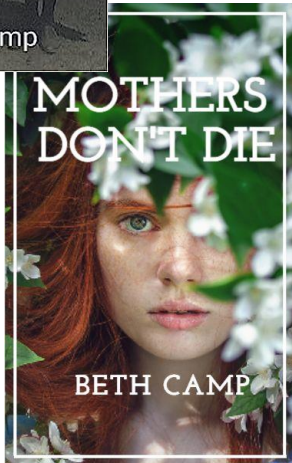
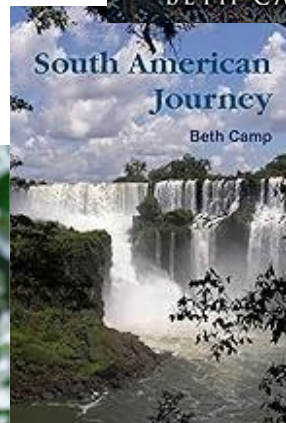
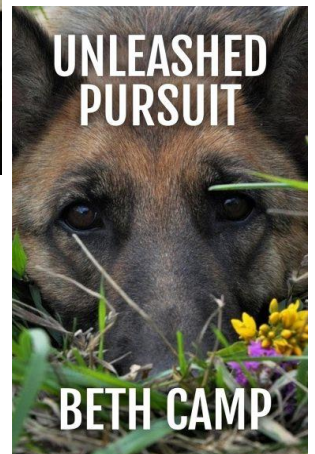
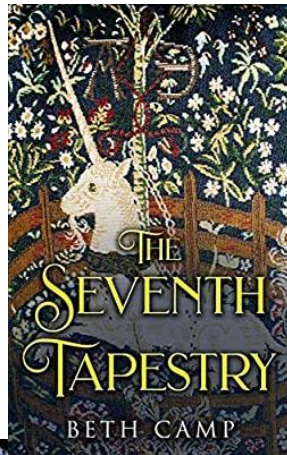
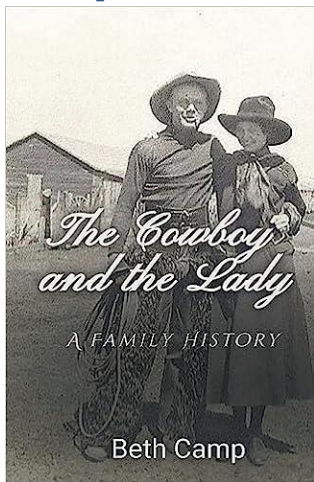




Literary Gazette

June 2026

Spokane Authors
2504 W. Walton Ave.
Spokane, WA 99205-1569



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, Spokane Authors is an organization dedicated to anyone interested in any aspect of writing and art. Members include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, 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.

The meeting room opens at **1:30 pm**. Presentations and discussions begin at **2:00 pm**.

Spokane Authors also meets the **third Wednesday** of each month, at the **Sans Souci West Club House**, 3231 W. Boone Ave.

The meeting room opens at **5:30 pm**. Presentations and discussions begin at **6:00 pm**.

We set up a collection jar for those who wish to help reimburse whoever might bring 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
June 30th for the July 2026 issue.**

2026 Officers:

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

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

Secretary: **OPEN**

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

Public Relations: **Guy Twins**
(509) 869-6624
guytwins@gmail.com

Equipment Manager: **Bob Hildahl**
mr.inky@yahoo.com

Advisory Board:

Member: **Caryl Briscoe-Michas**
(509) 328-4577
ennalyrac@hotmail.com

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

Member: **Debby Putman**
(805) 340-8859
debbyputman@msm.com

"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: spokaneauthors@gmail.com

Videos of many of our presentations are available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsforyou>
Links for newer videos are in the Vice-President's message and in accounts of our most recent meetings

New Video Channel!
<https://www.youtube.com/@SpokaneAuthors-Org>
(Eventually all videos of our meetings will be on this channel)

On the cover: More recently released books by longtime Spokane Authors member Beth Camp.

OUR JUNE MEETINGS!

2:00 pm. Friday, June 12, 2026, San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. Meeting room opens at 1:30 pm. Our scheduled speaker had to cancel, so we'll have a general discussion.

6:00 pm. Wednesday June 17, 2026, Sans Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. Meeting room opens at 5:30 pm. Again, we'll have a general discussion. Both meetings might be a good time for critiquing submissions for our next Anthology.

ANTHOLOGY

If you haven't heard, we are attempting to assemble a new anthology featuring short stories, essays, and poetry by our members. We have set June 30 as the deadline for submissions. That should give us ample time to get things edited and formatted so we can have it ready to go in time for craft fairs and other marketing events leading up to the Holidays.

Send submissions to Vice-President Sue Eller or SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE Editor Dave McChesney

A title of SPOKANE AUTHORS: WRITE ON has been suggested, but we would welcome other ideas.

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT



**June:
Graduations, Weddings,
and Meetings**

June means different things to different people. Graduations from area high schools and colleges bring ceremonies and lots of parties to celebrate. Weddings, ditto. For Spokane Authors, it means our Friday afternoon and Wednesday evening meetings, along with meeting the June 30th deadline for inclusion in this year's anthology. We have received several entries so far, and it has come to my attention that a 1500-word limit is probably too short, so for those who have already submitted, we will feature two or three stories instead to make up the difference.

For those of you who are still writing, you may do a 3,000-word story or send us two shorter ones. Don't forget to send a short bio of yourself and a picture in addition to your stories. I have some pictures from past anthologies and "about the author" pages from books I've edited for some of you, but if you have a more current one, go ahead and send it with your submission.



As we get nearer to the deadline, I'll have Dave send out a release for us to use your story for this anthology. Otherwise, the copyright remains with the author. Please fill it out and email it back to Dave or me or include it with your submission if you haven't already submitted your stories. This is very important, since we can't use your story without your permission.

Now, let's talk about our speakers for the next couple of months. This month's Friday meeting on June 12th will feature Lee Kessler. Lee has spoken to our group several times in the past, and each time was a new idea. She is moving away from our area soon, so I am glad she will be here one more time. (Unfortunately, Lee has been forced to cancel her appearance.) For our July 10th meeting, Erik Schubach will be back by popular request. I don't have anyone scheduled for August yet, so if you have someone in mind you would like, let me know and I'll see what I can do.

For the June and July Wednesday evening meetings, we will dedicate those to work on the anthology. We have four volunteers to do the editing, and I have

received back four edited and approved stories so far. I am also working on a template for future anthologies, so that in the future we can insert the edited stories as they come in.

I'm also sending out a call for photos to represent Spokane. If you have taken pictures around Spokane, please email them to me. The file should be in JPEG format, in landscape format (wider than tall), and be at least 300 dpi (dots per inch). One of them will be chosen for the cover. The photographer will get credited on the copyright page. The picture should be of something that is recognizable as a Spokane landmark.

As most of you know, our event at the MAC went well. Thank you Elena Smith for making this happen. Also thank you to Kevin Hostbjor and Gail Bergan for their work, and for the people at the MAC for their help the day of the event.

The Guy twins, Denise and D. J., have taken over the video recording of our guest speakers and learned how to upload them to the Spokane Authors YouTube channel. However, this month they will be on vacation, so Dave McChesney and I will try our best to fill in the gap. Dave will be doing a fill-in for me for this month's Wednesday night meeting, since I will be in southern California visiting my daughter.

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/@SpokaneAuthors-Org> to access the videos (or click on the link). One more thing I just discovered. If you want subtitles, all you have to do is click the CC button in the bottom-right corner of the screen. One last tip on the videos. It will help us all if you like the video, to hit the thumbs-up icon, and to subscribe to the channel.

And don't forget to check and follow our Facebook page and our wonderfully informative website www.spokaneauthors.org for more information and the latest on current member activities. See you June 12th.

Sue Eller

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

As things have worked out, I didn't get

around to making up a special roster to put on the website, one that would be accessible with a password. I hope to get that done soon. In the meantime, if you need to contact a fellow member of our group, email me and I'll forward it on to the individual and hopefully connect the two of you. If you are one of the few without email, call or send me a short note via USPS.



I understand that we have a number of submissions for our upcoming anthology. Keep them coming! If we end up with more than we can use, it's likely we'll be doing an

Please remember that many members have not yet paid dues for 2026. You should have received an email about that in the past couple of weeks. As always, if your circumstances are such that paying dues is a financial problem, please let an officer or board member know, and we'll work something out.

To pay your dues, bring cash or check to a meeting, or if I remember my "Square" card reader, you can use a credit or debit card. You can also send dues payments to:

**Spokane Authors
2504 W. Walton Ave.
Spokane, WA 99205-1569**

OUR MAY 2026 MEETINGS

Friday May 8, 2026

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House, on Friday March 13, at 2:00 pm. Attending were: Gail Bergan, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Sheri Decker, Sue Eller, Anna Goodwin, Mark Lee Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Stephen Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail.

D. J. and Denise Guy told us they are getting closer to republishing *Bubby Books: From Ragamuffin to Lovestuffin!* and that they are working on a second book. Kevin Hostbjor is close to releasing *The 2nd Cohort*, while Gail Bergan is working on a *serial* memoir. Carl Northrup (AKA Nathaniel Bennett) is continuing to work with the students at a local private school as they get ready to publish a collection of their stories. He is also getting closer to publishing his next book.

As a group, we are working to publish a new anthology. (More recently the deadline for submissions was set at June 30. Submissions should be sent to Sue Eller. She has also suggested that if you haven't submitted anything for our anthologies, or if it has been a while since doing so, you might also send an up-to-date headshot and a brief bio.)

Our speaker was Anna Goodwin who talked about writing the story of her German/Russian father's escape from Revolutionary Russia in the early 20th century.

Elena offered final advice for the upcoming event at the Museum of Arts and Culture. We drew tickets for door prizes and called it a day.

Wednesday May 20, 2026

Compiled by Genny La Morgan

Spokane Authors also met on Wednesday May 20, beginning at 6:00 pm. Those gathering at the Sans Souci West Club House included Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Genny La Morgan, John R. Miller, and Terry Stratton.

Our speaker was Ben Van Voorhis, who announced a 4-week short story workshop, "From Start to Finish," at the Shadle Park Library on May 24, 31, June 7 and 14, at 1:00 pm.

His goal at our meeting on 5/20 was to help us assemble the bones of a short story. SA members in attendance contributed to the discussion:

How to start – Theme, personal life experiences, renew old writings, synthesize bits and pieces collected into a short story. Example: job stories. Prompts: write in second

person.

What makes a good title? Sometimes, the title begins the story. Other times, the title comes later, or the title changes.

Hook – Something to grab the readers' interest right away. It can be a jingle or phrase that makes a reader wonder "how come?" Or there can be missing information. Withhold enough information to make the readers curious. Establish the normal and then deviate, grounding the story by getting the reader into a time and place, or import sensory information: Somebody wants to _____, but so _____ then _____.

How to get the information across? Action, details, showing and telling.

1st Writing Exercise: Write 2 versions of the same opening: Who is the story about and what do they want? The opening paragraph can be implied info. Character with a goal. Same info implied. What's Next: Situation, plot, events, time, change of plot direction, create questions for the reader, curiosity. 1st Person: I. 2nd Person: You. 3rd Person: They.

2nd Writing Exercise: Put the character under pressure.

Ending: Character had power, control, and accomplishment. A cliff hanger. The forbidden is won. Change for the better, opportunity for change, choice. Surprising but inevitable. Culmination of the plot. Love for each other. 3rd Writing Exercise: Character gets what they want and regrets it.

Attendees read their writings. What can we "steal" from other writers to learn from?

Next Month: Dave McChesney Workshop: Bring your writing and get feedback.

A NOTE FROM ELENA!

I'm honored that my historical cross-cultural romantic novel, *Why Birches Are White*, has been purchased and featured by **Kindred & Company Books and Coffee** in Post Falls, Idaho. You can find it in the *Local Authors Spotlight Section*. It's a great gift for family and friends, or fans of historical fiction.

Kindred & Company Books and Coffee
 851 E 4th Ave.
 Post Falls, ID 83854



UPCOMING EVENTS

INWG First Wednesday (now at 7:00 pm), Third Wednesday (now at 2:00 pm), and Coffee with Linda are taking time off over the summer and will not meet during June, July, and August.

Spokane Authors

Friday, June 12, 2:00 pm
 Sans Souci West Clubhouse.
 Lee Kessler was scheduled to speak but is unable to be there. We'll have a member led general discussion instead.

Spokane Authors

Wednesday June 17, 6:00 pm.
 Sans Souci West Clubhouse.
 Critique session and more for our anthology and/or other writing projects.

Spokane Authors

SPokane AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE

Friday, July 10, 2:00 pm
 Sans Souci West Clubhouse.
 Erik Schubach will speak

Spokane Authors

Wednesday July 15, 6:00 pm.
 Sans Souci West Clubhouse
 Critique session and more for our anthology and/ or other writing projects.

Spokane Authors

Friday, August 14, 2:00 pm
 Sans Souci West Clubhouse

Spokane Authors

Wednesday August 19, 6:00 pm.
 Sans Souci West Clubhouse.

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, RECENTLY UPDATED, 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/)

Bob Manion:

<i>Santa's Heroes</i>	1936178095
<i>The Tree House</i>	B004IZLHLE
<i>The Tree House (new edition)</i>	1946882003
<i>Springer's Heart</i>	0978850742
<i>Summer Rain</i>	B00ZM3S2IM
<i>Vampire and the Cop</i>	B00ZM4BBOS
Retitled <i>Vampire Justice</i>	0996864415
<i>Sabrina's Promise</i>	0996864407 097885070X

Sandra L. Mason:

<i>N is for Nativity</i>	1517614880
(Illustrated by Natalie J. Apodaca)	
<i>Into the Fire</i>	B08Z2GX2TC

Tiffani Harvey:

A Journey to Independence 1533499438
Growing Independent 1533499926

Fred Jessett:

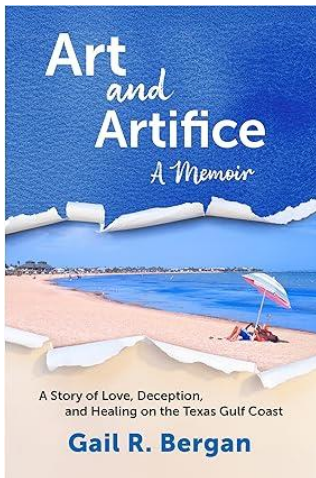
My Name is Tamar B00DH3REWO
Drummer Loves Dancer B073H2RP7P
Getting Past Point No Point 1725865211
Love's Arithmetic is Different B09BXWNJG7 B09BYPQRW

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

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

(New reviews posted first!.)



Reviewed by Elena S. Smith

Art and Artifice is a powerful exploration of love, illusion, and the slow, courageous journey toward self-restoration. In this compelling memoir, Gail lays bare the emotional devastation of a woman ensnared in a marriage built on well concealed manipulation and deceit. Her story will resonate deeply with women who have struggled to reclaim their self-respect after enduring psychological and emotional abuse.

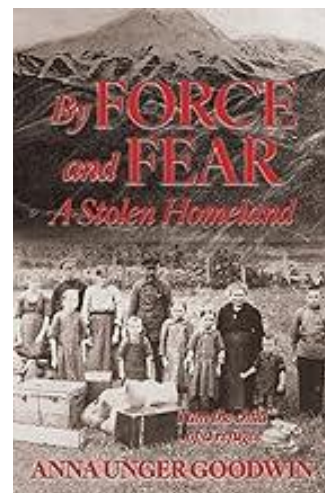
Through vivid, unflinching honesty, the memoir traces the protagonist's desperate hope for happiness—her refusal to see the mounting red flags, her faith in a love that was never real but rather a calculated act of “love bombing,” designed to control and confuse. What emerges is both a confession and a warning: a reminder to women everywhere that vulnerability is not weakness, but trust must be earned—and self-worth must never depend on a man's approval.

The story is relatable as many women's hearts are eager to forgive and are open to another chance. Will it work in this story? You'll have to read it to find out.

Reviewed by Linda Sonntag (new)

Gail Bergen's memoir, *Art and Artifice*, tells a story of love gone awry because of marriage to a master manipulator. What begins as a promising relationship becomes a nightmare when Gail faces stonewalling, gaslighting, ultimatums and emotional abuse from the man she trusted with her dreams. But unlike many women in the clutches of a narcissist Gail stands up to him and eventually extricates herself from his toxic control. The sadness and darkness this story tells is offset by descriptions of many exotic places she visits as she eventually finds peace.

**By Force and Fear:
A Stolen Homeland**



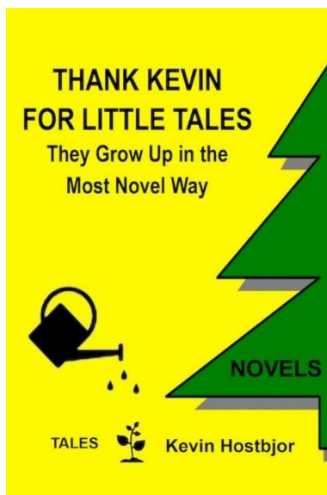
by Anna Unger Goodwin

Reviewed by Joan Kopczynski

According to Anna, the book is “based on the true stories of Chnals, a twelve-year-old German Russian boy with unusual faith and courage in desperate times.” The theme of the book is finding faith and freedom in a chaotic world.

I love that it is only 207 pages, but this memoir is remarkable, especially because of the way it is written and also that it is written from the viewpoint of a psychotherapist who has helped people overcome PTSD. In each chapter, Anna relates her experience in how she came to know her father’s deeply traumatic life (he suffered from PTSD because of his life experiences) and also the many memories he told that happened in a troubled time of Russian history. After that, Anna writes in novel form, what actually happened to her father. At the end of many chapters, she drops a bomb or twist for the reader. This format kept me turning pages. I am not familiar with Russian history, and although early on in the book, she recounts the history of the German people in Russia, I kept wondering throughout the book what was going on with the leaders of Russia while her ancestors tried to escape. I wanted more history throughout but was satisfied at the end where she said that Lenin died in January 1924 and Stalin took over and she told what happened because of it.

It is truly a remarkable book and page-turner. I highly recommend it. You won’t be disappointed.



Reviewed by Joan Kopczynski

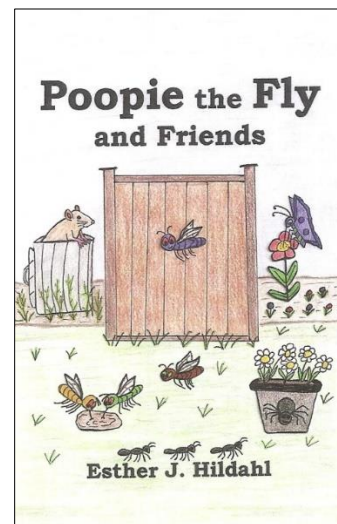
According to Kevin, “this is a collection of short stories, mini memoirs, poor poetry attempts, tall tales, short tales, fabrications, and other nonsensical fictional factoids.”

I laughed at “poor poetry attempts” and thought this is a book I want to read, I also liked that it was only 108 pages, not a daunting task to get through the whole thing in one sitting and the fact that the cost won’t bankrupt you.

What I loved about the book besides Kevin’s sense of humor, is that it is written as a conversation between his younger self and his older self. What I enjoyed most were the passages he wrote about the adventure and trials and tribulations he had traveling to Maui with his wife and also boarding a cruise that left from Miami. I laughed out loud at those passages.

Although humor is subjective, I think most readers will find something to laugh about while reading this book.

(We now continue our rotation through the reviews we have on file)



Reviewed by Rhonda Cordes (a fan)

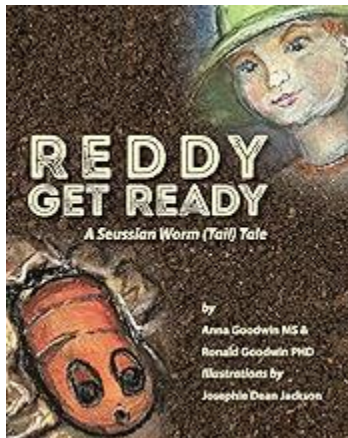
I’ve finished reading *Poopie the Fly and Friends*. What a clever and creative book! My favorite thing about it is the way the author weaves education and life lessons throughout the story and still keeps it entertaining. I enjoyed reading it very much.

Reviewed by Linda Sonntag

I initially bought this book for my granddaughters: ages 4, 6 & 9, but I wanted to read it first. Before I knew it, I was laughing at the wonderful characters this author created from no less than flies, a spider & even a praying mantis!

It is a wonderful story of how Poopy, the bluebottle fly, survives various near-death experiences, including - but not limited to - being eaten alive to getting trapped in a dark, spooky spider-filled forest to standing up to a bully as he discovers his inherent worth. He survives because he listens raptly to his teacher to “be aware of your surroundings” always and to trust your instincts

Not only does this story keep you on edge, wondering if Poopy will make it, it teaches many scientific facts about ants, butterflies, spiders and, of course, flies. It teaches children (and adults) that flies (and other insects) are not ALL bad, but sometimes do honorable things like help a friend, inspire others, and even pollenate flowers! I even believe that children will love the main character so much because of their love of the word “poop” and bathroom jokes, because the author never shrinks from telling it like it is, ie., flies like poop!

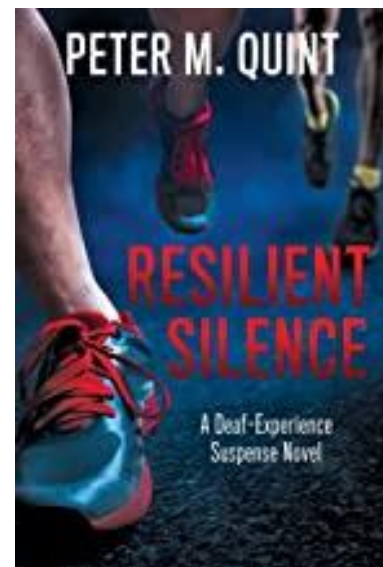


By Anna Goodwin MS & Ronald Goodwin PHD
Illustrations by Josephie Dean Jackson

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

This is the story of Reddy McGee, a small red worm who felt worthless since all he did was eat and tunnel holes through the dirt. When a large bee told him he was ugly, slimy, and slim with no limbs or hair, and good for nothing, he really felt bad. He talked to his papa, but it did no good. Then his family was digging and wriggling through the night when suddenly Reddy burst through the earth with a green pea. His family was so happy for here was something to eat. While his family slept deep in the earth, Reddy sneaked out and crawled to the surface. It was morning and bright. He ran into birds who wanted to eat him, a child who wanted to squash him flat, a friendly woman who handled him gently and set him free. At last he meets a millipede who is also a fortune teller. From her he learns why he and other insects that live underground are so important to our planet earth.

This story is written in rhyme, which I like, and the illustrations are well-drawn, colorful, and adorable. It's educational and for kids 4-8. The end of the book tells you facts about red worms and why they are important. Plus, it tells you how to grow red worms. I recommend this book for children and parents. It's a good read-aloud book.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Resilient Silence is a well-written book about the world of the Deaf, written by the

author who is also Deaf. It's about two brothers, Julius and his older brother Jeremy, fifteen years older. When Julius was one, their father dies. And at the age of three, Julius loses his hearing due to meningitis. Jeremy can't deal with the loss of his father and now his brother's Deafness and leaves, joining the military. He does nothing to try to communicate with his brother who has learned sign language and to read lips. Years later, there is a chemical explosion that leaves Jeremy Deaf. He can't accept his new life and becomes very angry and depressed. Finally, after many years away, Jeremy returns home to his mother and brother. One thing both he and his brother have in common is running, but will that be enough to reunite them?

I liked this book and it was never boring. One thing I learned was that if you are communicating with a Deaf person who reads lips, don't turn away from them so they can't tell what you are saying. Also, try to learn sign language. I recommend this book for one and all. It's a good read.



By Sue Eller

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

In the not-too-distant future, all of Earth is united as the Federation of United Countries and United Peoples. Realizing the possibility of invasion from space, Becky Johnson designs a defense system to protect the planet. On her way to the initial activation of the

system, Becky disappears, and earth-changing events begin to occur.

This small book, which can be read in a fraction of the time required for most, packs an amazing story into a relatively small package. There is an understated but noted parallel with Biblical history and prophecy. Many characters appear to be modern versions of those from Scripture, identified in the story by more modern contemporary names.

The author does a marvelous job of combining Science Fiction with Biblical history and prophecy, while stirring in a bit of sarcastic humor and irony. The final result is certainly plausible, although not what we are led to expect by traditional interpretations.

Return to Armageddon, ISBN 9781477655726 is available on Amazon, both in paperback and Kindle formats.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Mr. McChesney already said it all better than I could. I would add that it could have been longer. It is nice to read a book that doesn't take a month to read, but I wanted more of this future world. Perhaps there will be a sequel someday, to let us know how her version of the world turns out. Perhaps Becky and David's grandchildren?

Reviewed by Beth Camp (5 Stars)

What a delightful read. You don't have to be a fan of science fiction to appreciate this fast-paced read about a society deep in trouble from a controlling government. Wait for it! Aliens are coming to the rescue. Or are they? Expect well-developed, believable characters, fascinating and subtle Biblical references, and an ending that affirms "listen to your own heart."