



Literary

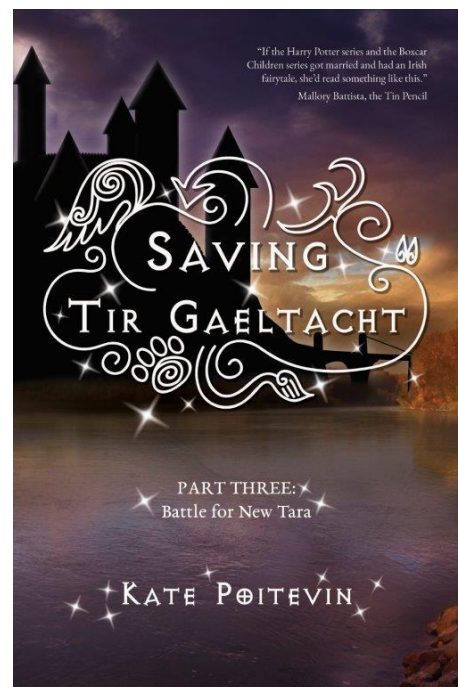
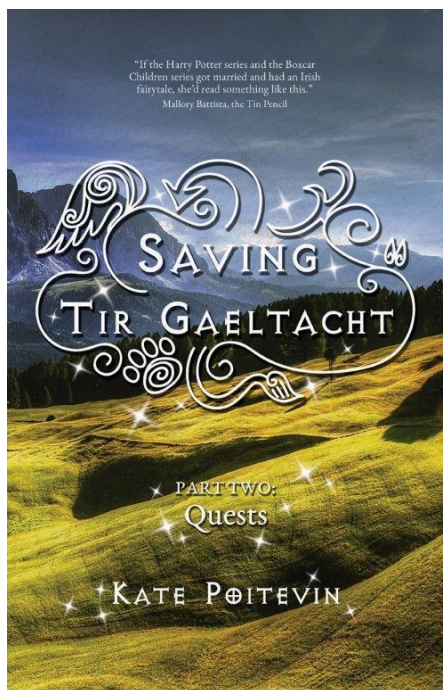
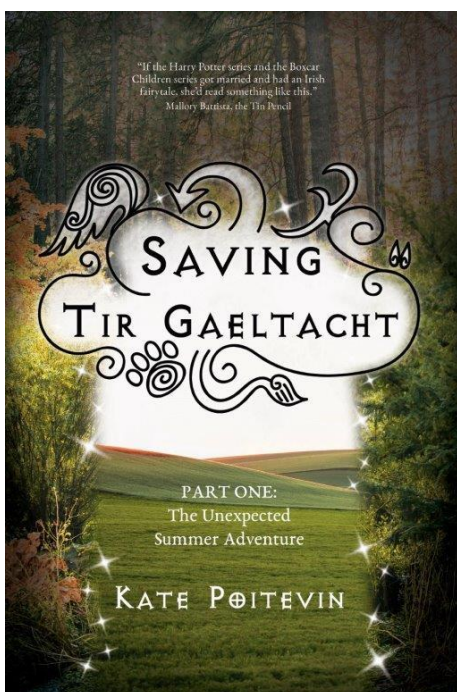
Gazette

December 2024

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:
December 25th for the January
2025 issue.**

2024 Officers:

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

Vice-President: *Bob Manion*
(509) 448-2901 haygunnerbob@gmail.com

Secretary: *Linda Sonntag-Noble*

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

Public-Relations: *Marilee Hudon*
(509) 325-9465 mjnoduh2@gmail.com

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

"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
Or: saspworks4u@gmail.com

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

Cover: From the pen of Spokane Authors member Sandra Philbin.

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member Kate Poitevin originally penned *Saving Tir Gaeltacht* as a single volume. Later, this tale of Gaelic fantasy was divided into three separate stories: *The Unexpected Summer Adventure*, *Quests*, and *Battle for New Tara*, and can be enjoyed by readers of all ages. To visit Kate's Member Web Page, go to www.spokaneauthors.org click on "MEMBERS," scroll down and click on her name.

OUR DECEMBER MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, December 13, 2024, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA.

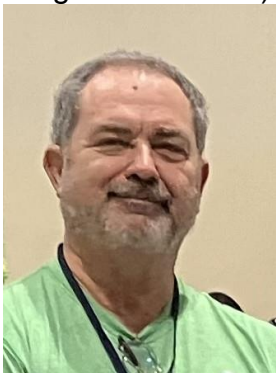
We will meet at 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 21, 2024, in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA.

Both meetings will feature Open Mic Sessions in which our members and guests will have a chance to share brief excerpts of their work with us.

FROM THE PREZ

Wow! December!

Pecan pie, snow, presents, snow, pumpkin pie, more snow, open mic, cherry pie, snow and a heavy dose of mocha cream pie. (The snow is what burns off all the pie. So bring on the snow!)



Not really much to share this month, but I am looking forward to open mic on the 13th. The challenge had been brought up last meeting about ugly sweater wearers going to the wrong address as a topic for our short stories. I've

never had an ugly sweater or gone to the wrong address, so I don't know what they were talking about.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Our first one was traditional with friends. Ham, turkey and all the rest. Our second one was non-traditional with family. My world famous three day chili was the main course with corn bread and gopher butts (mole asses), pickled beans, chips, salsa and salad. With a side of riding minibikes around in the dark.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all those who can't be with us on the 13th. May your New Year be one to write about.

This is my final "Letter from the Prez." for 2024.

See Ya'll next year.

Carl/Nathan

FROM THE VEEP

DECEMBER 2024

Can you believe almost a quarter century has gone by already? Where does the time fly; when confronted by a keyboard and a screen where words appear... or not? Do you think the weather has anything do with the absence of motivation? Where is my warm weather where I can sit outside and think of a story. Actually, I think more about going golfing rather than sitting in the house in front of this #\$\$%*' machine. So, with a blank mind, I sit here thinking of nothing to write for the VP piece.

Okay, why do they call today Black Friday?



No answer comes to mind; unless you see flying \$'s leaving your wallet or purse. That is depressing. I best think better thoughts. How about a new vampire novel? Yeah, I can do that.

I'm happy again! This is my last VP piece. So, I will wish you all a

wonderful Holiday Season. Remember, sugar is good, and one of the top foods. Ho Ho Ho! Have a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year! May the Word gods be kind and provide excitement and happiness to your pages! December is a great month to start a new project. There are many wonderful ideas flying about during the holidays. Grab one or more and begin the New Year with gladness and joy. The VEEP,
Bob

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

We are finishing the year on a strong positive note, with a Christmas themed anthology and a catalog of our books. For the coming year we are thinking of compiling and releasing a more general anthology. So, get



your thinking caps on and see what you can come up with in the way of short stories, poems, or short articles of interest and intrigue. And who knows, we might end up doing another Holiday Anthology as well.

It would seem our catalog is finalized. At least, I hope so. We didn't get a mandate to have them printed professionally at our last meeting, so let's work with what we can print ourselves. Over the course of the coming year we can work on revisions a put out a second edition towards the end of 2025. I'm sure we'll have new members with books to be listed and many will have new books to add.

I know you get tired of me harping on it, but don't forget to pay your dues for 2025. If you already have, thank you. I think I've mentioned it before, but it is a lot easier to update records to show you've paid than it is to revise things when you haven't. Pay your dues and make it easier on me. I'm not as young as I once was.

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," or someone else does, there is the chance you can charge your dues to a card.)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan McElroy".

ELECTION RESULTS!

Congratulations to our Officers and Board Members for the upcoming year. It would have been nice to have seen a larger voter turnout. I think we received one ballot via e-mail prior to our meeting/election. Of over sixty members, only fifteen or so ended up voting.

Our list of officers and advisory board members will stay the same except for a couple of spots. Sue Eller will become Vice President, replacing Bob Manion, and we need someone to serve as Secretary. The secretary's primary job is to take notes at our meetings. If anyone wants to assume these duties, let us know and we would no doubt elect you by acclaim.

CHRISTMAS ANTHOLOGY

The greater portion of the 200 copies we had printed have been claimed by members, and most report they are selling well. If anyone is looking for more, we have twenty or so left.

SPOKANE AUTHORS CATALOG

The catalog is, as far as can be, finalized, and files for both versions have been sent to our members. The first version can be printed out as full letter sized pages and if desired, put in a binder with document protectors. This can be available at a craft fair for passersby to look through. The second version prints out to a smaller booklet or pamphlet that can be passed out to those who want it or delivered to those who might be

interested. It's smaller and uses less paper than the first version.

We had proof copies of the larger version printed and passed them around at our November meeting. There was no overwhelming demand to have them professionally printed, so we did not order any via that process.

As we look forward to next year's edition of the catalog, perhaps we can add a list of craft fairs and other events where our members, those listed in the catalog, will be participating.

OUR NOVEMBER 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Friday November 8 at 2:00 pm saw members of Spokane Authors meeting again at the Sans Souci West Club House. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Carolyn Eller, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, T. Hammond, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Stevee Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon Miller, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Mikel Stevenson, and Terry Stratton. Attending as guests were Ray Del Pizzo and Brandy Brou.

Once we heard from those wishing to announce new projects, completed works, or upcoming events, we held elections. With votes counted, we end up with nearly the same slate of officers and advisors as before. The only change is that as of the first of the year, Sue Eller will take over as Vice-President.

Dave McChesney passed around two proof copies of our catalog that were printed by Minuteman Press... formerly Gray Dog Press. These were in full letter sized format and one was in color and the other in black and white. Cost per color copy worked out to be about \$8.40, and for black and white to about \$2.66. It was estimated that a smaller pamphlet sized version would cost about \$4.00 for color, and in black and white, \$1.50 or so. It was also suggested that those with a printer could print the smaller version themselves and do a decent job. No decision was made regarding

having copies printed commercially.

It was suggested that if we do have catalogs printed, we could offset the cost to Spokane Authors in various ways. Charge each member a printing fee. Charge each member who has books listed in the catalog a printing fee. Or simply ask members to make a voluntary contribution. No decision was reached on this matter.

President Carl Northrup suggested a writing prompt for stories to be read and shared at our Open Mic sessions in December. He suggested someone setting out for an Ugly Sweater Party and getting the address wrong. Where does the person end up?

As normally happens, we drew for door prizes and adjourned.

With so many of our members involved in arts and craft fairs the weekend of November 16th and 17th, our alternate meeting at St. Francis of Assisi, scheduled for Saturday November 16, 2024, was cancelled.

MEMBER WEB-PAGE GUIDE

1. Name and **photo/headshot**
2. Brief biography
3. Links to any web-site, blog, or other on-line 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, 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

Ridgeline High School

Saturday & Sunday December 7 – 8
www.ridgelinebandboosters.org/craft-fair

Other!

Local Author Book Club

Wednesday December 4, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

Spokane Authors

Friday December 13, 2:00 pm
Sans Souci West Club House

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Saturday December 14, 2:00 pm.
In Person meeting, **Coffee with Linda**
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg, Perry District. Looking for volunteers or just to socialize. Please RSVP at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

No Meeting in December

Spokane Authors

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

Local Author Book Club

Wednesday January 1, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

Spokane Authors

Friday January 10, 2:00 pm
Sans Souci West Club House

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Saturday January 11, 2:00 pm.
In Person meeting, **Coffee with Linda**
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg, Perry District. Looking for volunteers or just to

socialize. Please RSVP at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday January 15, 8:00 pm (ZOOM)
Contact Linda at lindathewriter@gmail.com
For link

Spokane Authors

Saturday January 18, 2:00 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

Sandpoint Writers on the Lake

Meet twice, both in person and via ZOOM for critiques. Information at 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
or: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044
ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

Michael Zargona

Turn Red Tomorrow

1092144404 B07Q7TNLTC B0914WWCYS

Sixteen Hooves Thunder

B08LJPKCM2 B08LHK5PKF B0194PW7RV

The Sunset of All Sorrows

B0CQ2P6SCV B0CPLHSY8R B0CQ87THCL

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

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:

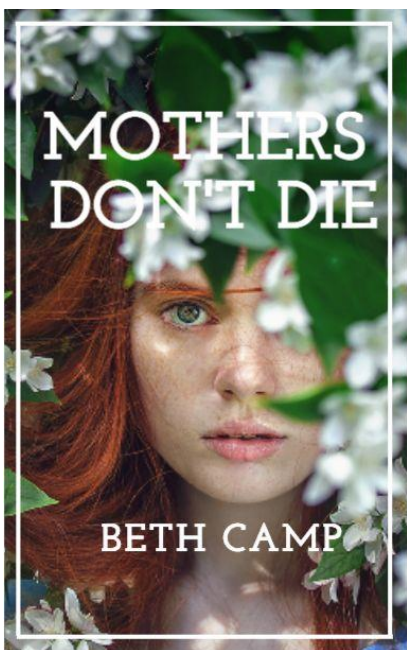
The Dry Diggin's Club 0578106825
The Adventurists 153027253X

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)

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we add a new review to a book already in our files. Then we continue with our usual rotation



Reviewed by Sandra Mason

Master storyteller, Beth Camp's *Mothers Don't Die*, took me way out of my usual wheelhouse of reading choices. She scared the spit out of me in the first two chapters and throughout the book. The story is fast paced, with plot twists and turns that kept me turning pages, and thinking, *what would I do in a similar situation?*

A family goes camping, sets up camp and takes a walk when the father finds something so chilling that he wants to take the whole family with him to report the crime. The little daughter is asleep, and the mother does not want to wake her. The scene is set for disaster.

Beth's characters are vivid, believable, and real. I could NOT put the book down. I read most of the book in one day, then forced myself to wait to finish it the next day. I was breathless through most of it, hating the villain, frustrated with the police, and the husband, and hoping the wife would somehow escape with her child.

If you like reading thrillers, this book is for you! I don't normally choose thrillers, and I could NOT put this down. Check out Beth's other books. The McDonald Series and her art crimes mysteries. Beth writes strong women characters who overcome the challenges they face. Her characters are believable.

Reviewed by Joan Kopczynski
(NEW)

Mothers Don't Die is a quick and suspenseful read at 171 pages. The author had me hooked in the short prologue where we witness the antagonist, Donald, sitting by a woman's body on the bottom stair in the basement and we are introduced to his unhealthy obsession with his mother.

The book loses a little steam in the first chapter about Ron, Laura and their five-year-old daughter, Kerry, camping in eastern Washington but picks up at the end of the chapter where there is another hook. (Ron, the protagonist's (Laura's) husband finds a dark rock in the center of the road which turns out to be a body wrapped in a large plastic trash

bag.) A detective, Greg Matheson, is soon assigned to the case.

The protagonist and antagonist meet in Chapter Six when the suspense ratchets up a notch. The reader wonders is Donald a kidnapper? A rapist? A murderer? Maybe a serial killer? Read on to find out.

The author has done an excellent job in researching such a crime. It reminded me a lot of the shows on Dateline, plenty of suspense, an exploration of the darker side of human nature and a satisfying ending where justice prevails. There is also a satisfying love story in the subplot.

She also does an excellent job with realistic dialogue and offers vivid settings in both the campground in eastern Washington and also Seattle where a lot of the story takes place.

Mothers Don't Die, in my opinion, is an excellent crime fiction novel, but I don't feel that it has all elements of a psychological thriller. I also felt this book would be better if it had gone through a professional line edit before it was published. (The author is revising it now.)

The book is a page turner. You'll have difficulty putting it down once you start reading it. Don't count on sleeping until you've finished. I highly recommend it.

By Guytwins (DJ and Denise)
Illustrated by: Shandra Tanner

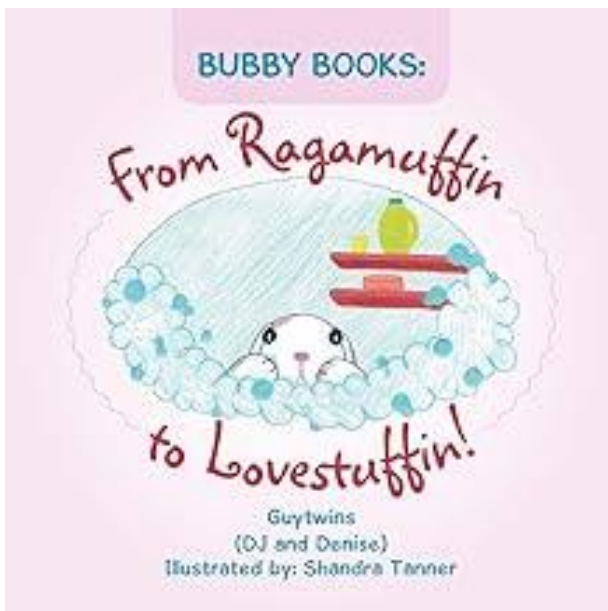
Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

This is the first book of a series about a very large stuffed rabbit who is purchased from a vintage store by Hilary and Hilaina, age eight, identical twins. They love stuffed animals and have lots of them. On the way to his new home, he met two other stuffed animals, Hopper and Nello.

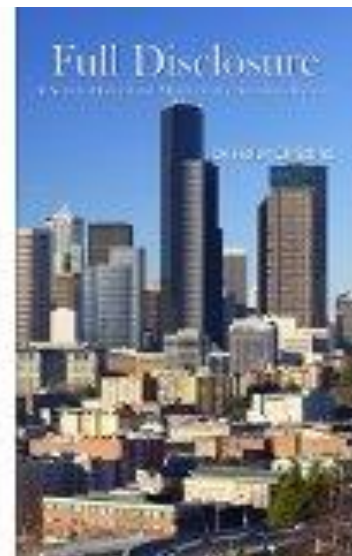
Since the large rabbit named Vinny was very dirty, the girls decided he needed a trip to the basement to the washing machine. Vinny was scared and didn't know what a washing machine was. After he made it through that, he had to be dried in the dryer. Again, he was scared, but he turned out all nice and clean. That night as he fell asleep, he realized that this adventure was the best thing that had ever happened to him.

This is an adorable book with colorful, well-drawn illustrations. It would be perfect for pre-school children as a read-a-loud book. Since this will be a series, I'm sure that parents will want to purchase them all.

(and now back to our regular rotation)



Full Disclosure



By Helen Christine

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

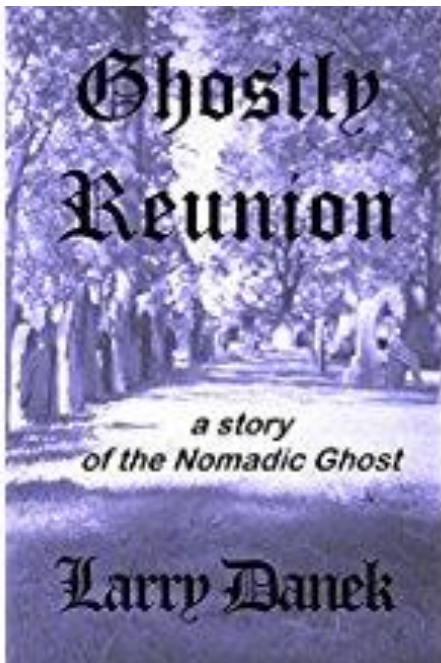
Jenny Scott is happily married to her husband, Greg. She has a dream job at Taylor Myers, a Seattle investments firm, and is about to have her first initial public offering (IPO). Everything is perfect. Or is it?

She can't help but think about her friend Cabot McAvoy's warning to be cautious when dealing with others in the firm and to not always to believe what she's told. When she discovers someone has gone through her desk, looked at some of her files, and later discovers a mysterious file on her computer that she can't open, her suspicion grows that she is being set up to take the fall for some sinister happenings at the firm.

With the help of her assistant, Alex, she takes on the unscrupulous, greedy bad characters, who she discovers have already murdered two people that got in their way. After a spine-tingling office break-in and a harrowing car chase, they eventually find out what has "really" been going on.

Helen Christine is a fine writer and spins a great story of greed, dishonesty, corruption, and murder in the securities industry. It has a surprising and satisfying ending. The characters are well-defined and interesting. I enjoyed reading this book, and I recommend it to anyone who likes to read a story that is both a thriller and a page turner.

Available from Amazon.



Reviewed by Sue Eller

The Nomadic Ghost returns to take care of some unfinished business from his time as Robbin Simms, and finds himself in the Boise River, swimming desperately for shore.

In this second installment of the *Nomadic Ghost* series, Danek and his ghost deal with the challenges of a resident mind that is insecure and has some mental issues. The ghost persona must strengthen the body it occupies in order to finish the work begun in the last body as it struggles to find out just what that work had been.

Not your usual ghost story, *Ghostly Reunion* is more a tale of the living than the dead, as the main character jumps from consciousness to consciousness, and body to body, to right some of society's wrongs and bring together people who need each other.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Ghostly Reunion: a story of the Nomadic Ghost is the author's second book in his ghost series. The ghost in these stories inhabits the body of a person who is about to die. His purpose is to go on a journey to help this person complete any unfinished task that needs to be done before the person dies. He does this with the help of other ghosts and some living people who know he is a ghost.

This is a unique twist on ghost stories and is well worth the read. It has good dialogue, well-defined characters, and the story moves right along.

The
Gluten Free
Gourmand



a little cookbook by
Sue Eller

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

This little cookbook is full of easy to make recipes for those of us who can't have wheat. Ms. Eller has taken old favorite comfort food and adapted the recipes for us. She even gives us a basic mix to make them easier and faster.

My favorite so far is the waffles. They are so wonderfully crispy they hold up under the onslaught of syrup and I make extra to use as sandwich bread. The holes are great for holding in the peanut butter and jelly and they don't get soggy by lunchtime.

Many of the recipes are naturally gluten free and make this a one-book resource for your whole meal to satisfy all members of the family.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

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

you look forward to reuniting with, dies in their nineties. See the problem?

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

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

I've always thought that writing a book of stories is like writing several little books and putting them together in a satisfying way, which is what local writer Shawn Vestal has done. He was raised in the Mormon faith and some of its teachings come through in his stories. These stories don't have "Hallmark" endings. They are true to life about people who have real problems and live their lives the best they can. It's an interesting book that keeps the reader engaged and wanting to read the next story.