



Fritz ("I'll tell you the story") Wetherbee, a host of WMUR-TV's "New Hampshire Chronicle," was in Andover recently, producing two segments for the show, which airs weekday evenings at 7 P.M.. The first, which aired on Nov. 30, told the history of The Andover Congregational Church in East Andover. The second, appearing on Dec. 5, described the work of three-time Academy Award-winning cinematographer Robert Richardson, a graduate of Proctor Academy in the class of 1973.

Photos shot from TV screen by Larry Chase



There were activities for the whole family at the Andover Hub on December 10, including a visit from Santa. Here, children big and small write letters to Santa at the North Pole.

Photo: Larry Chase

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tion from a real person or event.

SDF: Publishing has changed a lot in the last few years and it seems like traditional "book deals" are no longer the only option. Did you consider self publishing options or did you send the manuscript to multiple publishing houses in the traditional way?

AM: I have considered self-publishing, and I think it's a terrific option. Many successful authors are making it without a big, traditional publishing house behind them - it's fantastic! However, I wanted the advantage of a literary agent, editor, illustrator, and publishing team. I also wasn't confident in my ability to market on a large scale. I have been querying literary agents for about eight years, learning much along the way. I have notebooks and email folders filled with dozens of rejections! At some point I stopped taking it so personally, realizing that it was a numbers game - the more queries I sent, the higher the chance of succeeding.

I wrote *The Unforgettable Guinevere St. Clair* in 2012. My lucky break came when Zoe Sandler of ICM Partners requested my full manuscript in April 2016. After speaking on the phone for 45 minutes, she offered representation. It was a thrilling moment. We worked on my manuscript for a few months before querying publishers. Every publisher said no except for one: Simon and Schuster. They made me an offer in Feb 2017. It was one of the happiest days of my life.

SDF: Tell us about your main character, Guinevere St. Clair. How did you choose her name and how did you decide on what her character would be.

AM: I knew a girl named Guinevere and I loved her name. Alas, the French last name doesn't have significance. Guinevere also reminded me of the legendary Guinevere and King Arthur, which does come into play in this book.

SDF: What are your future plans? Are there more novels in the works or other writing?

AM: There are definitely more books! I have two completed and have one currently in-progress. Zoe Sandler and I will begin pitching to publishers again in January 2018.

SDF: Can you give a little history about yourself and how that may have influenced your writing.

AM: Although I have always enjoyed writing, I didn't plan on becoming a writer. I'm grateful my path to publication was unconventional as I believe my life experiences have made me a better writer - they've given me more to write about! I graduated from college with a major in Health and Human Performance, and a minor in English.

I am a faculty member at Proctor Academy and teach one section of Anatomy & Physiology. My undergraduate degree taught me the basic anatomy of the brain, but my curiosity for Guinevere St. Clair's fictional story led me to far more than I ever learned in a traditional school setting. Neuroscience research not only helped me write a better book, but has made me a better teacher in the classroom. I'm in no way a body or brain specialist, but I remain fascinated with how the brain can heal itself and the many things I still do not know or understand. I have found that every novel I write involves questions and themes revolving around the human body - I can't help it! It is very fun and keeps me interested in the story. I'm convinced that not majoring in creative writing was one of the best things I did for my literary career (of course, that only meant I had to learn it later!)

The Unforgettable Guinevere St. Clair has a release date of June 12, 2018, but can be pre-ordered at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, BAM, and locally at the Morgan Hill Book Store in New London.

Give the Gift of Life this Holiday Season

Blood drive on Sat., December 30

Press release

The Wilmot Community Association (WCA) will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, December 30 from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Red Barn, 64 Village Road in Wilmot. The need for blood is especially great

during the holidays. The Red Cross' life saving work is only possible with your help.

Learn more at www.WilmotWCA.org and save time by preregistering at www.redcross.org/give-blood. All donors will receive a free t-shirt. If you would like to help with the drive, email Marc Davis at marcsdavis@tds.net.



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