



SASP

NEWS

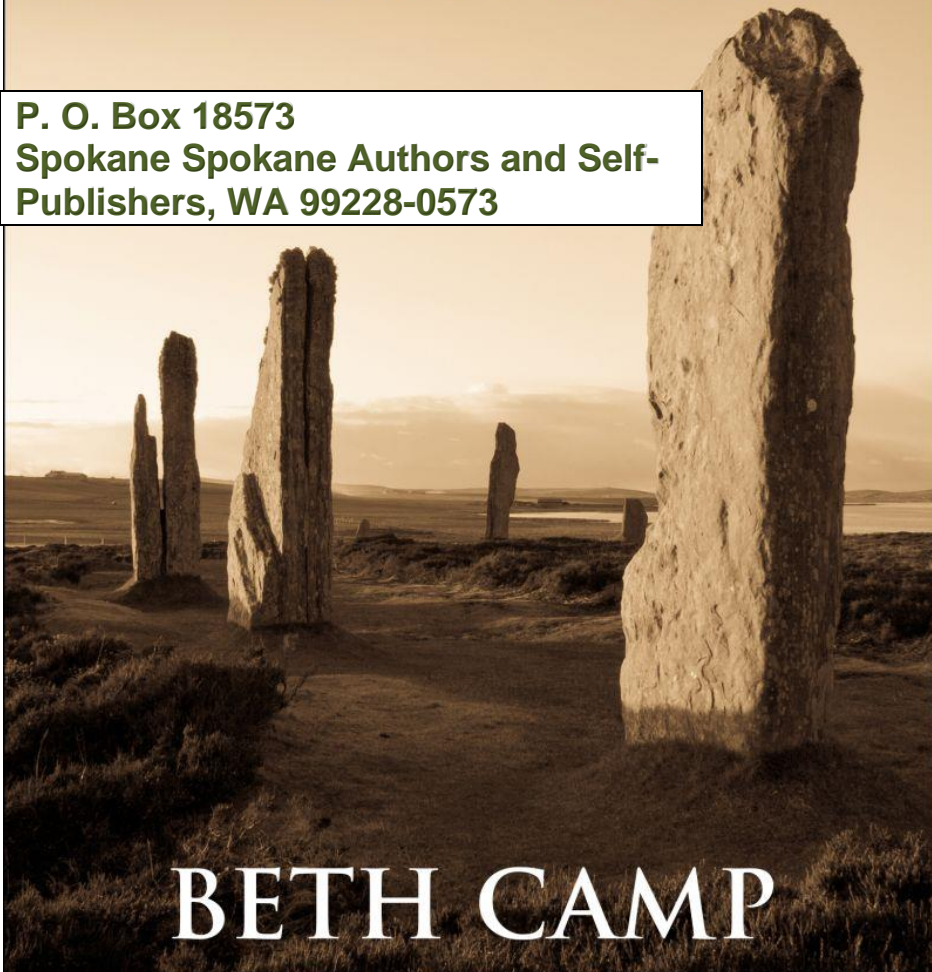
March 2023

BOOK 1

STANDING STONES

THE MCDONNELL CLAN

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



BETH CAMP

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** Thursday of each month at the **Shadle Park Library**, 2111 W. Wellesley Ave., Spokane.

Presentations are slated to begin as soon as possible after **2:00 pm**. After a 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.

The library does not allow individuals to bring food in, but we provide refreshments such as cake or cookies. We pass the hat, so to speak, to help reimburse whoever brings such refreshments.

Membership benefits include listing on the SASP website, www.spokaneauthors.org. Many members provide short biographies and links to external personal websites, creating more marketing exposure. Current members may list and describe their published works on the SASP website and offer their work for sale at meetings. (Visit the “members” page on our web-site to connect with members’ web-pages. Our “links” page connects to interesting on-line locations, 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. 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 a week prior to the last day of the month preceding the issue month. **(March 24th for the April 2023 issue.)**

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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

Cover: **Standing Stones:**The McDonell Clan (Book One) by SASP Member *Beth Camp*

OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Thursday, March 9th, 2023, at the Shadle Park Library, 2111 W. Wellesley Ave., Spokane. The Events Room will open at 1:00 pm.

Our speaker, Trent Reedy is the author of ten novels for young people, including *Words in the Dust*, the *Divided We Fall* trilogy, and the *McCall Mountain* series. Along with his Afghan friend



Jawad Arash, he also co-wrote the novel *Enduring Freedom*. His most recent novel, *Fishing In Fire* was published in February 2023. He also writes a semi-monthly *Life in*

teran anecdote column for *The Washington Examiner* magazine. He lives with his family outside Spokane, Washington. (photo courtesy of Larry Conboy)

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Though this be March Madness...



For all you Gonzaga fans (and possible Whitworth fans in the future) March is the month for the madness of the NCAA tournament. One of the keys to winning a basketball



game resides at the free throw line. No one gets to guard the goal or the shooter, who can take time to get set and take his best shot. It's always the same scenario, so consistency is key. It also takes hours of practice to arrive at that consistency.

In a way, writing is similar. It takes hours of writing, rewrites, edits, and fine-tuning to produce a book. Many skills are required, but the key is to keep putting words on the page. With lots of practice (and help from our bookish friends) we can become more consistent at hitting the "nothing but net" shot in the genre of our choice.

If I have lost some of you with the sports references, it is in my nature as a former sportswriter. We all have our talents and specialties. That's why it takes a team to help get a novel from creative idea to finished product.

We have a team of people who are willing and able to help each other. Thanks to all of you for your contributions to help each other win. I believe this will be the best year yet for all of us.

I'll see you on Thursday, March 9, at 2:00 p.m. at the Shadle Library.

Sue Eller President

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

From the Veep

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a lovely Valentine's Day and found time and inspiration to write this month.

With spring around the corner, we are coming into another event season where our authors can sell books while meeting and



greeting the public. These events are an important part of not just our authors'

outreach, but of the SASP as well. So, with that in mind, I'd like to ask everyone who knows of such events or who is signed up for these events to please email

the dates and times of them to me at SASPworks4U@gmail.com. I will compile the list and get it sent out to everyone so we can expand our reach further into the community. Thank you!

Marilee Hudon Vice President

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

If you look at the inside front cover, you may notice the deadline to submit material to SASP NEWS has changed slightly. Rather than two Thursdays prior to our meeting, or a week prior to the first Thursday of the month, our old meeting day, it's now one week prior to the end of the current month. I want to have the newsletter done and out to everyone on the last day of the month or the first day of the following month. Ideally, I'll have the March issue out on February 28th or March 1st. As

always, it's a soft deadline. If I know you plan to submit something, I can wait a day or two. .

If you want your upcoming events mentioned in SASP NEWS or included on the web-site's

Programs page, please send the information to me. Even if you mention it at a meeting, there is a chance I won't get it recorded accurately. I would rather not include it if there is a chance it is in error.

I might be behind in creating and updating Member Web-Pages for some of you, but I'm hoping to get caught up in the next few weeks. If you discover your Member Web-page needs updated or changed in any way, let me know. That's especially true if you have published new books, if you have republished older ones, or you have a new author photo or bio.

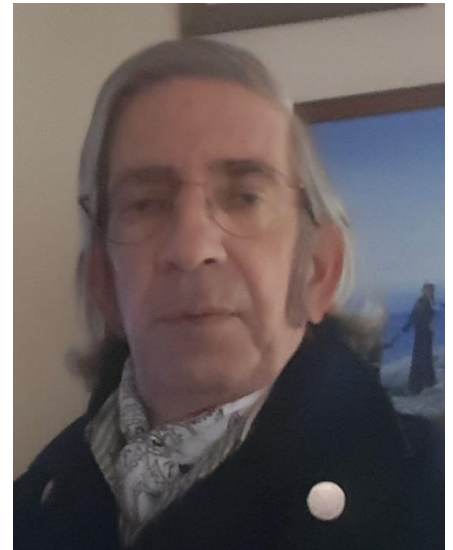
We are well into 2023 and I'd like to thank those who have paid dues for the current year. However there are still a number of you who have not. Please try to pay your dues no later than our April meeting. After that, those who are not paid will no longer be listed on our Member Page on the web-site, and there will not be a link to your Member Web-Page.

In addition, those who were last paid members in 2020 will be removed from the roster. Listings of their books that are on Amazon will also be removed from the web-site.

Paying dues is easy. You can pay at any SASP meeting, or you can send a check or money order for \$15.00 to:

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

I check the mail weekly, and if we receive any dues payments, I take those



payments directly to our financial institution for deposit. I also try to notify anyone who pays that the dues payment has been received... usually by way of e-mail.

If your personal situation means paying dues will pose a financial hardship, please contact a SASP Officer or Advisory Board Member. We will see what we can do to accommodate you.



OUR FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Attending our Thursday, February 9th meeting were: Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Mary DeBord, Sue Eller, Dennis Held, Esther and Bob Hildahl, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Sandra Philbin, Kate Poitevin, Linda Sonntag-Noble, Mikel Stevenson (and other family members), and Bob Weldin. Guests in attendance included Sophia, Treesa, and Pablo Diaz, who came to support our guest speaker.

Alexander Manzoni did not simply talk to us. He gave a performance, telling us about his life, sharing poems he had written, as well as excerpts from a novel of his, all presented in a unique and entertaining style.

Following a short break, Carl Northrup told us the Barnes and Noble store in the North Town Mall was planning to have a local author event on Friday, February 17th from 6 to 7:30. Marilee passed along information about a smart phone app called Hi Hello, which can be used as or in place of a business card. She also celebrated the release of her newest book, *Lilac City Lunacy* at the Rocket Bakery on Garland Avenue. In addition, she told us of a new e-mail that can be used to contact Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers: saspworks4u@gmail.com

Esther Hildahl announced that she and Bob would be at the Shadle Park High School Craft Fair on March 25th and 26th. Dave McChesney will be there as well. Larry Danek mentioned that his latest book was in the

process of being edited by Sue, and that he'd managed to work a lot of famous people into the story. He also shared a short story with us.

New member Roger Aschenbrener introduced himself and Carl Northrup mentioned he was close to ready for a beta reader on his current work in progress. Sandra Philbin said she has a book coming about peoples' relationships with their dogs. Dennis Held told us he has work published in *Pushcart #46*.

We then held a drawings for door prizes, declared the meeting over, and headed our separate ways.

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/thumbnaill
 - b. Brief description/blurb/reviews
 - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other
 - d. Locations where available.
5. Send as much information as possible to: daveeva@comcast.net, authors@spokaneauthors.org, or Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers P. O. Box 18573 Spokane, WA 99228-0573
Check out other member web-pages at www.spokaneauthors.org. Click on the "Members" button and then on the member's page you wish to view.
Contact your web-master if your page needs to be updated or corrected. Have you recently published a new book, or have you by chance republished an old one? Let your web-master know!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

The INWG will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, March 15th, at 7 PM. They plan to discuss the all-important query letter.

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

Esther and Bob Hildahl and Dave McChesney will be selling and signing books at the Shadle Park High School Arts and Craft Fair on Saturday and Sunday, March 25th and 26th.

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 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

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.

Esther J. Hildahl

Meadow Pond B072FS1CLL 154244828X
Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude B07177PLGX 1542451248
Marie's Marvelous Tomato B073SFTS74 1548307653
Poopie the Fly and Friends B07HNQLKMW 1724038427
Winter Stories B09BGF8TGL

Russell H. Ford

Depop B019NGA00Q 159849175X
Re-Ring B01IRW4XVY

Karen Jean Matsko Hood

Blood Heiress 1592108857
Bloom of Autumn Gold 1592102166

Huckleberry Delights B0045U9U34 1596493852
Transracial Adoption 1594346690
Transracial Adoption Guide 1594346704
Petting Farm Fun B00H5X0Y2E 1594346186
Finding Rudolph B074JZPG9X 1598082957
Morning Reflections B00DH70LVG 1930948557

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 B07HY4Y85T 172128186X

Joan Carter

Gray Swallow B07PXM1VXC

Sonja Mongar

Two Spoons of Bitter 069205524X

Michael Zargona

Turn Red Tomorrow B07Q7TNLTC 1092144404
Sixteen Hooves Thunder B08LHK5PKF B08LJPKCM2

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.

This month we have a handful of recently written and submitted reviews. Once through with those we will resume our normal rotation.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Godforsaken Idaho is a book of nine very different stories with unique characters. The first story is the author's creation of Heaven, a place where the age at your death becomes your age forever and ever. Imagine you die in your forties and your spouse, who you look forward to reuniting with, dies in their nineties. See the problem?

These stories tell of a young man taught to be a criminal by his father; a man who tells lies to make his life seem better than it is and his interaction with a little neglected boy; an alcoholic who has a brief relationship with a pocket dog, which he calls a rat dog, and its owner, and his disappointed rich grandma who tries to have an intervention to sober him up.

More stories tell of a man down on his luck who can't afford his apartment and his encounter with his strange, creepy landlord; a man who is constantly pestered by two missionaries from the church he had left many years ago, until it comes to a deadly end; a spirit who enters a young man's body, living there until eventually the two of them rise and enter Heaven; a young Mormon woman, a marriage proposal, and how gulls help her decide what to do. And one of my favorite stories was about a young woman, her father, a "buried treasure," and a diviner who promised to find that treasure.

I've always thought that writing a book of stories is like writing several little books and putting them together in a satisfying way, which is what local writer Shawn Vestal has done. He

was raised in the Mormon faith and some of its teachings come through in his stories. These stories don't have "Hallmark" endings. They are true to life about people who have real problems and live their lives the best they can. It's an interesting book that keeps the reader engaged and wanting to read the next story.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Murder at Manito begins when Bill England, Manito Park's head gardener, is found murdered in the greenhouse. He was very charming and popular with the public, but as the story unfolds, the reader discovers he is a bit of a cad and has enemies in the gardening world.

Since the Lilac Parade is coming up soon, the mayor wants this murder to be solved quickly. Thus, Chief Detective Rex Begonia and his new partner, Ivy Lizej, arrive on the scene. Through numerous cups of coffee and good detective work, they eventually solve this crime and capture the murderer in a very dramatic way.

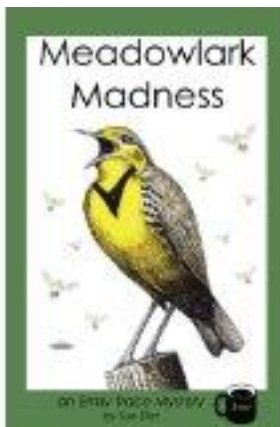
Local writer Chris Bieker has written a page turning murder mystery with a surprise ending. I liked the creative names she gave to some of her characters. I liked that the story took place in Spokane in my favorite park, and that she wrote about the goings on of the various garden clubs and the Lilac Parade. If you like mysteries, this book is for you. It's a good read.



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

When their father is apparently killed in a plane crash, life for Toby and Katie Cypher suddenly changes. As they try to discover what happened, they enter a world of futuristic high tech, combined with what might be considered magic, dating back to ancient times. Author Bill Riley skillfully combines these elements into a gripping and compelling story. It's one that is hard to put down.

While written and marketed for younger readers, it is a tale that readers of all ages will enjoy. I did.



By Sue Eller

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Naturally one would assume that E. T. Investigations was formed to look into encounters with UFOs and aliens from beyond this world. In fact, Emily Trace opened this detective agency to find out why her husband

had been murdered. To fund her personal investigation she takes on a client who, like us, mistakes the significance of the initials "E. T." Assigned to look into the apparent disappearance of the region's meadowlarks, Emily and her friends are drawn into a bigger mystery, one that does involve aliens and other worlds.

This book is very hard to place into a specific genre. It is a mystery, a science-fiction novel, perhaps a police procedural, and may even qualify as a "cozy." Regardless of where it fits, it is a most entertaining and enjoyable read. Set in and around Spokane, Washington, and told as if by Emily herself, the pages turn at a rapid rate. Uniquely, Emily sometimes stops to admonish the reader or to remind them of bits of popular culture from days gone by, which adds to the direct conversational tone of the story.

Meadowlark Madness is a very enjoyable book, created by a writer with a clever and unusual view of the world. This reviewer looks forward to reading more of the *Emily Trace Mysteries* as they become available.

Meadowlark Madness: an Emily Trace Mystery, ISBN 9781479181711 is available in paperback at a number of Spokane area bookstores, as well as on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle™ formats.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Emily Trace's husband, Jared, has been murdered, and the police can't figure out who did it, so Emily opens up her own detective agency to solve the crime herself. However, business is slow--no customers. Without customers she has no money to pay her bills and rent, and soon she'll be forced to close her office and move out. If only she had one paying client...

Then the office door opens and in walks a birdlike little character named Mr. Archibald Wren. He has a case for her to solve. A very strange case, for you see, he wants her to solve the mystery as to where all the world's meadowlark birds have disappeared to. And

thus, the strange, sometimes out-of-this-world adventure begins.

Meadowlark Madness is Eller's first *Emily Trace Mystery*. It's well-written and her characters are well-defined, clever, and interesting. The story is fast-paced and exciting. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, and I recommend it to all who love a good mystery.

Available at local Spokane bookstores, as well as on Amazon, and Kindle.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Ms. Eller has woven an interesting tale, full of quirky characters and surprising twists and turns. Her ability to break the fourth wall at regular intervals gives us the feeling that Emily is sitting with us as she tells her story. She keeps it moving right along so that you don't even want to stop to get a fresh cup of coffee. But, you must, because she has subliminally made you **need** one.

I have heard that there is a second book in the works, and I will be first in line to get it. I must know if Emily will find Jared's killer. In the meantime, I must put on a fresh pot of coffee and wait.

Reviewed by Beth Camp

This 5-star cozy mystery is sure to delight!

Just when overdue rent threatens to close the doors of Emily Trace's E.T. Investigations, a new client arrives with an unusual concern (and a bundle of cash): The meadowlarks are missing!

Willing to accept nearly any commission to keep the doors of her private eye business open, recently widowed Emily Trace is determined to prove that her husband's death was not accidental.

What ensues is a riotous and eventually overlapping series of events, engaging characters that come to life, and a plot that mixes a cozy mystery with science fiction flair. Within a very few sentences, I was hooked by Sue Eller's witty and entertaining voice and imaginative storytelling. She brings to life the

SASP NEWS

pleasures of living in a city with a small-town heart, where people know each other and are willing to help when needed. Bird lovers and Star Trek fans will appreciate the allusions sprinkled throughout, and I thoroughly enjoyed Sue Eller's ability to characters so fully that I felt I knew them – even Mr. Wren and Mr. Finch.

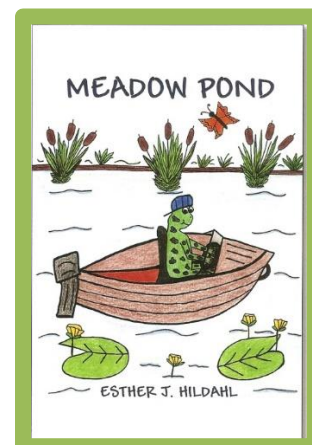
Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Emily Trace opens her own detective agency after her husband is murdered. While she looks for clues a relative of her late husband turns up, a guy she didn't know existed and is the spitting image of her late husband. Darla, an office temp, becomes a valuable part of E. T. Investigations.

Emily's first client thinks aliens have abducted all the Meadowlarks, a species of bird. Deputy Clyde Burton seems intent on watching over Emily in the hunt for the Meadowlarks. Strange folks keep popping up in this story to make a fun and enjoyable read. If you're a fan of mysteries and science fiction you will love *Meadowlark Madness*.

Reviewed by Joyce Seebaum

I have never read anything in this genre before, but *Meadowlark Madness* kept my attention. Way to go Sue Eller.



Reviewed by James Bartlett Parry

In this charming children's book Esther Hildahl has anthropomorphized all of the animals living in or around Meadow Pond. They are delightful critters who have fears, doubts, happiness, and sadness, just as we humans do.

Meadow Pond teaches us many lessons: We learn much about the biology of frogs and other amphibians; we learn that putting aside differences and joining together to fight a common threat can save the day; and we learn to have respect for all of God's creatures.

You'll jump right in as Web, Clarence, Polly, Skier, Grover and others have many exciting adventures which include battles against the mean Red Boat Kids and Hes-per, the snake who likes to eat frogs. There is even a skiing turtle!

Hildahl has done a wonderful job bringing these animals to life in this cute tale that she relates so well. Although *Meadow Pond* is meant for children (ages 5 to 11), I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

This book is SO great! It starts out in the tadpole classroom as the wonderful frog teacher, Miss Gertie, explains to her students how their bodies will soon be changing. Then she tests them on the history of Meadow Pond. Charming. Next we meet the other inhabitants of the pond. The story quickly gets exciting as we meet the mean Red Boat Kids. Then there's Hes-per the snake. Ms. Hildahl has created a wonderful backdrop for her story with enough description to put a child right in the story. The characters are rich and recognizable as we all know people *just like that*. There are lessons about avoiding dangers, bravery against bullies, about working together for the common good, diplomacy in negotiations with another species, and making a plan, even if it's sounds too scary to pull off. It has a great happy ending, as it should. As an added bonus, Ms. Hildahl has filled the book with her own whimsical illustrations that call out for crayons to color them in. A perfect book for grandmothers to have in their libraries.

Reviewed by Sandra Mason

Esther Hildahl's delightful story for children is full of adventure, and scary escapes. The pond dwellers work together to solve terrifying problems. Esther has created loveable and believable characters, while teaching important lessons to kids: Loyalty to friends, bravery in difficult times, and working together to solve big problems for tiny pond creatures. When all seems hopeless, Web hatches a plan.

Enter the Red Boat Kids, Alix, Tulip, Spike, Dooley, and Nat. These kids make the Herdmans look kind. Talk about terrible, these children are the *WORST!* Apparently, their parents have never taught them manners or respect for people or the planet. They terrorize the creatures of Meadow Pond and annoy other humans.

When Hesper, the giant snake, who is determined to eat as many frogs and toads as he can appears, the peace and safety of Meadow Pond is at stake. Will Web and his friends be able to hatch a plan to stop Hesper, stymie the Red Boat Kids, and save the creatures of Meadow Pond?

This delightful book, creatively illustrated by the author, is a must for young adventurers, parents and grandparents who love to share a captivating story. I will happily present this book to my granddaughter for her birthday!