

# 'Sold on a Monday' author to speak at Cannon Beach Library

CANNON BEACH — New York Times bestselling author Kristina McMorris will read from and discuss her latest novel, "Sold on a Monday," at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18, in the Cannon Beach Library, 131 N. Hemlock St.

The talk is part of the library's Northwest Authors series.

McMorris began writing "Sold on a Monday" when she stumbled upon an old newspaper photograph of four young siblings huddled on the steps of an apartment building, their mother shielding her face from the camera.

"The sign in the foreground stunned me," McMorris writes. The sign said, "4 CHILDREN FOR SALE, INQUIRE WITHIN."

The photo had first appeared in

The Vidette-Messenger newspaper in 1948 and, in a brief caption, claimed to exhibit the desperation of a family in Chicago.

"As a mom myself, I wondered what could have possibly pushed a parent to that point," McMorris added. "In the direst of times, I could fathom perhaps having to give up my children for the sake of their well-being. But why on earth ask for money in return? Possible answers to that question soon became the foundation of "Sold on a Monday."

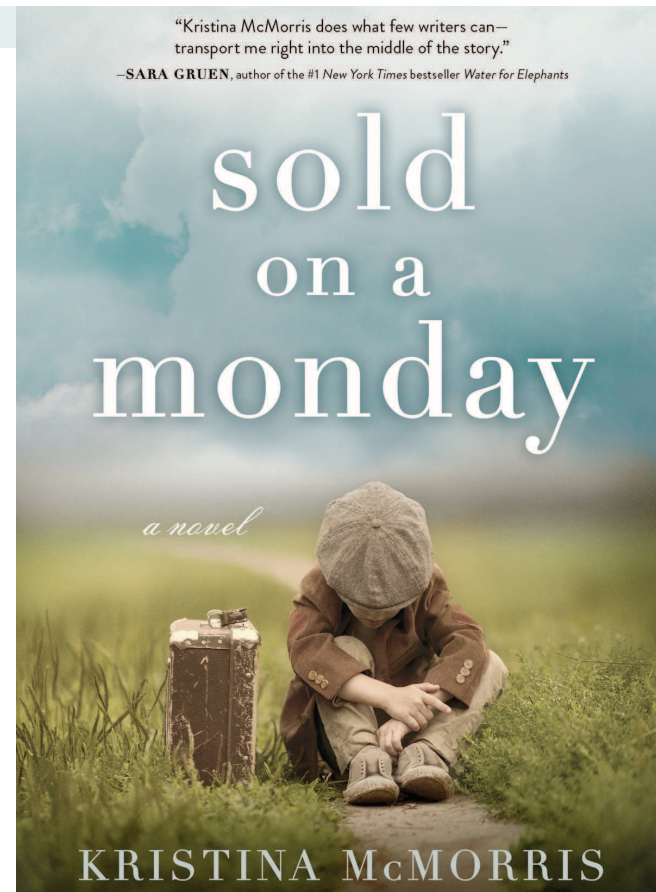
McMorris's writing career started with a recipe book of her grandmother's favorite recipes, "Grandma Jean's Rainy Day Recipes," a collection that she published herself to benefit the Oregon Food Bank. The pro-

cess of collecting the recipes led to the discovery of her grandfather's letters to his sweetheart during his naval service in WWII, which she used to inspire her first novel, "Letters from Home."

Since then, McMorris has written several novels and novellas, which have received 20 national literary awards honoring her subtle intermingling of history and fiction. Her works include: "Bridge of Scarlet Leaves," "The Pieces We Keep" and "The Edge of Lost."

McMorris has a background in children's television programming and media and public relations. She was named one of Portland's "Forty Under 40" by The Business Journal.

This is a free event.



"Sold on a Monday" by Kristina McMorris

FACEBOOK.COM/  
COASTWEEKEND

Sou'Wester  
Garden Club

plant  
sale

Saturday,  
May 25  
9am-Noon  
Seaside  
Convention  
Center

OUTSTANDING  
PLANTS

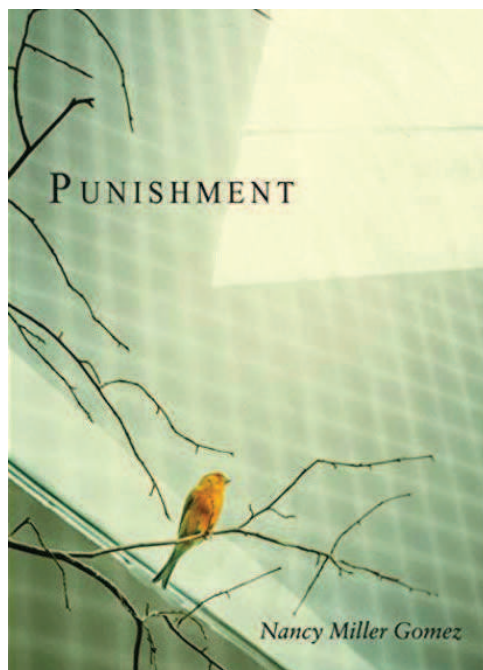
Raffle and  
Silent Auction

# 'Finding Humanity Behind Bars'

MANZANITA — Authors Lauren Kessler and Nancy Miller Gomez discuss the transformative power of words for prison inmates, "Finding Humanity Behind Bars," at the Manzanita Writers' Series, at the Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 18.

The U.S. has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. Listen to two authors who spend time with some of the inmates — Kessler with "Lifers" in a maximum-security prison and Gomez with men and women in Santa Cruz, California, county jails and prisons. They'll talk about the ways writing can heal, redeem and give meaning to life in prison, as well as how the experience has made a difference in their own lives.

Kessler will read from "A Grip of Time: When Prison is Your Life," based on three

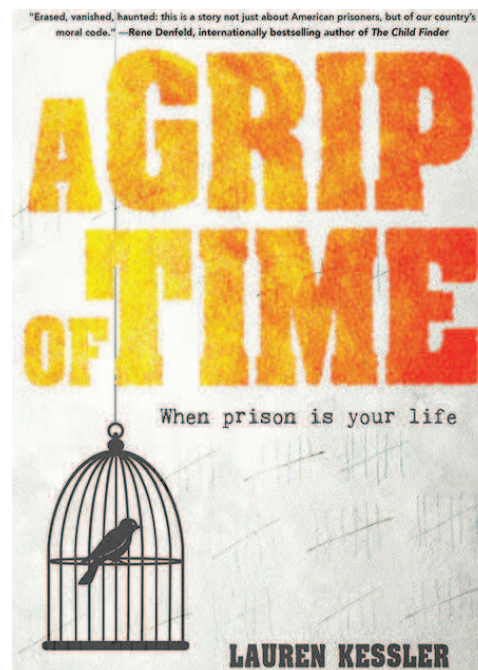


years of running writing workshops inside the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Kessler says her mission was to "learn about this hid-

den world. So that we all could. I could teach these men to craft stories. They could educate me about prison life. I needed to know — I thought

we all needed to know — who these people were that we put away, far away from us, in a country that puts more people in prison than any



other country on earth."

Gomez will read from her poetry chapbook "Punishment," a 2018 Rattle Poetry Chapbook Selection. Gomez teaches poetry workshops to inmates at Salinas Valley State Prison. These workshops foster creativity and self-expression, providing an opportunity for inmates to transform personal suffering into a shared experience through poems and stories. The workshops help participants heal emotional wounds and make meaning of their lives.

Kessler will also teach a writing workshop on Making Characters Come Alive during the day from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fee is \$60. The workshop requires a minimum of six attendees so register soon at <http://bit.ly/2UParad>.

Admission for the evening reading is \$7. Doors open at 6:30.