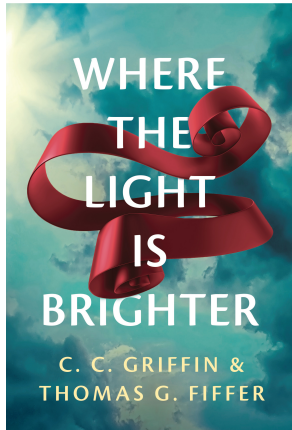


Christmas Lake Press

Westport, Connecticut

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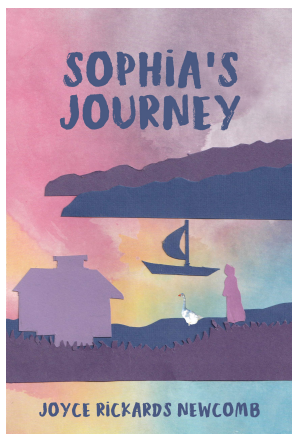
Titles available through Ingram



Where the Light Is Brighter is the touching, bittersweet story of life in a long-term care facility, told mostly through the sharp eyes of 98-year-old Edith, who has an opinion on everything—and everyone—and a lifetime of memories that are slowly slipping away. She enters River's Edge reluctantly, just before New Year's, at the insistence of her son, William, but she plans to be back home in time to put chubby Cupid on her mantel, then swap him out in March for her madly grinning leprechaun. As we accompany Edith through her first year of living in this "never place," the place on the hill where no one wants to be, we meet a cast of characters of advancing age. But despite her dread of the darkness within—a fear we all share about our elderly futures—brightness breaks through at every turn. The story is structured around holidays and the decorations with which the River's Edge residents mark time, and as Edith settles in, surrenders to a self-appointed "welcoming committee," and reluctantly makes friends, she begins to

feel more and more at home. Written by a woman who works in the field, *Where the Light Is Brighter* shatters stereotypes and preconceived notions about the proverbial "old folks home" as we meet the forever young-at-heart folks who challenge our beliefs by greeting their final years with grace, enlarging our hearts as they enliven River's Edge. | **Local authors - Ridgefield/Westport, CT**

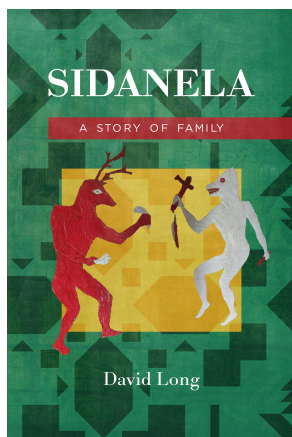
Where the Light Is Brighter — 9781960865014



Readers will instantly love—and come to respect—fifteen-year-old Sophia Records as she confronts the challenges of keeping secrets for both the living and the dead, making decisions requiring wisdom beyond her years, and finding her way in a world that's not quite ready for her. Set in the year leading up to the War of 1812, *Sophia's Journey* is a captivating exploration of the complex issues of early nineteenth-century America, based on extensive historical research and told through the eyes of this sweet, sensitive, whip-smart young woman. Sophia is delightfully innocent, devilishly clever, and ultimately heroic.

"*Sophia's Journey* is rich with all the elements of story that entice young readers: adventure and suspense; twists and turns; lively characters; colorful history and straightforward writing. Any reader, young or grown, who is a fan of historical fiction like *Little House on the Prairie* or *Sarah, Plain and Tall* will find themselves happily at home here. And when it ends, I'm sure they, like me, will be hoping for a sequel." — Francie Arenson Dickman, award-winning author of *Chuckerman Makes a Movie* | **Local author - Lake Forest, IL**

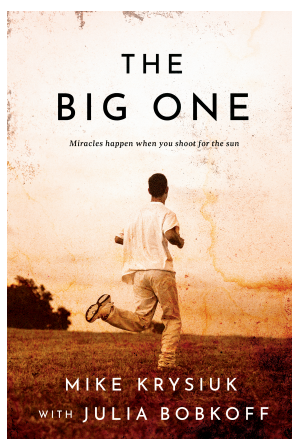
Sophia's Journey — 9781960865021



The Pee Dees were a tribe of roughly 500 Native Americans living around 1250 AD in Town Creek-what is now the Central Piedmont area of North Carolina. *Sidanela* (which translates as "family") chronicles a suspenseful season in the lives of the tribe as seventeen-year-old Red Willow, a feisty tomboy, navigates an agonizing choice. While following her fifteen-year-old brother, Running Wolf, into the woods to spy on his hunt, she witnesses him committing murder and must decide whether to turn him in at an annual confession event-where he'll be put to death by a relative of his victim-or live with a secret that violates the values her late father taught her. This harrowing story features spellbinding ceremonies, tender moments of love and loss, and prophetic dreams, set against a tribe's struggles to survive hostile neighbors, famine, and a sociopathic leader who will kill anyone to gain power. Throughout this thoroughly researched historical coming of age novel, the courageous spirits of Red Willow and Running Wolf lead the way out of crisis and

towards a more hopeful future. | **Local author - Winston-Salem, NC**

Sidanela—A Story of Family — 9781960865007



High school senior Mike Krysiuk loves baseball, playing guitar in a band with his buddies, and cruising the suburban streets of Westport, Connecticut in his Chevy Chevelle blasting tunes on his 8-track. Finally part of the "in" crowd—the cool jocks who cut classes without consequences—Mike has hit his stride. And at six foot four, with an oversized personality to match, he's earned his nickname—"The Big One." After Mike comes off the bench to save a game with his famous sinker, turning a blowout into a one-run loss, a Mets' scout hands him a card and says he'll be back. Suddenly, the major leagues are more than just a pipe dream.

Mike is supposed to go straight home after the game. But Ted, the cool crowd's cocky ringleader, presses Mike to join him and the rest of the gang on a beer run over the New York border. Mike agrees—a fateful decision that will permanently alter his life.

The rest of the story is a family saga of determination, teamwork, and resolute optimism. Mike's remarkable journey reminds us that, in a life-threatening crisis, the love of parents, siblings, relatives, and friends is invaluable—and likely the key difference between premature death and a new lease on life. Miracles really can happen when you shoot for the sun. | **Local authors - Stratford/Westport, CT**

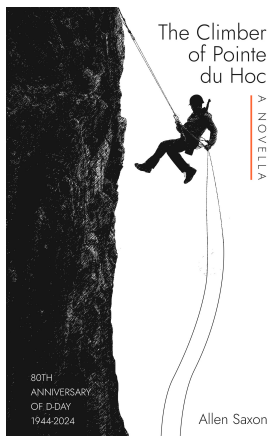
The Big One—Miracles happen when you shoot for the sun — 9781960865083



In the spring of 1904, the parents of twelve-year-old Jonathan Schwartz send him alone by train, from Streeter, North Dakota, to Ruff, Washington. There he is to stay with a distant cousin he's never met while searching for suitable farmland offered by the U.S. government at \$1.25 an acre. Jonathan's parents would follow as soon as they had sold their own farm in Streeter, which had been devastated by storms.

What happens in the months after Jonathan reaches his destination could never have been anticipated. While the trip begins with the thrill of adventure, it soon turns into a fight for survival. From the spring of 1904 to the spring of 1905 Jonathan must use his wits and courage to brave challenges that will change him in one year from a boy into a young man. **Local author - Lake Forest, IL**

Once in Ordinary Time – 9781960865090



A captivating story of love and heroism set against the Allied invasion of Europe.

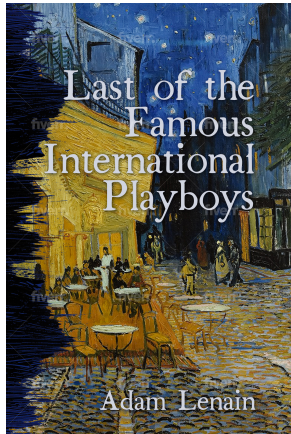
Published to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

“In short, exquisite chapters, Saxon remains in full control as he infuses tender stories into the quotidian lives of Caleb, Elizabeth, Benjamin and other vulnerable characters. Then, as the darkened beaches and cliffs of Normandy draw closer and the novella’s pages dwindle, Saxon—a scrupulous surgeon for fifty years—relaxes his grip and lets his creations stand on their own. Thankfully, he’s skillfully kept us in thrall to witness the denouement.”

— Hank Klibanoff, Pulitzer Prize-winning co-author of *The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation* and

creator and narrator of the multiple award-winning podcast, *Buried Truths* **Local author - Barrington, IL**

The Climber of Pointe du Hoc – 9781960865182



**At some point in your life, you have to open up your mouth and know what the fuck you're talking about.
— Spencer Mazio**

Spencer Mazio is an idiot and a genius. A hero and a coward. A star athlete who suffers from debilitating panic. He's a bookie and a brawler, a womanizer and a fool. Last of the Famous International Playboys is his uproarious and heartbreaking story—a young man from a broken family trying to piece himself together from inside the ivy-covered walls of a famous university suffering from its own identity crisis. Spencer tells his story in an irreverent voice that makes us cry out loud for him and laugh out loud with him, but as he confronts the many versions of himself, he wrestles with identity in a world determined to see him as it wants to. He struggles with the painful paradox of relationships and crashes headlong into the boundaries of masculinity. He's one part oblivious, another part contributor, and a third part observer as he tries to make sense of it all. But will he? **Local author – San Diego, CA**

Last of the Famous International Playboys

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