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BILLINGTON

"a gripping tale with charming personalities"

Chad Stebbins, executive director, International Society of
Weekly Newspaper Editors

CHICKEN DINNER NEWS



Jeff Billington

"It's a gripping tale with charming personalities and plenty of intrigue to keep the pages turning."

Chad Stebbins, executive director, International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors

Charming and humorously thoughtful, *Chicken Dinner News* is contemporary fiction for open-minded soul searchers that enjoy books by such authors as Richard Russo, Robert James Waller, and Boo Walker.

"Highlights the precious resources we have in small towns and the challenges of journalism in these days when we question the integrity of the truth. A fresh voice."

Kathryn Johnson, author of *The Gentleman Poet*

MORE ABOUT THE BOOK

Ryan Shipley wouldn't have recognized his grandfather if they were the only two people in a room. So when an unwanted inheritance lands in his lap, Ryan is overcome with obligation. Does he leave his life as a journalist in LA to run his grandfather's weekly newspaper and revive a dying Ozark town, half of which he now owns?

The overwhelming amount of casserole dishes brought to his door, along with being stopped by anyone and everyone to be regaled about the virtues of his grandfather, don't sway him. But when he starts to fall in love with more than just a girl named Olivia, Ryan sees a future there.

Change is due for this small town, and Ryan is all in. But when there is talk of a chicken processing plant being built on the outskirts, he writes an editorial in its favor and stirs up trouble. An arsonist and a rigid bigot turn the uproar of the townspeople into mayhem. But it only makes Ryan more empowered to guide the town, and with Olivia by his side, they begin to turn the tide.

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GENRE: Fiction

ISBN: 978-3-98832-012-4

Pages: 284 **Price:** \$17.99

Publication Date: June 20, 2023

Distributor: Ingram

Binding: Paperback

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Raised on a small dairy and poultry farm in Missouri's Ozark Mountains, Jeff Billington spent his childhood listening to family stories and hearing about the changes the twentieth century brought to that celebrated rural region. He has since spent two decades working in the nonprofit and political realms, most of it in Washington, DC and currently resides in Rockville, Maryland. His first novel, *Summers' Second*, was published in the fall of 2022.

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Contact

Publisher

Jessica Bell

jessica@vineleavespress.com

vineleavespress.com

+30 6937 986 255

Author

Jeff Billington

jeff.billington@gmail.com

www.jeffbillington.com

240-731-2984