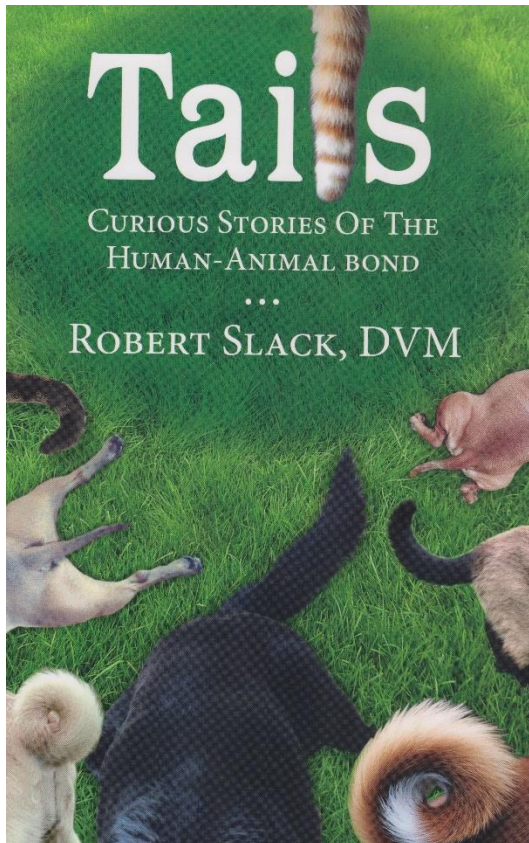


Literary

Gazette

April 2025

**Spokane Authors**  
**P. O. Box 18573**  
**Spokane, WA 99228-0573**



**Submissions Due by:  
April 25<sup>th</sup> for the May 2025 issue.**

**Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers (SASP)**, now known as **Spokane Authors**, began in 1998 when *Chuck O'Conner, Elmer Freeman, Joe Meiners, and Dan Vollmer*, Spokane area authors, formed a club to share knowledge and experience with those interested in writing and alternative publishing. Today, SASP is an organization dedicated to anyone interested 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 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** meets the **second Friday** of each month at the **Sans Souci West Club House**, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane.

Presentations and discussions begin at **2:00 pm**. Members and guests also have a chance to relate accomplishments and note upcoming activities. We usually draw for door prizes.

**Spokane Authors** also meets the **third Saturday** of each month in the social hall of **St. Francis of Assisi Church**, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane.

Meetings begin at **2:00 pm**. We must be out of the room and building by **4:00 pm**.

We often 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 Spokane Authors 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 Spokane Authors website and offer their work for sale at meetings.

Visit the "members" page on our website to connect with members' webpages. 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.

**Spokane Authors members** are encouraged to purchase or trade completed works with fellow members. They are also encouraged to donate copies of their work as door prizes. Winners of other members' work are expected to provide a review.

**Note:** Your name tag is yours to keep and maintain. We provide space to display your books, but *you* must bring them to each meeting.

**2025 Officers:**

**President:** *Carl Northup (Nathaniel Bennett)*  
(509) 445-0166 ikneadedthat53@yahoo.com  
(509) 671-3949

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

**Secretary:** **OPEN**

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

**Public-Relations:** *Marilee Hudon*  
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**Equipment Manager:** *Bob Hildahl*  
mr.inky@yahoo.com

**Advisory Board:**

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

**Member:** *Mary De Bord*  
(509) 999-4797 violetpetalsbook@gmail.com

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

**"Like" the Spokane Authors Facebook Page:**  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679)

**"Join" the Spokane Authors Facebook Group:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1646364128981815/>

**"Follow" us on "X":** <https://twitter.com/AndAuthors>

**Contact us at:** [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org)  
If no response : [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net)  
Or: [saspworks4u@gmail.com](mailto:saspworks4u@gmail.com)

**Videos of many of our presentations are available at:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsforyou>

*Cover: Recent Spokane Authors member Bob Slack, DVM wrote Tails: Curious Stories of the Human-Animal Bond.*

## THE BOOK ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member Bob Slack shares his experiences as a practicing veterinarian in this touching look at animals and the people who love them.

### OUR APRIL MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, April 11, 2025, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. Local author and former Spokane Police Officer Frank Scalise will be our speaker.

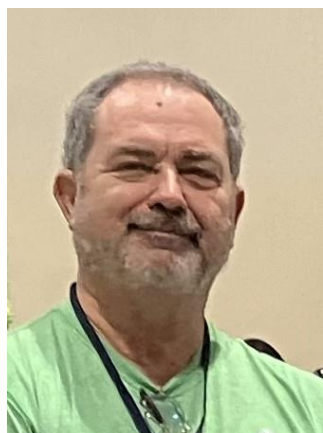
We will meet at 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 18, in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA. No specific program has yet been announced, but we hope to develop a series of presentations for this meeting as well.

Note: The calendar line up is back to normal, so we'll have a week or so between meetings.

### FROM THE PREZ

April, month of pranks, garlic sprouting and mud. It's also the month to finish Winter projects and prepare for Summer. As the air freshens, hopefully so do ideas. I have lost count of the summer projects I have in my to-do list.

But I have a plan! I scratched them all out, except for the first one. When that's done, I'll unscratch the next one and so on.



April is also the start of spring craft fairs, thunderstorms, mowing of lawns and the changing of the studs (tire studs).

All in all, a boring month. May will be rosier...and posier...and daffodillier, Looking forward

to all the spring literary projects that are taking root.

Your Prez.

Carl/Nathaniel

### FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Frank Scalise will join us as our April speaker. He will share his experience and expertise on audiobooks. Frank is a former police officer and has written both fiction and non-fiction books based on his knowledge of law enforcement procedures. He now makes his home in central Oregon but is well known in the Spokane writing community and a veteran speaker to our group over the years. Frank has done many things to promote the authors in our area and has made time in his schedule to come and talk to us.

Our April guest speaker meeting takes place on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the clubhouse at Sans Souci West, located at 3231



West Boone Avenue. Able-bodied and semi-able-bodied members are encouraged to come early (around 1:30 or so) to help set up tables and to help tear down after the meeting is over. Last month,

we had such good attendance that we had to set up more tables after the meeting was scheduled to begin. (Note: it will be easier to put away extra tables after the meeting is over than to set more up at the beginning. It's good to see we are drawing in more interest all the time.

Don't be April fooled! See you on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> or Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>, or both. The Saturday meeting will be held in the basement of the social hall, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1104 W. Heroy Ave. Enter via the double doors facing Heroy Ave and watch for the signs directing you to the meeting room. If you have problems or the door is locked, please call or text our treasurer, Dave McChesney, and he will make sure you can get in. (Sometimes, the church members don't

know we are there and lock the door when they leave.) The meeting begins at 2:00 p.m., and we must be out of there by 4:00 p.m. Among other things, we will have a writing prompt exercise.

Someone at the last meeting asked if we could post a schedule of speakers for this year. Lining up quality speakers for our Friday meetings takes a lot of juggling of both our schedule and that of the speaker. However, I do have speakers lined up for most of the spring and summer. Next month, Cindy Hval, who writes for the Spokesman-Review and has done many things to help promote our group and writers in the Spokane area, will talk to us about writing memoirs and other non-fiction. In June, Tina Hammond will talk about editing and how we can prepare our manuscripts for submission to an editor. At this point, July is still open, but I have been talking to several people about sharing their expertise and experience with us. For August, we will hear from one of the members of the Rotary Club South, who works with children to encourage them to read. I don't have anyone lined up beyond August yet but stay tuned.

*Sue Eller*

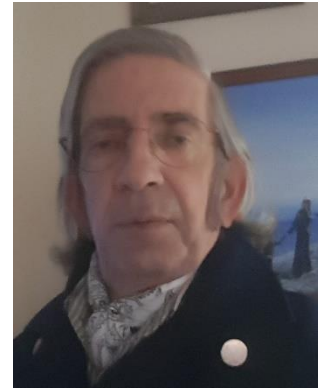
## **FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER**

Usually, I don't write this portion of the newsletter until it is time to send out. But early in the publication process I'm already involved in a rewrite. Somethings have come to mind that I believe should be included here.

You are all aware that our Saturday meeting for March didn't go as planned. To remedy that, those of us who open up for our meetings will remember to bring signs showing where we meet, along with a phone number to call if you arrive and discover the door is locked. Alternately, my number is on the inside front cover of the newsletter and on our roster. The "768" number is my cell phone.

Recently I checked mail at the post office, enroute to deposit recent dues

payments. I had hoped there would be more that could be added to that day's deposit. Alas, the box was empty, so I was only able to deposit dues paid at our meeting the previous Friday. I try to check mail once a week, so I hope the next week is better.



We are into a new membership year, so if you haven't yet paid for 2025, please do so as soon as possible. We don't want to decrease and eventually eliminate member benefits simply because you haven't paid. As I've mentioned before, it's easier to mark someone as "Paid" for the year then it is to remove and later add them back in.

I try to list upcoming speakers as far ahead as I can, depending upon the information I get from our vice-president. Upcoming speakers will be listed here in the newsletter under "Upcoming Events," and on the PROGRAMS page on our website.

Near the bottom of the inside front cover of our newsletter there is a link to our YouTube channel. I figured out why it wasn't working, made a couple of small changes, and now it does. We'll try to post links to new presentation videos, but all are available at that link.

As always, you can send dues to:

**Spokane Authors**

**P. O. Box 18573**

**Spokane, WA 99228-0573**

Or bring cash or check to a meeting. (If I remember to bring my "Square," you can charge your dues to a card.)



## **SECRETARY NEEDED!**

We are currently without a secretary, primarily someone to record our meetings. While we can and have operated without one, we should have someone in that position. If

anyone wants to assume these duties, let us know and we would no doubt elect you by acclaim.

## **SPOKANE AUTHORS CATALOG**

We hope to release a new edition of our catalog in the fall. We want to include new members and those who have renewed their memberships since issuing the first edition last year. If you and your books are currently listed, please make sure to keep them there by renewing your dues for 2025. If you have published a new book or books, let us know so we can include it.

## **OUR MARCH 2025 MEETINGS**

Compiled by Dave McChesney

On Friday March 14, at 2:00 pm., Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Sheri Decker, Betty Deuber, Carolyn Eller, Sue Eller, Mark Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Bob Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Steve Lalonde, Joan, Kopczyński, Steve Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon Miller, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Terry Stratton, and Shandra Tanner. Guests included Mr. Craig and Lynn Hanley.

When the meeting started, Vice-President Sue Eller introduced our speaker, Ben Van Voorhis. He primarily focused on submitting one's work to anthologies or literary magazines. He noted that an individual named Erika Krouse has an online list of as many as 500 literary magazines. Locally one can work with local author Sharma Shields at Spokane City Libraries, or with the folks at Spark Central.

Having one's work accepted by a literary magazine or an anthology is somewhat of a numbers game. As much as seventy-five percent that is submitted might be considered crap, and the remaining twenty-five percent is more than needed. Thus, one's work needs to be in the top one percent if it is to be

considered. Ben strongly suggested one establish goals regarding where one submits, where one hopes to be published, and keep track of where one submits.

Work to be submitted should be as clean and refined as possible. Often this can be done by exchanging work with trusted fellow writers in the local area. Because these submissions are generally short, they should have a hook to catch the reader at or very near the beginning.

Ben also said it is good practice to submit as widely as possible, to have a number of them out there, rather than waiting to hear back from one before sending out another. He also mentioned an online platform called *Submittable* which many of the literary magazines and anthologies use to collect submissions.

After a break, Sue told us our speakers for the next three months. Frank Scalise, a former Spokane City Police Officer and Crime Novelist will speak in April. In May we will welcome The Spokesman-Review's Cindy Hval, and our own T. Hammond will speak in June. Sue also noted she is working on the fourth Emily Trace Mystery, *Through Solid Rock*. Larry Danek indicated that his newest Nomadic Ghost Story, *Seven Down*, formerly *The Gunslinger*, was ready to go live on KDP. President Carl Northrup mentioned that he is getting close to finishing is current work-in progress, which combines Science-Fiction, Mystery, and Romance.

We held our usual drawing for door prizes and visited for a while, as we still had time in the room allotted to us.

Our meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Church at 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> did not go as planned. Four individuals, Carl Northrup, Dave McChesney, Bob Manion, and Terry Stratton, arrived and waited for any others to show up. When no one did, we didn't think too much about it as there had been previous meetings where no one else came. We decided to wait to ensure no one else was coming. After a while, one of us wandered by the door and noticed it had been locked. We could only conclude that people from the

church had been there, and that when they left, they locked up, not knowing we were there and expecting others.

Contrary to our usual practice, we did not post signs directing folks to our exact location within the building. Had those been up, others in the building might have realized we were there. Going forward, we'll remember to bring and post the signs. We'll also include the phone number of someone already there so you can call if you arrive, and the doors are locked. (I have heard from some at the church that they want the doors locked, even if someone is there.)

## MEMBER WEB-PAGE GUIDE

1. Name and **photo/headshot**
2. Brief biography
3. Links to any website, blog, or other online locations.
4. Information about any books published.
  - a. Book cover shot/thumbnail
  - b. Brief description/blurb.
  - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other catalog number
  - d. Locations where physically available.

In many cases your editor/webmaster can find much of this on-line, if it is there. If it's not and you would like to have a member webpage that is as complete as possible, please e-mail information to [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net), [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org), or send via USPS to:

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

We are always ready and willing to update and correct your member webpage. Do not hesitate to contact your webmaster if your page needs attention.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Local Author Book Club

Wednesday April 2, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) For link

### Spokane Authors

Friday April 11, 2:00 pm

Sans Souci West Club House

Speaker: Frank Scalise

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild Coffee with Linda

Saturday April 12, 2:00 pm

*The Meeting House*, 11<sup>th</sup> and Pittsburg,

RSVP at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday April 16, 7:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact

[lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for link

### Spokane Authors

Saturday April 19, 2:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

### Local Author Book Club

Wednesday May 7, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) For link

### Spokane Authors

Friday May 9, 2:00 pm

Sans Souci West Club House

Speaker: Cindy Hval

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild Coffee with Linda

Saturday May 10, 2:00 pm

*The Meeting House*, 11<sup>th</sup> and Pittsburg,

RSVP at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

### Spokane Authors

Saturday May 16, 2:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday May 21, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)

Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for link

### Local Author Book Club

Wednesday June 4, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)  
Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) For link

### Spokane Authors

Friday June 13, 2:00 pm  
Sans Souci West Club House  
Speaker: Tina Hammond

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild Coffee with Linda

Saturday June 14 12, 2:00 pm  
*The Meeting House*, 11<sup>th</sup> and Pittsburg,  
RSVP at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday June 18, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)  
Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for link

### Spokane Authors

Saturday June 21, 2:00 pm  
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

### Sandpoint Writers on the Lake

Meet twice each month, both in person  
and via ZOOM for critiques. Information at  
[bonniemcdade@gmail.com](mailto:bonniemcdade@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.

### 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

**SPokane Authors Literary Gazette**

*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  
*Lilac City Lunacy* B0BSVB117K B0BSJ6CFV4

### Dennis Held

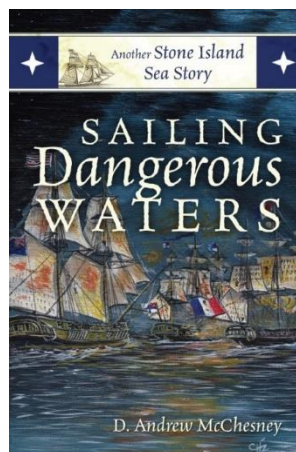
*Betting on the Night* 0966861280

### Gena Bradford

*I Can't Rest Now, Lord! I'm Responsible...*  
1072677067

## FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

Here is a new review of a book that has  
been on our website for some time. Then we  
will continue with our regular rotation.



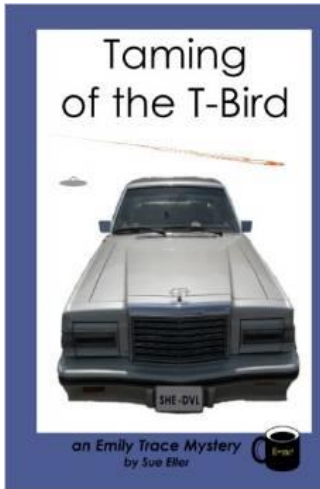
By D. Andrew McChesney

NEW

Reviewed by Steve Lalonde

Just this moment finished *Sailing  
Dangerous Waters*, and while I enjoyed the  
first book, this one soared to new heights. I

was moved to tears at the ending. The whole read was a true delight. My congratulations on a book well written and wonderfully executed.



By Sue Eller

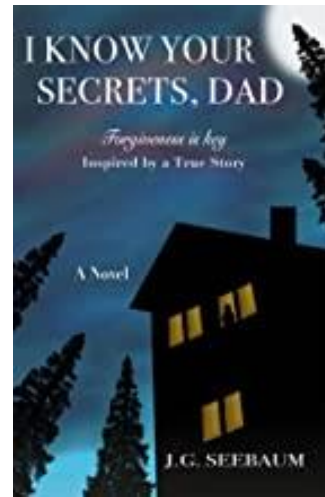
NEW

Reviewed by Elena S. Smith

What a delightful adventure! While I don't usually gravitate toward sci-fi, this novel effortlessly won me over with its perfect blend of mystery, romance, and humor. The plot is both intricate and enchanting, keeping me eagerly turning the pages to uncover its surprises.

What made it even more special? The story unfolds right in my own city in Washington state! Recognizing familiar landmarks, the local culture, and even the quirks of the climate added an extra layer of magic to the experience. Sue Eller has a true gift for storytelling—her words pull you in and refuse to let go. If you're looking for a read that's thrilling, witty, and wonderfully immersive, this one's for you!

(And now we resume our regular rotation.)



By J. G. Seebaum

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Inspired by true events, the author tells the story of an adopted girl named Heather. Heather loves her adopted mother. However, her adopted father hates her. When her mother dies, her father quickly remarries a woman, who like her father, is very cruel to her. As her father's cruelty and abuse escalates, she is glad to leave home and at the age of sixteen, she begins her search for her birth parents. Because of our antiquated laws back then, her search takes nearly fifty years. Along the way with the help of her special friend Natalie, who worked for the Denver Family Court-Juvenile Division, and others, she is able to uncover much information and secrets of both her birth parents and her adopted parents.

*I Know Your Secrets, Dad* is a very interesting story. Seebaum has written a page turner, which is never boring. I recommend this book to one and all.





By J. B. Rivard  
(Illustrated by J. B. Rivard)

Reviewed by Johanna Urquhart  
(Historical Novel Society)

1933. J. B. Rivard centers part of his novel *Illusions of Magic* around a true-life and little-known historical incident: an attempted assassination of Franklin D. Roosevelt in Miami in February of 1933. The assassin, Giuseppe Zangara, had allegedly been trying to shoot Roosevelt when he accidentally shot Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak instead (Cermak later died of his wound).

This incident is part of the dramatic backdrop of Rivard's fast paced and punchy novel about struggling professional stage magician Nick Zetner. The backdrop – and the author's excellent illustrations throughout – furnishes a good deal of the charm of the book. Nick Zetner's adventures, part screwball comedy and part Dashiell Hammett, combine with the richly authentic atmosphere of the setting to create a quick and very enjoyable read that smoothly intermingles Nick's love life with a challenging case he takes on for a corrupt banker.

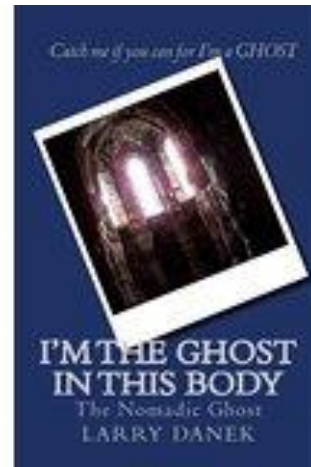
The book reads like a breath of fresh air – recommended.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Illusions of Magic* tells the story of an unemployed magician in Chicago during the Great Depression in the year 1933. He is

eventually hired by a banker to get some compromising photos back after they were taken in a bank robbery. Thus, the adventure begins as he is drawn into the underworld of Chicago, which eventually leads to finding his lost love of twenty years. The setting of the story takes place during the fatal wounding of the city's mayor who took a bullet meant for Franklin D. Roosevelt.

I enjoyed reading this story. The characters are well-defined and interesting. The story is fast moving and exciting right to the end, which has a surprise ending. I also liked the book cover and the black and white illustrations. It was a good read.



by Larry Danek

Reviewed by Sue Eller

Not just another ghost story...

As the nomadic ghost was drawn into a recently expired body, I was drawn into his story. Author Larry Danek masterfully relates the tale of a spirit being who struggles to take charge on the physical plane and strives to tame the mental chaos of memories from past and present lives. This story could only be told from the perspective of the nomadic ghost himself, and Danek masterfully weaves a tale of cold-blooded murder and revenge contrasted with compassion for some down-and-out but decent people who need his help.

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

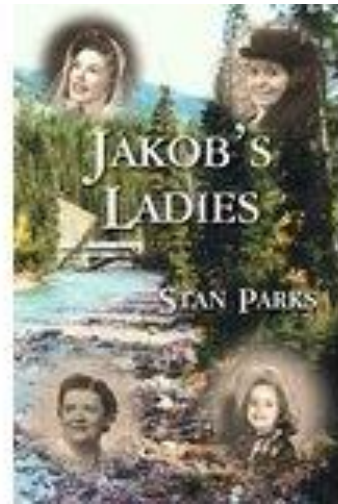
The ghost has inhabited many bodies in the past. Now he occupies the body of a young Chicago man mistakenly gunned down in a gangland firefight. When medical personnel pronounce the body dead, he uses his ghostly abilities to revive it and makes his way to St. Louis.

Aided by other ghosts that do not inhabit any bodies he sets out to eliminate those involved in drugs and other nefarious activities. Along the way he aids a number of people he has met, including a hit man sent by a drug lord to take him out. Once he has his affairs in order, he realizes it is time to leave this body behind and move on to another one.

This proved to be an interesting read. Danek's take on the spirit world is unique and well thought out. It is the first in a series, with the third story, *RUNAWAY GHOST* being recently published. This reviewer looks forward to reading the remaining stories.

Reviewed by Janet Newton  
(5.0 out of 5 stars)

I have never before read a book like this one. I liked that it was unpredictable, that the ghost didn't do typical ghost things, that he bonded with the living and tried to right wrongs. The ghost had inhabited uncounted bodies, yet he struggled to remember any of them. I found myself sympathizing with the hard decisions he had to make, partially due to the missing memories. Even with a ghost as the main character, the book felt very real life to me. I enjoyed it!



By Stan Parks

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

*Jakob's Ladies* is a delightful story about a young dentist trying to establish his dental practice in Wyoming in the 1800's. Mr. Parks has a way of describing the hardships of the early west that is very believable. The book is full of colorful characters both male and female.

*Jakob's Ladies* are as follows: Margaret, his mother. Alice, an old girlfriend his mother won't give up on. The beautiful schoolteacher, Elizabeth, who nursed him back to health after a bear attack and later became his wife. Lillian Massey, better known as Diamond Lil, a patient. At her request, he put small diamonds in several of her front teeth. Beth Ann, the daughter that gave him a reason to live after his dear wife, Liz, passed away. Chucha, the Polish housekeeper, whom Jakob soon learns he can't manage without. Lady Geraldine, an English aristocrat and owner of a near-by ranch, steals the heart of Beth Ann and soon steals Jakob's heart also.

*Jakob's Ladies* is a fun read. As a modern-day dentist, I'm sure Stan enjoyed writing about dentistry in the early west.

(More reviews of *Jakob's Ladies* will be included in the May issue of *SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE*.)