

Christmas in Appalachia with bestselling author Sharyn McCrumb

First-ever holiday "Ballad" novella brings back fan-favorite characters

As a Christmas gift to eager fans, Sharyn McCrumb, a *New York Times* bestselling author known for Appalachian stories, has brought back a fan favorite as a main character in her latest book, *Nora Bonesteel's Christmas Past*.

The first holiday installment to McCrumb's popular "Ballad" series centers on Nora Bonesteel and Spencer Arrowood in a heartwarming story of a ghost of Christmas past and a felon of Christmas present.

The book finds Nora happy to see some life brought back to the old Honeycutt mansion, even if it is by "summer people." But when her new neighbors decide to stay through Christmas, they find more than old memories in the walls.

On Christmas Eve, Sheriff Spencer Arrowood and Deputy Joe LeDonne find themselves on an unwelcome call to arrest an elderly man for a minor offense. As they attempt to do their duty, while doing the right thing for a neighbor, it begins to look like they may all spend Christmas away from home.

In a story of spirits, memories, and angels unaware, McCrumb revisits the mountains we call home, the folk we call family, and a familiar message that there is more to this world than the eye can see, especially at Christmastime.

For product info, go to: <http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9781426754210#.U9F-VoBdUi1>.

Praise for Sharyn McCrumb and her bestselling "Ballad" novels

"Full of Appalachian atmosphere and Christmas memories, McCrumb's first-ever holiday tale offers a welcome glimpse into the lives of her most popular characters that will please the author's many fans."

— *Library Journal*

"Ms. McCrumb writes with quiet fire and maybe a little mountain magic....She plucks the mysteries from people's lives and works these dark narrative threads into Appalachian legends older than the hills. Like every true storyteller, she has the Sight." — *The New York Times Book Review*

"There are few writers today who are able to blend past and present, tradition and law, legends and headlines in a wholly credible fashion—Tony Hillerman springs inevitably to mind. Sharyn McCrumb is another; her widely acclaimed Ballad series is one of the finest being written today." — *Bookpage*

"McCrumb provides fresh evidence that there is no one quite like her among present-day writers. No one better, either." — *The San Diego Union-Tribune*

"With fluid writing and sensitive telling, McCrumb presents her Appalachian series as perfectly as dogwood in the spring." — *Houston Chronicle*



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About the author

Sharyn McCrumb is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Rosewood Casket*, *The Ballad of Tom Dooley*, and many other acclaimed novels.

Her much-loved Ballad novels weave together the legends, natural wonders and contemporary issues of Appalachia, also home to McCrumb's own family legacy. Readers have come to love the characters, mountains, and mystery brought to life by the award-winning Southern writer.

McCrumb tributes her gift of storytelling to her great-grandfathers who were circuit preachers in the Smoky Mountains 100 years ago, riding horseback over the ridges to preach in different communities each week.

Her novels, studied in universities throughout the world, have been translated into 11 languages. She has lectured at Oxford University, the University of Bonn-Germany, and at the Smithsonian Institution; taught a writers workshop in Paris, and served as writer-in-residence at King College in Tennessee and at the Chautauqua Institute in New York. She lives and writes in the Virginia Blue Ridge, less than 100 miles from where her family settled in 1790 in the Smoky Mountains that divide North Carolina and Tennessee.

A short list of her honors

- NYT Bestseller list appearances for four titles
- 2014 Mary Hobson Literary Prize for Southern Literature
- 2014 Woman of History Award – Daughters of the American Revolution
- 2010 Perry F. Kendig Award – Roanoke, VA – Writer of the Year
- 2008 “Virginia Woman of History” for Achievement in Literature
- 2006 Library of Virginia People’s Choice Award
- 2006 Appalachian Writers Association Book of the Year Award

Author tour

Oct. 11 - Historic Rugby Visitor Center, Rugby, TN
Oct. 12 - Southern Festival of Books, Nashville, TN
Oct. 14 - Blue Ridge Community College, Wyers Cave, VA
Oct. 23 - Fountainhead Bookstore, Hendersonville, NC
Oct. 24 - City Lights Bookstore, Sylva, NC
Oct. 25 - Blue Ridge Books, Waynesville, NC
Oct. 26 - Malaprops Books, Asheville, NC
Nov. 20 - Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation Library, Florence, SC
Nov. 21 - Litchfield Books, Pawley's Island, SC
Nov. 23 - Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC
Dec. 13 - Bedford Central Library, Bedford, VA

The more I write, the more fascinated I become with the idea of the land as an intricate element in the lives of the mountain people, and of the past as prologue for any contemporary narrative. This connection to the land is personal as well as thematic.



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Media contact: Stephanie Ridge at 512-481-7681, stephanie@prbythebook.com.

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