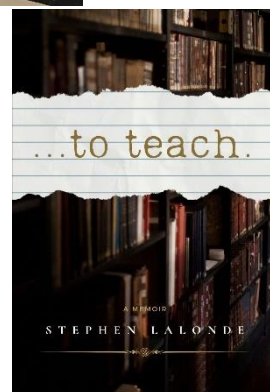
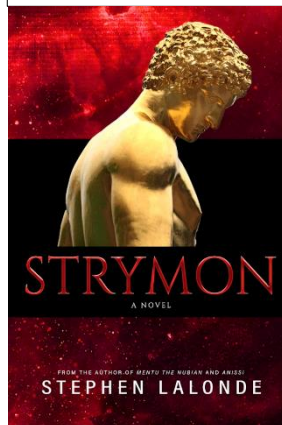
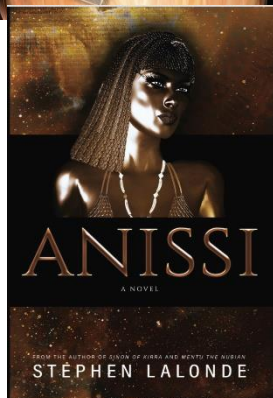
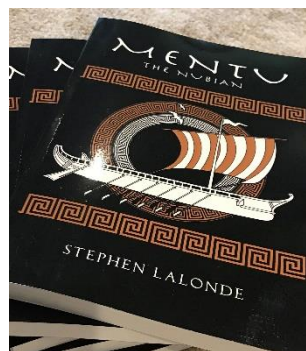
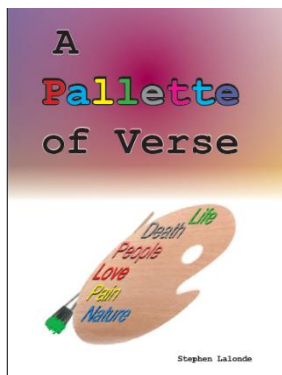




Literary Gazette

July 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: July 25th for the August 2024 issue.

2024 Officers:

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

Vice-President: **Bob Manion**
(509) 448-2901 heygunnerbob@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: Books by Spokane Authors member
Stephen D. Lalonde*

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member Stephen D. Lalonde has written several books in a variety of genres. Visit his Member Web Page at: www.spokaneauthors.org
Go to "MEMBERS," scroll down and click on his name.

OUR JUNE MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, July 12, 2024, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. (West on Boone Ave., cross N. Summit Blvd. Once through the gate, bear slightly left, and follow the signs to the "office." PLEASE MIND THE 10 MPH SPEED LIMIT.)

This will be our second meeting at what should be our home for the foreseeable future. Quite likely we will be discussing the idea of a catalog listing members' books and compiling another anthology. No doubt we will have more members reading what they wrote based on the writing prompts we drew in March.

We will also meet at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, July 20, 2024, at St. Francis of Assisi, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The conference room in the social hall is available from 1:30 to 4 pm.

We plan to continue to use this meeting to share ideas and thoughts about writing. It is likely these alternate meetings will feature group discussions.

FROM THE PREZ

IT'S JULY!

My how time flies. However, in my house when time flies it's, more often than not, the alarm clock. But as usual, I digress.

At our last meeting we had 29 members in attendance and room for more! Hopefully the sound system is getting looked at, so it doesn't cut out again. But we heard some great stories and there are more this month.

As far as I know there is no speaker this

month unless our VP has found one. We do have speakers lined up for August and September. Both will be speaking on marketing, so we should get a wide range of info.

October and November are up for grabs if anyone knows someone who would like

to regale us with knowledge. Also...craft sale season is coming up, please bring any and all info on upcoming events that you may have.

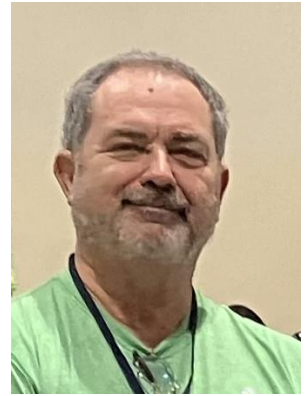
Looking forward to seeing 100 smiling faces on the 12th. We should be able to get pretty close to that number if everyone brings a small mirror.

Carl/Nathaniel

The Prez.

Author of *The Ant Doctor*

and three other books that will be out soon.



FROM THE VEEP

Can you believe the year is half over? It seems the year just got started and here it is July. We have a project under discussion, and I believe we all should have a say in it. The Catalog for our writers group. What comes to mind is the word Professionalism: professional character, spirit, methods, a standing practice to do and present the best we can. Professionalism applies to all our projects and at this time: The Spokane Authors Catalog. Professionalism is calling and we will produce the best catalog of our writing efforts.

So far, I have received feedback from Dave, Sue and Beth. All good ideas, but like good ideas they can be made better. The adage an Elephant is a horse designed by a committee is something to avoid. But a group can design and produce an



excellent, professional product. That group is made up of our members. Each member has ideas that a small core can pick from to make our catalog the best it can be.

The catalog will represent us. We are a group of talented writers who want our product to show the public just how good and talented we are. I ask you to come to our July meeting and all our meetings, with an open mind and ideas.

Critical Points:

- Appearance; size, color, binding,
- Number and size of each page's content of publications
- Book ad content and limitations
- Overall cost for production.
- How we are going to pay for the production.
- For each book ad.
- Cost per copy and preorders.
- Number of copies to be printed.
- Format: page, actual ad for book
- Information: e.g. ISBN, e-book, bookstore availability, etc.
- Content: Front Cover, brief on story, brief on author (bio) Limitations. Size of ad.
- Advertising, e.g. signings, lectures, classes and distribution, other than ours.??? i.e. Gray Dog Press, et al.

Should the Spokane Authors pay the initial cost of production and thereby own any revenues? There are questions about should SA own the copyright and only the membership authorize more copies to be printed? There are questions yet to be asked, July is our opportunity to make our history known to all. From this project we may receive requests for speaking engagements. The World is open to us and this is our opportunity to take advantage – now.

Bob Manion

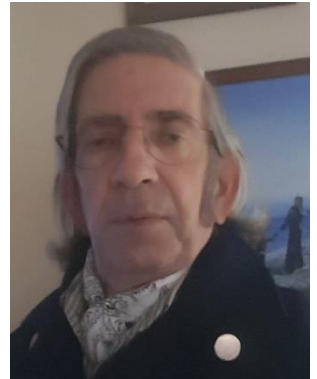
The Veep

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

Since our June meetings it seems my get up and go has got up and left. Whatever level of ambition I had has disappeared and I find myself struggling to must enough energy and drive to put this issue of the newsletter together. As I write this on Independence Day, I had originally hoped to have had this out to you over the previous weekend. Now I hope to have it ready to go out Friday, tomorrow, or possibly Saturday. Still, that should get it to you a few days before our first meeting of July.

We have a couple of projects in the works. One is a catalog listing all members' books that we can share with other writing groups and the public in general. The other is to compile a second anthology. While we want to complete both in a timely manner, we should also have enough restraint to take our time and produce quality products. We should also note that the catalog will need revision on a regular basis. We'll have new members joining who have books to be included, current members publishing new books that can be added, and there will be those who allow membership to expire, which will necessitate removing their books from the catalog. Perhaps revisions could be done on a yearly basis.

Not long after last month's issue, featuring Joan Kopczynski's book on the cover, I got word that an earlier book of hers had been republished. Her member web-page has been updated to reflect that, and coincidentally we have a review of it in this issue. This month we have a number of books from Stephen Lalonde to fill up our cover.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave McE..." with a stylized flourish at the end.

OUR JUNE 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Linda Sonntag-Noble and Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met on Friday, June 14th at the Sans Souci West Club House. It was our first meeting at that location. Members present included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Beth Camp, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, T. Hammond, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Suzanne Holland, Kevin Hostbjor, Joan Kopczynski, Steve Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Kate Poitevin, Elena Smith, Linda Sonntag-Noble, Mikel Stevenson, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail. Lily Reiersen attended as a guest, along with other family members, and later joined the group. Other guests included Brenda Dill, Kay Stevenson, accompanying Mikel, and Shandra Tanner.

As we began, several members made announcements. Sarah Vail mentioned she was working on new projects and that her *Snow Country Lane* recently won an award. Steve Lalonde has finished his memoir and is beginning a new historical fiction series set in ancient Egypt. Suzanne Holland is beginning to write historical fiction. Larry Danek's next ghost story is western themed and a sequel to *Pioneer Ghost*. Joan Kopczynski has republished her memoir, *Spies, Lies, and Psychosis*. Carl Northrup has published his second book, *A Penny for your Thoughts*, and is working on a children's book, amongst other things. Carl mentioned the Spokesman Review article from June 6th featuring fellow writer Bob Weldin, retired geologist & mining engineer. The article features his collection of mining gear and artifacts he had saved & collected after he retired. T. Hammond mentioned she was restarting a series of books that had fallen by the wayside.

Bob Manion again brought up the idea of a Spokane Authors catalog that could be shared with other writing groups and the public in general. Dave McChesney passed around some basic ideas of layout and content. Sue

Eller and Beth Camp both volunteered to help with the catalog project. Carl Northrup suggested that it might be time for the group to put together another anthology. As the subject of author branding had come up, he noted he had branded himself as Red Shirt Publications.

Beth Camp talked a little about the Inland Northwest Writers Guild presentation and recent Northwest Indie Bookfest workshops regarding branding by Colin Conway and said she would try to set up for him to do a presentation for Spokane Authors in the future.

Esther Hildahl wondered if there would be a need to have someone talk about writing humor.

More members read their stories based on the prompts we drew from paper bags a few meetings ago. Readers included Larry Danek, Bob Manion, Kevin Hostbjor, and Amy Logan. The door prize raffle was held and the meeting ended.

Due to an unique coincidence of the calendar, Spokane Authors met the next day, Saturday June 15th at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Attending were Larry Danek, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Pat Moreno, and Carl Northrup.

Pat Moreno talked about writing the same story using different points of view or developing characters along different lines. Kevin Hostbjor mentioned working with an outfit called Book Baby and was trying to figure out how it worked and if it would be worth dealing with. Carl noted publishing *A Penny for your Thoughts* and said he is in the final stages of preparation to publish two more. Currently he is waiting on illustrations. Larry Danek mentioned working with Reader's Digest to publish his first book and noted he was not happy with the results.

Bob Manion talked about writing ultra short stories with less than 100 words and also suggested we should learn how to write query letters, just in case anyone wanted to follow a more traditional route to publishing. He suggested that anyone who has written a query letter should bring it to our next Saturday meeting, either as an example of how to write

one, or as one to be critiqued. Dave McChesney mentioned Anne Mini's Author! Author! Blog from a few years ago had a lot of good, detailed information on all facets of traditional publishing. While the blog is no longer current, it might be possible to find it and use it for research. (Anne Mini was at one time the advice columnist for the Pacific Northwest Writers Association or PNWA. She has spoken to Spokane Authors twice in the past. Her blog can be found at www.annemini.com).

There was some general discussion about our plan to create and distribute a catalog of our members' books, another anthology of members' works, and those companies who appear to help independent, self-published authors, but who are primarily in business for their own gain.

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 web-page 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

Here is some information on upcoming Arts and Crafts Fairs.

Central Valley High School

November 2-3

Contact: Debra Long, 14222 E Desmet, Spokane, WA 99216

Mt. Spokane High School

October 11-12

Contact: Jod Magee (?)
mshscraftfair@gmail.com.

Mead High School

Nov. 9-10.

Spokane Authors Larry Danek and Marilee Hudon have information

University High School

Oct. 18-19

Contact: Mariah Newwill.
craftfair@uhighmusic.com.

Larry and I have been doing these four craft fairs for several years now, and generally, each year is a little bit better. I think that once you are at the same craft fair for a while, you get some recognition and repeat customers.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sue Eller

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

In Person meeting, Saturday July 13, 2024, at 2 pm. **Coffee with Linda** at *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

Sandpoint Writers on the Lake

Meet twice, both in person and via ZOOM for critiques. Information at bonniemcdade@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday July 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at 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
or: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044
ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

Fred Jessett:

My Name is Tamar B00DH3REWO
Drummer Loves Dancer B073H2RP7P
Getting Past Point No Point 1725865211
Love's Arithmetic is Different B09BXWNJG7 B09BYPQRW

Lewis Meline:

Lies Exposed! The Truth about Diets... 0997915501

J. B. Rivard

Illusions of Magic: Love and Intrigue in 1933 Chicago B01EGSC8N8 0996836306
Illusions of Magic: The Movie B0751RL53G 0996836330
Low on Gas: High on Sky B07V2V48XD 0996836349
Dead Heat to Destiny: Three Lives and a Spy 0996836365 B0BL5P29YP

Larry Danek

I'm the Ghost in this Body: The Nomadic Ghost B0110Z500Q
Jed's World B00MWDJ1YY

Jed's World (New, Revised Edition)

B08HSPQPG6 B08HW4F323L

Ghostly Reunion: A Nomadic Ghost Story

B077KHR33M

The Runaway Ghost: Story of the Nomadic Ghost (Vol. 3)

1986978605

Ghost at the Border

B089S6TWXT B089M1D93T (pb)

Pioneer Ghost: A Story of the Nomadic Ghost

B0957397G1 B094TCDGZG (pb)

Esther J. Hildahl

Meadow Pond B072FS1CLL 154244828X

Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude

B07177PLGX 1542451248

Marie's Marvelous Tomato

B073SFTS74 1548307653

Poopie the Fly and Friends

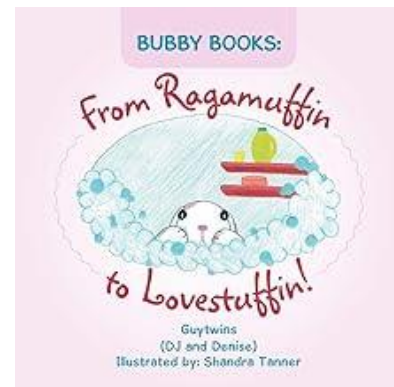
B07HNQLKMW 1724038427

Winter Stories

B09BGF8TGL

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we have five new reviews, four of which are of books not previously reviewed here.



By Guytwins (DJ and Denise)

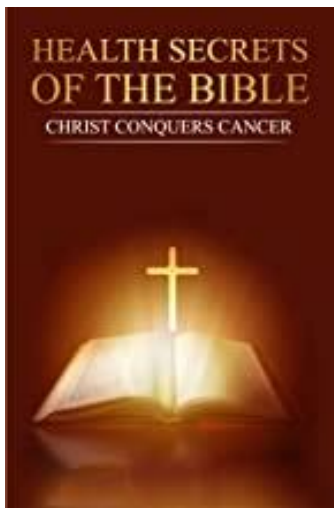
Illustrated by: Shandra Tanner

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.



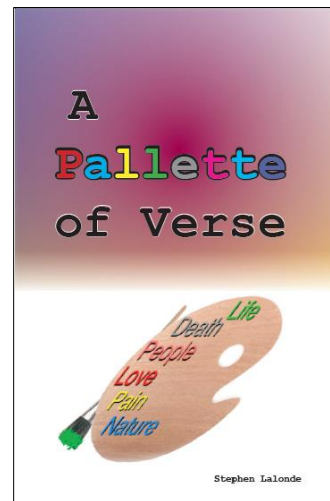
By Sidney Hemmings Moore

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

The author, Ms. Hemmings Moore, at one of our Authors' meetings, told us how she was healed of cancer as she lay dying. Being a cancer survivor myself, I was interested to see what she had to say, so I purchased her book. Needless to say, this is a fascinating story. After her miracle of being saved from certain death, the author began to study the Bible and shares some of the information she learned. She writes of the power of prayer and how it can help you overcome almost everything. One part I found very interesting was the part on superfoods as talked about in the Bible. Some of these foods were figs, greens, flax, grains, eggs, fish, yogurt, honey, garlic, and wine.

There's a lot to this book that gives good advice on how to have a healthy heart, how to beat depression, how to relax, and how to forgive. The author is a true believer in Jesus and has experienced many miracles herself since cancer.

I enjoyed reading this book. It's well-written and tells you a lot of interesting things in the Bible that you can look up and see for yourself. I recommend this book for one and all, and especially for anyone who wants to learn how to pray and become closer to Jesus.



By Stephen LaLonde

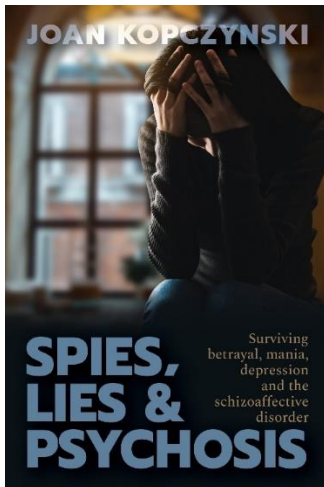
Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

I like to read poetry so when I saw *A Palette of Verse* on the author's website, I ordered it. It has a colorful cover and is divided into ten parts of poetry: Life, Death, People, Love, Pain, Nature, Ocean Shores, Poetry, Teaching, and Classical Mythology. There are numerous poems in this book that are my favorites. One is "Advertising" which shows us that we are products from the day we are born until the day we die. Another is "Toe Tappin' Tune" about music and how it can make us happy. And "Dinosaurs" points out that even though long dead, they eventually become the air we breathe. "Sometimes I Cry" lets us know that as a male, it's okay to cry. "Time Was" is about a grandpa recalling a happy memory long ago. And "Helen" tells us the real reason men go to war.

These poems are creative and well-written. I enjoyed reading them and I will add this book to my small collection of poetry books. I recommend this book for any reader, and especially for those who like to read poetry.

Spies, Lies & Psychosis:

Surviving betrayal, mania, depression and the schizoaffective disorder

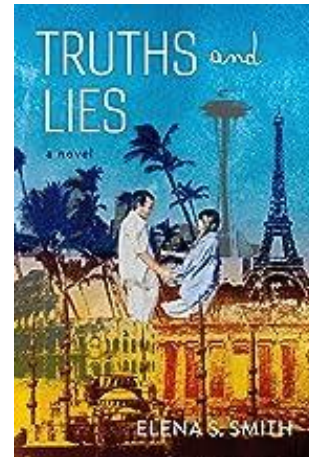


By Joan Kopczynski

Reviewed by Beth Camp

What was it like to be a spy in the 1970s? Joan Kopczynski's ***Spies, Lies & Psychosis*** explores the realities of a life well-lived with humor and insight. Her experience with the CIA led her to work for an intelligence-gathering organization near San Francisco. In those early days, Joan was trusting. Her life became infinitely more complicated when she fell in love and as she became progressively more immersed in the intelligence community. Joan is frank about her stress-related spiral into mental illness. Despite a cycle of denial and delusions, Joan, with courage and perseverance, found her way back. Her courage and tenacity leads the reader to appreciate anew how mental illness affects not only the individual, but in a ripple effect, all those around her or him. Her story helps us understand how mental illness can affect us all, what it means to have a healthy life, and how

important it is to have those who understand and support us.



By Elena S. Smith

Reviewed by Emma Megan for Readers' Favorite

Truths and Lies by Elena S. Smith is an absolutely enthralling read. Vicki is a university professor and considers herself a lucky lady. She thought her life was over when she got divorced, but now she is happy and enjoys her freedom, independence, and a life free of lies and manipulation. But her best friend, Darlene, is not convinced and decides to make Vicki a profile on a dating site. When Vicki sees the guy she splashed with beer at a Seahawks game a while ago, she decides to give him a chance. Tom is a lonely guy in his late 50s. He has been divorced for almost a decade and stopped taking care of himself. Tom believes he is a decent man who doesn't deserve to be manipulated and deceived. He is afraid of getting hurt again, but after a brief encounter with a woman at a football game, he starts to believe that it is still possible to find a soulmate.

I did not expect such a fascinating and uplifting contemporary romance novel. *Truths and Lies* by Elena S. Smith is the perfect combination of fun, adventure, peace, love, tenderness, care, and intimacy. It's about truths and lies, freedom and commitment, trust, loss, and survival. Elena writes so well that she

draws you into her characters' lives. Her characters are realistic and wonderfully flawed. Their fears and experiences with truth and lies allowed me to connect deeply and relate to them. Vicki is now one of my favorite female characters. I highly recommend this moving novel to all readers looking for a mature romance with strong characters.

Reviewed by Mikel Stevenson

Elena masterfully develops a real-life narrative addressing core issues of both life and self. While reading the story, I came to realize she has identified the most important issue — relationship. That life is about relationship, and what is life without relationship? And much of one's character and personal issues are revealed in relationships. Without saying it, Elena shows there is far more to the internal than we perceive from observing the external.

The story has a *realness* to it in expressing the universal human condition. That life has paradox; life has risk; life has potential; we are vulnerable when we love; life has loss, pain, betrayal; fear of being hurt again is universal. They are powerful forces in my psyche. Yet, life is doable for it is formed by our response to what happens to us.

"Is the truth a bitch?" Elena's question is for the reader to answer. Tom, a main character in the book, grappled with truth as truth seemed to frustrate his desires and actions. "I hate this poisonous phrase 'the truth is'; it always spoils everything" (p. 29). But whether a bitch or not, he finally realized lies are worse: "Yes, maybe some truths will hurt, but lies eventually always hurt more" (p. 43). How and why did Tom come to this conclusion? How did he make this truth a reality in his life? Intriguing, indeed. And all can relate to Tom and the process.

Vikki, the other main character in the book, finally voices to herself the age-old question, "Why is life so unfair?" (p. 156). Elena does not answer the why, but Tom and Vikki show us *the how* to live with it. This includes the courage that is often overlooked, i.e., the courage within the human spirit . . .

courage to face reality and accept truth; courage to risk being hurt again; courage to engage the unknown. Elena presents it well.

The rather surprising ending is, like the whole story, real life. Poignant, yes, while comforting and inspiring. An engaging read because I see myself with my thinking, emotions and behaviors living in same circumstance, same experiences, with same issues as Tom and Vikki.

Truths and Lies offers the truth that awareness of shared humanness can cultivate virtues of empathy and compassion.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl (new)

Truths and Lies is the bittersweet love story between Vicki and Tom that had its ups and downs for almost eleven years. Both are divorced. Vicki decided she was through with men because of lies and manipulations she had experienced before. She convinced herself that she was very happy and loved her new freedom of being very independent and doing whatever she wanted. Tom, on the other hand, after his divorce let himself go, gained a lot of weight, was lonely and bored. He got mixed up in one relationship, but it didn't work out because she had a drinking problem. After that, he pretty much gave up.

Then one day on a dating site, Vicki spotted Tom's picture and recognized him as the man she accidentally spilled beer on during a Seahawks football game. She met him and thus, slowly at first, began their relationship.

The author has done a wonderful job creating this story. It is well-written, interesting, and a page turner. The characters are well defined, seem very real, and ones that the reader can easily identify with. I recommend this book for one and all and especially for those who like romance stories.