



Vol. 3, No. 31, NOVEMBER 2021

- New Release: *The POW's Legacy, Where Shall I Flee?*
- Author Spotlight: Carolyn E. Cook

From the Editor



Happy November! And the months keep rolling along. The past two days I've even had to break down and wear long sleeved shirts to work! I'm not ready for the fall/winter weather, but I do enjoy the end of year holidays. So, there's that.

This week I'm celebrating with a new release – *The POW's Legacy*. It was scheduled to release on November 11th. The eBook has been available as a pre-order for a week or two and is releasing that day. But a glitch happened when I uploaded the print file – and it's available *now*.

Anne Clare has a new book out too this week – *Where Shall I Flee?*

Keep reading as we chat this month with Carolyn E. Cook, who just released the third book in her Minden Springs series – *Jessie's Choice*. She shares some fun and interesting information about this series in her interview, so keep reading to see what she has to share with us.

Stay tuned—in the next few issues, we'll be chatting with Roxi Harms, and Alex Schulz!

Trisha

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New Releases

The POW's Legacy

Trisha Faye



The world was at war. Country against country. Sometimes family against family. America sent hundreds of thousands of men and women off to fight in this battle for freedom. In return for sending our soldiers across the seas to other countries, we received thousands of prisoners on our soil. Over 500 POW camps sprung up across America, housing mostly German and Italian prisoners of war.

In 1944, Algona, Iowa was the site of one POW camp. The fabric of this small Iowa farming community changed almost overnight. For almost two years, the German prisoners contained within the barbed wire fences impacted the area in many ways.

Yet, despite the war time implications, the outcome was not an expected one. The German prisoners, under the direction of their comrade Eduard Kaib left a legacy that continued long after World War II was over.

In spite of the devastation that war brings to a country, sometimes small moments of friendship and kindness supersede, casting the light of hope to shine into future generations. Kaib and his helpers did just that, with their creation of a nativity scene that would last years after the war was over, and years after their death.

In some small fashion, this is a Christmas story. Yet, it's more than that. It's about people and their hearts.

Algona, Iowa was blessed when these two segments of humanity crossed during 1944 and 1945. *The POW's Legacy* uses many memories and true-life events to share the story of how two different nativity scenes changed many lives. Although told in a fictional manner, *The POW's Legacy* is a tribute to the people years ago – the Americans living in and near Algona at that time, and the German's, captured and imprisoned far from their own beloved homeland.



Where Shall I Flee?

Anne Clare

When she had signed up, she'd thought she was ready. Ready for a combat zone. Ready to prove that she could be brave. The sick feeling in the pit of her stomach, stronger and longer lasting than any bout of seasickness, foreboded that maybe she had been wrong.

1944

Lieutenant Jean Hoff of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and infantryman Corporal George Novak have never met, but they have three things in common.

They are both driven by a past they'd rather leave behind.

They have both been sent to the embattled beachhead of Anzio, Italy.

And when they both wind up on the wrong side of the German lines, they must choose whether to resign themselves to captivity or risk a dangerous escape.

Where Shall I Flee? follows their journey through the dangers of World War II Italy, where faith vies with fear and forgiveness may be necessary for survival.

Author Spotlight: Carolyn E. Cook



Welcome, Carolyn E. Cook! We chatted with you when you'd finished *The Life and Times of Lilly Quinn* and again when *You Can Call Me Glory* was released. Now, your newest child in the Minden Springs Series is out in the world. Can you tell us a little bit about *Jessie's Choice*?

Jessie appeared in both *Lilly Quinn* and *Glory*, so we already know things about her. In Lilly's story, we learn that, when Jessie was a child, she was kicked in the face by a horse and as a result, she suffered crushed bones in her left cheek and jaw and her left eye was blinded. She carries this disfigurement into adulthood and knows what it's like to be considered a freak by hard-hearted people. In spite of her looks, she marries a caring man. They move away and run a successful farm for years. In *Glory's* story, we meet Jessie again when she returns to Minden Springs as a widow. She lives in Mrs. Ritchey's boardinghouse and becomes something of an advisor for *Glory*.

Now Jessie is at the forefront. She is no longer a farm wife and struggles to find her new path. Her longtime friend Strat Brock shepherds her along, until she gets a grip and asserts independence. She wants to do work of significance, something that will benefit others, but she doesn't know what that might be. Until --- one afternoon, she sees a woman in travel attire marching on the Main Street boardwalk, a line of girls from small to tall marching behind her. Jessie has no clue who these people are, but she is soon to find out and the knowledge will change everything for her.

I won't say more, since I sure wouldn't want to create a Spoiler.

What was it like writing the third book in this series?

I already had the setting and a cast of characters, so it was like going to a familiar place and meeting up with old friends again. Readers of the previous books will re-connect with Strat Brock, *Glory* and Walker Dodson, Pearl Dollarhide, Mrs. Ritchey, and Dr. Odom. New characters come in and Jessie has much to keep her occupied!

Who is your favorite character in *Jessie's Choice*?

No doubts there. It's Lady Agnes. She's another person who is strange in appearance and also in behavior. Townspeople steer clear of her and some are downright cruel. Jessie feels an immediate bond with her as they've both suffered that kind of harshness. Jessie's reaching out means that Lady Agnes will play a large role in coming events.

This character is based on a real person I met only briefly when I was a child. People called her Princess, though she looked nothing like one. To me, her appearance was forbidding, and I truly was afraid of her. I didn't understand until I was much older that she was, in reality, quite a gentle soul.

Did Minden Springs change throughout the evolution of three books?

The atmosphere of the town changed along with the evolution of the West. More settlers demanded law and order. The town council established a police department and wouldn't put up with shoot-outs and robberies. Automobile owners proliferated and the focus shifted from crime reduction to traffic laws. Civilization called for schools, more businesses, telephones, gas for heating and light, electricity, and indoor plumbing.

After all the research you needed to complete for this series, are there any research tips you'd like to share with our readers?

I like to do the lion's share of research before I start the writing. So much from that research points to great ideas for the story that I wouldn't have known otherwise. First, I collect information from the internet, of course. When there are subjects I can't find enough about online, I head to the library. And sometimes, even the library has little on a topic, and I'm forced to buy several books from Amazon.

I take detailed notes and learn a ton, always keeping in mind that maybe only 10% of this research will show up in the story. The other 90% is still necessary since it informs my writing and helps create the feel of the era.

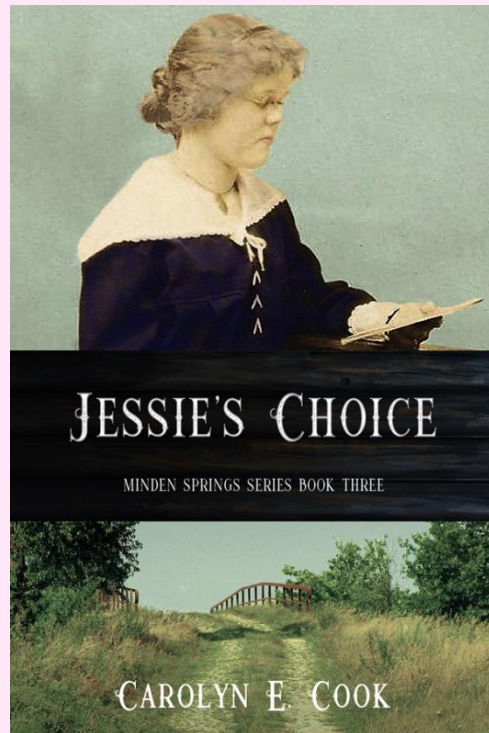
What's up next on your writing agenda?

I've started work on Book Four in the Minden Springs Series. This time, I've pulled a secondary character, or maybe she's even tertiary, from Glory's story. I'm jumping ahead to 1929 and tossing in an historic setting that few people know about. It was called the Lincoln Highway. About two years ago, a friend sent me a link to a one-hour video, which the first I'd ever heard of that road. Since then, I've done a lot of mulling as to how to incorporate it. I expect this story will be rollicking with a bunch of ups and downs. Should be a fun one to write.

Thank you for joining us today, Carolyn. Is there anything you'd like to add that I didn't think to ask you about?

I'd like to mention that the Minden Springs novels aren't the extent of my writing. On Amazon, there are three other novels, one set in 1918 during the Influenza Pandemic, one depicting an old woman -- a child of immigrants -- as she recalls her long life from the 1850s to the 1930s, and one about a house built in 1924 and following its many residents through the decades. I also have a volume of short stories, set from the 1920s to the 1970s. Summaries of these can be viewed on my website, carolyncookauthor.com, and on Amazon. All my books are available as ebook and in print.

Once a month, I write a blog that's posted on the website, current topic is about traveling around Texas and discovering little known stories of historical happenings, whether entirely factual or legends concocted over time. Or perhaps they never really happened at all! I put announcements and links to these on my once-a-month newsletter (subscribe on the website) and on my Facebook Author page.



[You can buy *Jessie's Choice* here](#)

[You can find Carolyn E. Cook on Facebook here](#)

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