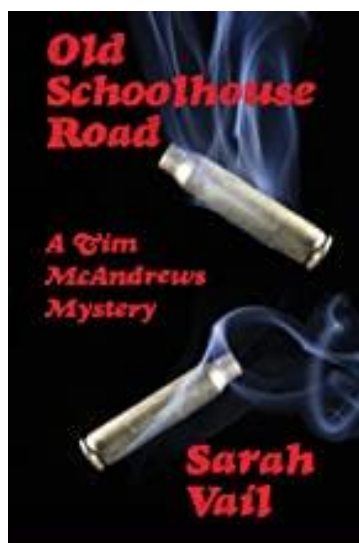
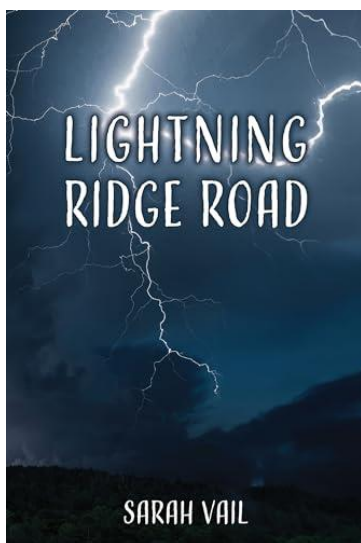
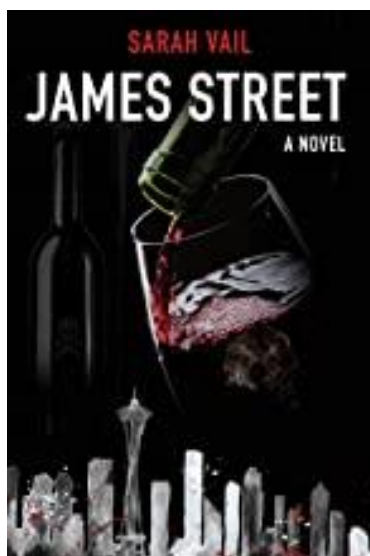




Literary Gazette

August 2025

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



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. 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.

**Submissions Due by:
August 25th for the September
2025 issue.**

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:
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(509) 325-2072 daveeva@comcast.net
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(509) 514-2747 minersquest@comcast.net

"Like" the Spokane Authors Facebook Page:
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
If no response : daveeva@comcast.net
Or: saspworks4u@gmail.com

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

Cover: *Spokane Authors member, Sarah Vail is the author of James Street, Lightning Ridge Road, Old Schoolhouse Road, and Snow Country Lane*

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member **Sarah Vail** has written several books. To learn more, go to www.spokaneauthors.org click on MEMBERS and then on her name.

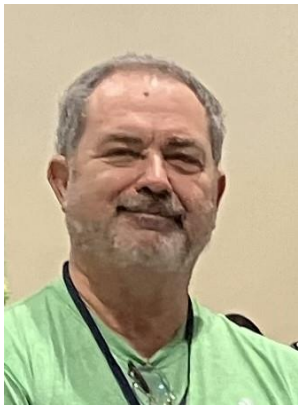
OUR AUGUST MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, August 8, 2025, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. Maggie Crawford from the Spokane South Rotary Club will speak about working with children to encourage them to read.

We will also meet at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, August 16, 2025, in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA. Bring your phone so you can call for entry if you arrive to discover the door locked. (Number will be posted at the door.)

FROM THE PREZ

Harvest time is right around the corner, whether you have a garden or head up to Green bluff.



98% of our garden this year is weeds and gophers. Mostly from me being laid up. Lookout next year! August is also a good time to get that book published. One more offering for the September, October, November and December craft fairs. To

quote a famous movie line, "You can doooo it!" Now, if anyone remembers which movie that is from, please let me know.

If you can believe it, I am actually at a loss for words right now, I'll come back later and finish. Until then, keep cool.

I'm back, sorry it took so long but I got distracted by my grandson racing minibikes around the property. We have an off road track and he was seeing how fast he could go around it. I had to show him that grampa still

SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE

had some skills too.

If you hadn't noticed, we had two tables for book display and twenty more book stands. We almost ran out of space and bookstands. Thanks for bringing your books and letting us all see them. It would be nice to have to buy more book stands by the end of the year. Rah, rah, rah! Write, write, write! Wooooo! Here's a writing prompt for you. "*The summer I learned to write.*"

That's all for now. Until we meet on the 8th... stay creative!
From the Prez.

Carl

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Lazy, Hazy, Crazy days of summer

If you happen to be a parent, a teacher, or a student, August will remind you that the back-to-school event isn't far off, garden produce is ripening, and the time for vacations and water activities will soon come to a screeching halt. If you are a writer, the end of summer can be a harbinger of increased activity in the form of book signings, craft fairs, and holiday marketing opportunities. It is also a time for us to reach out to the schools and related entities to help encourage kids to read.



Our guest speaker this month will be Maggie Crawford, Rotary Regional Vice Governor. Crawford is the former owner of the Sylvan Learning centers. She is an educator by profession and disposition and will speak about the Rotary program and efforts to get kids interested in the wonderful world of books.

As I write this August message to you, I wander off into memories of my childhood, and what a large part books played. When the chores were done and darkness put a hold on outside activities, I curled up in a corner with

AUGUST 2025

Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher, or Heidi and her grandfather in the Alps, or even Alice and her friends in Wonderland. I had a picture in my mind of the characters and the places where they lived. What a delightful way to exercise my imagination muscles! In our present situation, we get to play the parts that Mark Twain, Johanna Spyri, and Lewis Carroll pioneered.

Now, back to the month of August and beyond. In addition to our August speaker, we have scheduled Robin Bishop for September, who will give us insights into magazine and newspaper writing. In either October or November, Gena Bradford will share with us, and of course, December will be open mike. I'm still working on the schedule for the rest of this year, which includes January of next year, and will let you know further details as I get them scheduled.

Due to technical difficulties, last month's speaker presentation has not yet been immortalized on YouTube. I'm still trying to find a cord that works between my phone and computer. I'll let you know when the recording is live and how to access it.

I hope to see many of you at the August 8th meeting in the clubhouse at Sans Souci West. The meeting begins at 2:00 pm, and the room is open at 1:30 for setup and pre-meeting visiting. And don't forget about our Saturday meeting at 2 pm at the St. Francis church on Heroy. The details are on the website for both meetings.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy our meeting venue, our speakers, and the camaraderie of our group. Be sure to let your friends and fellow authors know about our meetings and, of course, continue to write and share your accomplishments and plans with the group.

Gue Eller

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

It was suggested that we need a list of

the various Arts and Craft events, along with contact information so people can contact them if they want to participate, or at least get on the waiting list(s). I'll try to put one together, so if you would, send me the information about any such events you might participate in or know about.

Time to begin work on the next edition of our catalog is fast approaching. In many ways it should be easier this year, as we'll be working with something already in existence.

Remember that to have your books listed, you must be a current, paid member of the group. If your books were included last year and you are not paid for this year, your books will be removed. We look forward to adding any new books you may have released, and to including books by those who have recently joined.

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.)



**PUBLIC RELATIONS PERSON,
SECRETARY NEEDED!**

. If you want to assume either or both of these duties, let us know, and we will elect or appoint you by acclaim.

SPOKANE AUTHORS CATALOG

If you want your books listed in the upcoming edition of our catalog, please ensure your dues are paid for 2025.



OUR JULY 2025 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

On Friday July 11, at 2:00 pm., Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House. Those attending were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Beth Camp, Larry Danek, Mary DeBord, Sheri Decker, Betty Deuber, Carolyn Eller, Sue Eller, Mark Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Bob Hildahl, Esther Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Joan Kopczynski, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup and wife, Elena Smith, Linda Sonntag, Mikel Stevenson and wife, Terry Stratton, and Shandra Tanner. Guests included Gary A. Edwards and Katie Hauritz. Katie has since joined and is now a member of Spokane Authors.

President Carl Northrup introduced Vice-President Sue Eller, who in turn introduced our speaker, Lee Kessler. Lee has performed on stage, screen been a producer and is the author of several suspense/thriller novels. Her focus for the day was on imagination. She stated that imagination is not just for artists or authors. People need to be artists in life, and that “imagination creates the future.” While we can create based on facts or data, data is in the past. She also noted the possibility of artists and authors not receiving acknowledgement for the results of their imagination.

We were told there would be a Craft Sale and Sans Souci West on October 3rd and 4th. We'll send out details as they become available

We ended the day with drawings for door prizes. On this occasion someone had donated a number of books on writing as well as writing oriented magazines. There was a good chance that everyone went home with something.

We met at St. Francis of Assisi Church at 2:00 pm on Saturday, July 19th. In attendance were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Mikel Stevenson, and Terry Stratton. Because nearly everyone arrived at about the same time, we only had to open the door for

one individual.

We helped Carl choose a picture or cover art for his newest book, ***Caroline's Secret***. He had brought four variations of the basic theme, and all seemed to agree on the same one. Everyone thought the close up of the young lady where we could see the apprehension on her face was the best. It turns out Carl was leaning towards that one as well. We also discussed the plot of this book, with Carl giving us a general rundown of the story. He also mentioned he was starting on volume two of ***Boxers or Briefs***.

Mikel brought a book with him he had won at our door prize drawing the week before. He said it was very informative, and that he had learned a lot from it. The book is ***Self-Editing for Fiction Writers: How to Edit Yourself into Print*** by Renni Browne and Dave King. If anyone is interested, it is still available on Amazon and elsewhere online.

With time running down and topics for discussion fading away, we called it a day, shut off the lights, locked the door, ensured the building was secure, and went home.

BOOK RELEASE!

Fellow Spokane Author's member **Elena Smith** is happy to announce the release of her interactive children's book

Tucker the Dog Who Thought He Was a Person



These interactive stories are for kids of all ages who have passion for dogs. Meet Tucker—an excitable and loyal family friend! In each chapter, readers will follow along with Tucker's adventures and learn lessons guided by this exceptional dog with human-like emotions and attitudes. Questions at the end of each chapter prompt kids to think about

what happened in each story and why. Beautifully illustrated, and based on the tales of the real-life Tucker, readers, both young and old will fall in love with this true friend.

Available from Book Baby at:

Tucker the Dog Who Thought He Was a Person
and more than likely from Elena herself.

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, or send via USPS to:
Spokane Authors
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~~

Now INWG First Wednesday

Wednesday August 6, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)
Contact lindathewriter@gmail.com For link

Spokane Authors

Friday August 8, 2:00 pm
Sans Souci West Club House
Speaker: Maggie Crawford from Spokane South Rotary Club

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Coffee with Linda

Saturday August 9, 2:00 pm
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg,
RSVP at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Spokane Authors

Saturday August 16, 2:00 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday August 20, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)
Contact lindathewriter@gmail.com for link

Arts and Glass Festival

Saturday August 23, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Arbor Crest Winery, Spokane Valley
Book signings with Kevin Hostbjor, Mary De Bord, and Elena Smith.

Bank Left Gallery and Bistro

Saturday August 30, 12:00 to 3:00 pm.
Palouse, WA.

Elena Smith will be signing her newest children's book. (Lunch will be served from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.)

INWG First Wednesday

Wednesday September 3, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)
Contact lindathewriter@gmail.com For link

Spokane Authors

Friday September 12, 2:00 pm
Sans Souci West Club House
Speaker: Robin Bishop, Editor, Deer Park Tribune

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Coffee with Linda

Saturday September 13, 2:00 pm
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg,
RSVP at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday September 17, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)
Contact lindathewriter@gmail.com for link

Spokane Authors

Saturday September 20, 2:00 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

INWG First Wednesday

Wednesday October 1, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)
Contact lindathewriter@gmail.com For link

Spokane Authors

Friday October 10, 2:00 pm
Sans Souci West Club House
Speaker: Spokane Author member Gena Bradford

Inland Northwest Writers Guild Coffee with Linda

Saturday October 11, 2:00 pm
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg,
RSVP at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday October 15, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)
Contact lindathewriter@gmail.com for link

Spokane Authors

Saturday October 18, 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

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many members' books are on Amazon
and/or Kindle™ (We print short parts of the list
on a rotating basis. The complete list is
available on the website, 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/)
ASINs for each book are the same, regardless
of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

Mark Carter (Editor)

Spokane Then and Now (Photos by Byron D.
King) 0970822766
Dear Old Nat... Spokane's Playground (By
Marie L. Hyder and Donald R. Johnson)
0970822758

Z. Martin Brown

The Nonessentials B0CN4BY2TQ B0CN44GSXX

SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE

The Nonessentials II

B0DXKFCMLB B0DXD73DWK

Sandra Philbin

Whispers of Hope for Busy Women

B09PCB81JY 1794695001

Whispers of Hope for Busy Women: Journal

B09NQRYVVK

Whispers of Hope for Dog Lovers

B0D8KM8ZH5

Various members of Spokane Authors

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 B0BTRTCJZ3

*Sailing Dangerous Waters: Another Stone
Island Sea Story*

B00HF9Y05K B0BV1SS8HN

*Darnahsian Pirates: The Third Stone Island
Sea Story*

B09FFJSSGC B09BC9P9WL

Bob Weldin:

The Dry Diggins Club

0578106825

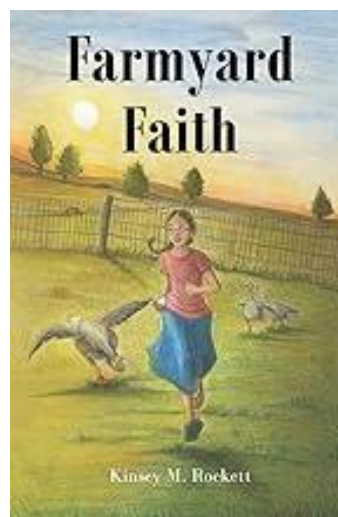
The Adventurists

153027253X

Secrets of an Enigma B0BT6QS1ZX B0BSY2FZLS

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we have two new reviews,
thanks to Esther Hildahl. Then we resume our
normal rotation through our collection.

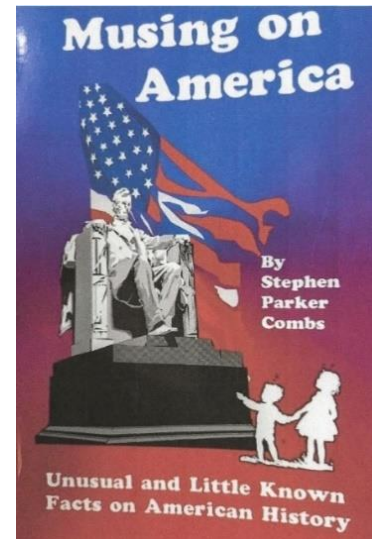


By Kinsey M. Rockett

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

I liked the book cover of *Farmyard Faith* so, of course, I had to read it. It tells the story of the author and her family who moved to a farm in Chattaroy, WA when she was nine years old. She writes of their adventures covering ten years. One of their adventures was getting two packages of bees back to the farm, especially after one of the packages was damaged and thousands of bees escaped. Animals on their farm included chickens, goats, pigs, ducks, geese, rabbits, and cats. Since her parents, older brother Chris, and Kinsey were all inexperienced about farm life, they learned through trial and error. Kinsey was an animal lover, and she loved the goat kids the most. She also told of an incident involving chickens' cruel pecking order against one of their own. The beginning of the book starts with a list that she wrote at the age of 13 called "What I Didn't Know." For example, she didn't know that chickens would catch and eat mice. She ended her book with another list of "101 Things Most Farming Books Don't Tell you," like Alfalfa doesn't taste very good; Goats will eat anything. Not true, but chickens will; Pigs don't oink; plus many more fun facts to read. The many stories in this book tell of adventures, challenges, laughter, sadness, and hard work. They are all true which makes it even more special.

This book is well-written and very interesting. I really enjoyed reading it. Plus, I liked the glossary the author provided for those of us who have never lived on a farm. I recommend this book for one and all. It's a good read.



By Stephen Parker Combs

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

I love this book and use it as a game to see how many of my friends and relatives know the answer to unusual and little-known facts in American history. Examples: Daniel Boone died from indigestion from his favorite food. What was it? Answer—sweet potatoes. What was the original color of the White House? Answer—gray. Who said, "Opportunity is often missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."? Answer—Thomas Edison. *Musing on America* has over a hundred such questions, answers, and facts in this book of 110 pages.

The author has written many small, interesting books on many topics. The books are all well written and I have purchased several over the last few years. I have given copies of two of his books, *Saying Goodbye* and *Nearing the Shoreline*, as gifts. Combs can usually be found at the Annual Chattaroy Community Church Craft Fair.



By Harland Eastwood

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

In this slim volume, the author recounts his life, pivoting on the moment when he thought to end it. It was his discovery of Faith in Jesus Christ that stopped him from pulling the trigger, led him to a life of Truth, and allowed him the Grace to share his story.

Harland tells his very personal story in a straightforward honest way. He describes his earliest years and does not omit the details of parental neglect that led to self-doubt and a lack of self-respect. He is also sincere when describing the moment he found Faith and in the doubts he had, and the trials he faced afterwards.

Besides a declaration and testimonial of Faith, this is also an autobiography. From it the reader gains a picture of Harland's life, from the earliest days of his existence to the near present. One also learns how he developed a passion for collecting old bottles and other antiques, and came to write several historical works about Washington's Adams County. This is a very personal work, and the author is to be commended for his willingness to share both the good and the bad details with the reader.

The Man in the Closet

(Sorry, no cover illustration available)

By Michael Andrew Marsden

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

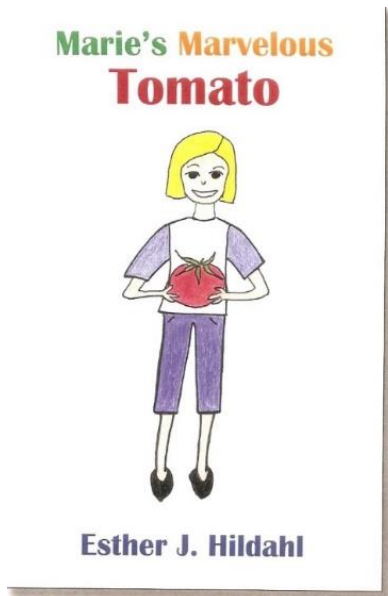
When Kyle Carraher's family moves from Washington, D. C. to Wallace, Idaho, his fear of large rodents gnawing through the wall is replaced by dread of the man in the closet. Over the subsequent years, the supposed presence in the upper floor storage room exerts unusual influences over members of his extended family. Eighteen years later Kyle returns to the house to determine if there really is a man in the closet.

As it begins, this book reads like one intended for a younger reader. The straightforward writing clearly depicts extraordinary events in what were quite ordinary lives. As the story progresses, darker, more sinister, more adult themes are introduced, taking the tale to a level meant for a more mature audience. When one reaches the final page, murder, arson, sex for sale, sex as a means of coercion, and criminal insanity have all made their presence known. Each chapter takes the reader to greater heights of suspense and increases the "can't put it down" factor.

The Man in the Closet is the author's second ghost story set in north Idaho, and is pleasantly devoid of many of the faults associated with self-published work. In all aspects it is a well-written, well-edited, and professionally produced book.

The Man in the Closet, from Marsden Publishing, ISBN 1-59975-485-1, is priced at \$16.00 and is available at local Spokane, and Coeur d'Alene bookstores and at www.amazon.com. Check out the author's web-site at www.michaelmarsden.com

(Availability information may be out of date)



Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Marie's Marvelous Tomato is a delightful story of a young girl's summer project. Marie and her best friend, Ginger, have planned a summer full of excitement. When Ginger announced her parents were getting a divorce and she must move to Seattle to live with her grandparents, Marie's summer plans all vanished. Marie felt very sad for Ginger because her own parents divorced years ago and she lost touch with her father.

Marie is a girl that loves to eat tomatoes and suddenly she comes up with a plan for her summer project, she will grow a tomato plant. She plants it with care and tends to it daily. Finally, a small green tomato appears on her plant. It is the only tomato on the plant, but it grows and grows into a giant tomato! Marie's family encourages her to enter her tomato in the fair.

The judges agreed, Marie's tomato was the largest tomato entered in the fair, but it had the best shape and color. Marie was given a blue ribbon for her successful summer project.

The story ends very happily when Ginger announces her parents are getting back together and she won't have to move to Seattle. Marie receives a letter from her father saying he missed her and her brother and would like to come to visit them if it would be alright with her mother. Marie was very happy,

she had her best friend back and was going to get to know her father.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

This is a delightful story about Marie who is faced with a lonely summer. Her best friend, Ginger, is gone, Mom is busy with her work, and stinky brother, Mel, is no help at all. Marie decides to grow a tomato plant to fill her lonely time. Through the ups and downs of horticulture, Marie stays focused on her task and loyal to the helpless plant she has vowed to tend while also keeping in touch with Ginger. Ms. Hildahl has created great characters (I was especially fond of the grandmother...) and a sweet story that will charm any age. It has a satisfyingly happy ending, as all children's books should, with an added surprise.