

Introduction

Sometimes tragedy and misfortune can overwhelm us, tainting our view of the world, making our lives seem hopeless. Undoubtedly, every reader of this book—in fact everyone—has experienced some level of misfortune.

My parents died shortly before my sixth birthday, so I never really got to know them—what they liked or disliked, what their voices sounded like, what perfume my Mom liked to wear, her favorite color, my Dad’s favorite baseball team (though being a lifelong Mainer I suspect it was the Red Sox), or his favorite brand of beer. For the more than 32 years since their passing, I have wondered “Why?” and “What if?” almost daily, trying to comprehend their deaths while reconciling the countless other such senseless occurrences that take place all around us every day.

Roughly three years and two computer systems ago—with no timeline or end product in mind—I drafted a simple one-page outline and started sporadically writing a series of essays, vignettes and “ponderings” about what my personal journey had thus far revealed to me about life and death . . . and about living. I did not know it then, but these primordial ramblings would later coalesce and become the basis for this book.

Thus, *Currents* was born.

You should know that *Currents* is not about religion, mysticism or new age healing; nor am I an expert on theology,

the human psyche or meta-physics. *Currents* is speculative fiction. It is a spiritual book, written by someone who—for better or for worse and for whatever reason—simply finds himself in this particular time and place, a part of the collective human experience we call “life.”

My sincere wish is that this book will comfort you if you need comforting, relieve you if you are burdened, and trigger within you a desire to view life in a much bigger context—to consider what’s possible, what’s important, and to explore the many opportunities each day and each moment of life presents.

What each reader takes away from *Currents* will likely differ. Essentially, you will take from this book what you need to take, and move on . . . hopefully with your eyes and mind opened wider, and with your heart and spirit lighter.

While *Currents* is a work of fiction, most of the events that form the backdrop for this book have a basis in fact. Many situations were pulled from news headlines, though exact details, names and places have been altered somewhat to fit my story. Other happenings, especially those some might consider supernatural in nature, reflect my own hopes, beliefs and imaginings that there are no “supernatural” events—only natural occurrences we don’t yet fully understand.

The setting for *Currents* is real. Those familiar with the Seboeis River—at least the part that runs through Township 6, Range 7 (“T6R7”) in northern Maine—and the old Seboeis River Bridge Corporation wilderness camps (which are an important and fondly remembered part of my wife’s family history) will notice, however, that I have taken “poetic” license by changing a few physical and historical details.

All characters in *Currents* are fictitious, though undoubtedly each draws on the composite traits, personalities and teachings of people and acquaintances that comprise my life.

I thank all family, friends and colleagues who helped shape the beliefs and attitudes that made *Currents* possible. I especially thank all who have supported and encouraged my writing efforts over the years—from immediate family, to teachers and friends. I would list you all by name, but fear I would omit someone by accident . . . and *that* would be tragic. Suffice to say—to borrow a cliché—you know who you are.

A river, like a life, is an amazing thing. Think of all it supports, all it touches along its course . . .

– Matt McGovern
(Buxton, Maine)
November 15, 2003