

Review Excerpts

Readers' Favorite Book Review FIVE STARS (Highest Rating)

"The Promise of Unbroken Straw is an awesome step back in time, and I thoroughly enjoyed the nostalgia. This story has all the charming characteristics any avid historical fiction reader loves with characters that draw you in from the first page."



US Review of Books RECOMMENDED (Highest Rating)

"The author eloquently conveys the maturation of Paul as he evolves in an age where a world war rages, calamity surfaces with alarming frequency, and sorrow is an all-too-familiar feeling. This endearing [novel] proves more than satisfying in its depth and emotional range."

Midwest Book Review

“A powerful coming-of-age novel steeped in revelation, discovery, and new opportunities . . . with a fine sense of contrast. [Mr. Steele’s] ability to bring Paul’s changing personality and circumstances to life makes for a compelling story that proves realistic and inviting.

Libraries and readers seeking stories of transformation, shifting family relationships, and the influence of wealth on life connections will find *The Promise of Unbroken Straw* not only thought-provoking, but especially suitable for book club discussion about the impact of poverty and riches on psyches and life trajectories.”

Blurbs

“On a hardscrabble Oklahoma farm during a distant world war, the discovery of oil changes everything for a boy struggling to become a man—or so he thinks. Beautifully crafted, *The Promise of Unbroken Straw* portrays the complex relationship of a grieving father and an accidental son with depth and grace. I loved this engaging story and look forward to Ken Steele’s next book.”

Marcia Preston

Mary Higgins Clark Award Recipient

Author of *The Spiderling*

“The Promise of Unbroken Straw will lure readers into an epic and unforgettable tale of three generations of a family saturated with secrets, grief, and unrealized, stubborn love. Ken Steele takes us on a sweeping journey from rags-to-riches-to-rags-to..., from rural to urban, from heartbreak to healing, from lost to found. It's a story as deep and complicated and revealing and wonderful as life itself.”

Mark McKinnon

Chief Media Advisor to Five Presidential Campaigns

Regular columnist for *Vanity Fair*, *The London Daily Telegraph*, and *The Daily Beast*

Creator and Co-Host of *The Circus* on *Showtime*

“The Promise of Unbroken Straw is a poignant coming-of-age tale that eloquently meditates on how the secrets of the past shape the contours of our lives. I heartily recommend it.”

Walter Muller III

Chief Investment Officer (Retired)

Bank of America

*“I found *The Promise of Unbroken Straw* to be difficult to put down. Given my background, I followed the oil/gas subplot with interest. But Ken Steele was able to connect that narrative with a far more profound discourse about grief, guilt, and the struggles of a family to move on.”*

Al Hirshberg

Executive VP, Production, Drilling and Projects (Retired)

ConocoPhillips

“In his family saga of loss and redemption, Mr. Steele develops his characters so that you love or loathe each. As secrets and lies are revealed, those feelings evolve and intensify. His writing style evokes crisp images of locations and events and incredibly clear emotions, and you are left with universal truths about life and forgiveness.”

Marci Oesch Bahr
Faculty Emeritus
St. John’s School

“This story is beautifully told. I usually skip over descriptive passages, but not here. I want to live in this place that Mr. Steele has created. I read this electronically. But in reflecting back, I would have preferred to hear the *snap* each time I turned the page.”

John Norton
Author

“The Promise of Unbroken Straw...blew me away much like the fictional tornado in the story. Top of my list for 2024. This story is tremendous and deserves acknowledgement.”

Econogal, Book Blogger (and her 2024 list):

1. [The Promise of Unbroken Straw](#) by Ken Steele
2. [Crow Talk](#) by Eileen Garvin
3. [Lessons in Chemistry](#) by Bonnie Garmus
4. [The Spy Coast](#) by Tess Gerritsen
5. [The Museum of Lost Quilts](#) by Jennifer Chiaverini
6. [The Summer Pact](#) by Emily Giffin
7. [The Women](#) by Kristen Hannah
8. [Pitch Dark](#) by Paul Doiron
9. [The Unwedding](#) by Ally Condie
10. [Fake Famous](#) by Dana L. Davis