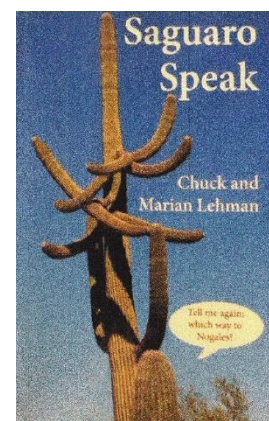
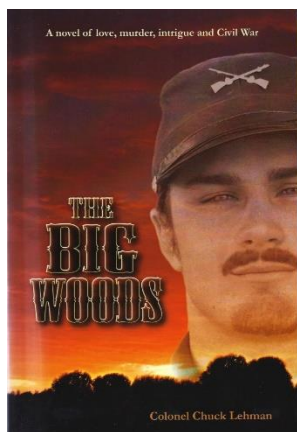
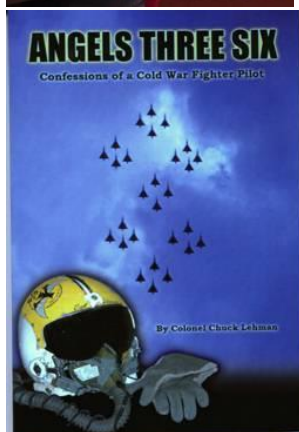
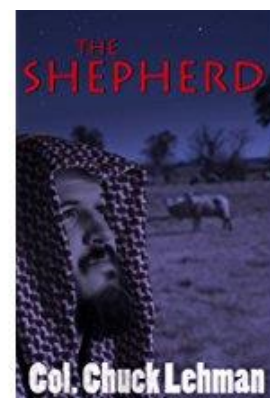
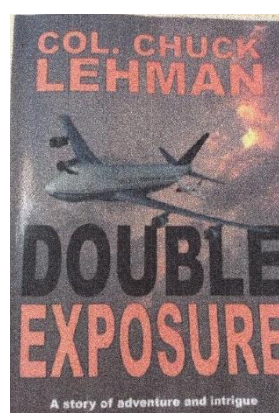
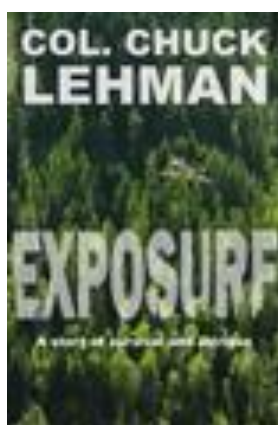
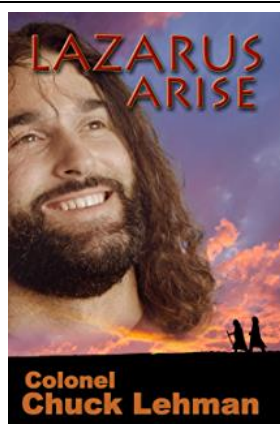




Literary Gazette

October 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:
October 25th for the November
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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Public Relations: **OPEN**

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

Advisory Board:

Member: **Esther Hildahl**
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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: spokaneauthors@gmail.com

Videos of many of our presentations are available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsforyou>
Links to newer/current videos can be found in the Vice-President's messages in this newsletter, as well as accounts of our most recent meetings.

Cover: Several books by the late Col. Chuck Lehman, former Spokane Authors member and one time President of the organization.

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

We remember former Spokane Authors member Col. Chuck Lehman. He served as our president several years ago. He and his wife Marion have both passed away.

OUR OCTOBER MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, October 10, 2025, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. Fellow Spokane Authors member Sarah Vail will speak on creating an Engaging Book Theme.

We will also meet at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, October 18, 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 on Heroy.)

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Fall: My Favorite Season

I love everything about fall. The weather is cooler, the time of harvest is at hand, and the leaves adorn our landscape with vibrant autumn colors. It is the season of holidays and,



relevant to us as writers on the local scene, the march of the craft fairs. Many of our members participate in several of the fairs, and for me, at least, it is a chance to sell books, meet readers, and recruit

members to our Spokane Authors group. As a bonus, the high school craft fairs benefit their music programs and related activities.

This month our guest speaker will be our own Sarah Vail. Sarah has written four novels in the crime thriller genre, and a recently released historical fiction story set in World War II Poland. Based on actual events, Vail weaves a tale of Nazi occupation, the threat of Russian takeover and destruction,

and romance that spans two generations. Sarah has titled her talk How to write an Engaging Book Theme and she will have handouts.

Coming on October 18-19, the Alliance of Independent Authors (ALLi) will hold its annual online conference. The totally online conference is free, but you will need to go to <https://selfpublishingadvice.org/conference-2025> to attend. This year's theme is New Trends in Self-Publishing, and the schedule is posted online.

Now, back to November and beyond. For November, member Dave McChesney will speak on a topic to be determined, and in December, be prepared to share from your latest work or work in progress, or a December-themed composition of your own, for our open mic session. November is also your opportunity to vote for next year's officers. I'm also working on January of next year and will let you know further details as I get them scheduled.

The September video featuring guest speaker Robin Bishop is live, and the link is <https://youtu.be/8FANhLQxeg0>. Somehow, we lost the Spokane Authors YouTube channel, but we are working on a solution. In the meantime, I am hosting the videos on my personal YouTube channel, and all the SA speaker videos are classified as Public.

I hope to see many of you at the October 10th 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 at spokaneauthors.org for both meetings. For this November and December, we will not be having a Saturday meeting.

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.

Sue Esser

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

Sorry for the delay in getting this issue of our newsletter out to you. As they say, "Life got in the way."



There is some good news. However, and that is that we have a new email address for the group. spokaneauthors@gmail.com I had constant trouble even logging in to the old one, so I thought it was time for a new one. As an added advantage, this one doesn't cost us anything.

Speaking of costs, the rent for our post office box keeps going up and up. For the amount of mail we receive, paying that much just isn't worth it. When the current rental term expires after the first of the year, we'll close the box and switch to my street address.

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.)

ELECTIONS COMING SOON!

All offices and positions are open, so if you want to contribute to the group's success, why not answer the call. Currently we need a Secretary, a Public Relations Person, and possibly an Advisory Board Member. We may need more, depending on plans of current office holders.

SPOKANE AUTHORS CATALOG Last Chance!

If you want your books listed in the upcoming edition of our catalog, please pay your dues for 2025 no later than our meeting scheduled for October 10, 2025. Contact me if you've sent payment via the mail, or if you have a problem in paying..

OUR AUGUST 2025 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House, on Friday September 12 at 2:00 pm. Attending were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Joel Craig, Larry Danek, Mary DeBord, Betty Deuber, Carolyn Eller, Sue Eller, Robert Eversole, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Tina Hammond, Kevin Hostbjor, Joan Kopczynski, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl and Mrs. Northrup, Debbie Putman, Elena Smith, Mikel and Mrs. Stevenson, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail. Guests included William G. Oliver and Gary A. Edwards. Gary later joined Spokane Authors.

President Carl Northrup introduced Vice-President Sue Eller, who in turn introduced our speaker, Robin Bishop. Robin is currently Managing Editor of the Deer Park Tribune and was previously with Art Chowder Magazine. Her presentation focused on journalistic writing.

Journalistic writing's primary goal is to provide clear and factual information rather than to entertain. It should be neutral in style, showing no bias. Journalistic writing requires research and verification of multiple sources. It's best to "triangulate" or use information from an official source. It deals with facts, rather than imagination.

The pace can be hectic, based on the publication time schedule and deadlines. Ethics for journalists are in black and white and haven't changed.

After a break, several announcements were made. Nominations are open for any who want to serve as an officer or board member for the coming year. Please let us know no later than our October meetings if you would like to be on the ballot. We will hold elections at our Friday meeting in November.

We will meet on the third Saturday of both September and October, in the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall at 2:00 pm. We will not meet on the third Saturday in November and December.

For those planning ahead, our Friday meeting in December will feature an open mic, in which members and guests will be invited to share a short excerpt of their work.

Amy Logan told us she had work published after fifteen tries. Congratulations. Sarah Vail mentioned a book signing and wine tasting in Post Falls on September 20. Kevin Hostbjoer said he would be signing and selling books at a Harry Potter themed event in Milton-Free Water, Oregon. Carl Northrup plans to do the same at the Garlic Festival north of Spokane, and Bob Manion has a signing scheduled at the Barnes and Noble in the Valley.

Elena Smith mentioned that Kevin Hostbjoer and she had sold books at a recent farmers market event. She said that such an event appeared to not be the ideal venue for selling books, as people seemed more interested in the farm produce available.

Once we drew numbers for, and awarded several door prizes, Carl declared the meeting adjourned.

The video of Robin's presentation can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/8FANhLQxeg0>

We met at St. Francis of Assisi Church at 2:00 pm on Saturday, September 20th. Members present included, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, and Terry Stratton. Joining us were guests Dave and Jean Rottmayer and Brenda V.

Bob Manion led a general discussion about short stories, and we talked about writing in general, hoping to pass along a little of what knowledge we might possess to those who joined us as guest.

Note: Since we are required to keep the door accessing the building locked, if you arrive and can't get in, you can call Dave McChesney. He will post his number in the window of the entrance door on Heroy Avenue.

Call him and he will come open the door so you can get in. Also, we will meet again on the third Saturday of October, but we will not meet on the third Saturday of November or December.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spokane Authors

Friday October 10, 2:00 pm
Sans Souci West Club House
Speaker: TBA

INWG 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

Central Valley H S Arts and Crafts Fair

Saturday and Sunday, November 1 & 2.

INWG First Wednesday

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

INWG Coffee with Linda

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

Spokane Authors

Friday November 14, 2:00 pm
Sans Souci West Club House
Speaker: TBA

Spokane Authors

~~Saturday November 15, 2:00 pm~~
~~St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall~~
CANCELLED

Shadle Park HS Arts and Craft Fair

Saturday & Sunday, November 15 & 16.

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday 19 November, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)

Contact lindathewriter@gmail.com for link

INWG First Wednesday

Wednesday December 3, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

Contact lindathewriter@gmail.com For link
(INWG will take the rest of December off.)

Ridgeline HS Arts and Craft Fair

Saturday & Sunday, December 6 & 7

Spokane Authors

Friday December 12, 2:00 pm

Sans Souci West Club House

Our Annual Open Mic Session

Spokane Authors

~~Saturday September 20, 2:00 pm~~

~~St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall~~

CANCELLED

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/)

Joyce Caudel:

<i>The Hat Pin Murders</i>	1936178397
<i>The Hat Box Mystery</i>	1481959107
<i>A Hat to Die For</i>	1530028612

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

SPokane Authors LITERARY GAZETTE

Vampire and the Cop
Retitled *Vampire Justice*
Sabrina's Promise

B00ZM4BBOS
0996864415
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:

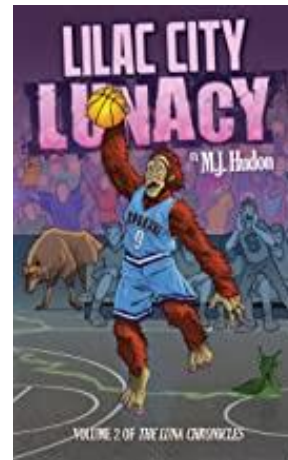
<i>A Journey to Independence</i>	1533499438
<i>Growing Independent</i>	1533499926

Fred Jessett:

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

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we have one new review
before resuming our normal rotation.



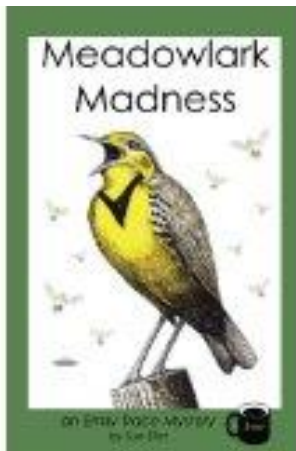
By M.J. Hudon

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Lilac City Lunacy is Volume 2 of the
Luna Chronicles. The story begins with
Spokane going wild with crime everywhere.
Spokane's Werewolf Guardians with their
Luna, Miranda Moon, need to put a stop to it.
Miranda has Lupus. Any emotional upset
makes her condition worse. Because of much
stress in the city and elsewhere, when Miranda

and two of her friends try to transform, they get stuck and each becomes a Sasquatch. Unless they can eliminate the stress, they will stay that way. Her two friends eventually change back to human form, but not Miranda. The Guardians figure out that it is the Squugs causing Spokane to go crazy. Read and find out about their queen and how helping her will help Miranda. Also, read and find out why Miranda is playing basketball (instead of hiding) as is pictured on the cover.

I enjoyed reading this book. It is well-written and has a clever ending. I recommend this book for one and all, especially those who like or believe in Sasquatch and/or werewolves.



By Sue Eller

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Naturally one would assume that E. T. Investigations was formed to look into encounters with UFOs and aliens from beyond this world. In fact, Emily Trace opened this detective agency to find out why her husband had been murdered. To fund her personal investigation she takes on a client who, like us, mistakes the significance of the initials "E. T." Assigned to look into the apparent disappearance of the region's meadowlarks, Emily and her friends are drawn into a bigger mystery, one that does involve aliens and other worlds.

This book is very hard to place into a specific genre. It is a mystery, a science-fiction novel, perhaps a police procedural, and may

even qualify as a "cozy." Regardless of where it fits, it is a most entertaining and enjoyable read. Set in and around Spokane, Washington, and told as if by Emily herself, the pages turn at a rapid rate. Uniquely, Emily sometimes stops to admonish the reader or to remind them of bits of popular culture from days gone by, which adds to the direct conversational tone of the story.

Meadowlark Madness is a very enjoyable book, created by a writer with a clever and unusual view of the world. This reviewer looks forward to reading more of the *Emily Trace Mysteries* as they become available.

Meadowlark Madness: an Emily Trace Mystery, ISBN 9781479181711 is available in paperback at a number of Spokane area bookstores, as well as on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle™ formats.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Emily Trace's husband, Jared, has been murdered, and the police can't figure out who did it, so Emily opens up her own detective agency to solve the crime herself. However, business is slow--no customers. Without customers she has no money to pay her bills and rent, and soon she'll be forced to close her office and move out. If only she had one paying client...

Then the office door opens and in walks a birdlike little character named Mr. Archibald Wren. He has a case for her to solve. A very strange case, for you see, he wants her to solve the mystery as to where all the world's meadowlark birds have disappeared to. And thus, the strange, sometimes out-of-this-world adventure begins.

Meadowlark Madness is Eller's first *Emily Trace Mystery*. It's well-written and her characters are well-defined, clever, and interesting. The story is fast-paced and exciting. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, and I recommend it to all who love a good mystery.

Available at local Spokane bookstores, as well as on Amazon, and Kindle.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Ms. Eller has woven an interesting tale, full of quirky characters and surprising twists and turns. Her ability to break the forth wall at regular intervals gives us the feeling that Emily is sitting with us as she tells her story. She keeps it moving right along so that you don't even want to stop to get a fresh cup of coffee. But, you must, because she has subliminally made you **need** one.

I have heard that there is a second book in the works and I will be first in line to get it. I must know if Emily will find Jared's killer. In the meantime, I must put on a fresh pot of coffee and wait.

Reviewed by Beth Camp

This 5-star cozy mystery is sure to delight!

Just when overdue rent threatens to close the doors of Emily Trace's E.T. Investigations, a new client arrives with an unusual concern (and a bundle of cash): The meadowlarks are missing!

Willing to accept nearly any commission to keep the doors of her private eye business open, recently widowed Emily Trace is determined to prove that her husband's death was not accidental.

What ensues is a riotous and eventually overlapping series of events, engaging characters that come to life, and a plot that mixes a cozy mystery with science fiction flair. Within a very few sentences, I was hooked by Sue Eller's witty and entertaining voice and imaginative storytelling. She brings to life the pleasures of living in a city with a small town heart, where people know each other and are willing to help when needed. Bird lovers and Star Trek fans will appreciate the allusions sprinkled throughout, and I thoroughly enjoyed Sue Eller's ability to characters so fully that I felt I knew them – even Mr. Wren and Mr. Finch.

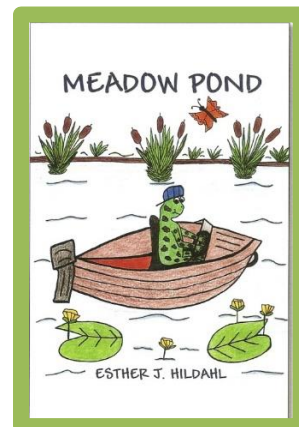
Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Emily Trace opens her own detective agency after her husband is murdered. While she looks for clues a relative of her late husband turns up, a guy she didn't know existed and is the spitting image of her late husband. Darla, an office temp, becomes a valuable part of E. T. Investigations.

Emily's first client thinks aliens have abducted all the Meadowlarks, a species of bird. Deputy Clyde Burton seems intent on watching over Emily in the hunt for the Meadowlarks. Strange folks keep popping up in this story to make a fun and enjoyable read. If you're a fan of mysteries and science fiction you will love Meadowlark Madness.

Reviewed by Joyce Seebaum

I have never read anything in this genre before, but *Meadowlark Madness* kept my attention. Way to go Sue Eller.



By Esther J. Hildahl

Reviewed by James Bartlett Parry

In this charming children's book Esther Hildahl has anthropomorphized all of the animals living in or around Meadow Pond. They are delightful critters who have fears, doubts, happiness, and sadness, just as we humans do.

Meadow Pond teaches us many lessons: We learn much about the biology of frogs and other amphibians; we learn that putting aside differences and joining together to fight a common threat can save the day; and

we learn to have respect for all of God's creatures.

You'll jump right in as Web, Clarence, Polly, Skier, Grover and others have many exciting adventures which include battles against the mean Red Boat Kids and Hes-per, the snake who likes to eat frogs. There is even a skiing turtle!

Hildahl has done a wonderful job bringing these animals to life in this cute tale that she relates so well. Although *Meadow Pond* is meant for children (ages 5 to 11), I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

This book is SO great! It starts out in the tadpole classroom as the wonderful frog teacher, Miss Gertie, explains to her students how their bodies will soon be changing. Then she tests them on the history of Meadow Pond. Charming. Next we meet the other inhabitants of the pond. The story quickly gets exciting as we meet the mean Red Boat Kids. Then there's Hes-per the snake. Ms. Hildahl has created a wonderful backdrop for her story with enough description to put a child right in the story. The characters are rich and recognizable as we all know people *just like that*. There are lessons about avoiding dangers, bravery against bullies, about working together for the common good, diplomacy in negotiations with another species, and making a plan, even if it's sounds too scary to pull off. It has a great happy ending, as it should. As an added bonus, Ms. Hildahl has filled the book with her own whimsical illustrations that call out for crayons to color them in. A perfect book for grandmothers to have in their libraries.

Reviewed by Sandra Mason

Esther Hildahl's delightful story for children is full of adventure, and scary escapes. The pond dwellers work together to solve terrifying problems. Esther has created loveable and believable characters, while teaching important lessons to kids: Loyalty to friends, bravery in difficult times, and working together to solve big problems for tiny pond

creatures. When all seems hopeless, Web hatches a plan.

Enter the Red Boat Kids, Alix, Tulip, Spike, Dooley, and Nat. These kids make the Herdmans look kind. Talk about terrible, these children are the *WORST!* Apparently, their parents have never taught them manners or respect for people or the planet. They terrorize the creatures of Meadow Pond and annoy other humans.

When Hesper, the giant snake, who is determined to eat as many frogs and toads as he can appears, the peace and safety of Meadow Pond is at stake. Will Web and his friends be able to hatch a plan to stop Hesper, stymie the Red Boat Kids, and save the creatures of Meadow Pond?

This delightful book, creatively illustrated by the author, is a must for young adventurers, parents and grandparents who love to share a captivating story. I will happily present this book to my granddaughter for her birthday!

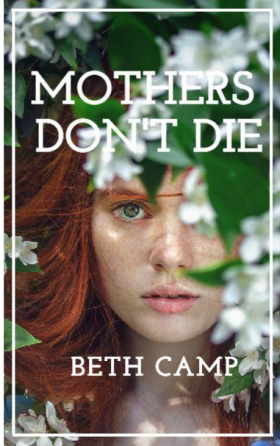


Reviewed by Sue Eller

A collection of short stories and poems centered around the myths and legends of mermaids, *The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales* will entertain and delight the reader. Some of them are poignant, some a bit scary, but all will leave the reader with a sense of the magical world under the sea. A good book to pick up for a quick break, since each story or poem is a stand-alone piece, although once I started reading, it was hard to put down.

The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales is available at Amazon.com and CreateSpace in

paperback and on Kindle and Smashwords in e-book format, or through the author.



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

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.