

BOOKMARK

Former Weldon woman clicks with novel

By ARLENE MANNLEIN
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WELDON — Heather Huisinga gives credit to a former teacher and an event that teacher made happen as her sources of writing inspiration.



Huisinga, now of Freeport, graduated from Eisenhower High School in 1993 after growing up on a farm outside Weldon. Jean Reid, now principal at Parsons School and then Huisinga's English teacher, gave her the proverbial pat on the back.

"When my English teacher came up and told me my poem was going to be published, I

was so surprised."

Reid had submitted Huisinga's poem to the Herald & Review for a holiday writing competition.

"I remember having a click, responding to the way she taught. Somebody was paying attention to me."

Q: From where do you think the source of the storyline of the book came?

It's fiction, stressed Huisinga.

That being said, Huisinga said she loosely based the lead female character in the book on herself and her life.

And the primary male character, Horus, the forensic anthropologist? He's the ideal mate Huisinga wished to find.

ABOUT THE BOOK

'Deracination'

TYPE: paperback, 287 pages, 6-by 9-inches, the first in a series of fictional crime novels involving Horus and Monet Quinn.

PUBLISHER: Publish-America.com

LIST PRICE: \$19.95 (\$24.95 at Barnes and Noble.com and Amazon.com)

AVAILABLE: Barnes and Noble, Champaign, Rockford and Madison, Wis.; The Sow's Ear, Verona, Wis.; Fawn's Niche & Boutique and Book World, Freeport; Pages For All Ages, Champaign; Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com, publishamerica.com.



After trying online dating for some time ("Invariably, they were losers," she said), she decided to write down what she was looking for and came up almost immediately with 10 pages.

"If I could write that much, could I write more?" Huisinga asked herself. So she did and went on to write the book.

And when she stopped trying so hard to meet her ideal, she found him, also. "It was almost exactly what I'd written in that book. And my book was not even out there for anybody to read at this point."

Q: How did you come up with the title of your book?

The title came from one of those Word-A-Day calendars, said Huisinga.

"I read it and I thought, 'That's a pretty cool

word. I like it and I like what it says.'"

"Deracination" means, according to Dictionary.com, to uproot or displace from one's native environment.

Q: When you aren't writing, how do you spend the rest of your time?

For her "real" job, Huisinga writes specifications for an architectural and engineering company and has certificates from the Construction Specifications Institute — "the original CSI," she adds.

She's an admitted "Law & Order" and "CSI" television junkie who is drawn naturally, she feels, to the "Law & Order: SVU" cases. She advocates for local domestic abuse intervention services, designs Web sites, sings in the church choir and teaches local crafters how to knit and crochet.

Here's a teaser from "Deracination," courtesy of Huisinga:

"Horus, a forensic anthropologist at a local University, affords his wife the luxury of keeping her past secret from him. Rushing home to find his wife in the hospital, he realizes it's her past that brought them together five years ago and not a random act of violence. Horus pushes Monet to reveal her past in an attempt to stop the cyclic violence that surrounds her, but soon recognizes that her facade of suburban bliss is what's stopping her from letting him in. The fabric of their lives is unraveling before them, and Horus finds himself on an inconceivable journey through the dark realm of his wife's past that threatens their marriage and could destroy his professional career along the way."

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