

Pioneering doctor moved beyond adversity

Central Oregon author Jane Kirkpatrick combines her love for historical research, her religious faith and her training as a mental health therapist in a prolific writing career that has led

to the publication of 30 books, some of which have become New York Times bestsellers.

Kirkpatrick's latest offering, "All She Left Behind," is based on the true story

of Jennie Pickett Parrish, a women's and children's physician in Portland in the 1880s.

Jennie had to overcome significant challenges. She was dyslexic. Her first marriage was marred by her husband's substance abuse and infidelity. Her first daughter died shortly after being born. Jennie coped with her "blessed trial" of a son who displayed indications of attention deficit and attachment disorder.

But Jennie also received encouragement and help from many quarters, and she persevered through her troubles.

Early on, she had a knack for understanding the therapeutic properties of herbal remedies. One of her brothers even built a distillery so she could create her own oils and make money to contribute to the family

"All She Left Behind"
By Jane Kirkpatrick
Revell
352 pp
\$15.99

coffers.

Meanwhile, her husband had orchestrated a loan from a well-off local couple so he could begin his own business. But instead of using the money wisely, he frittered it away on indulgences and vice. And once it had run out, he told Jennie he was divorcing her.

He left her with almost nothing, taking even her distillery, which he had always coveted for making moonshine.

One of the few things he left behind was the substantial debt he had incurred. Because he had used her family's good name and

reputation to secure the loan, she was determined to pay it off — though her ex-husband had taken away her best means of doing so.

Nonetheless, she approached the benefactors to see if she could make some type of arrangement. They offered her a chance to work it off by using her healing skills and serving as a caregiver for the wife, who was ailing.

If all of this sounds downright providential, it is intentional. Kirkpatrick weaves her Christian convictions of love, charity and forgiveness into this work. Two important characters in this tale are pastors. Their own actions are guided by their understanding of Scripture, and their presence gives Jennie a sounding board to discuss her own spiritual journey.

But this is also a story that delves deeply into 19th century medical science. Kirkpatrick's extensive research into the medi-

cines, healing protocols and surgical procedures of the day is evident in various scenes as Jennie remarries and is encouraged by her second husband to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.

The author also introduces us to other female pioneers in Northwest medicine — Bethina Owens, Mary Avery Sawtelle and Callie Charlton.

Kirkpatrick's style takes some getting used to — she has a tendency for run-on sentences that occasionally employ discordant verb tenses. But this idiosyncratic habit should not prevent readers from exploring the thought-provoking perspectives in "All She Left Behind."

The Bookmonger is Barbara Lloyd McMichael, who writes this weekly column focusing on the books, authors and publishers of the Pacific Northwest. Contact her at bkmonger@nwlinc.com.

coast weekend



is now available at the following locations throughout Clatsop County

- Pig n' Pancake
- Fort George
- Wet Dog
- Blue Scorcher
- Rusty Cup
- Street 14 Café
- Arnie's Café
- Astoria Rivewalk Inn
- Buoy Beer
- Ast-War Chamber
- River Sea Gallery
- Holly McHone Jewelry
- UrgentCare NW
- Astoria Corner Deli
- Baked Alaska
- Carruthers
- Astoria Dwtm Assoc
- Astoria Coffeehouse
- Motel 6
- BW Lincoln Inn
- Comfort Suites
- Holiday Inn Express
- Lamplighter
- Commodore Hotel
- Crest Motel
- Rivershore Motel
- Columbia Inn
- Hampton Inn
- Martin North (Surfsand)
- Stephanie Inn
- Pelican Brewery
- Chamber of Commerce
- Fresh Foods
- Adrift Hotel
- Hungry Harbor Grille
- Beach Day Coffee
- Ashore Hotel
- Pig 'n Pancake
- Visitors' Bureau
- Finn's Fish House
- McMenamins
- Inverted Experience
- Shilo Inn
- Comfort Inn
- Rivertide Suites
- Holiday Inn
- Inn at Seaside
- Best Western
- Shilo Inn
- River Inn
- Libraries
- Gearhart by the Sea
- Shelburne Inn
- The Depot Restaurant
- Uptown Café

Crossword Answers

D	A	N	T	O	N	I		N	S	C		A	L	I	A	S	E	S		
E	M	A	I	L	E	D		O	P	U	S		N	E	W	W	A	V	E	
W	A	N	N	A	B	E		F	O	R	T		A	S	I	A	T	I	C	
A	N	N	E		S	A	B	O	T	E	U	R		A	N	S	E	L		
R	A	Y	S				I	O	S		P	I	B	B		H	E	E	L	
					U	M	P	E	D		G	O	D	A	R	K		N	S	A
T	H	E	P	E	A	R	L		W	A	R		R	E	N	T	S	T	O	
H	E	N	R	Y	V	I		A	I	M			S	I	R					
E	L	L	I	S		C	A	L	L	E	D	I	T		V	I	O	L	A	
B	L	I	N		P	E	E	L		O	R	N	A	T	E		R	O	C	
O	B	S	T	R	U	C	T	I	O	N	O	F	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	
S	O	T		I	B	A	N	E	Z		N	U	M	B		H	E	A	T	
S	Y	S	O	P		P	A	S	A	D	E	N	A		L	E	N	T	O	
					N	P	R			R	E	D		H	E	A	R	T	E	N
T	O	H	E	L	E	N		A	K	A		G	A	N	Y	M	E	D	E	
A	T	E		E	G	E	S	T	S		C	O	L	D	S					
B	R	A	S		I	D	O	L		B	O	T			S	H	A	G		
	A	D	H	O	C		C	A	P	U	C	H	I	N		O	A	H	U	
A	N	S	O	N	I	A		S	O	T	O		M	A	Y	O	R	A	L	
S	T	U	P	I	D	S		T	O	T	O		D	I	E	T	T	I	P	
H	O	P	S	T	E	P		H	E	N		B	R	E	Y	E	R	S		



Follow us on
Facebook!

facebook.com/CoastWeekend