

Local author used writing to allay her past

The novel explores the relationship between Horus and Monet, a sexual assault victim. Horus, a forensic anthropologist working for a university, meets Monet – his future wife – while working the case following her assault. “Deracination” picks up after Monet is assaulted once again, presumably by the same man.

Huisinga, a real-life victim of sexual assault, said she modeled Monet’s character after herself.

The author said subsequent readings of the novel have unveiled some of her less desirable traits as portrayed by Monet.

“I discovered a lot about myself while writing this book,” she said.

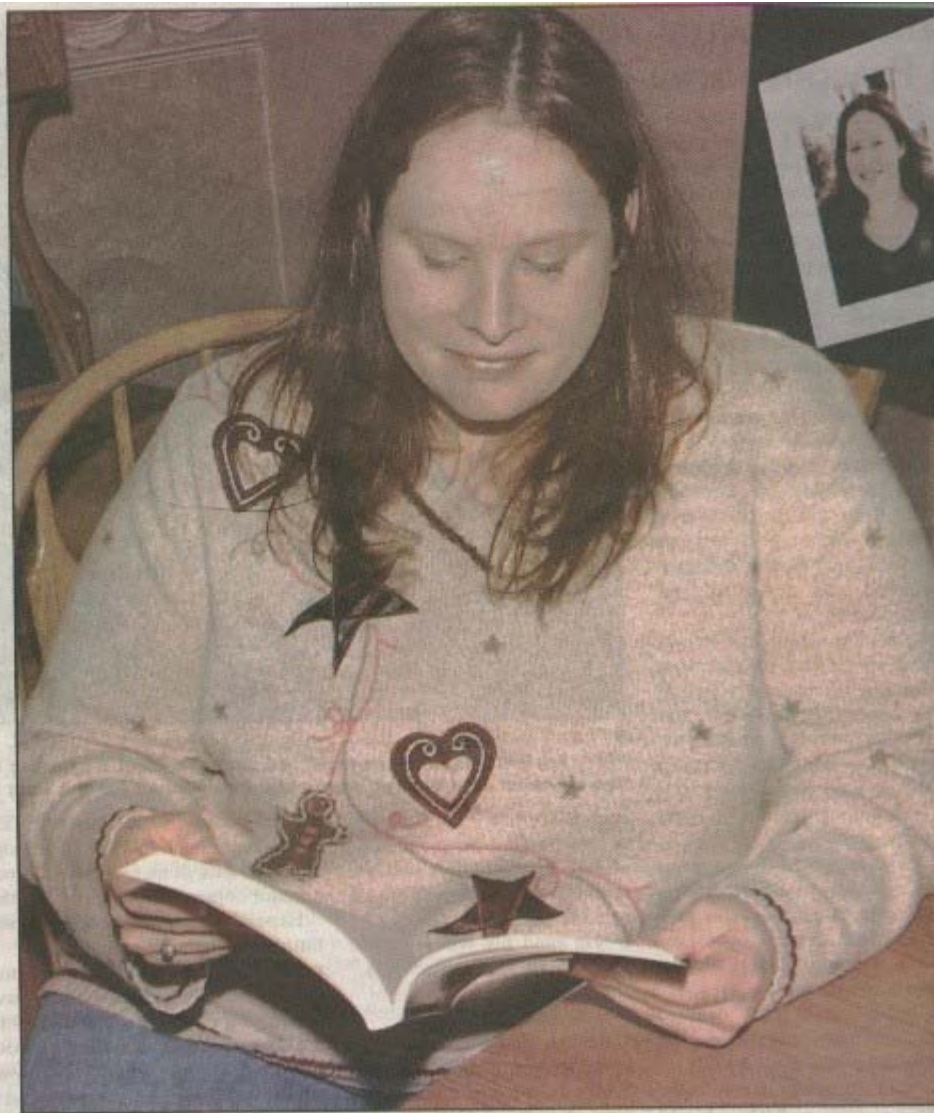
The abuse that plagued Huisinga’s past continued to leave its brand on the author, but writing “Deracination” proved to be soothing in coming to terms with her past. Huisinga said she was emotionally isolated when the novel was in its infancy.

“I hated myself and I wanted to figure out why,” she said. “The best writing is when you are frustrated – to be so fired up and get it out in writing is therapeutic.”

Huisinga, a self-described shy woman, said she always felt she had much to say, but would often refrain. Her recent novel, though, has allowed her a voice.

“I thought, Hell’s bells, I’m going to put it down in writing,” she said.

The portrayal of relationships on television and in the movies has somewhat vexed Huisinga, who said the two mediums often accentuate



H.B. Huisinga's first novel, "Deracination," tells the story of a marriage peppered with un-

problems while only occasionally ending on a good note.

She said she hopes “Deracination” will offset that recurring theme by “showing that things can come to the worst and you can still overcome it and come through.”

The best tactic for a budding novelist to develop is to

simply write, and Huisinga said the novel has been a sufficient springboard for her to continue to learn the craft.

Still, she acknowledged that “Deracination” has room for improvement, particularly with its redundancy. Huisinga said she has reread the novel, often noting to herself, “I know how to do that better now.”

Huisinga had succeeded for quite awhile in avoiding reading any books on the craft. However, “On Writing” by Stephen King – her favorite author – proved to be too much of a temptation.

Huisinga said her procrastination in reading King’s deposition was because the book strayed from his typical work that she had