



Humanity's Grace

by Dede Montgomery

Salty air, low lying clouds, and crooning of seagulls near the towering Astoria Column and the flowing Columbia River set the scene for *Humanity's Grace*, a collection of linked short stories. Frank, Anne, Monica, and Sarah all reappear from the pages of Montgomery's novel, *Beyond the Ripples*. New characters: An elderly mother and her son, a police officer and spouse, a childhood friend, a counselor, a bystander appear, are all uniquely connected to a murder in downtown Astoria, Oregon.

Frank's untimely death creates a spectrum of consequences for his loved ones, acquaintances, and strangers. The ensuing murder accusation throws a trio of characters into darkness, as they reassess earlier beliefs, past decisions and actions. Other characters are impacted in unique and unexpected ways. A police officer is haunted by his past. A young woman awakens from a vivid dream of a friend from before. A mother wonders what she did wrong. A son aches for others to be kind. A daughter questions her father's past, while her mother

remembers parts of the man she had forgotten. A stranger ponders the significance of a message she's received.

The characters in *Humanity's Grace* intertwine as they laugh, scream, and cry, do good or create evil. Most of all, they meander through sorrow and sadness, joy and regret, as they remind the reader of the startling and collective beauty of life's connections.

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"Montgomery writes using the skills of a weaver; presenting rough fibers of life, sadness, and regrets, along with the soft thread of tenderness, love, and human relationships to create these stories." — Doug Erickson, co-author of *Jefferson's Western Explorations: Discoveries made in exploring the Missouri, Red River and Washita*

"In this mysterious and moving novel in stories, ordinary people absorbed in their personal worlds of pain and loneliness seek connections with those around them, often strangers, in a web of relationships that becomes something extraordinary." — Jeff Fearnside, author of *Making Love While Levitating Three Feet in the Air*

About the Author: Dede Montgomery is the author of *My Music Man*, *Beyond the Ripples*, and *Then, Now and In-Between: Place, Memories and Loss in Oregon*. Dede is a 6th generation Oregonian and lives near Portland, Oregon. Learn more at <https://dedemontgomery.com>

