

HEALING: Husted's conviction that writing should be shared has grown stronger

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and what to do now," she said. "All Coyote's Children" tells the story of the Fallon family — Jack, Annie and their teenage son, Riley.

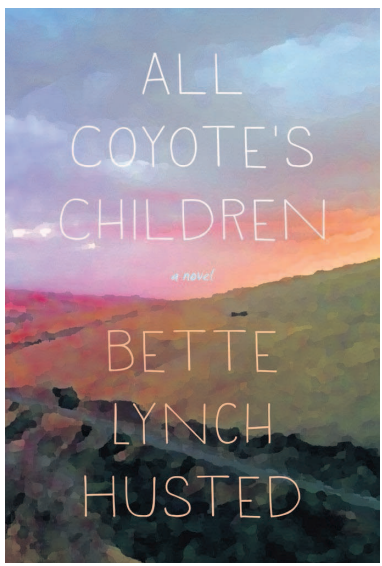
Annie returns to Jack's family ranch, on land surrounded by the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The story follows Annie and Riley as they deal with Jack's disappearance, develop a close friendship with a neighboring Umatilla-Cayuse woman and learn about the history of the land they live on.

Though the story is told in the voices of Annie and Riley, both white characters, Native Americans figure heavily into the story's fabric.

"It's tricky," Husted said. "You have that issue of appropriation. I'm very aware of it as a teacher of Native lit, and just as a person, to try not to do that."

Husted said she wanted to depict the rapid dissolution that Native American tribes suffered, but on a more personal scale.

"In almost every tribal culture, but



Cover photo courtesy Oregon State Press

certainly in the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla cultures, the huge catastrophic changes landed on them in a generation or less. It was 13 years from the time the Whitmans came to half the Cayuse were dead, and the rest were being hunted down by militias," she said.

Husted's story explores the fallout from those actions.

"Practically overnight, the roof falls in on their happiness," she said.

Husted also had a friend, a former student who is Native American, read the manuscript for passages where

she might be overstepping.

"She told me, I think, six places where she said, 'You're telling too much,'" Husted said. "And I took those out."

The friend wrote a letter to Husted's publisher, Oregon State University Press, endorsing the book.

"I resent it when people write about me — not me personally, but social class issues, Western women. When they come in and look at us for a week and a half and then write about us, I think, 'No, people would not do that,' or 'Western men aren't all that bad,' that sort of thing," Husted said. "I certainly didn't want to be guilty of that."

But she said while it must be done carefully, writers should be able to tell stories that acknowledge other cultures.

"If you can't write a story about Native and non-Native people who live together, that's another kind of silencing of the story. That's one of the things I objected to," she said. "We have so successfully almost erased many peoples' consciousness of Native people. They think they're gone, or relics of the past, instead of who they are, which is multifaceted, just like any other culture."

Native American history and culture are prominent elements in much

of Husted's work, a subject she's been compelled to learn about since her childhood.

Husted grew up in Orofino, Idaho, above the Clearwater River.

She came to Eastern Oregon in 1973 to teach, and has been in Pendleton since 1989. By teaching writing, American literature, Oregon literature and Native American literature, she said she found the written word was an often overlooked way to achieve honesty.

"You ask yourself, how powerful is writing?" she said. "Stories get a bad rap in general. In schools, right now the big push is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Nothing wrong with that."

But she cautioned against the dismissal of the humanities.

"A lot of time you can get to the truth through fiction or poetry in a way you can't necessarily through analysis or measurement," she said.

Much of Husted's development as an author has come from writer's groups and workshops, both local and regional.

She has long been involved with Fishtrap, a Walla Walla County-based nonprofit that hosts writers workshops. Through these gatherings, she got to know authors such as Ursula LeGuin, Molly Gloss, Grace Paley

and Lucille Clifton.

She also helps others share their voices as one of the organizers for the First Draft Writer's Series, a monthly event at the Pendleton Center for the Arts. Featured authors have spanned all genres, and many different cultural backgrounds.

Husted's conviction that writing should be shared has only grown stronger.

"One thing I used to tell my students — did you ever write a note and pass it across the aisle? You'd risk any amount of detention to get that note across. Do you have something to say? Yes you do, and it matters to you."

Though she's not sure what her next project is, Husted said she would love to write another novel. She has been consistently writing poetry, and continues to write a monthly column for this newspaper.

"I know I will always write," she said. "I have to, it's my lifeline."

At one of her recent workshops, Husted said she was challenged by an assignment to write something "unabashedly joyful."

"My poems tend to be very serious," she said with a laugh. "But the purpose is not to pull people down into darkness, but look squarely at darkness and walk toward the light."

FINICUM: Shawna Cox filed lawsuit one day before deadline expired

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Attorney Morgan Philpot of Utah represents the Finicums and told the court all of the defendants have been served.

But attorney Thomas F. Amosino of Medford said he represents Harney County and its officials. He said none of his clients received notices of the suit. And Leah Taylor with the U.S. Department of Justice said defendant Greg Bretzing, former head of the FBI in Oregon, has also not received notice.

Philpot stressed his side has met the legal obligation to serve the defendants. Sullivan said he had 15 days starting Wednesday to deliver documentation of that service and she would not grant him one day more.

"Just give me a report," she told Philpot.

Sullivan also questioned why U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, and former U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nevada, are among the defendants.

"Well, either get them served or get them dismissed," she said.

Likewise, Sullivan noted she did not know why the suit includes the Center for Biological Diversity in Portland. David Campbell, Portland attorney for the center, said "I agree, your honor."

Philpot said he would get the judge the report and added next week's scheduled criminal trial of FBI agent W. Joseph Astarita in Portland could yield more names for the defendant list.

Astarita faces federal charges of making false statements and obstruction of justice. The government alleges Astarita lied about firing at Finicum moments before state police shot him

dead on Jan. 26, 2016, when he bolted from a pickup at a roadblock on Highway 395 in Harney County.

The trial might not be such a boon to the Finicum side. James Smith, with the Oregon Department of Justice, represents the state and its interests. He said law enforcement officials testifying during the trial will use pseudonyms out of concern for their safety. That will make them difficult to serve notice to at the trial, he said.

Sullivan said she will handle pretrial matters, motions and expected discovery — the gathering of documents, evidence and facts — to start this year and last into 2019.

She told the lawyers she will hold future hearings in Portland to make it easier for them to attend.

But nothing gets moving until parties receive notice

"Well, either get them served or get them dismissed."

— Patricia Sullivan, U.S. District Court Judge

about the lawsuit. The deadline for that report is Aug. 3.

Sullivan also dealt with a separate lawsuit seeking millions of dollars in damages from Astarita, Gov. Brown and others for the events that led up to Finicum's death. Shawna Cox of Utah filed the lawsuit pro se — that is, for herself — on Jan. 26, two years to the day of that fatal showdown and just as the window to sue was closing. Cox later added Ryan Payne, Victoria Sharp and Ryan Bundy as pro se

plaintiffs.

Sullivan said Cox is not a lawyer and cannot add anyone else to a complaint. And no one, she said, signed the original complaint itself. Instead, they signed other documents and included those with the lawsuit. Sullivan even held up the last page of the complaint to show it was bereft of any signatures.

Attorney Roger Roots of Rhode Island represents the plaintiffs in this case. He said Cox, Bundy, Sharp and Payne agreed to sue, and Cox rushed to file the complaint before the deadline expired.

He joined the case later

and amended the complaint because "the first had a lot of flaws."

Since then, Cox and Bundy sought to withdraw from the case. Sullivan grant that and denied a motion to file an amended suit.

"To me this is a pretty straight forward legal rule — a pro se plaintiff can't sign for other pro se plaintiffs," she said.

Roots said there are cases addressing the purpose of such rules. Sullivan told him to "dig into it" and file an objection to convince her. Roots has until Aug. 20 to provide that, and the defendants have until Sept. 4 to respond.

Corrections: The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather Forecast section including daily forecasts for Pendleton and Hermiston, an almanac, regional forecast, and sun and moon information.

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