**PRESS KIT FOR WEBSITE**

 

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**RETAIL PRICE:** $22.95

**DISCOUNT:** Independent Booksellers

**WHOLESALER**: IngramSpark

**SYNOPSIS**

Andee Camp inherits a box of family history after tragedy strikes along with a challenge to write a novel based on her ancestors. To fulfill this dream, she would exchange her book reviewer hat for one of a writer, forcing the seeds of self-doubt aside. With obstacles littering her path, she discovers the mystery surrounding her relationship with her parents and theirs with each other alongside new pieces in a complicated puzzle.

Catherine and Fulton Smith added twins, Victoria Jeanne and Benjamin Thomas, to their family in Portland, Oregon on August 13, 1922, the same day twins, William Theodore and Joanna Abigail, blessed Eve and Leon Brown with an addition to theirs in Amarillo, Texas. Many years later behind the backdrop of the San Gabriel Mountains in Southern California, whether by fate or destiny, the Smiths and Browns form a bond lasting three-quarters of a century.

***Life in a Box*** is like leaping off the diving board and seeing the sky from the bottom of the pool. When the author breaks through the ripples, a layered story rich with humor and heartache, discovery, and growth emerges and in the end, readers understand the depth of the story.

**HOW THE FIRE IGNITED:** Our book club chose ***Olive Kitteridge*** by Elizabeth Strout as our November 2009 selection. My co-chair forwarded a copy of my review to Ms. Strout and she commented:

*“This is one of the most wonderful things I have seen! I laughed out loud reading it, and I will keep it and cherish it forever. What a piece of writing it is; I swear Olive was writing it. I am so appreciative of the 28 women who took her into their hearts, responded so vividly and deeply (sexy! Exactly, who knew?) – and I am especially appreciative to you for sending it along. It just warms my heart. Please give my very best wishes and heartfelt thanks to all – Sincerely, Elizabeth.”*

She followed up by sending an autographed copy to me with the inscription*, “With gratitude, affection, and admiration – for being such a good reader, and writer.”* I came down from cloud nine, took a deep breath, and began fulfilling a dream.

In 2014, Bookers selected Catherine Ryan Hyde’s ***Don’t Let Me Go*** and we sent my review of the selection to her.

 “*This is quite an amazing piece of writing! I took the liberty of sharing the link with my Twitter and Facebook readers, since it's already publicly posted. Thank you so much for sharing it with me! Wish I could have been a fly on the wall for all that.”*

-Catherine

With Emma Donoghue’s ***Room***, we recreated it to scale, sent her the minutes and pictures to which she replied,

 *“utterly fascinating! I know book clubs who have held their meeting in a taped-off 11-by-11-foot space, but none who have actually recreated Room or dramatised bits of it like you guys... Thanks so much for letting me know, and for engaging so passionately with Jack and Ma's story!”*

*best wishes*

*Emma*

More of my Bookers Minutes & Musings are available on [www.bookers-online-blogspot.com](http://www.bookers-online-blogspot.com)

**LIFE IN A BOX BACK COVER REVIEWS**

*“This book could be called fascinating, but that’s not even close to the reality of the entangled relationships and intriguing story this novel brings to the reader. Beautifully written, I highly recommend it.”* Ginnie Siena Bivona, author of *Ida Mae Tutweiler and the Traveling Tea Party* and *The Secret Lives of Ordinary Women.*

“*Incredibly lyrical like the beautiful symphony of a constant breeze ruffling the palms. Lovely, yet powerful – with the force and impact of a hurricane. The character development creates friends that you want to keep forever in your circle. The descriptions paint a poignant backdrop for the story to develop and come to life. You will fall in love with this family and wonder what secrets your own might hold.”* MN Spafford Stanky lecturer, reading specialist, founder of two bookclubs, library volunteer.

“***Life in a Box*** *is a literary masterpiece. You will encounter characters that are so clearly defined you will love them, maybe even recognize them, but you will not forget them. Historical eras combine with complexity, intrigue and blend with familiarity…a roller coaster ride until the end.* ***Life in a Box*** *is beautifully written, a colorful page-turner indeed.”* Patti Branco entrepreneur, author of *The Path to Million Dollar Production.*

*“In* ***Life in a Box****, JoDee Neathery presents a narrative of two families united by marriage and a daughter who is charged by her mother to chronicle their story. In the process, secrets emerge that alter the very fabric of previously held beliefs. The result is a tapestry woven with love, betrayal, joy, tragedy, humor, melancholy, and an infusion of mystery. It begs the question, ‘Would we want the opportunity to examine our life in a box?’ The question is not easily answered and will resonate for many years to come.”* Penny Barshop, High school English Literature teacher, specializing in the study of the American novel.

**PROMOTIONAL**

**MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**Release date**: July 3, 2017. Over 150 copies sold in two weeks on Amazon.

Prominent **social media** presence on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, LinkedIn

**Author profiles** created on Amazon, Goodreads, AuthorsDen, Smashwords, Barnes & Noble, Scribd, Reddit, BookBub, BookGorilla, Rifflebooks.com, Books-a-Million, IndieBound Affiliate Program, Kobo.

**E-mail marketing** campaign initiated upon release of book

Paperbacks on **consignment**: Book People, Austin Texas. Paperbacks available at Paragraphs on Padre Boulevard, The Last Bookstore in Tyler, by customer request at Barnes & Noble stores, and through website – <https://www.jodeeneathery.com>.

**Blue Willow Book Store,** Houston carrying 4 copies on consignment.

**E-books** available exclusively through Amazon, Kindle Direct Publishing Select program including Kindle Unlimited and Kindle Owner’s Lending Library.

**March 2019: University Park, Dallas Book club guest speaker**

**November 1, 2018: Ranchland Hills Country Club, Midland Texas** Women’s Golf Association & Book Club presentation & book signing.

**September 2018: McKinney,** **Texas Book Festival** author booth

**September 2018**: Presentation and book signing, **Craig Ranch Women’s Club Book Club,** McKinney, Texas

**August 23, 2018**: Presentation and book signing, **The Tradition @ Prestonwood, Dallas, Texas**

**August 16, 2018: LibraryBub newsletter feature and press releases throughout the month**

<https://app.getresponse.com/view.html?x=a62b&m=8SMqG&u=Z9ED&y=E&dont_redirect=1>

**August 1, 2018:** Presentation and book signing, **Corsicana Rotary Club**

**July 31, 2018: LibraryBub** press release featuring **Life in a Box in top 5 recommendations in fiction.**

**July 16, 2018: ChickLit** Café posted on home page under **“Now Reading.” Will** review and promote (**email to 42K subscribers; promote on large social media- 6 separate Twitter profiles, 6 Facebook profiles, Pinterest, Instagram, Google, Goodreads & LinkedIn and 7 other sister book sites, Author spotlight page)** and add to their list of satisfied authors. 4-6 weeks out

**July 12, 2018: Canton Texas Rotary Club** presentation & book signing

**July 2018:** Promotion in **Southern Writers Magazine** July Edition, **A New Voice in Town** segment and in **Must Reads** section, and inclusion in **2018 Summer Reads Catalog.**

**July 3, 2018:** L**ive 30 minute** **radio interview Blogtalkradio.com/lafemmedeprose. 175 downloads.**

**July 3, 2018**: Amazon **Select promotion**, offered free for **5 days** resulting in **2,717 downloads**, author ranking to top & **16,659** pages read in 19 days. Share of global fund to be determined.

**July 3, 2018**: Featured post on Free Kindle Books & Tips and through social media sites

**July 2018: Focus on Women charity event sold 7 copies of Life in a Box**

**May/June** cover of **Focus on Women Magazine** [**www.focusonwomenmagazine.com**](http://www.focusonwomenmagazine.com)**.**

**June 2018,** Canton, Richardson, Corsicana, Plano, Frisco, and Tyler Rotary Clubs contacted for possible presentation/program opportunities

**May 2018**: Presentation and book signing, **Cedar Creek Rotary Club**. Media coverage

**May 2018**: Entered the **2018 American Fiction Awards** in the literary fiction category sponsored by American Book Fest, results August, 2018

**May 2018**: **Midwest Book Review**, online book review magazine, “Small Press Bookwatch” features Life in a Box on The Fiction Shelf.

<http://www.midwestbookreview.com/sbw/may_18.htm#fiction>.

**May 2018:** Copy submitted to **Jo Pond**, founder and President of **Craig Ranch Women’s Club Book Club, McKinney, Texas.** Also Vice-Chairman City Library Advocacy Board, Treasurer of Friends of McKinney Public Library, and Director of Read Across McKinney. Speaking engagement and book signing scheduled September 2018.

**April 2018**: Author profile and book cover in the **Gallery of Stars** section of **Southern Writers** **Magazine**. <http://authors.southernwritersmagazine.com/jodee-neathery.html>

**April 2018**: Selected by **Focus on Women Magazine** for inclusion in their author community and their book promotions including selection for their May/June cover both print and digital, and radio interview to be scheduled.

**April 2018**: Book signing and presentation to **Dauphin Island Book Club, Dauphin Island, Alabama.**

**March 2018**: “Local Author” display with write up featured at **Malakoff Library**. Posted photo Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.

**February 2018**: Media blitz through **Independent Book Publishers Association**. Review requests submitted by Midwest Book Review, Bless Their Hearts Mom Blog, Focus on Women Magazine.

**February 2018**: Book signing and presentation to **Oui Read Book Club, Athens Country Club, Athens, Texas**

**January 2018**: Sold out (120) book signing and presentation to **Cedar Creek Women’s Club, Cedar Creek Country Club, Tool, Texas.** Media coverage.

**December 2017**: **Reader’s Favorite 5 Star Book Review** posted Amazon and Goodreads

**November 2017**: Book signing slot, **Texas Book Festival, Austin, Texas,** **5 star reviews posted on Amazon.uk,** **on-line interview with Fiona McVie** posted on Facebook and her blog.

**October 2017**: Book signing, **Henderson County Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library, Athens, Texas.** Media coverage.

**September 2017**: **Sold out** (100) **Book signing and dinner, Pinnacle Club, Mabank, Texas.** Media coverage.

**August 2017**: Article in **Pinnacle Club Newsletter** announcing the book publication.

**July 2017**: Inclusion in **Cedar Creek Lake Weekend Report,** McAtee Realty, circulation 400, and announcement in **July Writer’s League of Texas newsletter**. Photo and article announcing the book release featured in **The Monitor**. Media coverage.

**Local libraries** furnished copies, book submitted to McKinney Library, and Richardson Public Library’s “Friends” book club event.

E-book submitted and review request under consideration by **BookLife by Publishers Weekly**; declined to pass it on for review.

Paperback submitted to **Armchair Interviews** for review

**American Book Review**, University of Houston, submitted for review

Formal request to **Kindle Book Review** for review.

***This Just In*** spot in **January Magazine**.

Cover submitted to **Novelblogs.com** for review if selected by members

Submission to **Book Pleasures** for review and author interview if selected

Submitted sample chapter to **Book Daily** for selection

16 active Facebook group memberships, some open to promotion.

By-line, **Back Porch Musings**, in The Monitor.

Chair and **write minutes and musings** monthly for our book club. [www.bookers-online.blogspot.com](http://www.bookers-online.blogspot.com)

New novel, working title, ***The Whisper Room***, is in the developmental stage.

Memberships: The James Mason Community Book Club/Goodreads; On-Line Book Club; Literary Dallas, Independent Book Publishers Association, News & Noteworthy Book Club; AuthorsDen Bronze member; IndieWriters;

**Please contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.**

**JoDee**

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