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in itself for the author.

Huisinga said she had fostered a dream to become an author since she was a young girl, but had ceased writing until she met, at 25, an English teacher in Madison, Wis.

She praised the teacher for his encouragement and motivation, which energized her creativity and desire as an author.

Huisinga began to write again.

The now 29-year-old author writes some poetry and has entered numerous short story contests. The 24-hour contests held by the publishing giant Random House particularly struck Huisinga.

For the contest, entrants must construct a short story in one day. Huisinga enjoys the challenge.

"It's the best way to be your own editor," she said. "Trying to create an entire world in 1,000 words is amazing."

A sequel to "Deracination" is also in the works.

One of the books Huisinga put together in Madison was a children's book that detailed the city for her niece.

A Freeport resident since April, she mused that her niece may soon get another installment.

"Now I'm going to have to do one for Freeport," Huisinga said, adding that she'd have to work hard. "Although I don't think I'm her favorite author. I think that's Dr. Suess."

For a person who spent much of her early life on the family farm in Weldon, the move to Freeport has been an easy transition for Huisinga. She described the move as coming full circle, a return to her roots.

Huisinga said she is happy with Freeport's smallness, old architecture, rustic feel and feeling of community, which she praised for its support.

She currently lives with her boyfriend and his three



JENNI COCHRAN/INK

H. B. Huisinga, now a Freeport resident, modeled one of her novel's main characters, Monet, after herself.

H.B. Huisinga, author of "Deracination," will be appearing for book signings at the following Freeport locations:

- Thursday, Nov. 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fawn's Niche & Boutique, Inc., 107 W. Main St.
- Saturday, Nov. 19, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Book World in the Meadow Shopping Center, 1834 S. West Ave.

children — all girls aged 9, 12 and 15.

Her current disposition — a far cry from her traumatic past — appears healed.

"I have overcome so much, that I feel anybody can do it," Huisinga said. "I'm proud to be where I'm at. I'm thankful."



Employees at the nonprofit hopeful they will continue support.

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maintenance, FAC depends on donations and grants.

Because of this private status, Lee expects none of the controversy that marked the 2003 move by the city public library. He predicts the process to take five years.

In addition to finding a new building, Lee said the board hopes to continue the work Schoonover began.

Many of the changes she made were "board-driven," Lee said, describing her hiring as a unique match between Schoonover and the FAC goals.

During her tenure, a number of programs were expanded and grant funding and community partnerships increased.

A large boost was given to the center's education program. Collections Manager Jessica Caddell oversees education initiatives.

She said former director Becky Connors built the education program "from scratch," and it was later overseen and expanded by Lynn Hartog.

Caddell described the efforts as "fabulous," and noted that Hartog was