



Translating a World on the Edge

KAYE PARK HINCKLEY

Seeing Far Things Close-Up

About Kaye Park Hinckley



KAYE PARK HINCKLEY IS A MULTI-AWARD-WINNING NOVELIST, SHORT STORY WRITER, BLOGGER, OCCASIONAL SCRIPT WRITER AND SPEAKER. She is the author of nine novels and a short story collection. Her books have won the 2018 and 2019 Independent Press Award for Religion Fiction, the 2018 New York Big Book Award winner for Religion Fiction, and 2019 American Fiction Finalist Award, as well as first runner up for Poets and Writers Magazine's Maureen Egan Award. She has been a multiple finalist in New Orleans' William Faulkner/William Wisdom Competition. A script for her novel, *A Hunger in the Heart*, was a Platinum Award winner for the 2018 International Movie Awards (students, newcomers, women) The pilot script for her historical novel, *The Wind that Shakes the Corn: Memoirs of a Scots Irish Woman*, was an official selection of The Monkey Bread Tree Film Awards in 2019.

For nearly twenty years, before she wrote her first novel, Hinckley owned Advertising Associates, a Gold and Silver Addy Award-winning agency in Florida and Alabama specializing in print ads, brochures, radio and TV ads including original music back-up.

A native of Dothan, Alabama, Hinckley has a Fine Arts degree from Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL, and a Graduate certificate in Creative Writing from the University of AL, Huntsville. She and her husband, George, have five children and thirteen grandchildren. She is a member of Catholic Writers Guild, Top Catholic Bloggers, The Alabama Writers Forum, and St. Columba Parish, Dothan AL. She has served as a Eucharistic Minister, RCIA preparer, and Religious Education teacher.

Sample of Past Media Appearances and Speaking Engagements

- Interview with Archangel Radio, Tod Sylvester
- Interview with Joseph O'Brien at Catholicfiction.net
- Interview with Son Rise Morning Show, Sacred Heart Radio, Brian Patrick
- Panelist at "Trying to Say God Conference," the University of Notre Dame
- Lecture at Georgia Museum of Writers, Meet the Author Series, Eatonville GA.
- Keynote Speaker at 2015 Marian Conference "A Hunger in the Heart," entitled for Hinckley's first novel, "A Hunger in the Heart." St. Louis, MO.
- Book launch of short story collection "Birds of a Feather," with presentation at "Andalusia Farm," home of Flannery O'Connor, Milledgeville, GA.
- Spring Hill College Christus Lecture entitled "The Literature of Belief." Mobile AL,
- Christ the King Cathedral, Women's Advent Presentation, Atlanta, GA,
- Two presentations for Daughters of Mary, St. Ignatius, Mobile, AL.
- "God is Madly in Love with You," lecture, Women of St. Catherine's Parish, Metairie, LA.
- Book Store Presentation at Eagle Eye Book Store, Decatur, GA
- Book Store Presentation at Garden District Book Shop, New Orleans, LA.

KAYE PARK HINCKLEY

My Personal Take on Catholic Fiction

"In the novelist's case, prophecy is a matter of seeing near things with their extensions of meaning and thus of seeing far things close up. The prophet is a realist of distances, and it is this kind of realism that you find in the best modern instances of the grotesque. Whenever I'm asked why Southern writers particularly have a penchant for writing about freaks, I say it is because we are still able to recognize one."

—FLANNERY O'CONNOR

What are the "far things" O'Connor is talking about? It is the connection between close-up realism on Earth and a higher spiritual Truth. God and our relationship with Him, however weak or strong or strange; this is what O'Connor writes about. This is what I've striven to write about, too, in my ten published books.

To show God's presence in the world, a writer who wants to bring far things close up often uses the strange or the outlandish. Flannery O'Connor called it the 'grotesque.' She was an author who wrote fifty years ago, when not only the South, but most other areas recognized the outlandish as just that.

Today, the rules concerning what is strange have changed. Oddity has become almost normal. Yet God hasn't changed. He is just as apparent in today's seemingly evil world, maybe even more so. And to present Him in fiction, a writer cannot use quiet sentimental fluff to show His action through people. Because God's action—His grace—coming to fruition in people who want to be restored is sometimes harsh, even violent. A writer concerned with presenting the chance of salvation has to come to grips with this noisy, often nasty and distracted world. A writer who wants to expose the grace of God, must learn to eat with sinners as Jesus did.

Many of us yearn for a chance of restoration. And most readers have a desire for some redemptive act in a novel or story that offers the chance of restoration as well. We long for that moment of grace that will turn us, or better

us, or lift us up to higher place in the eyes of those we love. Yet we often forget that the price of restoration sometimes takes the grotesqueness of a Crucifixion.

THREE REASONS TO READ CATHOLIC FICTION

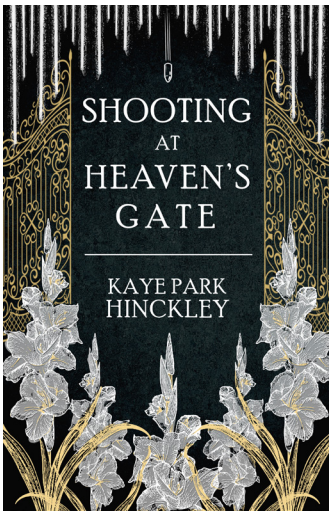
First of all, because the soul of Catholic Fiction is that God exists and works in the lives of sinful, fallen people who have totally rejected Him—and that He does this out of love, regardless of how forcefully a human being, signified by a character in a story, tries to shut Him out. And we need to know that.

Secondly, because Catholic Fiction points to our true identity as human beings, which is that we are not just happenstance entities placed on Earth. We are God's children, created by Him and made in His image and likeness, and that we have a greater purpose here. And hopefully, Catholic Fiction does this through stories in which we can see ourselves, and with language and imagery that points to the divine in each one of us.

Thirdly, Catholic Fiction attracts us to what we lack on Earth, something larger and more beautiful than what this material world can give. And honestly I think in our hearts most people know this. It may not be the underpinning of a lot of fiction as much as other subjects are, but the yearning is definitely in every person though they may have crusted it over with 'stuff' that our culture says we ought to have. And this is an innate yearning that only the divine can satisfy. People are seeking the beauty of God, whether they classify it as such or not.

KAYE PARK HINCKLEY

Shooting at Heaven's Gate



GENRE

Contemporary Literary
Southern Gothic

PUBLISHER

Chrism Press, a division of
WhiteFire Publishing
chrismpress.com

PUBLICATION DATE

August 15, 2022

ISBN

978-1-941720-91-2 (print)
978-1-941720-92-9 (digital)

DISTRIBUTOR

Ingram

303 pp.

WHEN MALCOLM J. HAWKINS, THE HEAD OF PSYCHOLOGY AT BETHEL UNIVERSITY IN Alabama, feels his position and his credibility threatened by up-and-coming English professor Ginnie Gillan, he decides to use her husband Edmund's gullibility against her. Feeding Edmund a steady diet of drugs and manipulation, Mal lights the fuse of the greatest tragedy Bethel has ever known.

Eighteen-year-old Alma Broussard, her quirky mother Moline, and her feisty Aunt Pauline run a chicken farm in Bethel. Their lives seem wholly separate from the feuds of academia—but dark secrets lurk in Moline's past that will bring the people she loves straight into the path of a murderous madman.

In the wake of death and destruction, the town that used to be called Heaven's Gate will find no easy answers, but there may still be hope for redemption. *Shooting at Heaven's Gate* is a Theology of the Cross novel in which genuine goodness, bona fide evil, and suffering truly live side by side.

Praise for *SHOOTING AT HEAVEN'S GATE*

"Kaye Hinckley has more than earned her keep as a significant contender vying for a living Catholic literature." —JOSHUA HREN, *How to Read (and Write) Like a Catholic*, co-founder of the MFA program at University of St. Thomas, Houston

"With a brisk narrative pace, *Shooting at Heaven's Gate* by Kaye Park Hinckley invites readers to explore the complicated lives of characters suffering with loss, illness, addiction, and deception. The plot twists make this novel both entertaining and thought provoking with the reassurance that good does win." —JOHNNIE BERNHARD, award-winning author of *Sisters of the Undertow* and *Hannah and Ariela*

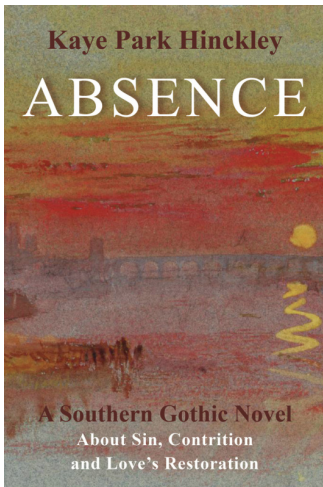
"Faith and faithlessness do battle in Kaye Park Hinckley's thought-provoking, unsparing new novel. She reveals the hellish torments...and heavenly convictions...of everyday people in a small Alabama town in an age of mass shootings. Bring faith as you enter Heaven's Gate." —CHARLES MCNAIR, author of *The Epicureans*

"Family relations and lifelong secrets, human brokenness and the grace of transformation, mass shootings, deception, sin and forgiveness. These fundamental themes of the human search for meaning, of the challenge of faith, reconciliation and conversion, are woven throughout this story of a small town in rural Alabama. The complexities of each character, from university professors to farm hands, become the stage for an exploration of the human condition, in the style of C.S. Lewis, with echoes of T.S. Eliot, Geoffrey Chaucer, Macbeth and many others. The novel is followed by a list of themes, questions for book discussions and selected quotes, making it all the easier for study groups of any kind." —FR. CHRISTOPHER VISCARDI, SJ, chair and professor of theology, Spring Hill College

KAYE PARK HINCKLEY

WEBSITE: KAYEPARKHINCKLEY.COM • BLOG: AWORLDDONTHEEDGE.COM • FACEBOOK.COM/KAYEPARKHINCKLEY

Other Books by Kaye Park Hinckley



Absence

2020 Distinguished Favorite, Independent Press Award

Genre: Southern Gothic

Audience: Adult

Prytania Publishing, April 2020

ISBN-13: 979-8608252402

ASIN: B086Y3LQDR

358 Pages

“Those who have read Kaye Park Hinckley's earlier novels will know that she is one of the most exciting and gifted writers of contemporary faith-inspired fiction. This latest offering does not disappoint. *Absence* will further establish Mrs. Hinckley's hard-earned reputation as a teller of gritty and gripping stories infused with subtle hints of the redemptive power of grace.” —JOSEPH PEARCE, author of *Tolkien: Man and Myth*



The Wind That Shakes the Corn: Memoirs of a Scots Irish Woman

2018 Independent Press Award Winner in Religious Fiction

First Runner-Up: Josiah W. Bancroft Award, Florida First Coast Writer's Festival

Finalist: Pirates Alley Society Faulkner/Wisdom Competition

Finalist: Tuscany Prize for Catholic Fiction

Genre: Historical Fiction

Audience: Adult

Prytania Publishing, January 2018

ISBN-10 : 1984271016

ISBN-13 : 978-1984271013

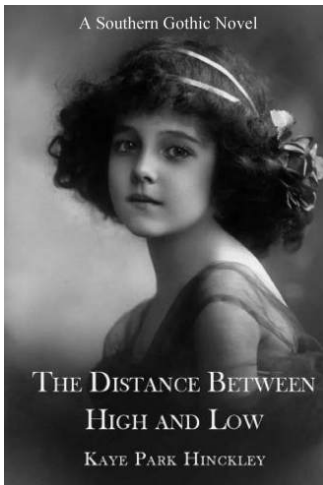
488 pages

“The epic saga of a woman of strength and conviction, yet time and time again, she is in battle with her inner demons—revenge and hatred. This is not your run-of-the-mill historical romance, it is much deeper; about a lifetime search for love. For some of us, it takes that long! But even through those searching times, a man desires to love a woman, a parent wants to love his child, and a friend can exhibit the highest forms of loyalty. Set in the eighteenth century, during the dawning of the new America fighting to rule itself rather than to continue as a colony of the English Crown, the novel begins with an Irish peasant girl, Nell, as she watches her mother being hung by English soldiers.

“A talented and sensitive Catholic writer whose complex stories are gripping, memorable, and abounding in nourishment for readers hungry for substantial Christian fiction.” —CATHOLIC WORLD REPORT

KAYE PARK HINCKLEY

WEBSITE: KAYEPARKHINCKLEY.COM • BLOG: AWORLDDONTHEEDGE.COM • FACEBOOK.COM/KAYEPARKHINCKLEY



The Distance Between High and Low

Finalist: William Faulkner/William Wisdom Competition

Finalist: Tuscany Prize for Fiction

Genre: Southern Gothic

Audience: Adult

Prytania Publishing, March 2018

ISBN-10: 1975976398

ISBN-13: 978-1975976392

282 pages

Kaye Hinckley has written a truly Southern novel, deeply rooted in a small town yet universal in appeal. Strongly wrought characters wrestle with half-understood desires, half-articulated questions, half-intended sins—with emptiness and fulfillment, love and anger, sanity and absurdity. All in all, this is a wonderful book that struggles with the imperfections of our human condition. This book kept me reading, fascinated by its characters, interested in seeing how they develop and move on with their lives. —ARTHUR POWERS, *The Book of Jotham*



Birds of a Feather

Genre: Short Story Collection, Southern Gothic

Wiseblood Books, June 2014

ISBN-10 : 069223473X

ISBN-13 : 978-0692234730

238 pages

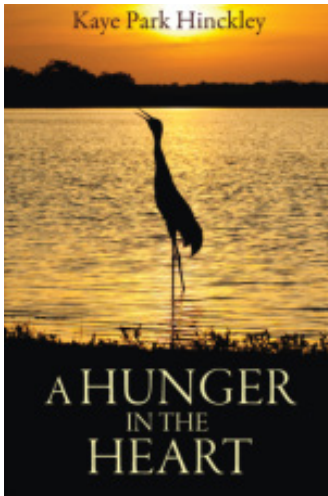
The short stories in *Birds of a Feather* are richly imagined tales full of finely drawn characters who demonstrate how people estranged from faith can bumble through life so distracted by worldly horrors and delights, so full of themselves, that they don't even notice faint nudges of grace that stir in their souls or recognize subtle emanations of the holy that abound in the world around them. —CATHOLIC WORLD REPORT

Voted one of the Six Best Fiction Books from the First Half of 2014. Kaye Park Hinckley's stories give a fuller picture of the Christian faith. Like a bird-watcher, the thoughtful reader can even learn to spot the flutter of redemption in these stories. —ENGLEWOOD BOOK REVIEWER MAGAZINE

Hinckley's characters are complicated. They've done horrible things, witnessed horrible things, been the victims of horrible things, yet they continue rising each morning and putting one foot in front of the other. They fulfill their obligations to each other while these horrible things gnaw at them from the inside out. Hinckley deftly presents the repulsiveness of her character's actions, while also revealing her characters' drive toward love. ..fully developed plots and well-rounded characters. —LUCY ADAMS, LAKE OCONEE LIVING MAGAZINE

"The birds in Kaye Park Hinckley's short story collection, *Birds of a Feather*, all find themselves from flocks of Catholics. Their family members, or at least a shining few, believe in forgiveness, hope and redemption. But it's the sinners with whom we most sympathize. How can we not? Hinckley's expert literary craftsmanship is matched by the drama of Judeo-Christian values confronting American relativism and egoism. " —JENNIFER ANN JONES, ANGELUS, THE TIDINGS ONLINE

KAYE PARK HINCKLEY



A Hunger in the Heart

Genre: Southern Gothic, Historical fiction

Tuscany Press, March 2013

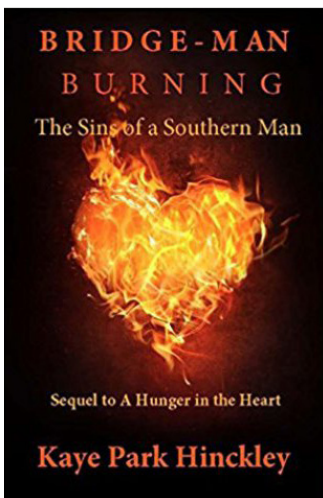
ISBN-10 : 1939627060

ISBN-13 : 978-1939627063

176 pages

A story, ultimately, of hope and love: How we find it and thrive in even the darkest circumstances. Kaye Park Hinckley's novel, *A Hunger in the Heart*, is a story of hope, forgiveness, and redemption. It's a great read in the tradition of southern fiction. —WINSTON GROOM, author of *Shiloh*, *1862* and *Forrest Gump*

Kaye Park Hinckley is a writer with a sensitive ear and a keenly developed sympathy for her characters. Her debut novel, *A Hunger in the Heart*, marks the beginning of a promising career in the world of fiction. —MARK CHILDRESS, author of *Georgia Bottoms* and *Crazy in Alabama*



Bridge-Man Burning: The Sins of a Southern Man

SEQUEL TO A HUNGER IN THE HEART

Genre: Historical, Literary Fiction, Southern Gothic

Prytania Publishing, April 2018

ISBN-10 : 1986911713

ISBN-13 : 978-1986911719

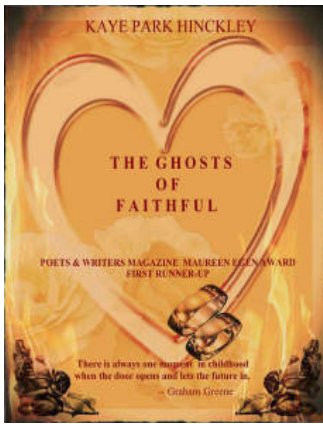
243 pages

As a boy Coleman Puttman Bridgeman III was hurt by the love he hungered for. Now as a young man, leaving his hometown behind, he carries with him the family blood that runs through his veins and voices of the past that run through his head. In marriage and business, Coleman faces love's most powerful battles where he must confront the weakest and deepest, parts of himself. Honesty versus dishonesty, faithfulness versus betrayal, and courage versus cowardice, are all in play while the question remains: Will Coleman Puttman Bridgeman III win his war, or will he lose love forever?

A potential reader should first read *A Hunger in the Heart* to fully understand and appreciate this story, but it's well worth doing so! Once again, I enjoyed the author's narrative, and the dialogue is always just enough to keep it real. The characters I loved in *A Hunger in the Heart* returned, along with a few more that were well done. I connected emotionally with a number of them. And this novel had a satisfying ending with a twist. —CYNTHIA T. TONEY, *The Other Side of Freedom*

At the time that I finished reading *A Hunger in the Heart*, I wasn't ready to say goodbye to the characters. Little did I know that *Bridge-Man Burning* was already written and published! Hinckley masterfully uses the flaws and weaknesses of her believable characters to focus God's redeeming grace on the messiness of the human condition and breathe hope into the reader. I loved this book, too. I highly recommend. —MEGGIE DALY, *For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion*

KAYE PARK HINCKLEY



The Ghosts of Faithful

NYC Big Book Award Winner, 2019

2019 Independent Press Award for Religious Fiction

American Fiction Award Finalist, 2019

Poets & Writers Magazine, Maureen Egan Award, First Runner-Up

Genre: Literary Fiction, Religion Fiction

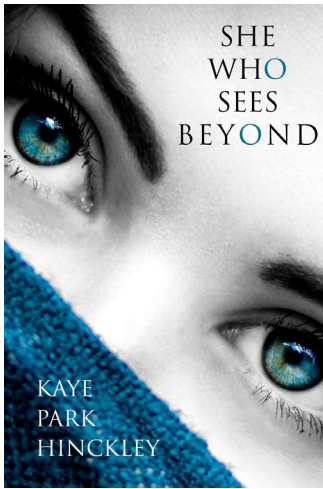
Prytania Publishing, October 2018

ISBN-10 : 1719890242

ISBN-13 : 978-1719890243

306 pages

Sometimes deadly serious. Sometimes laugh-out-loud funny. *The Ghosts of Faithful* is a layered novel of a family's clash with betrayal, forgiveness, mercy—and actual ghosts. *Faithful* suggests a broad canvas—a well-rendered local; a promising war of equals in the characters, a clear desire to address/tackle the issues larger than the back and forth, and a clear understanding on the author's part about pacing and clarity. Also, I thought the father's chapter was really funny! —VICTOR LA VALLE, author, professor at Columbia University, and judge for *Poets & Writers* Magazine Maureen Egan Award



She Who Sees Beyond

Genre: Literary Fiction, Mystery, Spiritualism

Prytania Publishing, February 2018

ISBN-10 : 1985233371

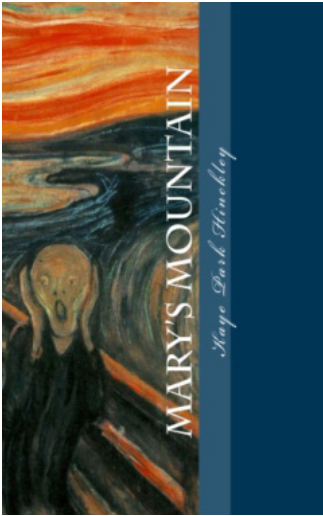
ISBN-13 : 978-1985233379

291 pages

A New Orleans hurricane takes the life of artist Audrey Bliss's husband, swallows any trace of their four year-old son, and dramatically changes Audrey when she suffers a head wound. She's always been perceptive, but now she sees and hears the voices of missing people calling to be found. Soon, asked by local law enforcement to solve crimes in The Big Easy, she finds many missing people, including a girl from Birmingham, Alabama found murdered in New Orleans. Yet, she never finds her own son, and accepts he died in the hurricane. After inheriting a tiny island in the Tennessee River near Red Clay Springs, Alabama, Audrey attempts to discard her life as a seer and takes up residence in the old house to concentrate on her art. But when an unidentified boy is found dead on a pyre, her gift of seeing will not let go.

Hinckley's writing is unsentimental but profoundly human and poetic. Her insight into relationships between men and women reminds me of Alice Munro, and her rendering of unique embattled souls from the South is reminiscent of Flannery O'Connor. —R. GARCIA VAZQUEZ, *Mr. Galaxy's Unfinished Dream*

KAYE PARK HINCKLEY



Mary's Mountain

A Novelette

Genre: Dystopian, Literary Fiction

Prytania Publishing, June 2015

ISBN-10 : 1502744112

ISBN-13 : 978-1502744111

162 pages

Mary's Mountain is Paul Dunaway's struggle to re-shape his affluent but joyless life, while opposing forces in the out-of-control, politically correct America he helped to create, threaten to take him down. A story of Tolerance taken to the extreme. *Mary's Mountain* takes you to a not too distant future, when the "tolerance" movement has reached its ultimate conclusion. It also brings out the paradox that we are already seeing signs of today. That is that tolerance only applies to self-indulgent behavior, and to non-conformity. Since religion and patriotism are seen as intolerant, they are not tolerated. *Mary's Mountain* is a well written narrative that grabs your attention from the very beginning as it follows the plight of Paul Dunaway as he tries to fight back against the society he helped to create and, in the process, regain his soul. —TIM SPEER, *Return to Paradise*

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