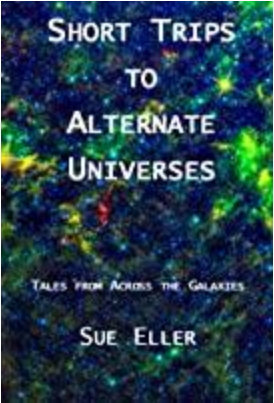
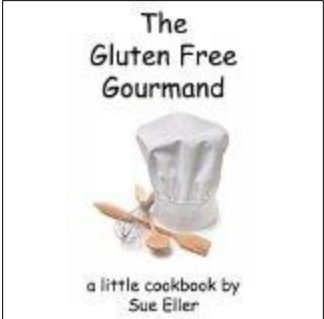
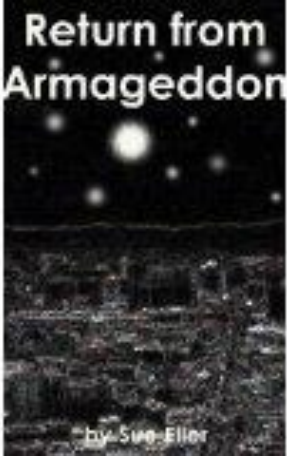




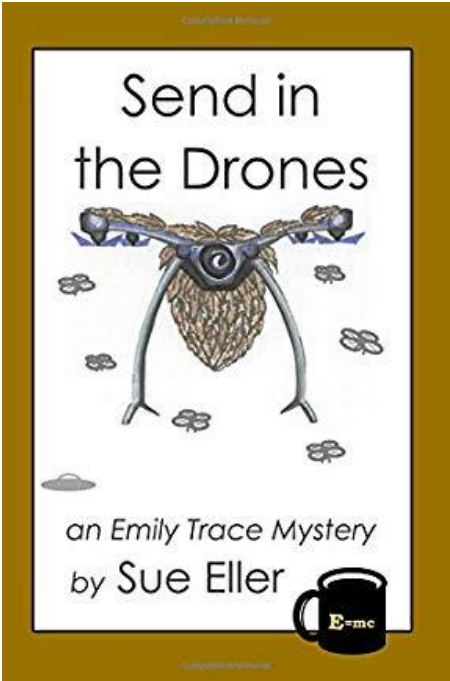
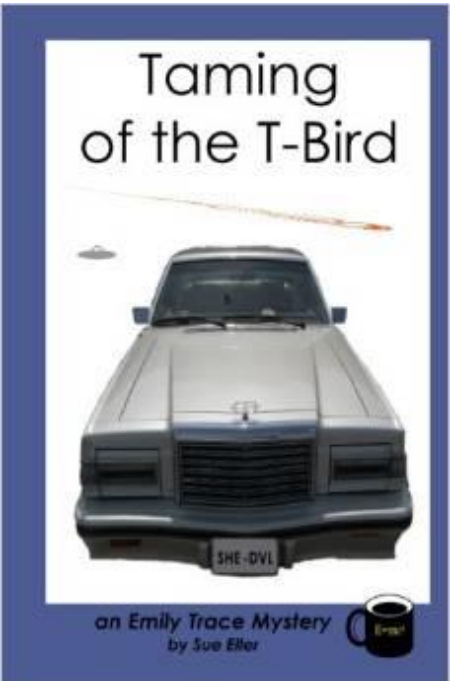
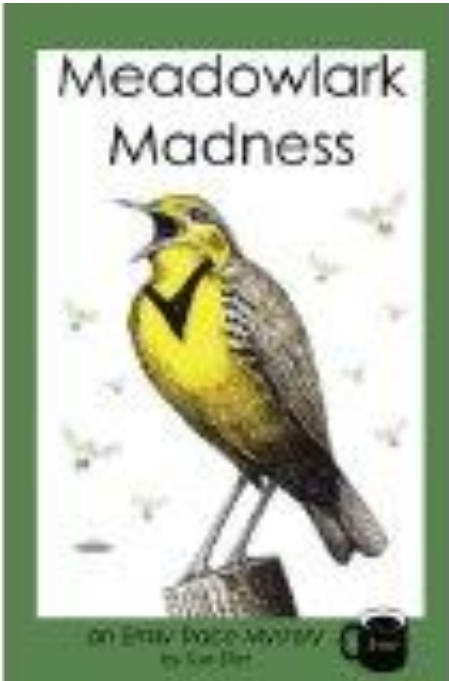
# SASP

# NEWS

September 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. **(September 25<sup>th</sup> for the October 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)  
**Or:** [saspworks4u@gmail.com](mailto:saspworks4u@gmail.com)

Cover: Books by SASP member Sue Eller

## THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Current Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers President Sue Eller is the author of several books, including the Emily Trace Mysteries. These stories combine Science Fiction and Cozy Mystery. Other works include a short Science Fiction story, a collection of Science Fiction short stories, and a cookbook.

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, September 8, 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 speaker will be local author and poet, Stephen Pitters. We will also attempt a short writing exercise.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Time to hit the books



To at least some of us, summer is the time for vacations, going to the lake, fishing,

and other getaways and relaxation. September is the benchmark for going back to school or generally knuckling down and getting back in the work groove.

Writing another book (or two or three) is more like play than work for most of us. We write because we enjoy it. For those of us who have works in progress, now is a good time to finish one in time to get some printed for the fall and winter craft fairs and related events. At least for me, craft fairs are a good time to meet readers and promote my books, and preparations for them are a good time for me to nag myself about getting in gear and finishing something. 😊😊

I hope to see you at our next meeting on September 8 at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. The room opens at 1:30, and the meeting begins at 2:00.

*Sue Eller* President



## FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello fellow writers,

I hope you all have been enjoying the cooler temperatures. I know I have.

At our next meeting on Sept. 8th, local poet and author, Stephen Pitters will read from his most recent works. We will also have a short writing exercise, so bring some paper, a pen, and all your creativity. See you there,

*Marilee Hudon* Vice President



## FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

To once again piggyback on Marilee's comments, I too am rejoicing in the cooler weather, the cloudy skies, and the rain soaking into the earth. Hopefully the precipitation will do a lot to ease the work of firefighters as they wrap up their efforts for the Gray, the Oregon Road, and other wild fires. Here's hoping none of you were directly or adversely effected by these disasters.

At times like this, many of us wonder what we can do to help. Yes, we can make a donation to the appropriate places, if we have



the means to do so. And remember, even small donations, if multiplied by a large number of generous people can help. But perhaps as authors we could also use book sales as a way to raise money and donate, if we should so choose. One

could simply set aside a small amount or percentage from each sale and pass it along to the appropriate agency or fund. One might even think to advertise the fact. "Fifty cents of each sale will be donated to..." Who knows, you might be able to help a worthy cause and increase sales as well.

As always, don't forget to pay your dues, or if your Member Web-Page needs updating, contact me with the information.

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

### OUR AUGUST 2023 MEETING

Compiled by Linda Sonntag-Noble and  
Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met Friday August 11th at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. Present were: Beth Camp,

Larry Danek, Jennifer Day, Sue Eller, Marilee Hudon, Fred Jessett, Bob Manion, Sandy Mason, Dave McChesney, Rich McKay, Carl Northrup, and Linda Sonntag-Noble. There were also a small number of guests present, but circumstances didn't allow us to get their names. (If you were at our August meeting, we are glad you could attend.)

Sue Eller opened the meeting and quickly moved into her role as one of our speakers. She spoke about writers molding their readers' attitudes toward diversity, using Gene Roddenberry, creator of *Star Trek* as an example. He conveyed the concept of diversity through the actions of crew members of the starship *Enterprise*. The various characters demonstrated tolerance to others very dissimilar to themselves, as exemplified by the Romulan captain in a particular episode. He was a leader who looked very different from those aboard the *Enterprise*, but told Captain Kirk that in many ways they are "not much different,"

Sue mentioned another episode in which Captain Kirk kissed Lieutenant Uhura, the first time a white male ever kissed a black woman on television!

Star Trek epitomized the I. D. I. C. concept, which stands for, "Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations."

Our other speaker for the day was Beth Camp. She approached the topic of diversity in a unique way. She had us list the three most defining moments of our lives and try to see and understand how they influenced our writing. In addition, we were to ascertain whether or not they contained or caused us to include any aspects of cultural diversity in our writing.

She also focused on the idea of cultural misappropriation and the fact that one might not always understand messages and signals of another culture.

To summarize both presentations, it might be said that Sue's was more on the entertainment side of things, as she focused on the *Star Trek* television series. Beth's was more intellectual and looked into the historical aspects of cultural diversity. (Contact the SASP web-master at:

[authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org) or at [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net) if you would like a copy of the handout(s)/presentation guide(s) for either of our speakers.)

Following our break, we were all happy to welcome back SASP member Fred Jessett who had been absent for a few meetings because of an injury.

Carl Northrup stated he was very close to publishing his second book, hopefully by our September meeting, and was continuing to work on his third.

Marilee Hudon noted that the Rogers High School Arts and Craft Fair would be on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Central Valley's is slated for November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. She hinted that she might have and would send links for signing up for these events. A market event at Liberty Lake in early or mid-September has evidently been cancelled.

Sue again mentioned that the community center where she lives is interested in setting up a local author section in the common area and we are all encouraged to donate books. They are also looking for local authors to come speak to the residents.

Finally, we drew tickets for an assortment of door prizes and adjourned the meeting. Our next meeting will be on Friday September 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

Will meet via Zoom on Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup>, at 2 PM.

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

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM. Frank Zafiro/Scalise will present: Police Procedurals: Getting it Right?

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

## SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many SASP members' books are on Amazon and/or Kindle™ (We print short parts of the list on a rotating basis. The complete, and hopefully up to date list is available on the web-site, under "NEWS")

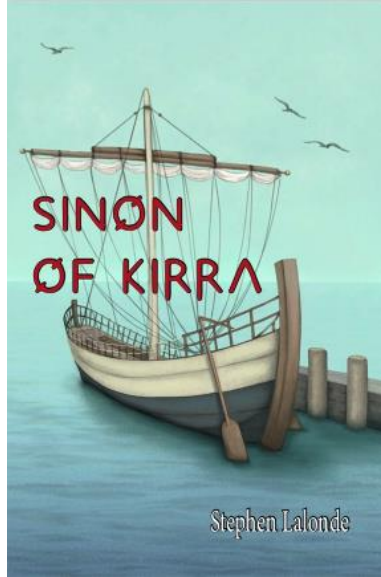
To speed your search, add the provided ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code (ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www(dot)amzn(dot)com/dp/)  
Example: [www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332](http://www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332)  
or: [www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044](http://www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044)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

## 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/blurbs/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

## FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we have one new review and then we will continue with our usual order.



By Stephen Lalonde  
Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Sinon of Kirra* begins in 612 BCE (Before the Christian Era), the last year of the 41<sup>st</sup> Olympiad in Ancient Greece.

Sinon, age sixteen, and Mentu, his Nubian servant

and best friend, decide to leave their village of Kirra and embark on a journey to find a golden fleece at the end of the Black Sea. Soon they join Captain Aristomachos and his crew on the ship *Amphitrite*. When the wind doesn't blow enough to fill the sails of the ship, they spend their time rowing, which builds up their arm muscles and makes them strong. But first, they had to learn to oar together in rhythm with the rest of the crew.

On the ship they meet Strymon who is a storyteller and becomes their friend. Often, they and the crew enjoy listening to Strymon tell exciting stories about their Greek gods and goddesses. Sailing from island to island they have many adventures, including learning how to get a golden fleece, which was very interesting, and experiencing the devastation of being shipwrecked.

When I was in high school, I enjoyed reading books about Greek and Roman mythology, so this book was a fun read for me. Local author Lalonde has created a well-written story with believable characters that is never boring and has a great ending. I liked that the author included an appendix that listed the characters in the story. And I liked the glossary that tells about the gods and

### Ed Des Autel

*III Minutes to XII*

**B07B3YDPLK 1641382511**

### Marilee Hudon

*Waxing Is Useless  
Lilac City Lunacy*

**B07HY4Y85T 172128186X  
B0BSVB117K B0BSJ6CFV4**

### Joan Carter

*Gray Swallow*

**B07PXM1VXC**

### Sonja Mongar

*Two Spoons of Bitter*

**069205524X**

### Michael Zargona

*Turn Red Tomorrow  
Sixteen Hooves Thunder*

**B07Q7TNLTC 1092144404  
B08LHK5PKF B08LJPKCM2**

### M. Kari Barr

*Once Again Tales of Destiny*

**B07H8Q5CJD 1732140103**

*They Came From the Sea (D. P. Waters, co-author)*

**B07FDK1VKG 1722744367  
(audio) B07GC5WXS2**

*Thinktacular Thoughts (Illustrated by Stoyan Dobrev)*

**B07GNYD2C4**

*Rain on Me: Poetic Frenzy*

**B07GNVPQX9 1468123378**

*Arcadium Autum Emporium: Tales of the Gate Keeper*

**173214012X**

**Dennis Held** *Betting on the Night* **0966861280**

### Gena Bradford

*I Can't Rest Now, Lord! I'm Responsible...*

**1072677067**

### Phillip Jones

*The Casebook of Thadeus Rede & Other Stories*

**B00HWXAWTW 1492181730**

*Inventions and Discoveries: A Trip Through History*

**B00FBHNFRW 149038460X**

*Forensic Science for Writers: A Reference Guide*

**B008Y2MX8S 1475267207**

*Criminal Investigators, Villains, and Tricksters: A Trip Through History*

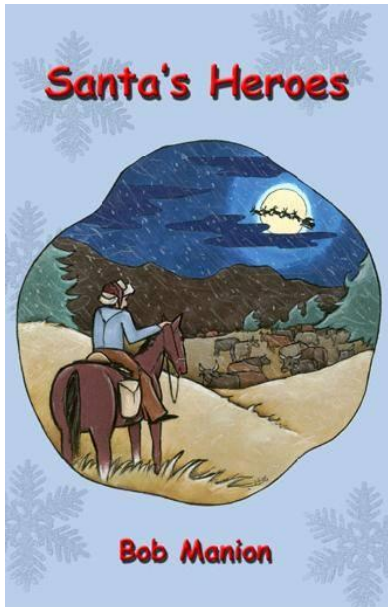
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### Gail Saunders

*Cluckenstein: The Halloween Chicken*

**1946882054**

goddesses and other interesting facts about Greek mythology. I recommend this book to anyone who likes to read about long ago, the age of sail, and adventures into the unknown. Also, if you like this story, you can continue reading about Sinon and Mentu's adventures in *Mentu the Nubian*.



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Who steps in to aid Santa and the rest of the Christmas Delivery Team when events do not go as planned? The answers are found in *Santa's Heroes*. A varied assortment of individuals, ones you could meet on the street and those that exist only in your

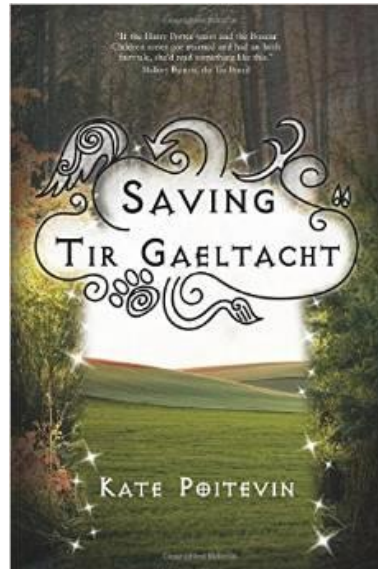
imagination help Santa through many adverse situations. Unlikely helpers include a cowboy and his horse, sled dogs that can fly, and the United States Marine Corps Reserve. In this relatively small volume we also learn much of how Santa accomplishes his yearly task. How does he fit presents for a world of children in one bag? Why does no one ever catch Santa in the act of leaving gifts, unless it is meant for one to see him?

*Santa's Heroes* is a delightful book, suitable in my opinion for anyone capable of reading it. One might also read it, a story or chapter at a time, to preschoolers. Yet it has qualities that make it worthwhile for adults to read. Older readers with a sentimental heart will feel their eyes water in places. Goodness, cooperation, and happy endings prevail. It is a *feel good read*.

*Santa's Heroes*, ISBN 978-0-9788507-3-9 was originally self-published by Robert L. Manion. A newer edition, ISBN 978-1-936178-09-4 had been published by [Gray Dog Press](#) and retails for \$13.00.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

*Santa's Heroes* is a collection of light hearted, fanciful, and imaginative tales about Santa. Mr. Manion tells behind the scenes stories of Santa and his other friends, and it is full of wonderful, rich characters. There's Sydney, the little girl who visits Santa's Village in her dreams (and apparently we all can) A lonely cowboy with a big heart, flying sled dogs, a missing penguin egg, last minute panic when the gift count comes up short, and even a mischievous Leprechaun to please us Irish folk. The best part, though, is finally learning the secret about how Santa gets all those gifts into one bag. Don't try to get me to tell you. I've keep the secret of *The Sixth Sense* to this day, I'm not likely to be bribed to tell this one.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Saving Tir Gaeltacht* (Tcheer GAUL toc) is the story of four siblings and their cousin who step through a portal into a strange new world; a world of discovery and adventure. With their bond-mates--a Dragon, a Gryffin, a Winged Horse, a White Stag,

and a Giant Wolfe--they soon discover they are here to save this magical world from the evil queen who rules it, and eventually they go to war to help restore the kingdom to its rightful ruler.

Poitevin has written a wonderful, exciting story with well-defined characters and a great ending, which does not disappoint. I liked that she listed the cast of characters, with a little information on each one, and had a pronunciation guide at the end of her book. I would recommend this book for sixth-graders to adults or younger if read aloud. There is so

much to this story that you will want to read it over and over again.

Available at Auntie's, Hastings on Wellesley and East Sprague, Amazon, and Kindle.

Reviewed by Sue Eller

Kate Poitevin weaves an adventure for children of all ages and skillfully entwines the modern world and a timeless one. She paints a vivid picture of life in an old Celtic realm and makes her readers feel as if they could step into the book and be transported there themselves. Rich with descriptions of the places, the people, and the other inhabitants of Tir Gaeltacht, the story itself moves her characters through situations common to us all, and gives them – and us – a chance to learn and grow.

Available at Hastings Books in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, Auntie's Book Store in Spokane, amazon.com, and the trunk of Kate's car.

Reviewed by James Parry

An epic fantasy destined to become a classic. Ms. Poitevin immediately pulls the reader in. She fully develops each character, so much so that I felt as if I knew each personally. And the same with the setting: It was as if I had actually alighted in this Celtic land with the child warriors - and their bond-mates.

Beautiful, descriptive writing with a great ending. Reminded me of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Would make a wonderful movie. Reviewer Mallory Battista said it best: "If the Harry Potter series and the Boxcar Children series got married and had an Irish fairytale, she'd read something like this."

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

On a summer camping trip, four children go on a dragon hunt with their grandmother. When a portal opens, they step through and immediately meet... a dragon. Thus begins the adventures of Taylor, Jordan, Zach and Zayne in the magical world of Tir Gaeltacht.

That Celtic based world is in great danger and Taylor is expected to save it. Later joined by their cousin Gabe, they pair up with the dragon, a Gryffin, a flying horse, a giant Wolfe, and a white stag. With the help of people they meet, they set about rescuing the land from the evil queen's clutches.

I remember, as an elementary student, teachers reading stories to the class, a little every day, usually as class resumed after lunch. This is the ideal story to read in such fashion. It is long and complex enough to last for an entire semester, if not the entire school year. Third graders and beyond would find it exciting to visit the world Ms. Poitevin creates each and every day. Because I read on my lunch break, I digested this tale in much the same way, a little bit each day. As I progressed through the story, I found myself not wanting to put it down and anxiously awaiting my next reading session. Although I was anxious for the plot to be resolved, I did not want the story to end.

Besides being an exciting story, Ms. Poitevin weaves in a great deal of Celtic/Gaelic culture, customs, and legend. *Saving Tir Gaeltacht* is available from amazon.com in hardcopy and on Kindle™. It is also available in select Spokane area book stores and from the author herself.

Reviewed by Robert Hildahl

I have read all three books of *Saving Tir Gaeltacht*. They tell the story of four young siblings who go on a hike and follow their younger brother, Zayne, through a portal into another world. While there they find out they were expected all along and are needed to help save the country from an evil ruler. So with the help of their cousin, Gabe, and their bond-mates: a Dragon, a Gryffin, a Winged Horse, a White Stag, and a Giant Wolfe, they are off to help save the country from an evil Queen. They travel everywhere and have lots of adventures.

This is an excellent series that tells an exciting story. Kate Poitevin is a very good writer and has created interesting characters



all throughout her books. I highly recommend these three books for school-age kids to adults.

(Editor's note: This was originally published as a single volume as shown above. Later it was re-issued as three separate books. The covers of those are shown below.)

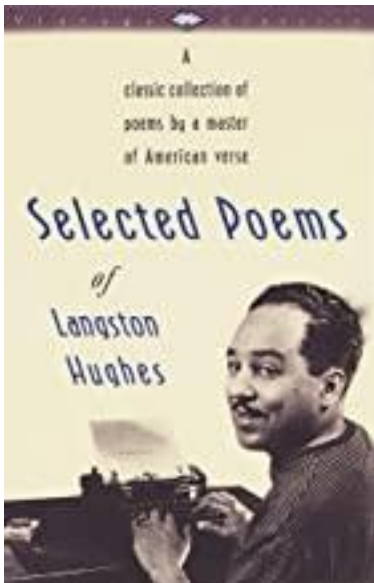
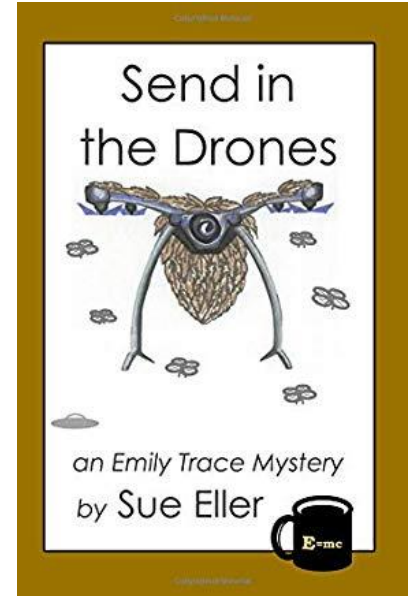


poor. He writes about religion, humor, love, hopelessness, despair, dreams, freedom, and much more. It's a wonderful collection of poems written by a very talented poet. Although depressing at times, I enjoyed reading it and highly recommend it.

Reviewed by  
Joyce Caudel

E.T.

Investigations, some think the E.T. stands for Extra Terrestrial, therefore Emily Trace's client list consists of some strange creatures from outer space and some strange creatures from right here on earth.



Reviewed by Esther  
J. Hildahl

When I was in college many, many years ago, I took a Black History class and was introduced to various Black writers. One of my favorites was Langston Hughes. I loved his poetry and short stories. He wrote over thirty books during his lifetime. First published in 1926, he died in 1967. Recently, I was in Barnes and Noble and purchased two of his books. This particular book, *Selected Poems of Langston Hughes* tells of the experiences of Black men and women in America. He expresses through his poetry the soul of slaves, of musicians, of the

Emily, high on caffeine, is told she has two days to vacate her office. The new owner wants to make the building into condos. That alone is enough to keep her whole staff and all her friends busy.

Control freak bully, Charley Russell, wants Emily to close her agency and marry him. Emily's house erupts in flames while she is sleeping, she escapes with her life. Later her car is totaled by a runaway driverless semi-truck. Detective Burton decides Emily needs protecting. Of course, there are all those drones!

Emily finds the key to unlock the mystery of who killed her husband. I hope she can relax for a while, but I'm sure Sue is busy writing the next book in the Emily Trace Mystery series. I thoroughly enjoyed this story as I did the first two in the series. Sue's characters are very believable, in an out of this world sort of way. If you enjoy a good mystery with a Sci-Fi edge to it, you will enjoy *Send in the Drones* by Sue Eller.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Send in the Drones* is the third book in Eller's Emily Trace Mysteries series. Like her other books this story is about Emily Trace's detective agency called E. T. Investigations and the current case they are trying to solve. This time it's about tiny drones that attack and then disappear in thin air.

Emily and her employees and friends, three of whom are from outer space, are interesting and well-defined characters. One character is Jake, her former beloved teacher; another is Darla, her trusty secretary; and Detective Burton, who becomes her very good friend. And then there's her wannabe fiancé, Charlie Russell, who turns out to be a control freak and not a very nice person.

Plus, there are a few things stressing Emily out like having to move her agency in just a few days, her house catching on fire while she is sleeping, and her car being totaled by a driverless semi-truck. Who wouldn't be stressed? And I loved the descriptive way she described her beloved car, Silver Bullet, after it was hit, writing that it sat like a giant silver turtle, resting on its roof with its tires up in the air.

This book is a good read with a surprise ending that calls for another Emily Trace Mystery. I enjoyed reading this book and if you like a mystery with quirky characters, you will too.

Reviewed by Fred Jessett

*Send in the Drones* is a worthy successor to *Meadowlark Madness* and *Taming of the T-Bird*, the first two books about Emily Trace and her unwittingly named detective agency, E.T. Investigations. As with the first two books, her goal is to find who killed her late husband, but she is constantly called on to look into unearthly matters. In doing so she has gained some important allies from another world. Now her friends help her close in on the murderer, while trying to protect her. No spoiler here, but Emily does have a serious coffee addiction. Read the book, her

characters are real, and the story is a most enjoyable read.

## SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS

From your editor

### The Slow Read

Today's world is obsessed with speed and demands near instant results. This translates to the world of reading where folks try to read as much as they can as fast as they can. There is nothing wrong with that, but perhaps we should take a look at an alternative... the slow read.

There was a time when I read as rapidly as I could, when I would not put a book down until forced to do so or I had reached the end. Quite possibly, if my overall circumstances would permit it, I would do that again. Now I do most of my reading on my lunch break at work. I get a cup of coffee, kick my shoes off, and read for a half hour or so. When the coffee is gone and my time expired, I close the book and set it aside. It can take a while to get through the typical novel, and if it happens to be a voluminous one, it may take close to a month. And quite often on Fridays I instead look through our local weekly alternative newspaper.

Reading slower takes me back to my grade school days when many teachers read to the class every day. Often it was after lunch when everyone was tired from the lunch hour recess. One teacher insisted we put our heads down and close our eyes while she read to us. I remember stories such as *Lassie Come Home*, *Little Men*, *Huckleberry Finn*, and more. I was thrilled to follow along as we listened to the day's excerpt. Sometimes the story remained in my thoughts as we moved to other scholastic endeavors. And there was always the anticipation of waiting for the next day and the continuation of the story.