

CYNREN
PRESS



SPRING 2024



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Cynren Press is an independent publisher located in Chester County, Pennsylvania, with a focus on **history, memoir, biography, and women's studies**. Our fiction imprint, **Cennan Books**, publishes **historical fiction** that illuminates well-known historical events or that offers unique perspectives and **world fiction** offering readers insights into cultures and lifeways through engaging fictional accounts.

ORDERING INFORMATION

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Falling from Disgrace

Tammy Dietz

When the dogma of the Mormon Church clashes with the forces of a changing world, a young woman's destiny transforms.

Tammy Dietz grew up committed to her family's Mormon faith, a profoundly patriarchal hierarchy that declares men superior and women subordinate, that demands devotion, purity, and chastity. But when the dogma of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints clashes with the forces of a changing world, Tammy's destiny transforms.

Patriarchy provides order but also chaos in a family with a depressed mother and a hoarding father. Set in the affluent Bay Area, Tammy's coming-of-age story is one of poverty amid wealth and a desire for status, recognition, and inclusion, both inside the Church and out. But when Tammy breaks the most serious of rules, her once certain path falters, her once protective community turns intrusive, and she finds herself on an unexpected journey.

Praise

A sensitive and beautiful memoir, *Falling from Disgrace* is about perseverance, doubt, and the importance of claiming one's identity.... Told via evocative and descriptive passages, *Falling from Disgrace* brims with powerful metaphors and vivid images.... Throughout the book, the prose mirrors Dietz's maturation well: as she covers each era of her life, the book's language and style grow with her. It includes interior monologues during critical moments to deepening effect, resulting in powerful scenes.... The result is a book that achieves fantastic balance throughout—between reflection, confusion, and understanding. Even the cover image of a rose proves integral to the larger story.

Foreword Reviews, Clarion Rating: 5 out of 5

Dietz explores her religiously conservative upbringing in this debut memoir.... The author's childhood commitment to her family's faith is juxtaposed with her later ostracism as a young adult. . . . "Shamed and shunned" by her family and church as a sexually active teenager, she became disillusioned with the hypocrisy of a religion founded by a man who she describes as "a cheating, polygamous, predatory hoarder of wives."

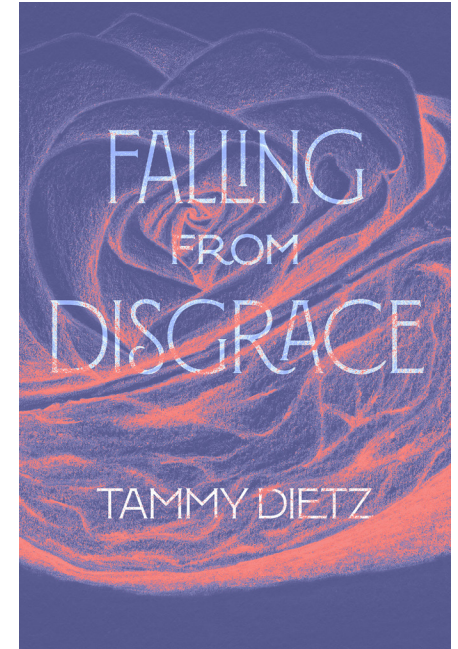
The author is a skilled writer whose engaging narrative effectively reveals how religious standards of devotion and piety can be abused by those in power. . . . A poignant, absorbing story of overcoming religious trauma.

Kirkus Reviews

"Frustration turned to surprise when I opened the door to see my father with his hands clasped behind his back. He'd finally ventured into Outer Darkness to find his daughter."

The writing in Dietz's memoir displays the hand of a practiced professional. The text is clean, and the sentences and pace flow easily throughout the work. . . . Dietz is also unafraid to be honest about her growth as a person. . . . Most readers will have gone through some form of crisis of faith, and this work should resonate with them due to its honesty and universal experiences.

US Review of Books



**BIO026000 BIOGRAPHY &
AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Personal
Memoirs**

Cynren Press | Release November 14, 2023
978-1-947976-45-0 | \$29.00
Hardcover | 246 pages
9 in H | 6 in W

Other Available Formats

Paperback: 978-1-947976-48-1 (\$17.00)
Ebook: 978-1-947976-46-7 (\$6.99)

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Tammy Dietz is a learning experience design leader, facilitator, instructional designer, writer, and editor. Her creative work has appeared in various anthologies and literary journals. From 2009 to 2018, she served as nonfiction editor of *Silk Road*, a literary magazine published by Pacific University, where she earned an MFA in creative nonfiction in 2009. She has also worked in the field of learning and development for twenty years and is currently a learning experience design manager at a Fortune 500 company. She lives near Seattle with her spouse of thirty years.





BIO022000 BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Women
SOC028000 SOCIAL SCIENCE / Women's Studies

Cynren Press | Release September 24, 2024
978-1-947976-43-6 | \$29.00
 Hardcover | 224 pages
 9 in H | 6 in W
 72 photos

Other Available Formats

Paperback: 978-1-947976-47-4 (\$20.00)
 Ebook: 978-1-947976-44-3 (\$6.99)

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Oh No He Didn't!

Brilliant Women and the Men Who Took Credit
 for Their Work

Wendy J. Murphy

Stories of brilliant women whose inventions, discoveries, and creations were credited to the men who stole them.

Don't you hate it when someone takes credit for another person's idea? It happens a lot, and the people who lose out are often women. This book tells the stories of women whose inventions, discoveries, and creations were credited to men—women like Zelda Fitzgerald, the novelist, painter, and playwright who was more than F. Scott's wife, and Margaret Knight, who invented the flat-bottomed paper bag but saw the patent go to a man who stole off to the Patent Office with her idea. By telling the stories of the brilliant women artists, inventors, scientists, architects, and mathematicians who were denied their due, *Oh No He Didn't!* will help all women tackle obstacles and create a kinship of understanding that will inspire and transcend generations.

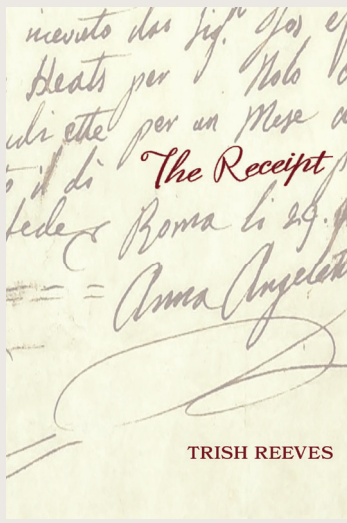
Praise

I see the spirit of my great-great-grandmother Elizabeth Cady Stanton in all these women, and I hear her voice in the words of Wendy Murphy not only in this book but in her tireless fight for the Equal Rights Amendment. Her leadership, brilliance, and fierce refusal to compromise or accept less than full equality for women are unrivaled. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul are so proud as we stand on their shoulders.

—Coline Jenkins, great-great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Wendy J. Murphy is an attorney specializing in women's rights, civil rights, constitutional rights, and violence against women and children. Codirector of the Women's and Children's Advocacy Project under the Center for Law and Social Responsibility at New England Law | Boston and a former Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School, Wendy served as a columnist for the *Boston Herald* for many years and has appeared frequently on network and cable news shows as a pundit and legal analyst. Her first book, *And Justice for Some* (2007), is an exposé of injustices endured by women and children victims of abuse. Wendy, a former child abuse and sex crimes prosecutor, lectures widely on women's rights, Title IX, constitutional law, and criminal justice policy and is a national leader in the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment. A mother of five, a grandmother of one, and a yoga student for life, Wendy lives outside Boston.



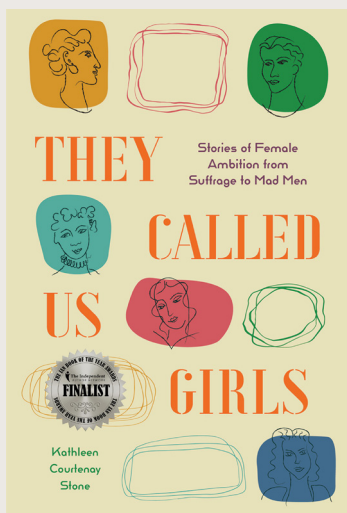
The Receipt

Trish Reeves

Cynren Press | April 11, 2023
 978-1-947976-41-2 | \$12.00
 Paperback | 84 pages
 9 in H | 6 in W

Other Available Formats
 EB: 978-1-947976-42-9 (\$6.99)

In *The Receipt*, poetry blends with history and its lessons in a tribute to the human spirit. Reeves's poems are a receipt for life lived through the ages. Whether pre-cataclysmic Pompeii, Michelangelo on horseback to Bologna, or a plague doctor's first encounter with Angel Island, Reeves's fine eye, ear, and imagination find the imagery, metaphors, and language to create rhythms of history.



They Called Us Girls: Stories of Female Ambition from Suffrage to Mad Men

Kathleen Courtenay Stone

Cynren Press | March 1, 2022
 978-1-947976-24-5 | \$30.00
 Hardcover | 236 pages
 9 in H | 6 in W

Other Available Formats
 PB: 978-1-947976-49-8 (\$17.00)
 EB: 978-1-947976-25-2 (6.99)

In mid-twentieth-century America, women faced a paradox. Thanks to their efforts, World War II production had been robust, and in the peace that followed, more women worked outside the home than ever before, even dominating some professions. Yet the culture, from politicians to corporations to television shows, portrayed the ideal woman as a housewife. Many women happily assumed that role, but a small segment bucked the tide—women who wanted to use their talents differently, in jobs that had always been reserved for men.

In *They Called Us Girls: Stories of Female Ambition from Suffrage to Mad Men*, author Kathleen Stone meets seven of these unconventional women. In insightful, personalized portraits that span a half-century, Kathleen weaves stories of female ambition, uncovering the families, teachers, mentors, and historical events that led to unexpected paths. What inspired these women, and what can they teach women and girls today?



Superwoman: A Funny and Reflective Look at Single Motherhood

Mona Andrei

Cynren Press | March 8, 2021
 978-1-947976-22-1 | \$17.50
 Paperback | 174 pages
 9 in H | 6 in W
 1 illustration

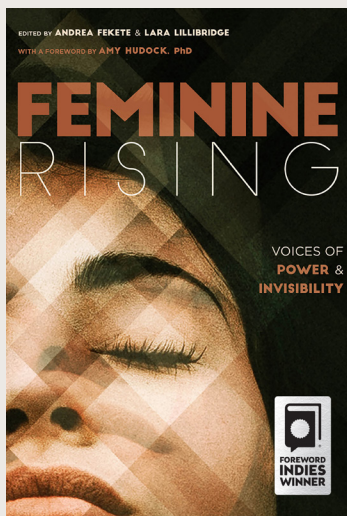
Other Available Formats
 EB: 978-1-947976-23-8 (\$6.99)

They put the tiny, red-faced bundle into her arms, and time stopped. She gazed at that puckered little face and whispered, *Welcome to the world, baby girl.*

Little did she know that within weeks, she would become a single mother—not exactly what she had imagined for her daughters and herself, but exactly what needed to happen.

This is the story of a single mother, but it's more than that. Sometimes funny, sometimes reflective, it's also your story—a story of that peculiar, trying, and wonderful state of motherhood.

In *Superwoman: A Funny and Reflective Look at Single Motherhood*, popular humor blogger Mona Andrei brings you her sage and snickery insights on being a single mom, with all its gore and glory. Through a series of interviews, you'll also get a voyeuristic peek into the lives of other single mothers—and don't we all love that feeling of Thank goodness, I'm not the only one! We're all superwomen here.



Feminine Rising: Voices of Power & Invisibility

Edited by Andrea Fekete
and Lara Lillibridge

Cynren Press | Apr. 30, 2019
978-1-947976-08-5 | \$28.00
Paperback | 286 pages
10 in H | 7 in W

Other Available Formats

EB: 978-1-947976-09-2 (\$6.99)

Feminine Rising: Voices of Power & Invisibility brings together women of all races, nationalities, and sexual orientations to reflect on the unique experience of womanhood. International poets and essayists, both award-winning and emergent, unite to celebrate women's differences, while embracing their sameness.



Divorcing Mom: A Memoir of Psychoanalysis

Melissa Knox

Cynren Press | Jan. 22, 2019
978-1-947976-05-4 | \$28.00
Hardcover | 226 pages
8.5 in H | 5.5 in W
9 photos

Other Available Formats

PB: 978-1-947976-06-1 (\$16.00)

EB: 978-1-947976-07-8 (\$6.99)

Psychoanalysis was her family's religion—instead of wafers and wine, there were Seconals, Nembutals, and gin. Baptized into the faith at fourteen, Melissa Knox endured her analyst's praise of her childlike, victimized mother—who leaned too close, ate off Melissa's plate, and thought “pedophile” meant “silly person.” Gaslighted with the notions that she'd seduced her father, failed to masturbate, and betrayed her mother, Melissa shouldered the blame. Her story of a family pulled into and torn apart by psychoanalysis exposes the abuse inherent in its authoritarianism as Melissa learns, with a startling sense of humor and admirable chagrin, that divorcing Mom is sometimes the least crazy thing to do.



Diary of a Beatlemaniak: A Fab Insider's Look at the Beatles Era

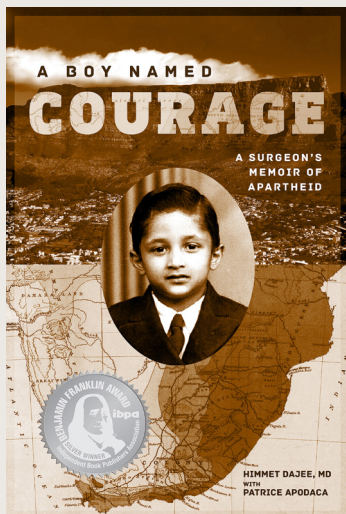
Patricia Gallo-Stenman

Cynren Press | Oct. 9, 2018
978-1-947976-03-0 | \$24.50
Paperback | 214 pages
9 in H | 6 in W
31 photos

Other Available Formats

EB: 978-1-947976-04-7 (\$6.99)

Amid the cultural and social upheaval of the early 1960s, four mop-top lads from Liverpool strummed onto the music scene and into the hearts of teenage girls. Taken from the vintage diary of a Philadelphia schoolgirl at the heart of the Beatles craze, from her weekly *Teen to Teen* newspaper column to her friendship with Victor Spinetti, this lighthearted memoir offers an insider's look at what it meant to be a Beatlemaniak.



A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon's Memoir of Apartheid

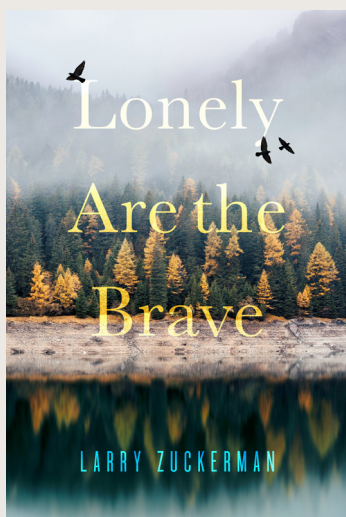
Himmet Dajee,
with Patrice Apodaca

Cynren Press | Oct. 9, 2018
978-1-947976-00-9 | \$28.00
Hardcover | 222 pages
8.5 in H | 5.5 in W
18 photos

Other Available Formats

PB: 978-1-947976-01-6 (\$16.00)
EB: 978-1-947976-02-3 (\$6.99)

Both heartbreaking and triumphant, this compelling story is one of love, loss, struggle, and a search for identity set against dramatic historical events. From the ugly past of South African apartheid to a dazzling career in medicine, one man is determined to live up to his name: Courage.



Lonely Are the Brave

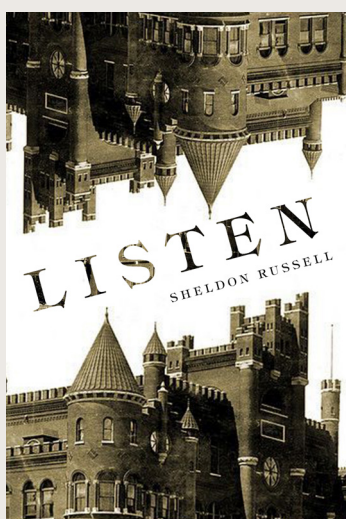
Larry Zuckerman

Cennan Books | Release April 11,
2023
978-1-947976-39-9 | \$17.00
Paperback | 314 pages
9 in H | 6 in W

Other Available Formats

EB: 978-1-947976-40-5 (\$6.99)

When Rollie Birch returns home from the Great War in 1919 with a cluster of medals, he feels as if he's landed in the wrong country. His wife has died, leaving behind an infant daughter born while he was overseas. His small logging town of Lumberton, Washington, has grown but still runs on gossip. Almost overnight, Rollie the hero becomes a pariah for his scandalous decision to raise his daughter by himself—a child rumored not to be his—and for refusing to talk about his wartime exploits.



Listen

Sheldon Russell

Cennan Books | Release April 11,
2023
978-1-947976-37-5 | \$28.00
Hardcover | 216 pages
9 in H | 6 in W

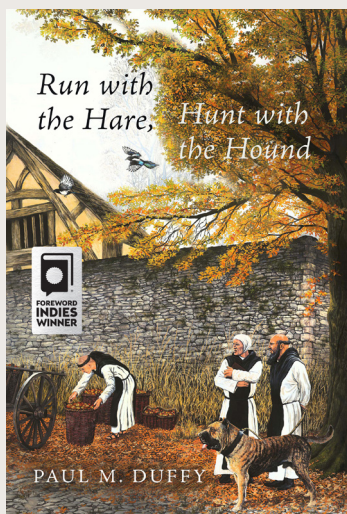
Other Available Formats

PB: 978-1-947976-50-4 (\$16.00)
EB: 978-1-947976-38-2 (\$6.99)

Stripped of opportunity by the Great Depression, educated and ambitious Liam takes a low-paying job with the Federal Writers' Project, assigned to collect stories of rural life for the Library of Congress in a hot, poverty-stricken Dust Bowl town in Oklahoma. He'll take his government check, write the stories, and wait for better times. Then Liam meets a woman who upends all his plans.

Eden Sawyer may be poor, but she's hardworking and determined. She has dreams; more than that, she has talent. As Liam interviews her, he discovers that Eden longs to be an artist, and has the skill to do it, if only she can break the cycle of poverty that traps her.

Eden leads Liam to an unexpected, unimagined love. But as he interviews more townspeople, Liam's probing questions steer him into danger, threatening to reveal untold secrets, unsolved mysteries, and unfulfilled passions. Will one man's simmering jealousy and thwarted ambition bring Liam and Eden's story to an abrupt and deadly end?



Run with the Hare, Hunt with the Hound

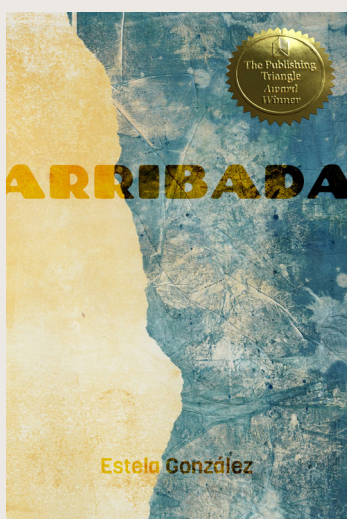
Paul M. Duffy

Cennan Books | Oct. 11, 2022
978-1-947976-34-4 | \$30.00
Hardcover | 342 pages
9.21 in H | 6.14 in W

Other Available Formats

PB: 978-1-947976-51-1 (\$18.00)
EB: 978-1-947976-35-1 (\$6.99)

On a remote Gaelic farmstead in medieval Ireland, word reaches Alberic of conquering Norman knights arriving from England. Oppressed by the social order that enslaved his Norman father, he yearns for the reckoning he believes the invaders will bring—but his world is about to burn. Captured by the Norman knight Hugo de Lacy and installed at Dublin Castle as a translator, Alberic's confused loyalties are tested at every turn. When de Lacy marches inland, Alberic is set on a collision course with his former masters amidst rumours of a great Gaelic army rising in the west. Can Alberic navigate safely through revenge, lust and betrayal to find his place amidst the birth of a kingdom in a land of war?



Arribada

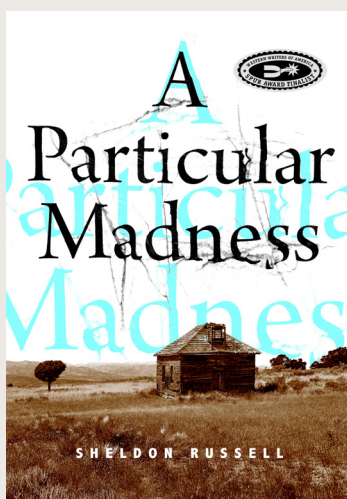
Estela González

Cennan Books | May 10, 2022
978-1-947976-31-3 | \$30.00
Hardcover | 234 pages
9.21 in H | 6.14 in W

Other Available Formats

PB: 978-1-947976-52-8 (\$16.00)
EB: 978-1-947976-32-0 (\$6.99)

Arribada is the story of a well-to-do woman pushed to confront her role in environmental and social injustice. It is the saga of a family faced with the realization that their comfortable position rests, beyond a strong work ethic, on crimes against what they hold dearest: the natural world, their town, and their loved ones.



A Particular Madness

Sheldon Russell

Cennan Books | Oct. 26, 2021
978-1-947976-26-9 | \$31.50
Hardcover | 312 pages
9.21 in H | 6.14 in W

Other Available Formats

EB: 978-1-947976-27-6 (\$6.99)

Growing up in the rural impoverishment of post-Depression Oklahoma, and surrounded by feuding family factions, free-spirited Jacob Roland hungers for knowledge and a world beyond his reach.

But dark forces are growing in Jacob, twisting with the same ruthless, relentless power of a tornado across the Oklahoma prairies. Jacob battles against these aberrant forces, but, trapped by poverty and a growing mental illness, he is thwarted at every turn. For every light—a chance at college, the love of a poised, sophisticated woman—there is a greater darkness within him.

Failed by circumstance, community, and his own mental health, is there an escape for Jacob's bright, wounded spirit, or will he forever be a prisoner of a particular madness?



A Feigned Madness

Tonya Mitchell

Cennan Books | Oct. 6, 2020
978-1-947976-20-7 | \$21.00
Paperback | 396 pages
8.5 in H | 5.5 in W

Other Available Formats

EB: 978-1-947976-09-2 (\$6.99)
Audio: 978-1-947976-33-7

A Feigned Madness is a meticulously researched, fictionalized account of the woman who would come to be known as daredevil reporter Nellie Bly. At a time of cutthroat journalism, when newspapers battled for readers at any cost, Bly emerged as one of the first to break through the gender barrier—a woman who would, through her daring exploits, forge a trail for women fighting for their place in the world.



What She Lost

Melissa W. Hunter

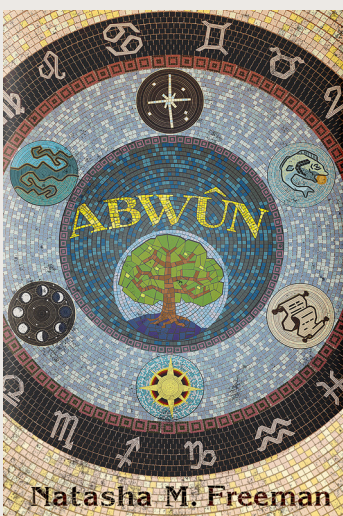
Cennan Books | Oct. 8, 2019
978-1-947976-15-3 | \$17.00
Paperback | 322 pages
8.5 in H | 5.5 in W
12 photos

Other Available Formats

EB: 978-1-947976-16-0 (\$6.99)
Audio: 978-1-947976-29-0

For thirteen-year-old Sarah Waldman, life in the small Polish town of Olkusz is grounded in her close-knit family and their Jewish traditions. But as the Nazis come to power, Sarah and her family are subjected to the horrors of life in the ghetto and concentration camps. Is it possible to resurrect a life from the ruins? Or will Sarah be forever haunted by the memories of what she lost?

Part memoir, part fiction, *What She Lost* is the reimagined true-life story of the author's grandmother growing into a woman amid the anguish of the Holocaust. It is a tale of resilience, of rebuilding a life, and of rediscovering love.



Abwûn

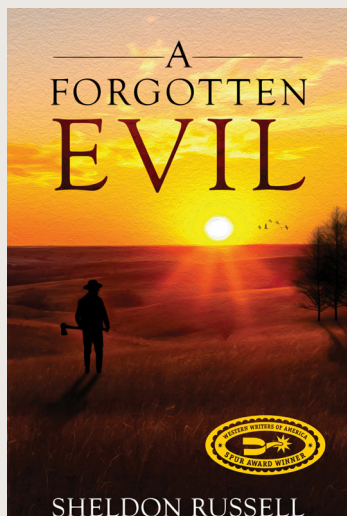
Natasha M. Freeman

Cennan Books | Apr. 30, 2019
978-1-947976-11-5 | \$18.00
Paperback | 360 pages
8 in H | 5 in W

Other Available Formats

EB: 978-1-947976-12-2 (\$6.99)

The Q document—source of the Synoptic Gospels—could shake the foundations of the world's major religions. Its existence has never been proved—until now. Should it be shared with all mankind to return human spiritual awareness to its purest form? Or should it be destroyed?



A Forgotten Evil

Sheldon Russell

Cennan Books | Oct. 8, 2019

978-1-947976-18-4 | \$17.00

Paperback | 280 pages

8.5 in H | 5.5 in W

Other Available Formats

EB: 978-1-947976-30-6 (\$6.99)

Audio: 978-1-947976-30-6

In the American West, as the nation heals from the Civil War that nearly destroyed it, new battle lines are being drawn. Caleb Justin, orphaned and grieving, and his comrade Joshua Hart, a tough, worldly runaway, leave their home along the Ohio River bound for Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, intent to join Sheridan's troops in their pursuit of Indian lands. But a badly healed foot injury ends Caleb's dream of joining up. While Joshua is assigned to George Armstrong Custer's troops, Caleb finds himself alone and undefended on the war-ravaged prairie, picking up whatever work he can—until his capture by Indians changes everything.

But in the winter of 1868, as the snow drifts, Custer is set to turn his cavalry on a Cheyenne camp along the Washita River. Joshua and Caleb find themselves trapped in the crossfire of one of the bloodiest battles of frontier history. Will their desperate courage be enough for them to survive?



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