

La Grande author releases first historical romance

By **Trish Yerges**

Go! Magazine

Nancy E. Anderson's "Unfortunate Compromise," released in August 2021, is a 265-page historical romance with cover design by Daniel Eskridge. It's available on Amazon.com in soft cover and e-book version.

"Unfortunate Compromise" begins in Phaedra, Missouri, a community molded by the passage of the 1820 Missouri Compromise. With this backdrop, the main characters William Quantrill, Justine and Catherine struggle through the tumultuous years that lead up to the Civil War. The narrative of their lives seem to come to a close in 1865, but Anderson's plot does not, as it fast forwards to 1950s Chicago where her character Sarah lives. Why Sarah is drawn to Missouri and what her connection is to these Civil War characters, separated by over a century of time and two distinct worlds, is part of the intrigue of her book.

With a vividly descriptive writing style, Anderson opens her story about Justine.

"Light from the breaking dawn began to shine into Justine's room, defeating the woolen blankets hanging as curtains in the long window," she wrote.

These words were penned when Ander-

son first started her novel in 2017 as part of a national challenge to write a novel in a month, and as she did, she noticed it came together in a remarkable way.

"It really wasn't until I started writing the book that the Missouri Compromise and the character of William Quantrill became formed," she said.

She realized then that her story was taking on a life of its own, and it compelled her to return to her undergrad history books and to read online history sites in order to accurately portray life in early 19th-century Missouri.

Anderson hopes that readers will be captured by the gradual revelation of the connection between this Missouri and its modern counterpart Chicago.

"I want people to walk away from this story with a feeling of what it was like to live in Missouri in pre-Civil War times and also what fascinating places Chicago and Phaedra were," she said.

As she was writing the Chicago counterpart, the story gravitated toward romance with elements of history and surprise that link the characters and two places together.

Anderson lives in La Grande, and this is her first novel. She has several other novels written so readers can expect to see more coming off the desk of this new author.



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