

Recommendations for the Book Lovers in Your Life By Kathryn Haueisen

In my travels I meet amazing people who not only write but also do other fascinating things. These folks aren't the big-name authors that top the New York Times best sellers list (yet). Their books probably aren't in the displays that greet you in the front of the book store (yet). But they are delightful people who put their love of words into fiction and non-fiction in a variety of genres. If you have book lovers in your life, I encourage you to consider gifting them with one of these for your next gift-giving occasion.

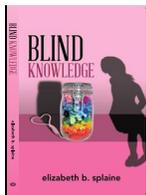
Elizabeth B. Splaine – *Blind Knowledge*



How I know this author: Beth and I met at an author's contest in Vermont last summer. Her now-in-production next book won the grand prize that I hoped to win for my own next book. But Beth's such an amazingly multi-talented and gracious woman, I couldn't help but to be happy for her and glad to know her. When she's not writing, she might be giving voice lessons or bursting into an opera aria – without music or warm up.

Genre and Description: Classic murder mystery with humor and intrigue.

Two car accidents within a few miles of one another. Blind child psychologist Dr. Julian Stryker and his police detective girlfriend, Alex Hayes stumble upon one of the crashes, and discover a ginger-haired, mute five-year-old girl clutching a jar of multi-colored buttons. A cleaning lady finds her employer hanging from a bedroom rafter, and FBI Special Agent Vinny Marcozzi suspects his most trusted colleague might be involved.



Vinny's hunt for the truth dovetails with Julian's quest to unveil the little girl's secrets. As the critical importance of her prized button jar is revealed, the child's life becomes the ultimate bargaining chip in this heart-wrenching tale of an irrepressible little girl and her exhausting odyssey from extreme and sudden loss back to normalcy.

Where you can order it: On the author's website: elizabethsplaineauthor.com

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Mike Ellerkamp - *The Simple Little Rule: The Golden Rule Rediscovered*



How I know this author: Mike invited me to join the Houston Chapter of Non-Fiction Authors Association. Most of my books have been non-fiction, and I love meeting other authors, so I accepted his invitation. He's been a dedicated volunteer leader of our small, but diverse group. Mike practices what he espouses in his premier nonfiction book. Besides that, he's a wealth of useful information about the current state of publishing. Earlier in life he served both in the US Air Force and in the US Army as an Airborne Ranger. Learn more about his story at <https://mikeellerkamp.com>

Genre and Description: Non-fiction inspiration and self-help.

Around the world, within all cultures and religions, a profound principle supports a common connection among us all. In one phrasing or another, the spiritual principle known as the Golden Rule has been taught for centuries: “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.” In this book Ellerkamp shares his spiritual, philosophical, and historical journey to bring this simple yet profound rule to life once again. In today’s world, it is more important than ever for us to rediscover this simple little rule. Embracing the Golden Rule can change our present perceptions and motivate us to work to change our own futures. This makes *The Simple Little Rule: The Golden Rule Rediscovered* so powerful it could even change the world.



Where you can order it: [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#)

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Stephanie Schorow –*Inside the Combat Zone: The Stripped Down Story of Boston's Most Notorious Neighborhood*



How I know this author: Stephanie and I met at the author’s contest in Vermont last summer. She and I both wound up in the runner-up group. As a professional journalist, journalism teacher, prolific newspaper and magazine writer, and veteran in the publishing world, she turned around and coached the rest of us on how to best publish and market our books. Her competition book is a hilarious fictional account of four young women and their relationships with each other, their lovers and their cats. But that isn’t out yet. Meanwhile, consider her non-fiction account of cleaning up part of the city she’s called home since the late 80’s. Follow her at www.stephanieschorow.com

Genre and Description: Non-fiction geographic history.

A narrative non-fiction, both lively and scholarly, that takes readers back to a scandalous era in Boston’s history and the forces that created Boston’s own adult playground. The book introduces readers to the emergence of Boston’s Red Light district and the people who lived and worked there: the stripper whose earnings led her to a distinguished academic career, the mobsters who ran the clubs, the cops who walked the streets, and a nun-turned-attorney who spent years advocating for the First Amendment rights of adult bookstores. While some may question spending two years researching Boston’s X-rated neighborhood, *The Combat Zone* is undeniably a part of the city’s history. Like many lost neighborhoods, the Combat Zone still looms in the Boston’s collective memory.



Where you can order it: Available through online sellers or ask your favorite independent bookstore to order it. www.stephanieschorow.com

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Mary Hamilton – *Hear No Evil*



How I know this author: I met Mary at a Houston critique group. I enjoyed her contributions immensely before she decided relocating to Waco for her husband's job needed to take precedence over staying in Houston so we'd meet up at the critique group from time to time. We have in common that we both love Lutheran summer camps. We've also both lived at one; she as the daughter of a camp director; I as the director of another one. Learn about her other books at <http://www.maryhamiltonbooks.com>

Genre and Description: Young Adult Fiction about summer camp.

Middle grade students will love this heartwarming story about a boy whose mother abandons him at summer camp. Alone in the midst of hundreds of campers and the target of the camp bully, Brady is befriended by Steven, a blind cabin mate, and his spunky friend, Claire. But will the courage he learns from them against the bully be enough to meet the problems at home? Book One of *The Rustic Knoll Bible Camp* series makes camp so real you can smell the campfire. No bug spray needed! *Speak No Evil* and *See No Evil*, books Two and Three in the series, are sure to appeal to any child who's been to summer camp.



Where you can order it: [Amazon.Hamilton](https://www.amazon.com/Hamilton)

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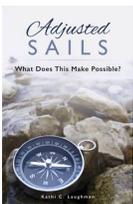
Kathi Laughman – *Adjusted Sails – What Does This Make Possible?*



How I know this author: I was introduced to Kathi by our mutual friend and PR guru, Sandy Lawrence. I've since heard Kathi dispense her considerable experience and knowledge about promoting our work via social media, podcasts, blogs, and on and on at various Houston writer gatherings. This book is the result of her own come-back story and inspirational journey from success to loss to a new kind of purpose-driven life. Learn about her coaching services at <https://www.mackenziecircle.com>

Genre and Description: Non-Fiction inspirational self-help.

We all face challenges and obstacles to success. But it is our response to those challenges and obstacles that makes us who we are. Resilience is both a learned skill and a practiced choice. The key to navigating the murky, uncertain waters of change is to focus on the possibilities in the next leg of the journey rather than the difficulties we face as the familiar disappears over the horizon. *Adjusted Sails* gives us the tools we need to chart a new course when our well-laid plans are washed away by time, loss, illness, or professional



woes. Don't let the current take you where it will—set your own course, and watch your life unfold.

Where you can order it: [Adjusted Sails – What Does This Make Possible?](#)

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C. J. Peterson – *Seasons of Change*



How I know this author: I cross paths with C J weekly via a Monday evening author's zoom meeting. We met that way for months before I got to meet her in person at a Houston area writers conference. I follow her on social media and learn much from her with her regular comments and insights during our Monday gatherings. This is the first in her *Grace Restored Series* written to entertain and inspire readers of all ages, though her target audience are high schoolers and young adults. Follow the author at <https://cjpetersonwrites.com>

Genre and Description: Young Adult Christian Fiction.

Katie MacKenna experienced one storm after another. When Leukemia stole her mother from her and her father, Katie was only seven-years-old, and her father struggled to cope after such a catastrophic loss. His response was to shut down and become abusive. The overwhelming devastation surrounding Katie forced her to shut down just to survive as well. Trust is a difficult thing for many people, but for Katie it's virtually impossible. Every life has *Seasons of Change*. Will those seasons open Katie to new opportunities or will they forever isolate her in survival mode? Will she overcome the storms that all around her to answer a call for help?



Where you can order it: - Peterson Paperback or Peterson Kindle

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Sarah Byrn Rickman – *Women Airforce Service Pilot Biographies*.



How I Know This Author

I was introduced to Sarah and her passion for WASP stories at the Story Circle Network group I joined a couple of years ago. I attended their conference in Austin at the recommendation of a mutual friend. We've been in touch via internet ever since. As the name implies, the Story Circle Network (<http://www.storycircle.org>), is a network of women with stories to tell and the passion to tell them. Her diligent research paid off with more than books. Thanks to contacts among the WASP community, she got to actually fly this Aeronca Champ taildragger. You can read more about it at <https://sarahbyrnrickman.com>

Genre and Description: Young Adult fiction about WASP pilots.

BJ Erickson: WASP Pilot and *Nancy Love: WASP Pilot* are the first of two in what will become a three-book series about the three women who led the WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots). It was their job to ferry airplanes from one location to another; not for passengers or freight, but to relocate an aircraft from it was to where it was needed next. Though aimed at girls in the 10 to 14-year age range, the topic of planes and flying appeals to the boys as well. In September of this year Sarah was honored for her nine books about the WASP pilots of World War II with the 17th Annual Combs-Gates Award from the National Aviation Hall of Fame.



Where you can order them: - [Books by Sarah Byrn Rickman](#)

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Kathryn Haueisen - *Asunder*

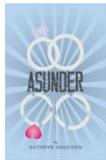


How I Know this Author

I've known this author all my life. Though promoting myself does not come easily, it appears to be part of the world of moving books from storage to OPB's (other people's bookshelves). Like most of my writing colleagues, the joy comes in seeing an idea grow into a manuscript and on to become a book. This particular story grew out of my journals. The characters are all fictional. They just started showing up and demanding attention.

Genre and Description: A novel about life after loss.

Sometimes life takes a turn that wasn't on the itinerary. When it does, it takes time to regroup, rebuild, and move on. Surrounded by her friends and her faith that there is more to the story than an unanticipated detour, Ellie figures out where to go from here, when "here" is about the last place she imagined she'd be. Just when she thought she was back on the road again, another blow requires her to tend to her wounded spirit again. Special feature is the study guide resource for individuals or groups about trusting God to guide people safely through loss and renewal.



Where you can order it: - [Asunder. Amazon](#)