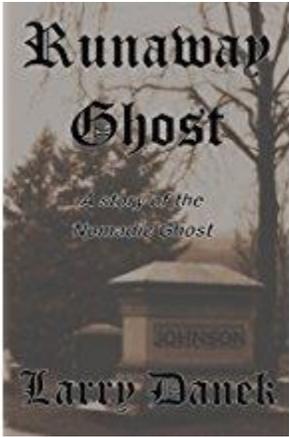
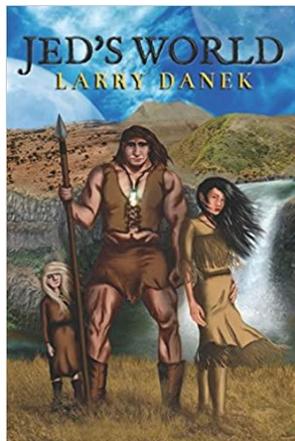
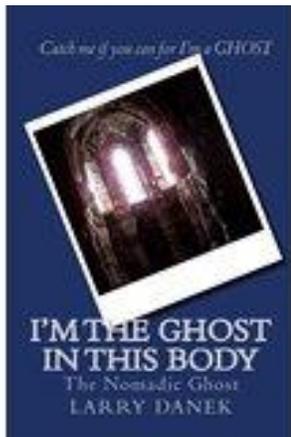


# SASP NEWS

June 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](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.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue month. **(June 25<sup>th</sup> for the July 2023 issue.)**

## 2023 Officers:

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

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

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

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

## Advisory Board:

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

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

**Member:** **Bob Weldin**  
(509) 514-2747 minersquest@comcast.net

**"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)

*Cover: Ghost stories and more by SASP Member Larry Danek*

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Our June meeting will feature an open forum, so if you have something you'd like to share with fellow writers, this might be the time.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Bob and Lola Weldin celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Bob is a long-time member of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers, a member of the group's Advisory Board, and author of *The Dry Diggin's Club* and *The Adventurists*.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Summer days for SASP

Warm days and more hours of sunlight signal the approach of the summer solstice. It is a time to enjoy the outdoors, watch the garden grow, and engage in such fun activities

as fishing, swimming, or boating. Or all three at once.

I have been told that in the distant past, SASP used to adjourn for the summer. We haven't done that in a long time. We do have a nice, cool meeting room at the Corbin



SASP NEWS

Senior Activity Center, and I look forward to seeing all of you on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Until then, as the muse keeps reminding me, WRITE ON!

*Sue Eller* President

## FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello fellow authors!

With summer upon us many community events become opportunities to market & sell our books. But once you get set up how do you draw people to your table? How do you sell your books? If you have any tried-and-true strategy, be prepared to share it this Friday.

Remember, we are authors supporting authors.

See you soon.

*Marilee Hudon* Vice President

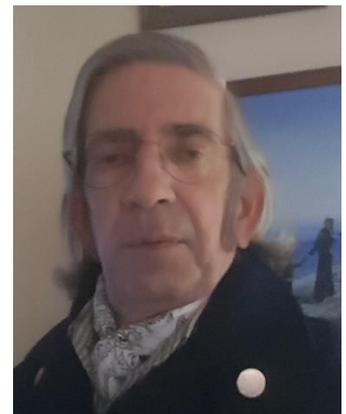


## FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

This month I'm going to step away from my usual exhortations to pay dues and such. Instead, I'll post something I wrote long ago and found in my files regarding self-publishing.

### Why Self-publish?

Since the self-publishing writer pays to produce his or her book, why on earth would anyone choose to do that? Why not let a publisher pay the costs, sit back, and wait for those fat royalty checks to



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come rolling in?

There are probably as many answers to this as there are self-published authors. The short and perhaps snarky answer is that the self-published author could not find anyone willing to publish his or her work. At this time members of the ASPF (Anti Self-Publishing Faction) join in and insist that work is self-published because it isn't good enough for "real" publication. Self-published or not, we've all seen books that should have remained in the author's lower desk drawer or within his computer files. The volume should not have seen the light of day nor should eyes, other than the author's, ever beheld its ink-stained pages.

Many factors beyond quality determine whether a book gets published in the traditional sense. Very few books out of the great many written are ever published. To illustrate, let's consider ten thousand writers with manuscripts they would like to have published. They soon learn that all but the smallest independent presses will not talk to un-agented, unknown, and unpublished writers. Looking for representation, these folks send out query letters or attend conferences and pitch to agents. After a while we find that a thousand of these aspiring authors now have literary representation.

These agents, acting and on behalf of the writers they represent, pitch the books to acquisition editors, the front-line buyers for the various publishing houses, book lines or imprints. Allowing sufficient time to pass, we find that a hundred of the books have been picked up or acquired. The editors take the works they have acquired to an editorial board, senior editor, or other decision-making entity at the publisher where they work and attempt to persuade said entity to publish those books. In our straightforward and mathematically precise example, we find that ten books are selected for publication.

We started with ten thousand books, and ten got the nod for production. That is *point one percent*. As time goes on, more of the un-agented nine thousand writers may gain representation, a small portion of the un-acquired nine hundred manuscripts might get

picked up, and some of the ninety un-chosen works may receive a publishing contract. Still, the number of published books compared to those written is very small, with the figure of three percent often mentioned. Can the ninety-seven percent that are not selected all be so terrible that they do not deserve to be published?

## Cost of Printing

Most of you are aware that come June 20<sup>th</sup>, Amazon is raising the cost of printing. You can go to your account to see what the new printing cost would be. If it goes up significantly, you might want to reprice your book(s) to keep your royalties at about the same level as now. For what it's worth, it appears the printing costs of each of my three books will go up by about fifteen cents. At this point I don't see a need to change my prices.



## OUR MAY 2023 MEETING

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Friday May 12<sup>th</sup> saw Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers meet for the second time at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. Attending were: Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Beth Camp, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Marilee Hudon, Dave McChesney, Rich McKay, Carl Northrup, and Kate Poitevin. Guests included but were not limited to: Bob Slack and Jennifer Day, both of whom later joined the group. Also there was Carolyn, a relative of Sue Eller's and at least one other individual whose name we did not catch.

Because of the change in the day of our meetings, the speaker that had originally been scheduled was unable to appear. Fellow SASP member Dave McChesney volunteered to fill in and spoke about the type of stories he writes, which is Age of Sail/Naval Adventure with a slight touch of Science Fiction. He

talked about, compared, and contrasted two of the writers in Naval Adventure that have influenced him. Those would be C. S. Forester, creator of the Horatio Hornblower series of books, and Patrick O'Brian, author of what most people refer to as the Master and Commander stories. Dave also offered a little insight into the practice of arming warships with more guns than their official rate. Finally, he provided definitions and explanations for a few of the nautical terms that might be found in his Stone Island Sea Stories.

Following a short break, we resumed with a brief business meeting. We agreed to form a refreshment committee to share the responsibilities of bringing snacks and drinks. Jennifer Day, Kate Poitevin, Beth Camp, Marilee Hudon, and Caryl Briscoe-Michas volunteered to serve on that committee.

Marilee said she knew someone who was looking for someone to print an illustrated children's book. She also noted that we were signed up for the first four weeks of the Garland Street Summer Market, beginning on Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>. Members participating include: Sue Eller, Larry Danek, Beth Camp, Dave McChesney, Bob Slack, Marilee Hudon, and Carl Northrup. It appears that at least three or more individuals will take part on each of the scheduled days.

Beth Camp reported that fellow SASP Member Fred Jessett was recovering from a fall and will keep us informed. She also noted that next Friday she would be a guest on the Page Turner broadcast on KYRS radio. Also, her book, *The Seventh Tapestry* would be free on Kindle™ the next Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Beth also talked a little about covers and how they attract readers. She had been told that a cover should have people on it but found many readers preferred one of her books when the cover did not have people. She also made a plea for readers to take the time to review the books they read.

We ended the afternoon with a drawing for door prizes. Thank you to all who donate books, artwork, etc. to share with fellow members and guests.

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

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers  
P. O. Box 18573

Spokane, WA 99228-0573

Check out other member web-pages at [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://www.spokaneauthors.org). Click on the "Members" button and then on the member's page you wish to view.

Contact your web-master if your page needs to be updated or corrected. Have you recently published a new book, or have you by chance republished an old one? Let your web-master know!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

The INWG will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7 PM.

For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

### Garland Street Market

Various SASP members are participating in this open-air market which takes place every Thursday from 3:30 to 7:30 pm. SASP's booth was, and will be in operation on May 25<sup>th</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>.

## SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

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

and hopefully up to date list is available on the web-site, under "NEWS")

(Contact the editor/web-master at [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net) or at [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org) to get your Amazon/Kindle books listed)

To speed your search, add the provided ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code (ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www(dot)amzn(dot)com/dp/)  
Example: [www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332](http://www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332)  
or: [www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044](http://www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044)

If you are overseas or shop in a different Amazon Marketplace, the URL will be as required for that location, but the ASINs, the numbers provided here will remain the same.

### Various SASP members

*Celebrating Spokane Authors:  
A Collection of Poetry, Essays, and Short Stories* **B077GBTQ67 1978483619**

### D. Andrew McChesney:

*Beyond the Ocean's Edge: A Stone Island Sea Story* **B008TXC332 B0BTRTCJ3**  
*Sailing Dangerous Waters: Another Stone Island Sea Story* **B00HF9Y05K B0BV1SS8HN**  
*Darnahsian Pirates: The Third Stone Island Sea Story* **B09FFJSSGC B09BC9P9WL**

### James Parry:

*Book All the Teachers: An Irreverent Ride through Middle School* **B00US5918V 1501042211**

### Bob Weldin:

*The Dry Diggin's Club* **0578106825**  
*The Adventurists* **153027253X**

### Sue Eller:

*Return from Armageddon* **B005JVAJKQ 1477655727**  
*Meadowlark Madness* **B0097D599I 1479181714**  
*Send in the Drones* **B07TFDFVS9 1726834662**  
*The Gluten Free Gourmand* **B00TRBKT9U 150853134X**  
*Taming of the T-Bird* **B00S2ZDIQTQ 1505963982**  
*Short Trips to Alternate Universes* **B08P342L5V B08P3QTJQL (pb)**

### Beth Camp:

*The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales* **B0090VHKBC 1479180971**

### SASP NEWS

*Standing Stones* **B00I3RYFW6 1494772434  
B01ATPTL5U (audio)**  
*Years of Stone* **B00LF3FY4S 1500129585**  
*Rivers of Stone* **B077M1TFLP 1545217491**  
*The Seventh Tapestry* **B08GJ8VRGL B097SKDWRF (pb)**  
*Poetry in a Time of Pandemic* **B0889TDKR2 B088LKFB6G**

### Kate Poitevin:

*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part One)* **1986153959**  
*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Two)* **1986179486**  
*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Three)* **1986179923**

### Joyce Caudel:

*The Hat Pin Murders* **1936178397**  
*The Hat Box Mystery* **1481959107**  
*A Hat to Die For* **1530028612**

### Chuck Lehman:

*Angels Three Six* **B00KMJXQR8**  
*The Big Woods* **B007SQ4CTE**  
*Asher* **B00HNZ6TTG**  
*Lazarus Arise* **B007R0NPW6**  
*The Shepherd* **B00HJBN4P6**  
*Rogue 6* **B01H7N8G2G**  
*Exposure: A Story of Survival and Intrigue* **B01H5W4V64**  
*Double Exposure* **B097XNQXVF**  
*The Apostle's Wife* **B07NJ4DFCW 179039239X**

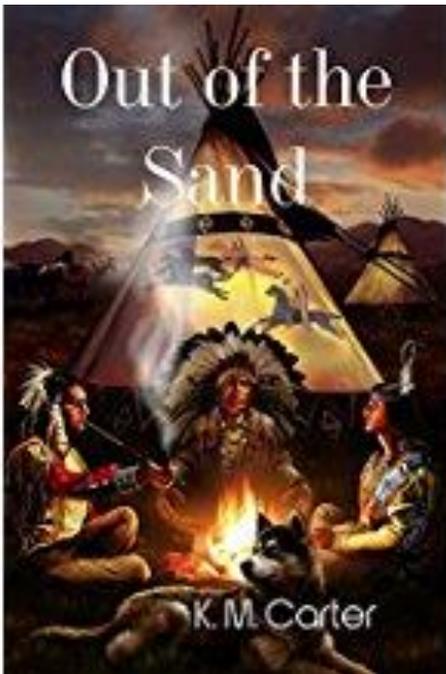
### Bob Manion:

*Santa's Heroes* **1936178095**  
*The Tree House* **B004IZLHLE**  
*The Tree House (new edition)* **1946882003**  
*Springer's Heart* **0978850742**  
*Summer Rain* **B00ZM3S2IM**  
*Vampire and the Cop* **B00ZM4BBOS**  
*Retitled Vampire Justice* **0996864415**  
*Sabrina's Promise* **0996864407 097885070X**

## FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

Reviews featured here are typically those written by our members of books written by our members. On occasion one may find a review a member wrote of a non-member's book, or a review a non-member wrote of a member's book. Each month we try to share a

small portion of the reviews that are posted on our web-site. Once we reach the end of those reviews we start over.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Out of the Sand* tells the story of Professor Ivan who faces a devastating loss when his wife dies, leaving him to care for their infant son. When he has to go on a long trip into Indian territory for the government, he leaves his son with his late wife's parents. Thus, Ivan begins his journey, not knowing his life will be changed forever when he meets and falls in love with Running Water, a beautiful young Indian Woman. After they are married, they travel back to Ivan's home to begin their new life. Everything is different now for Running Water as she learns to navigate the white man's world.

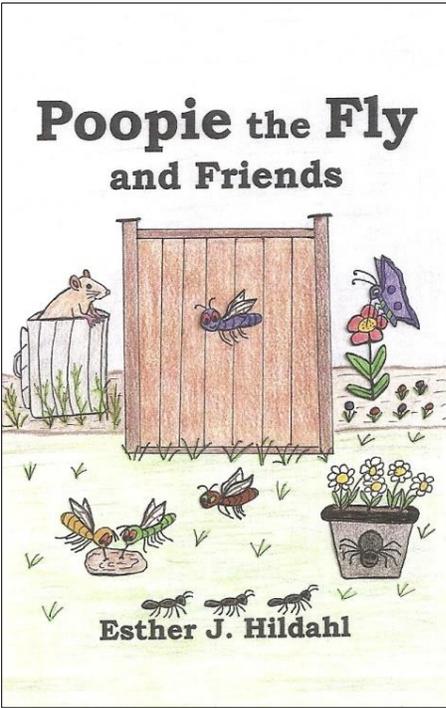
Ms. Carter has written a good story. If you like romance books, this book is for you.



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 Rhonda Cordes (a fan)

I've finished reading *Poopie the Fly and Friends*. What a clever and creative book! My favorite thing about it is the way the author weaves education and life lessons throughout the story and still keeps it entertaining. I enjoyed reading it very much.

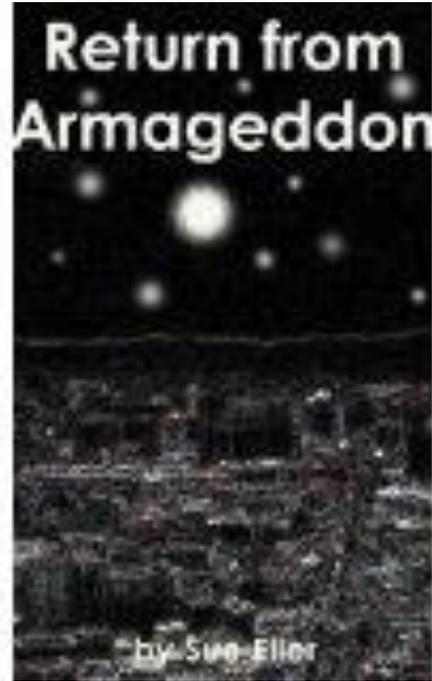
Reviewed by Linda Sonntag-Noble

I initially bought this book for my granddaughters: ages 4, 6 & 9, but I wanted to read it first. Before I knew it, I was laughing at the wonderful characters this author created from no less than flies, a spider & even a praying mantis!

It is a wonderful story of how Poopy, the bluebottle fly, survives various near-death experiences, including - but not limited to - being eaten alive to getting trapped in a dark, spooky spider-filled forest to standing up to a bully as he discovers his inherent worth. He survives because he listens raptly to his teacher to "be aware of your surroundings" always and to trust your instincts.

Not only does this story keep you on edge, wondering if Poopy will make it, it teaches many scientific facts about ants,

butterflies, spiders and, of course, flies. It teaches children (and adults) that flies (and other insects) are not ALL bad, but sometimes do honorable things like help a friend, inspire others, and even pollenate flowers! I even believe that children will love the main character so much because of their love of the word "poop" and bathroom jokes, because the author never shrinks from telling it like it is, ie., flies like poop!



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

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

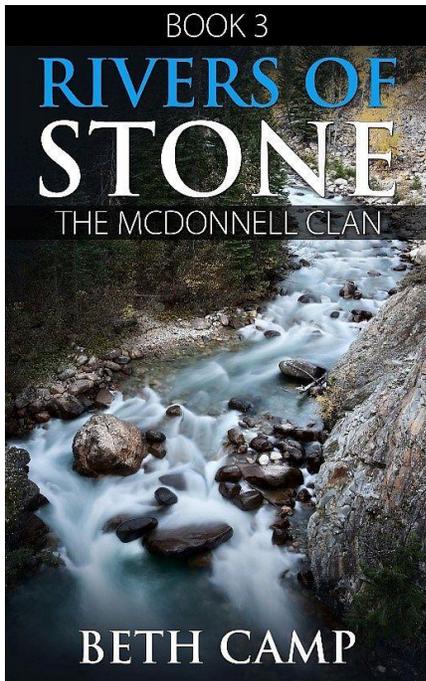
This small book, which can be read in a fraction of the time required for most, packs an amazing story into a relatively small package. There is an understated but noted parallel with Biblical history and prophecy. Many characters appear to be modern versions of those from Scripture, identified in the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

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

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

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

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



Reviewed by Sue Eller

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

Beth Camp brought me so completely into the story of Catriona and her trek across the continent, that I found myself shivering and

hungry. Her descriptions of the characters' experiences and feelings, of life in the primitive areas of Canada and the northern United States, and the hardships explorers and settlers endured, draw the reader into the story as few writers can. If you enjoy historical fiction, adventure, and a quest driven by love and hope, you will enjoy Rivers of Stone.

Reviewed by Betty Deuber

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

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

Catriona/Cat acquires strength and stamina of a young man and picks up the fort's lingo. Yet the reader gets a chance to know her as a woman when she shows her true female feelings in secluded places. When Dougal doesn't return in a year, like he promised, she desperately tries to hide her fear of abandonment. Later, when Dougal's letters stop, Catriona grieves in solitude. Then she buckles- up and joins a brigade going to Vancouver in search of Dougal. The reader is intimately involved with the young woman as she—struggles in her four year search—endures the blizzards, floods and treks over the Canadian Rockies beside rough-tough fur men, buffalo hunters, scoundrels, breeds and friends .

## AT THE GARLAND MARKET!

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

Reviewed By D. Andrew McChesney

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

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

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

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



Sue Eller and Larry Danek ready to sell books!



Bob Slack was there as well!



Carl Northrup and Marilee Hudon were there the second week of the event.