



KANDI MAXWELL

AUTHOR MEDIA KIT

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Kandi Maxwell is a creative nonfiction writer who lives in the Sierra Foothills of Northern California. She has been an English teacher, a backcountry and rock-climbing guide, a musician, a recreation therapist, and a client to several psychotherapists. She is a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. Her stories have been published in Hippocampus Magazine, KYSO Flash, The Door is Ajar, Raven's Perch, The Offbeat, Wordrunner eChapbooks and in many other literary journals and print anthologies. Her nonfiction articles have been published in California English, American Indian Reporter, Modoc & More Magazine, and others. Her memoir, Snow After Fire, was published June 6th, 2023 by Legacy Book Press.

Connect with me: kandimaxwell.com

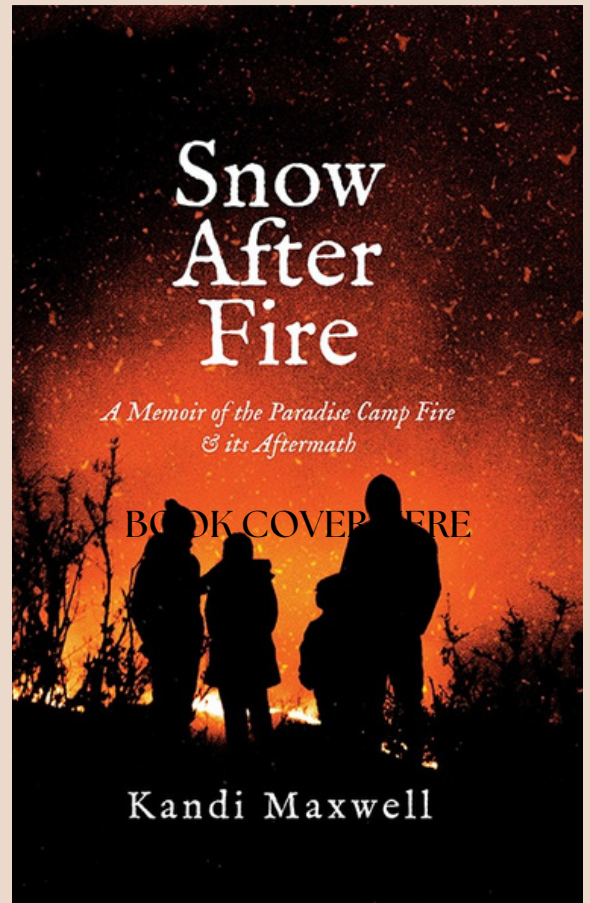
SELL SHEET

Snow After Fire

"Author explores her family's tumultuous experience surviving, suffering, and regrouping after Paradise, California's devastating 2018 Camp Fire."

SYNOPSIS

In November 2018, Kandi, already struggling with anxiety and chronic fatigue, faces her family's unthinkable losses after the Paradise Camp Fire. Her two sons and two granddaughters are immediately displaced when their homes are demolished, and they come to live with Kandi and her husband in their small cabin. As Kandi's solitude-seeking husband moves out and her energy wanes, she wonders how much of herself she can and should she give up for her family. When her family can finally move into temporary FEMA housing, hope flourishes, but as the months go by that hope comes and goes as Kandi faces illness, more fires, the COVID-19 pandemic, the loss of her parents, housing issues for herself and her family, and the prospect of being torn from her most cherished refuge—the forests and the wild lands she called home. Can Kandi persevere and find her calming snow after the fire?



BOOK INFO:

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OVERVIEW

I wasn't always tired or ill. For sixty years, I led a furious-fast-paced life and knew, with certainty, that there was something wrong with other people. Why did they move so damn slow?

This was me in the “before”—hyper-energetic— a lover of tough, physical challenges: rock climbing, mountaineering, backpacking, and backcountry skiing. But that changed. At sixty-years-old, I was diagnosed with Epstein Barr Syndrome—later came a mini-stroke. My story *Snow After Fire* begins with my struggle to adapt to a different way of living. But my health issues played just a fraction of the challenges to come.

The Paradise Camp Fire in November of 2018 brought horrendous devastation—around 30,000 people lost their homes and 153,335 acres were burned by the wildfire. Eighty-six people died. The fire not only hurt the individuals who had lost their homes, it also created upheaval for many families who took on the burden of caring for their loved ones. The fire caused displacement for my two grown sons and my granddaughters. When my sons discovered their home was demolished, they came to stay with my husband and me. Since my granddaughters and their mother had lost their home, too, and there was no longer a school, my granddaughters stayed with us a few days a week to relieve the stress of living in crowded motel rooms. The busy days had taken a toll on my health—energy waned. I felt conflicted. How much of myself could I give up for my family?

My journey moves through a four-year time span—2018 through 2022, as I traveled through illness, fire, the frightening challenges of COVID-19, the death of my parents, and the emotional anguish I felt from the loss of my most cherished refuge—the forests and wilderness I called home. For as long as I could remember, my spiritual home had been the sanctuary of nature. There, I found the inner strength to somehow prevail. How would I survive if our wild lands were destroyed?

The Family Home After the Fire



PRESS RELEASE

SNOW AFTER FIRE BY KANDI MAXWELL

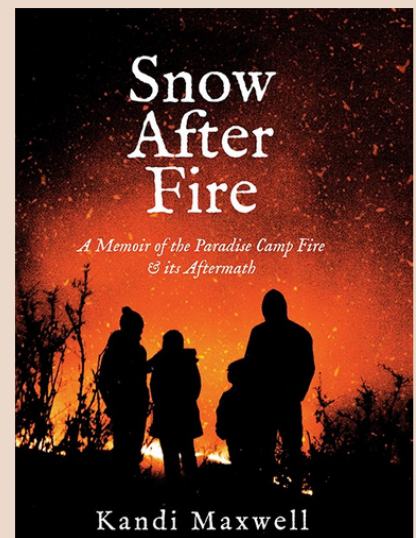
**RELEASED JUNE, 2023 BY LEGACY
BOOK PRESS, CAMANCHE, IOWA**

CAMANCHE, IOWA -- JUNE 6, 2023 -- Legacy Books Press LLC has released its latest memoir, *Snow After Fire* by Kandi Maxwell.

The Paradise Camp Fire in November of 2018 brought horrendous loss and ruin—around 30,000 people lost their homes and 153,335 acres were burned by the wildfire. Eighty-six people died. The fire not only hurt the individuals who had lost their homes, it also created upheaval for many families who took on the burden of caring for their loved ones. The fire caused displacement of Kandi's two grown sons and her granddaughters. When her sons discovered their home was demolished, they came to stay with Kandi and her husband. Since her granddaughters and their mother had lost their home, too, and there was no longer a school, her granddaughters stayed in Kandi's home a few days a week to relieve the stress of living in crowded motel rooms. The busy days had taken a toll on her health—energy waned. She felt conflicted. How much of herself could she give up for her family? And there was this—how would she survive the continued loss of her refuge, the forest lands she called home?

Maxwell talks about how her book developed and took shape. "I'm always writing and have had strong success in finding publishers for my flash and long-form nonfiction stories. I didn't intend to write a book, but as the vignettes I wrote during the years of struggle during and after the Paradise Camp Fire kept coming, I realized I had written enough to form a book. I went back to my short stories and began to join them together—adding smoother transitions for better clarity and revisions to strengthen the themes."

For her hopes with the release of this book, Maxwell wants readers to see that, within their own difficult experiences, there is always a light, a bit of hope. "I love imagery, and I delve deeply into the magic of nature—the sweet scent of pine, the beauty in the first blossoms of spring, the sounds of songbirds and coyote howls. It's within the sounds, smells, and sights of nature where I can relax, rejuvenate, and heal from hardships. I hope others might find this form of healing as well. I also want to remind people of the devastating effects climate change has had on this healing resource, and why the protection of our wild lands needs to be a priority."



Q&A WITH THE AUTHOR



Q . Tell us about yourself.

A . Like many writers, I'm an introvert. I crave isolated places and enjoy alone time. I hate crowds and large gatherings of any kind. I do like small intimate gatherings, places without expected chit-chat. I am uncomfortable talking about myself, however, I can talk about books, writing, nature, anxiety and topics that are meaningful to me. I insist on honesty and sometimes I come across as too blunt.

Q . What was the most challenging part of writing this book?

A . I think the most difficult aspect of writing this book was choosing what vignettes to keep and what to cut. I wrote enough vignettes for a 50,000 word book, but cut it to about 30,000 words. I cut several stories I really liked as stand alone pieces, but I couldn't find a place where they would transition smoothly into the book as a whole. Some stories were cut because they didn't add significance to what I wanted to express thematically. It's always difficult to cut vignettes/chapters/paragraphs from books, but it's one of the most important tools an author can use for a clean and concise read.

Q . What author's have inspired you?

A . I love the sparse writing style of Patrick Modiano. I especially enjoyed his book, *Missing Person*. I look to his work for inspiration in creating short, meaningful sentences. Mary Karr's books in the memoir genre also inspire me. I love her upfront, honesty, and raw edginess. Her book *The Art of Memoir* is my memoir writing Bible. I'm an avid reader, so I have many "favorite" authors who have given me inspiration."

REVIEWS FOR SNOW AFTER FIRE

GOOD READS

Full disclosure: I met Kandi several years ago at the Surprise Valley Writers Conference. I was wowed there by the warmth and agility and insight of her writing. This book not only showcases that talent, it captures Kandi's spirit: deeply rooted, joyful, generous, and tenacious. It's a book about how to survive fire (time and time again) and how to navigate loss, yes, and also how to love deeply family and friends and forests and animals and, well, life itself.

Ana Maria Spagna, Award Winning Author

AMAZON READER

In November 2018, the nation watched in horror as an entire town, ironically named Paradise, exploded in fire. Two or three weeks later, the disaster faded from television screens, but the massive effect of the flames grew. Individuals died, 14,000 families became homeless, trauma changed lives forever. In a masterful portrayal of a family under siege after the fire, author Kandi Maxwell lets us look into her life in all its pain and intimate detail. We see also others in her orbit—her husband and children, her grandchild who in autistic expressions tells us all we need to know about loss.

Maxwell shows too how tragedies tend to intersect. Still reeling from the fire, she faces the loss of both parents. Again, she gives the reader a rare glimpse into what it means to share last moments with those we love and to gather what strength we can from the natural world around us.

Mary J.

CHICO ENTERP RECORD

"My heart drops when I take in the scenery," Kandi Maxwell writes, some four years after the Camp Fire. "Paradise is scarred. It will take years to heal the landscape, and much of the geography has been changed forever. It's soul crushing."

"The fire sets into motion a chain of family events recounted with skill and compassion in "Snow After Fire: A Memoir Of The Paradise Camp Fire And Its Aftermath."

Maxwell realizes "writing was my way to find clarity in an often-confusing world. It provided structure to my messy emotions. It allowed me time to reflect and to discover something to be thankful for during the chaos. It was, and is, how I find hope."

Readers will sense that hope, and celebrate as well.

DAN BARNETT, Book Columnist

REEDSY DISCOVERY REVIEW

Snow After Fire isn't for the faint of heart. It's intense, thoughtful, and gripping. Reading this book is like walking into a dark room and flipping on a light switch. As the shadows dissipate, you may see things you didn't want to see or remember. But you may also see precious memories, hope, and beauty amid the ashes.

Expertly paced and finely crafted, Snow After Fire features strong writing and a masterful command of the language. Nimble pacing and an articulate first person voice will propel this extraordinary story of courage, resilience, loyalty, and love off the page and into your heart. I'd grab a copy now 'fize you.

REVIEWED BY [Kristine L.](#)



Previously Published Creative Nonfiction Stories

Sixteen Summers- I Speak from my Palms Anthology, 2013
Skinny Dip- Lion Hearted Anthology, 2013
A Mountain Can't be Denied - Fairhaven Literary Review, 2013
It's a Matter of Perspective -Rays Road Review, 2013
The Open Wound - The Teacher's Voice Journal, 2014
Shattered - KYSO Flash Anthology, 2015
The Balance of Breath- GFT Presents: One in Four Anthology, 2016
The Dust in my Bones- Foliate Oak Literary Magazine, 2016
Brush Dance - The Meadow, 2017
Seeds- The Raven's Perch, 2016
Some Days- GFT Presents One in Four Anthology, 2017
The Sound of Snow- NatureWriting, 2017
Green: After Five Years of Drought - Nature Writing, 2017
Sierra Nights Remembered - Nature Writing, 2017
Resurrection - Boomer Cafe, 2017
Lessons in the Wind - NatureWriting, 2017
Wild Salmon- KYSO Flash Anthology, 2017
Mother's Arms - Door is Ajar, 2017
Still Running- NatureWriting, 2017
Galadriel's Daughter- One in Four Anthology, 2017
Home Spun- Boomer Cafe, 2017
Wild Lovers- NatureWriting, 2017
Revisions- Diverse Minds Anthology, 2017
The Warm- Diverse Minds Anthology, 2017
The Neurologist- The Offbeat Magazine, 2018
Ghost Pirates- Diverse Minds Anthology, 2018
Scattered- Diverse Minds Anthology, 2018
Holding on, Holding Tight- Ravens Perch, 2019
Embers- Hippocampus Magazine, 2020-Rumpus Magazine Recommended Read
After the Swim- Ravens Perch, 2020
Snow After Fire- Wordrunner Chapbook Anthology, 2020
Off Grid and Grateful- Boomer Cafe, 2020
Ephemeral- Bright Flash Literary Review, 2021
Loops- The Raven's Perch, 2022