

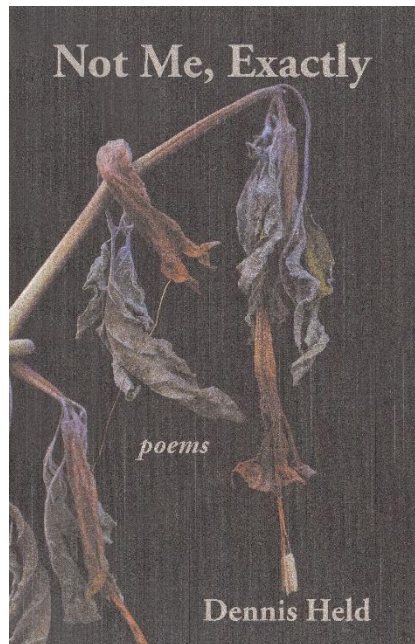
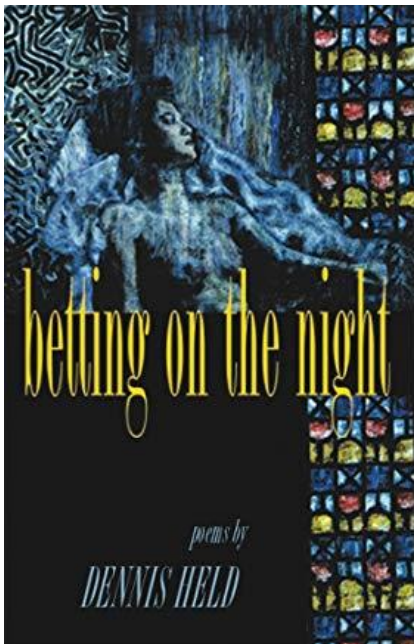


SASP

NEWS

November 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. 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 25th of the month preceding the issue month. **(November 25th for the December 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
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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

"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

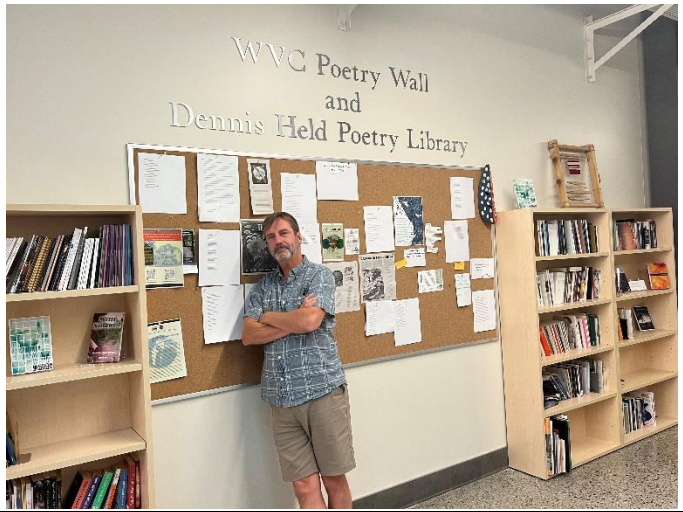
Cover: Betting on the Night, Not Me, Exactly, and Ourselves by SASP member Dennis Held.

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers member Dennis Held is a local editor, poet, and essayist.

He was awarded a Pushcart Prize for an essay, "What I'll Miss," which was reprinted last year in the Pushcart Prize Anthology #46.

Below is a picture of his friend, Derek Sheffield, who teaches English at Wenatchee Valley College. He helped Dennis establish a library of poetry books that he'd collected over the years. The books will be available to everyone at the college. They are still adding books, but it is estimated they're up to about 30 feet of bookshelf space.



We will also be holding elections for officers and advisory board members to serve through the following year.

OUR FIRST ALTERNATE MEETING!

Because we meet in the daytime during the week, it's possible that many who are interested in our organization cannot attend due to work obligations. Thus, we will begin holding a second monthly meeting that hopefully these folks can attend.

Our first alternate meeting will be at 2:00 pm. On Saturday, November 18th, at St. Francis of Assisi, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. We'll be meeting in the social hall. Those with mobility issues can enter via the Jefferson St. door to access a mobility chair to get the lower level.

At this time we don't have a planned program. It will be a matter of finding out what any new members or current members want.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy Thanksgiving



These birds are thankful they didn't become dinner

Looking back over this year, I am thankful we still have our group and are still writing and participating in the Spokane writing community.

OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, November 10, 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 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 speaker will be Joseph Edwin Haeger, author of the experimental memoir *Learn To Swim*. Beyond writing his memoir, he also writes essays, poetry, and screenplays.



The month of November begins with craft fairs and other events and includes elections of SASP officers. It is hoped that many of you will vote, either in person at the meeting or by emailing Dave at authors@spokanea

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Happy turkey month SASP friends! As the holidays commence we have much to be thankful for, like our new meeting space, our continuing growth as a writer's group (more on that later), the speakers we've been able to enjoy, and the wonderful leadership of our soon to "retire" President Sue Eller.

Personally, I am so grateful to be able to know all of you! Each of you has made this group better in some way. So, thank you!



This month our speaker will be Joseph Edwin Haeger, author of the experimental memoir *Learn To Swim*. Beyond writing his memoir, he also writes essays, poetry, and screenplays.

If you've attended a meeting in the last year or so, you know we film our speakers and post their Author Talk on YouTube. If you're not sure how to find them, a link to the video will always be posted on our Facebook page, X (formerly Twitter) account, and Instagram. If you prefer the direct route, just visit YouTube and search for Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers to find our page.

Something new for everyone is we are starting up a second monthly meeting! Starting in November, the SASP will be hosting another writer's group on the 3rd Saturday of every month at St. Francis of Assisi's social hall (1104 W. Heroy). The meetings will be at 2:00 p.m. and will have a slightly different format than our regular meetings. Also, just a heads up, for those with mobility issues please enter through the Jefferson Street door. There is a mobile chair for the stairs.

All right, now that I've inundated you with information, I'll sign off saying once again how grateful I am to know you all.

authors.org before the November 10th meeting.

We will also hold a second meeting on Saturday, November 18th, at 1104 West Heroy St, Spokane, Little Bears Academy/St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church social hall. Watch for the signs once you get there at the entrance on Heroy. If you have mobility issues, you can enter at the Jefferson entrance and use the electric chair to go downstairs. We have been offered this room through the end of 2024, on the third Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at no charge. Please let anyone who has requested a meeting on the weekend know about it and encourage them to come.

Planning for the April 27, 2024, event at Auntie's is coming along nicely. The committee has decided to call it Northwest Indie Bookfest, and there will be five local groups and several other indie authors not associated with a group involved. For this event, those who are interested in participating in selling their books are Esther Hildahl, Dave McChesney, M. J. Hudon, and Mary Debord. Carl Northrup will represent the group by doing a reading, and one other person (to be determined) will teach a mini-workshop on a subject of the SASP group's choice. (The organizing committee will provide us with a list of ideas we can choose from.) All members are encouraged to attend this free event, mingle, and meet other attendees.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on November 10th at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. The room opens at 1:30, and the meeting begins at 2:00.

Sue Eller

Blessings to you, my fellow writers and friends.

Marilee Hudon Vice President

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

As the Holidays draw closer, many of us will be taking part in local arts and crafts fairs. We'll hold officer and advisory board member elections at our upcoming November meeting. In December members and guests can showcase their work during our traditional open mic session.

We'll also begin holding a second meeting each month. This will be on the third Saturday of each month in the social hall of St.



Francis of Assisi Church. Hopefully this will allow folks to attend who can't make it to our Friday afternoon events. Possibly we'll end up with some who only attend the Friday meetings, those who only come to the Saturday meetings,

and a few who make it to both.

Spokane Authors is also engaged with a number of other writing organizations and individuals in planning to celebrate Northwest Independent Bookfest 2024 at Auntie's Books in April of next year.

At the special meeting in March, we discussed changing our name and dropping *Self-Publishers* as some felt it might be off-putting. I don't think we actually need to change the name, but rather we can emphasize *Spokane Authors* and downplay the *Self-Publishers*. Rather than SASP, we can simply be SA. (I'm trying to come up with a logo and hopefully will have something for your consideration in the near future)

As the New Year approaches, it is time to pay our dues and continue our individual

memberships. In many ways, our dues are symbolic, but we do have expenses. Our biggest is rent for our meeting space. We also rent a post office box and have a web-site and e-mail account. We also reimburse those who provide refreshments at our meetings.

If you are unsure of your membership status, check the roster that is sent along with the newsletter. Follow across to the right from your name. If there is a number, such as 23 in the appropriate column, you are paid up for that year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave McChesney".

ELECTIONS

Ballots for our elections are close to being finalized. No one, other than our current President and Vice President have notified us that they will not be seeking re-election. Additionally, no one has come forward to seek the job of Vice-President. We originally planned to send ballots along with the newsletter, but we might need to delay that. If you want to run for any office, particularly, Vice President, contact Dave McChesney at daveeva@comcast.net or at authors@spokaneauthors.org to put your name on the ballot. We want to send ballots out no later than Monday November 6th.

Return ballots by e-mail, surface mail, or bring to the November meeting. Blank ballots will on hand for those who wish to vote there. **To vote you must be current in your dues. To hold office you must also be current in your dues.**

OUR SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING

Compiled Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met Friday October 13th at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. Present were Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Betty Deuber, Sue Eller, Dennis Held, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Marilee Hudon, Connie Kerbs (new member), Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Kate Poitevin, Elena Smith, Linda Sonntag-Noble, and Darlene Stevens (new member). Present as guests were Shane Murdock-Stephan and Theresa Topp.

Since our speaker had not yet arrived, we began with the business portion of our meeting. Sue told us about the efforts of Eric Schubach and others to celebrate National Indie Book Day at Aunties on April 27, 2024. Elena Smith, Mary De Bord, and Esther Hildahl indicated they would be interested in selling and signing books at the event. They are also hoping to have people do readings, and as well present some writers workshops. (Sue Eller, Marilee Hudon, and Dave McChesney are representing Spokane Authors as this event is planned and are scheduled to meet with the rest of the writers organizations on Tuesday October 24th.)

The next big topic was elections. We'll be selecting officers and advisory board members at our November 10 meeting. All offices are open for nomination and possible new office holders. As both our President and Vice President have indicated they will step down, we will need new people in those positions. Carl Northrup indicated he would serve as President if elected. Thus, we will need someone to serve as Vice President. Those currently in the remaining positions will be considered to be running for reelection to those spots unless they notify Dave McChesney (who will be putting the ballot together) that they do not wish to continue in office. Dave McChesney indicated he will stay on as Treasurer, and Esther Hildahl said she would be willing to remain as one of the Advisory Board members. Mary De Bord and

Connie Kerbs mentioned they would be interested in Advisory Board positions.

Dave McChesney noted that he would try to have a ballot put together in time to be sent out to members along with the November newsletter, on or about the first of the month. Members can vote and return the ballot via e-mail, USPS, bring them to the November meeting, or pick up and mark a ballot at the meeting. (Common sense says that only those members whose dues are up to date are eligible to vote, and anyone elected to office should also be up to date regarding dues.)

As we approach the Holiday Shopping Season, the number of arts and craft fairs is going up. Members are planning to attend various events over the next few months, including Mt. Spokane, Central Valley, Mead, Shadle, and Ridgeline High Schools, to name a few.

By now, our speaker had arrived. Sue quickly introduced Patricia Meredith who gave a wonderful and fast-paced presentation. She writes historical/cozy fiction novels, with many of her stories set here in Spokane. Many of the places mentioned in her stories are places one can visit today. Other stories are set at the North Pole, and some inspired by Anna Katherine Green, who in turn inspired Sir Author Conan Doyle. Patricia spoke about her writing, editing, (self) publishing, and marketing process. She noted that when she is reviewing her work, she goes by what she called the "ABCD" method. Is it AMAZING? Hopefully it is not BORING! Ideally it is not CONFUSING! Is there anything one DIDN'T BELIEVE?

She was accompanied by her husband Andrew Meredith who writes epic fantasy. Following her presentation, she took time to talk with many of our members, as well as to sell and sign copies of her books.

As usual, the last part of our meeting was our drawing for door prizes. In a strange twist of fate, Bob Manion ended up winning a copy of one of his own books. Sue declared the meeting adjourned, and we all went our separate ways. Our next meeting is set for Friday November 10th, and as mentioned previously will include officer and board

member elections. At this point it is unclear if we will have a speaker or not. If so, word will be sent as soon as it is known. Our December meeting will be an open mic session to allow our members (and guests) to share a little of their work with us.

lindathewriter@gmail.com

or Auntie's Bookstore at

auntiesbooks@gmail.com

Author Meet and Greet

Tiffani Harvey, Saturday November 4th
1030 am – 3:30 pm Social Room
43 E. Weile Ave., Spokane, WA

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, November 15th at 7 PM, with an open discussion on "Where we've been: where we are going."

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

Arts and Craft Fairs

Several Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers members will be participating in upcoming arts and craft fairs in order to sell their books. These include:

Central Valley High School
Saturday and Sunday, November 4th and 5th.

Shadle Park High School
Saturday and Sunday, November 4th and 5th

Mead High School
Saturday and Sunday, November 11th and 12th.

Ridgeline High School
Saturday and Sunday, December 2nd and 3rd.

If you know of other craft fairs, please let your editor know so we can add it to the list.

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")

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.

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!

Like to read psychological thrillers?

Contact Beth for a free review copy of *Mothers Don't Die* at bluebethley@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Auntie's Bookstore: Local Authors Book Club

Will meet via Zoom on Wednesday November 1st, at 2 PM, featuring *Mothers Don't Die* by SASP member **Beth Camp**

For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at

SASP 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(dot)amzn(dot)com/dp/)
 Example: www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332
 or: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044
 ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

Connie Kerbs

Paths of Fear B017Z1EQT8 0996966110
Whatever Things B07L8J8QK7 099696617X
A Season for All things 1736741926
What is a Camel? B091DFCCQG 0996966196
The Giraffe Gaffe 173674190X

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 B0B1WB4C4L B0B1HXV2KS
Meadowlark Madness B0B2HZXVQD 1639445979
Taming of the T-Bird B0B2V4H1FN B0B2TVKRXS
Send in the Drones B0B#X7SJ2 B0B3JMF374
The Gluten Free Gourmand B00TRBKT9U 150853134X
Short Trips to Alternate Universes B08P342L5V B08P3QTJQL (pb)

Beth Camp:

The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales B0090VHKBC 1479180971

Standing Stones B00I3RYFW6 1494772434
 B01ATPTL5U (audio)
Years of Stone B00LF3FY4S 1500129585
Rivers of Stone B077M1TFLP 1545217491
Scattered Stones BZ0B6WNNCSN B0B8RP66QD
The Seventh Tapestry B08GJ8VRGL B097SKDWRF (pb)
Poetry in a Time of Pandemic B0889TDKR2 B088LKFB6G
The Cowboy and the Lady B0C74VL5Z2 B0C76QGZMV
Mothers Don't Die B0CGS1SJK6 B0CH26VZLK

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we will continue with our usual order.

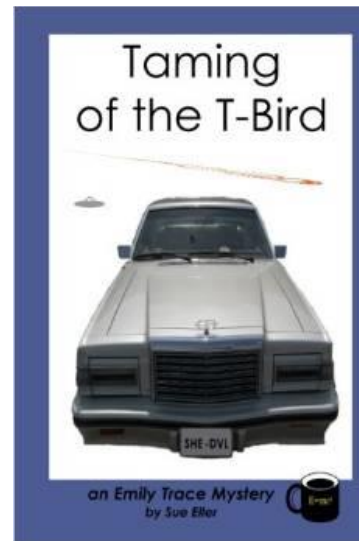


Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

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*.



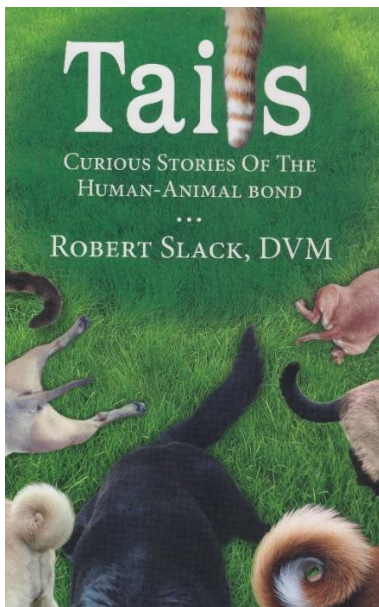
By Sue Eller

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 online in both e-book and paperback versions,



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Doctor Bob dedicated his life to caring for our animal friends and companions. As his career progressed, he noted the deep connections that develop between people and their pets. He chronicles those deep attachments, including those between him and his own furry friends in this wonderfully written book. Just be sure to have a box of tissues handy as you read it.

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.