

NOVEL, SHORT STORIES, PUSH CART NOMINATIONS BY RICHIE SWANSON

Novel: **FIRST TERRITORY** (Sunstone Press 2013)

A dishonest treaty council and territorial policy of extermination cannot dampen the love of a 16-year-old settler for a Yakama woman. Andrew Eaton translates for both her band and Washington Territory during the Walla Walla Treaty Council and Yakama War while whites hunt for Chief Kamiakan and an elusive Indian confederation, 1855-1856.

“The writing is breathless,” said Sue Ellis, reviewer, *Prick of the Spindle Magazine*. “First Territory is altogether the most convincing piece of historical fiction I have ever read.” Swanson “drives home what a gutsy, well-schooled novelist can do when endeavoring to rise above the average storyteller,” said Phyllis Morreale-de la Garza, *Old West Book Reviews*. (<http://cowboytocowboy.com/wordpress/2016/02/15/first-territory/>).

FIRST TERRITORY is distributed by Ingram and available at bookstores, Amazon and BarnesandNoble.com etc. You can read an excerpt at the Short Stories tab on this website. **A RADIO INTERVIEW** about discovering the story during long-distance bicycle trips is at <https://beta.prx.org/stories/224961>.

UPCOMING

MY FANCY AND FUSS will appear in *The Magazine of History and Fiction Issue 4 December 2019* (historyandfiction.com). It's an excerpt from a novel that depicts a white fur trader and his Dakota wife on the northern Mississippi circa 1819-1828--while Indians and the new nation hotly contest the river's wilderness after the War of 1812. Richie is seeking an agent for the novel.

PUSH CART NOMINATIONS

THE ONE ABOVE THE BOTTOMS relates the capture of a white mother and her children during removal of Dakota from the upper Mississippi. Appeared in *Prick of the Spindle Magazine*, March 2013. Currently at the **Short Stories tab** of this website.

RIVER SUN WARBLERS is a creation story from the frozen and primal Mississippi. (*Front Porch Edition, American Athenaeum Spring 2013*). It can be read at the Myth tab of this website. Click on Photo Galleries on the top right of this website, then on River Sun Gallery to view the star of the story, the luminous prothonotary warbler.

MORE GREAT READS, SHORT STORIES

EDEN NEVER HEARD features two gay entrepreneurs who fall in love on the upper Mississippi River during early logging days circa 1855. Appeared in *Wilde Magazine Fall*

2013. Currently at the **Short Stories** tab of this website.

THE HOWLS BEHIND THE WAVES features a young girl who dreams her own mythology and disrupts an anthropologist's interview with an Oregon coast Indian circa 1906. (<http://www.snreview.org/0113Swanson.html>.)

INDIAN PICTURES was inspired by the "soldier-artist" Seth Eastman, his Mdewakantunwan wife Stands Sacred, daughter Great Spirit Woman and grandson Charles Eastman. (<http://heartjournalonline.com/indian-pictures>.) A Dakota family survives removal from the Mississippi, flight to Canada, and the Wounded Knee massacre circa 1850-1890.

REMOVAL features the son of a headman at a Native American village burned by U.S. and territorial forces, Oregon coast circa 1853. (*Poydras Review* Issue 2 Winter 2012). It's also the title story of a short story collection, a finalist, 2012 Spokane Prize for Short Fiction, the Inland NW Center for Writers, Eastern Washington State University. It and the collection's other stories are republished from journals at Short Stories and Myth tabs.

PRAISE FOR RICHIE'S FICTION

First Territory's "writing manages to be lyrical in spite of its straightforward telling, extracting images and emotions that endure long after the book has been lent to a friend."—Sue Ellis, *Prick of the Spindle*.

First Territory "is truly a marvelous read...Andrew maneuvered through the story as a real human might. Not once did his view, thoughts or feelings read with anything other than reality...And Lalooh, I absolutely loved her, her point of view and her actions."—Louis Kraft, author, *Custer and the Cheyenne: George Armstrong Custer's Winter Campaign on the Southern Plains, Ned Wynkoop and the Lonely Road from Sand Creek, etc.*

"**Indian Pictures** is astounding in its detail and symbols, challenging, swift moving and thrilling. Richie Swanson telescopes a poignant, misshapen and singularly American adventure in indigenous conquest and subjugation that *HEArt* offers as a standard for new social justice literature."—Daniel Morrow, fiction editor, *HEArt Online*.

"Richie Swanson's short story, **River Sun Warblers**, evokes a timelessness found within the natural world. Readers feel they are both witnessing the primordial beginnings of Nature—or life itself—while also glimpsing the often unseen natural world we're surrounded by every day. His work is reminiscent of writers like Kenneth Grahme (*Wind and the Willows*) or Rudyard Kipling (*The Jungle Book*). It is both intensely creative and refreshing. Wholly original and completely representative of the type of work we want to publish in American Athenaeum. If I had a wish-list this was at the top of it"—Hunter Liguore, Editor-In-Chief, *American Athenaeum*.

"It's all there in **The One above the Bottoms**—characters as we can imagine they really

were in their time, writing that is lush and fertile, and sound research to give it all fortitude. And Swanson pulls no punches. The writing itself is as adventurous and unafraid as its storyteller, taking us into territory we would not dare venture ourselves, into unexpected into unexpected terrain that is sometimes frightening and sometimes heart-rending, and in the end, makes us glad we went there. [Editor's Note: **The One above the Bottoms** was selected as a Kindle Exclusive fiction feature in *Prick of the Spindle*, Vol. 7.1]—Cynthia Reeser, Editor-in-Chief, *Prick of the Spindle Magazine*, Publisher of Aqueous Books.

“A fascinating critique” of “Mark Twain and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.”—*Thirty First Bird Review's* comment on **Injun Joe and Princess Wenonah**.