

[www.cerealnovel.com](http://www.cerealnovel.com)

# Fiction by J. Kilburn

## the 2024 catalog

What are YOU reading this summer?

Crime Fiction

Coming-of-Age Stories

Policing and Family Drama

Romance

...and other literary adventures!



I am pleased to announce the arrival of **retail PAPERBACK books** by Vermont novelist J. Kilburn. These quality Trade Paperbacks contain Vermont-themed tales perfect for that local reader, critic, or tourist who wants to take a literary piece of the region back home to their favorite reading chair.

Whether it's hard-core noir-edged literary fiction or a sweet and whimsical character-driven traipse through daisy-lined lanes, Vermont novelist J. Kilburn has a tale your reader/customers will love! Characters are well-developed, likable (unless they're the villain), identifiable, and frequently re-appear in multiple settings and titles. Settings include: a pastoral Vermont college town, Burlington and Lake Champlain, the upper Connecticut River valley and New Hampshire north-country, and the back alleys and industrial wharves of Montreal. Kilburn's novels will leave readers with a wealth of new "Old Friends" and a fresh perspective on the region's scenery and culture.

"You want me to fill my shelves with these books?!"

Not necessarily.... Author J. Kilburn is a yet-to-be-discovered writer with a unique style who is quite new to the book-selling scene. The cerealnovel.com marketing budget would have to be squared to be a positive number. That said, this emerging writer combines intriguing characters, richly-described settings, edge-of-your-reading-chair suspense, and literary prose in memorable and marketable novels that are sure to get noticed soon!

**So now you know that J. Kilburn's titles are available, what they are about, and also where to get them should your customers come looking.**

(Suggested stocking: one book of each title / re-order upon customer purchase to maintain inventory.)

Support vibrant downtowns....  
Purchase your next reading adventure  
from your local bookseller!

Looking to get away?  
It almost never  
rains in your  
living room...

**E-BOOKS BY J. KILBURN**  
[www.cerealnovel.com](http://www.cerealnovel.com)

**A paperback edition is available...  
ask for it at your local bookseller!**

Visit the website for details: [www.cerealnovel.com](http://www.cerealnovel.com)

ROOKIE YEAR  
J. KILBURN

before  
J. KILBURN

BEAVER'S BOON  
J. KILBURN

2024  
Paperback Editions  
available  
May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Crime Fiction, Coming-of-Age tales,  
Family Drama, Policing Drama and  
Romance set in Vermont, New  
Hampshire, and Quebec**

## Distribution Info

Titles by Vermont novelist J. Kilburn are Self-Published and have received 5-star reviews from both readers and editorial reviewers. The books are marketed via the author's website:

[www.cerealnovel.com](http://www.cerealnovel.com)

Kilburn's books are available to readers as E-books (E-pub, Mobi, other common formats) distributed by Kobo and Amazon. They are also soon to be available from various other outlets - including Overdrive in the U.S. and Chapters/Indigo in Canada.

## **New for 2024: Trade Paperbacks for Retail Booksellers!**

**Releasing May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024:**

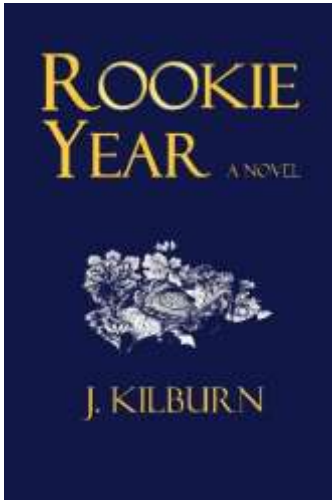
These attractive-looking, quality 6x9 trade Print-on-Demand paperbacks are formatted specifically for retail bookstores and are distributed by traditional wholesaler(s) on a **NO>Returns** basis. **The suggested retail stocking is one standby copy of each title for fulfilling customer requests / re-order upon sale.** The books are also available on **BOOKSHOP.ORG**, for those who want to support their local bookstore but also like the convenience of Online Shopping...

**Vermont-area "Bricks-'N-Mortar" Booksellers note: Order directly from the author/publisher for steep wholesale discounts and generous terms...** Limited Quantities of signed paperbacks are available directly from the local author/publisher! **See the website for details.**

Has your walk-in customer requested a paperback copy of an E-book title by J. Kilburn? You can make a sale and keep those reading dollars in your community!

## **Support your local bookseller!**

# *ROOKIE YEAR: A NOVEL*



Come for a year-long ride-along adventure with Vermont's 'Green-and-Gold' state troopers and other public safety professionals in this policing and family drama from novelist J.Kilburn.

FICTION – 2024, General Fiction, 400 pages  
Policing Drama / Family Drama / Romance  
Suspense / Vermont

ISBN # 979-8-9899152-0-0 E-book (various retailers)  
ISBN # 979-8-9899152-1-7 POD paperback

## **BLURB:**

**A rookie police officer has met the Girl of his dreams and thinks he's hot on the trail of a promising law enforcement career, too. A lot can happen between starry-eyed plans and life itself, so there will be a few rough spots along the way... including a big bump right at the start!**

# *ROOKIE YEAR: A NOVEL*

## SYNOPSIS:

This policing and family drama explores the excitement, joys, and pitfalls of young love and new careers as a couple from a small New England college town navigates the adventure-filled years between Teen Angst and Adulthood. Filled with harrowing law enforcement experiences, detailed police tactics training, and unanticipated romantic drama, it's going to be an incredible Rookie Year for both the new couple and the new cop.

“Author J. Kilburn has lovingly crafted a novel that explores every detail of the most harrowing law enforcement experiences, detailed police tactics training, and unexpected romantic drama.... certain to please fans of crime-centric dramas and family stories alike.”

5 stars! K. C. Finn for *Readers' Favorite*

“Kilburn delivers script-ready dialogue that at times is laugh-out-loud funny...”

Peggy Kurkowski for *Independent Book Review*

“Kilburn has a knack for whipping up tremendously dramatic scenes, accompanying them with a robust sense of humor.”

5 Stars! Keith Mbuya for *Readers' Favorite*

“Author J. Kilburn has created some incredibly likable and identifiable characters.... The entire story has a warmth and charm about it...”

5 Stars! - Grant Leishman for *Readers' Favorite*

# *before: a novel*



Vermont novelist J. Kilburn crafts a thoughtful coming-of-age tale with roiling dark edges in ***BEFORE***, his second book.

## SYNOPSIS:

This story follows the adventures and misadventures of some young people as they grow up in a pastoral and peaceful New England college town. All may not be as it seems. Events in a far-away criminal underworld lurk in the background as these teenagers take their first steps into adulthood.

Adventurous readers will discover that two Sweet-Sixteens have a lot more in common with hardened criminals than you - or the teens - might realize.... Surprises are in store for everyone!

FICTION – 2022, General Fiction, 500 pages  
Crime Fiction / Coming-of-Age / Romance / Family  
Drama / Vermont / Quebec

ISBN: 979-8-9899152-3-1 E-book, (various retailers)

ISBN: 979-8-9899152-2-4 POD paperback

***before: a novel*** by J. Kilburn

THINK YOU KNOW THOSE KIDS NEXT DOOR? YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? J. Kilburn's novel BEFORE takes your average teenagers, gives them family and community, and then plausibly and seamlessly drops them into international intrigue in a small New England college town. These teenagers go about their sweet and sordid adventures blissfully unaware of their role in larger and more complicated regional events. BEFORE is a Coming-of-Age story, but it's also a story about international Organized Crime and the role that small-town folks, your neighbors, your loved ones, and even the Honors Student next door might play in that dark and dangerous world.

***Midwest Book Review***

calls BEFORE by J. Kilburn

“A deftly crafted blending of crime fiction and coming-of-age... especially and unreservedly recommended for community library General Fiction collections.”

***InD'tale Magazine*** says:

“Mr. Kilburn is a master at writing character development!”

***Independent Book Review*** says:

“Kilburn weaves this story with threads of secrets... the tension is thick... the characters are exceptionally well written... excellent... refreshing... nails the depiction of a small town...”

***Readers' Favorite*** calls Kilburn's characters "...mischievous, everyday kids who turn out to be anything but.... Kilburn breathes life into them with some hilariously awkward scenes...." **5 Stars!**



## HEAVEN'S DOOR: A NOVEL



A lurid, dark and daring debut... Read some crime fiction with teeth!

### Synopsis:

Two opposing and mutually-exclusive lives meet for just a moment at a time and in a place where one of them shouldn't be. The fallout of this moment leaves a woman on the run from Organized Crime, and takes readers on a frantic plunge into the dark streets and back alleys of a richly-described criminal underworld.



FICTION – 2020, General Fiction\*, 100 pages  
Crime Fiction / Horror / Organized Crime / Outlaw  
Biker Vermont / Quebec

ISBN: 978-0-578-67036-2 E-book (various retailers)  
ISBN: POD paperback coming later in 2024!

### \*Note:

This story brings readers to places, cultures and behavior best seen from the safety of a favorite reading chair. Readers may find some scenes in this book disturbing.

## ***Heaven's Door: A Novel by J. Kilburn***

### **BLURB:**

This riveting and disturbing biker fiction tale introduces the TOPDOGS Motorcycle Club, a fictional gang of modern-day outlaws who take us for a journey on the darker side of the road less traveled. Strut on the sidewalks of Montreal with high-rolling underworld magnates while their minions flit in and out of back alleys in service of dark needs, big money, and ruthless territorial competition. Read about how the Quebec Chapter of the club got its start; how some fun-seeking motorcycle enthusiasts lost themselves to the seductive, yet dangerous world of gang violence and organized crime. Novelist J. Kilburn brings readers to the dark side of seedy streets in this international tale of adventure, terror, and crime set in Montreal.

**"...an interesting, albeit violent, tale of the inner workings of the Topdogs gang and the lengths they will go to protect one another and the gang." - *InD'tale Magazine***

**"In the same way Sons of Anarchy gives us an intimate look at characters who play by their own rules, J. Kilburn's novel gets up close and personal with unpredictable and often dangerous people.... It's a fascinating look at the inside of their club and how they all operate.... the world here is rich and full of compelling characters..." - *Independent Book Review***

**"Peppered with savage language, unexpected explosions of violence, and a slow burn of suspense, the stream-of-consciousness narrative feels experimental and manic, at times... wild storytelling is part of this novel's raucous, dangerous power." - *Self-Publishing Review***

## About Cerealnovel.com

What started as a short story became a book, and then a whole saga: stories about undercover policing and organized crime, but also about family, coming-of-age, romance and friendship. Each novel is independent of the others, but they all revolve around the same two communities: a small college town, and the Organized Crime underworld of a major port city. The cast of characters is common to each place - each character somehow has skin in the game in both places. The bright sunny streets found in one chapter mesh and turn with roiling dark edges that come in the next. That was hard to do, but important: We are not islands. We sometimes participate in both worlds, whether we know it or not. That the reader can be both disturbed and entertained by one of my books... that means I got it right. The novels are complex and full of surprises - just like life itself.



The young woman portrayed in the pages of some of these books, as well as in the Imprint Trademark image, represents the extended victims: those who forever wait for a missing or murdered law enforcement officer to walk back through the door. **Visit the website to learn more.**



**[www.cerealnovel.com](http://www.cerealnovel.com)**

James K. Mossman III,  
Publisher  
Northfield, Vermont

[jkilburn@cerealnovel.com](mailto:jkilburn@cerealnovel.com)



**Vermont novelist J. Kilburn is the author of three books and also a feature-length investigative-reporting newspaper article that got the whole page in his community's newspaper in 2012.**

J. Kilburn's novels are suspenseful and drama-filled character-driven fiction that blur the line between literary prose and market fiction. His conscious disregard of style and genre conventions and his ability to artfully portray the inner lives and motivations of a variety of characters have resulted in accolades and 5-star reviews from readers and editorial reviewers alike.

Kilburn lives a quiet and private life on the shore of America's sixth Great Lake. He has lived and worked in Vermont, Massachusetts, Illinois, and Minnesota. During these travels, Kilburn has dabbled in law enforcement, private security, emergency medicine, truck driving, and horse-logging. Other occupations have included at-risk youth mentor, big-city process server, park ranger, industrial wastewater treatment operator, and plastics processing machinery mechanic. Along the way, he's pedaled to 14,000 feet above sea-level in a major bicycle race, been marooned overnight on a deserted island, ridden a motorcycle from Chicago to Thunder Bay, and hiked Vermont's highest peaks to watch sunsets on both the longest and coldest days of the year.

When not at work he and his wife enjoy life around a little urban farm complete with greenhouse, garden, and mini-barn. Their current flock is composed of four chickens and a cat named Sierra Feral.

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Fiction by Vermont novelist J. Kilburn

(turn me over)

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