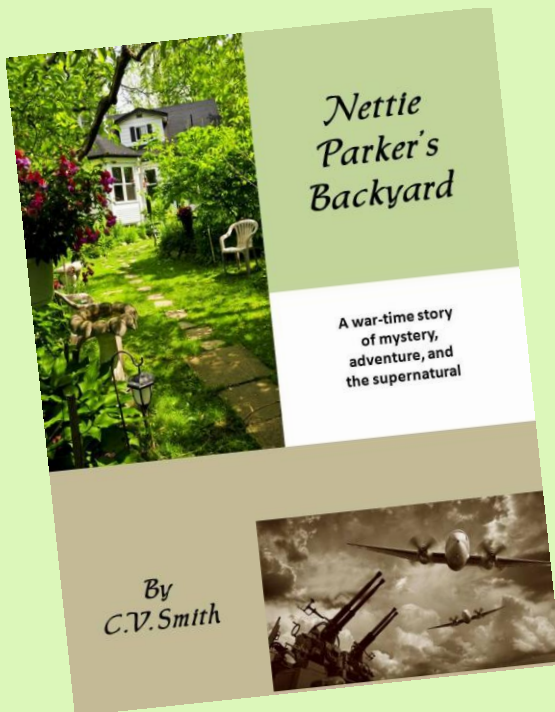


"Oh, the Places I've Been"

On the Road to Self-Publishing



C.V. Smith

Nettie Parker's Backyard

How I came to write Nettie Parker's Backyard

- Inspiration: a dream
- No thought of publishing book
- Short story grew
- Researched subject
- Created manuscript
- Publish?

Conventional Publishing

- ▶ Well written books succeed, poorly written books fail?
- ▶ Submitted to agents/publishers
 - Countless rejections
 - Most complemented writing
- A few agents/publishers helped
 - Add a child narrator
 - Add exciting chapters for boys
 - Strengthen examples of racial/religious prejudice
- Revised and re-submitted

Conventional Publishing (cont.)

- Still no contract
 - ▶ Statistics don't bode well
 - ▶ Perseverance is a must
 - Gone with the Wind rejected 38 times
 - The Help rejected 60 times
 - Harry Potter rejected 12 times
 - Jonathan Livingston Seagull rejected 140 times

Conventional Publishing Observations

- Major changes
- Publishing houses receive more submittals/publish fewer titles
 - Authors often expected to do promotion
- Good writing, timely theme not enough
 - Commerciality is critical/crucial
 - Timing/luck play large part
- Hiatus from writing/submittals

Self-Publishing: Another Road to Take

- NPR interview
- Many popular books self-published
- Alternate path to conventional publishing?
- Selected E-book format:
 - Reach many potential customers

Self-Publishing: All about Promotion

- ▶ Primary method: Social Media
 - Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, e-mails, etc.
 - Market to *everyone*
 - Realization: Social Media not my forte
- Better define goals

Self-Publishing: Print on Demand Another Path to Travel?

- ▶ Personal contacts my strength
- ▶ Need physical book
- ▶ Many author presentations/book signings/fairs
- ▶ Received great reviews (including AJL)
- ▶ Nettie Parker's Backyard placements:
 - Beverly Hills Public Library
 - Slavin Family Children's Library (BJE)
 - Temple libraries
 - Public & private elementary & middle schools libraries

Where Has the Road Led?

- Well written book
- Story helps children
- Available to public
- New friends
- What authors want

- Not a best seller---*yet!*

Pertinent Information

- Category: WWII hist.-fic. mystery, ages ~9-13.
- Themes promoted: anti-bullying/tolerance toward all regardless of race, religion, physically challenged.
- Synopsis: How an African-American woman's mystical signs lead her to care for 8 Jewish child refugees in war-torn London.
- Topics covered: Holocaust/WWII, Kristallnacht, Kindertransport, Blitzkrieg, beginnings of African slavery in 1500's, Middle Passage, intolerance in our own Southern U.S.

- Visit Nettie Parker's Backyard at:
www.nettieparkersbackyard.com
- Available on Amazon/Barnes & Noble
- Contact C. V. Smith at nettie.halley@gmail.com