

10/15/04

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TITLE: CURRENT RIVER REDEMPTION

AUTHOR: Carol June Stover

ISBN 1-4137-3227-5

SIZE: 6" x 9" soft cover

RETAIL PRICE: \$19.95

**CHICAGO AUTHOR RELEASES FIRST NOVEL  
*CURRENT RIVER REDEMPTION***

Carol June Stover has lived in downtown Chicago for over ten years. However, she grew up in New Jersey and spent summers with her Arkansas grandmother where she attended second grade. PublishAmerica credits Ms. Stover's Arkansas family ties with the authenticity of her first novel, *Current River Redemption* due to be published in November, 2004.

However, Ms. Stover feels strongly that *all* of her regional experiences lend credibility to her novel's themes. She explains, "Living in different regions of the country, and listening to my grandmother's childhood tales provided a true lesson in family dynamics. I learned that the same problems can surface again and again, regardless of region or era. This is what I wanted to write about and the point I wanted to make. Especially, how do we deal with our generational clashes? How do we make it win-win?"

The author adapted and expanded her grandmother's story to make her points in *Current River Redemption*. "My tale wraps around fifteen-year-old Amy Blackwell whose home life is strangling her like a tight linen shroud, and the prospect of escaping seems slim. She's growing up in rural Arkansas c. 1917 in a town where everyone knows her business—especially since she's being raised by her grandfather, the town's Bible-thumping preacher and his sinister wife whom townsfolk call 'nuts'."

She goes on, "Amy tries to conform to their pious demands, but their impossible standards doom her to guilt-ridden failure. Keeping up a smiling facade, she struggles with independent thoughts at odds with her family and times. When all efforts to please her grandparents fall short, Amy plots to run away from the parsonage, but, instead, yields to teenage passion, marrying too young to leave home." She further explains that her grandmother did marry that young but that her story provided a perfect backdrop to explore issues confronting *any* culture or time.

"I wanted my novel to be entertaining as well as factual, so Amy's journey is exciting at first, but turns sobering with a string of calamities. Life becomes even more tragic when her young husband dies leaving her alone with twin babies."

What elements did she add to her grandmother's story? "I definitely changed the time line, and I added a long-kept family secret concerning Amy's absent father. I don't want to give it away, but it really will jolt you," she adds.

In the end, Ms. Stover brings us full circle when Amy Balckwell confronts her grandparents about their hypocritical, secretive ways and strikes out for the life that she sought all along. Whatsmore, Amy learns a lesson decades ahead of her time: Pleasing others alone won't bring you true happiness. Trusting in your own judgment will "save" you at last. The reward for her patience? Romance buds with a kind and supportive preacher, restoring her spirit and faith.

*Current River Redemption* is a work of literary fiction that will appeal to men, women and young adults alike with tales of a morally constricted society, rural town life, and timeless issues still resonating today:

- Can you ever trust loved ones imposing their will?
- When do you risk family ties and strike out on your own?
- How do reconcile long-kept family secrets?

Ms. Stover's storytelling skills were honed during her active hotel marketing career in Boston, and in publishing three nonfiction books and over 60 national magazine articles on her hobby of dolls and collecting (Collector Books). Arkansas' Current River still flows through the quaint towns she depicts. This is a fun yet meaningful read for us all.

How can one find her book? "You can order direct for immediate delivery from the Publisher at [www.publishamerica.com/books/6181](http://www.publishamerica.com/books/6181) or though [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or at any bookstore." Ms. Stover has her own website for information about her books: [www.CurrentRiverRedemption.com](http://www.CurrentRiverRedemption.com). Current River Redemption's ISBN:1-4127-3227-5, 6" x 9" soft cover, \$19.95.

###