

Turtle Tracks

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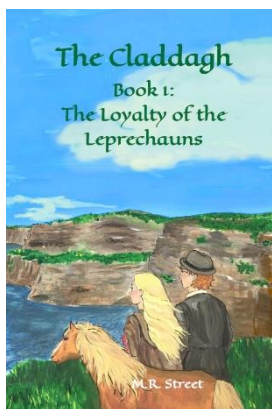
New Year – New Author

We're starting the new year with a new author at Turtle Cove Press! Help me welcome **Rhett DeVane**! Rhett's first novel with Turtle Cove Press is *The Dragon Box*, a middle-grade fantasy that blends her Southern voice with the magical world of dragons! **Elizabeth Babski of Babski Creative Studios** is on board for the cover design. Rhett is the author of seven published Southern novels for adults, two coauthored novels, short stories, flash fiction, middle grade chapter books, and poetry. Her short fiction pieces have appeared in five anthologies. She has won numerous awards for her fiction from the Tallahassee Writers Association, Florida Authors and Publishers Association, and the Florida Writers Association. A native of Chattahoochee, Rhett has made her home in Tallahassee for the past 40 years. She splits her time between writing and thinking about writing. She is currently working on the next novel in line, as well as a series of middle grade and young adult fiction, because her muses refuse to contain her in a single box—even a dragon box! Welcome, Rhett!



Rhett with a few of her dragon friends

Book Signing Events Scheduled



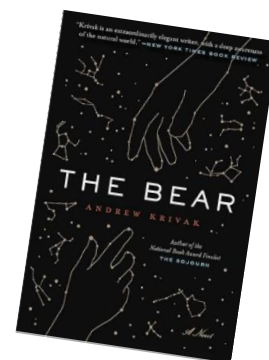
M.R. Street's middle-grade fantasy, *The Claddagh*, debuts in March—just in time for St. Paddy's Day—with two events. The book will launch at **Midtown Reader on March 2 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.** M.R. will be in conversation with Susan Koehler, whose middle-grade mystery *Nobody Kills Uncle Buster and Gets Away with It*, was named Children's Book of the Year by the Florida Writers Association (Royal Palm Literary Awards). M.R. will read from the book at **My Favorite Books on March 16 from 1-3 p.m.** Join the discussion and enjoy some Leprechaun-themed goodies! *The Claddagh* is a hero's quest that is full of magic. Unfortunately, our hero, Dune, has yet to find his own magic. As part of SCBWI's "Critique-a-Palooza" in 2021, editor Sarah Fell (Magination Press) said this about the manuscript: "The writing is lyrical and I felt like I could hear the dialogue in the characters' voices. I enjoyed reading this aloud to myself!"

Changes to Tallahassee Writers Association Representation

All authors who want to have their titles included in the Tallahassee Writers Association tent at the Downtown Market and other events will need to be members of Tallahassee Writers Association *and* must volunteer in the tent two times per year. Being in the tent helps sell books! People who stop by enjoy speaking with the author and getting an autograph! Please contact Bruce Ballister (bruce at ballister dot com) to sign up for a shift.

The Big Read

The Leon County Library and Tallahassee Writers Association are teaming up to host a writing workshop based on this year's title, *The Bear*, by Andrew Krivak. The free workshop will be held Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library. If you'd like to help plan or facilitate the workshop, please contact M.R. at editor@turtlecovepress.com.





Upcoming Community Events

Turtle Cove Press will be at Crawfordville's Hudson Park on Jan. 27 from 10AM-3PM for Small Business Saturday and at the Panacea Community Market on Feb. 3 from 9AM-1PM. Small Business Saturday features a chili cook-off and a scavenger hunt for the wee folks. Littles who find



the turtle at the TCP tent will win a prize, and I'll also have a bookmark making activity. The Panacea Farmer's Market is located in the grassy area between the Fire Dept. & the Panacea Community Garden (across from Dollar General on Coastal Hwy. 98). All Turtle Cove Press authors are invited to join me at these events. Let me know if you can stop by for an hour or two (or longer).

CALENDAR

JAN. 27 | Small Business Saturday of Wakulla. WHERE: Hudson Park, Crawfordville Rd. (Coastal Hwy. 98), Crawfordville; WHEN: 10AM-3PM.

JAN. 28 | CGB Drag Story Hour. Common Ground Books hosts a free, family-friendly drag story hour the 4th Sunday of every month. Open to all ages. There will also be a free art project available for kiddos (and any grown-ups who are young at heart) and coffee for the grown-ups. WHERE: Common Ground Books, 128 N. Bronough Street, Tallahassee; WHEN: 2PM.

FEB. 3 | Panacea Community Market. WHERE: Coastal Hwy. 98, Panacea (between the Volunteer Fire Department and the Panacea Community Garden, across from Dollar General); WHEN: 9AM-1PM.

FEB. 8 | Tallahassee Writers Assn. Monthly Meeting. Featured presenter Claire Staley will discuss the 5 biggest mistakes authors make in their MS, and 5 things authors should consider to make their work with an editor productive. WHERE: Marzuq Shrine Center, 1805 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee; WHEN: 6:30-7:30 PM.

MAR. 2 | Book Launch for *The Claddagh* by M.R. Street. Celebrate the land of Leprechauns and the magic of Midtown! M.R. Street in conversation with **Susan Koehler**. WHERE: Midtown Reader, 1123 Thomasville Rd., Tallahassee; WHEN: 3:30-4:30PM.

MAR. 16 | Book Signing for *The Claddagh*. Join the party at My Favorite Books for the second stop on the book tour. WHERE: My Favorite Books, 1410 Market St., Tallahassee; WHEN: 1:30-3:30PM.

MAR. 21 | In Every Object: Writing with Memories. During this free NEA Big Read writing workshop, explore how a single object can have the power to kindle a story. Participants will learn the tools and techniques to writing short stories and poems and then put them into practice by selecting a random item to inspire their writing. WHERE: Leon County Public Library (Main Branch), 200 W. Park Ave., Tallahassee; WHEN: 6:30PM.

MAR. 23 | Books by the Bay. Taylor Phillips (presentation on women and aviation), M.R. Street (self/indie publishing panel) and other authors. WHERE: Museum Plaza, 300 S. Tarragona St. (behind the Pensacola Museum of History), Pensacola, FL; WHEN: All day.

Wishing you all a creative new year filled with the spirit of your muse!
Say a prayer for the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine.



MR ☺

M.R. Street, MPH, MSI (she/her)
Editor, Turtle Cove Press