

Corporate Professional by Day, Author of Historical Fiction by Night

Local author Catherine Magia will be at the Fairfield Public Library to meet and greet with fans and sign copies of her debut novel, *The Fisherman's Bride* at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 18th.

"I have always been a storyteller," says Magia, "I believe that stories are not created, but discovered. The character spoke to me and her voice was so compelling. I was lucky enough to receive the inspiration and to commit this wonderful story to the page."

The Fisherman's Bride is the story of a woman of the wife of St. Peter--a man who left without a word to follow Jesus. The book is about her journey from brokenness to healing, the experiences of living in first century Israel under Roman persecution, and the miracles she witnessed.

"The research was extensive and particularly grueling. I spent four years reviewing historical documents and books on culture, alternate gospels that are outside of the traditional canon," Magia says.

"I traveled to the biblical lands of Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, on a soul-searching journey. I remembered the way the Sea of Galilee looked, the smell of olives in the air, how the trees were bent and twisted in Jerusalem. I returned to the Middle East to hear the stories, legends, and myths, things that are not found in any documents, but are such a big part of life."

The Fisherman's Bride mirrored Magia's own spiritual path. Eight years ago, she hit the lowest point in her life personally and professionally, when she had post-surgical complications at the same time that she was laid off from her job. After her health recovered, she spent a year backpacking on a shoestring budget, learning lessons of authenticity, courage, and humility.

"I realized that fundamentally, I am a child of God. Nothing could take that away from me. And I am a storyteller."

After finishing the manuscript, Magia landed a job as associate director of global market intelligence, researching new cancer medications in a pharmaceutical company. Simultaneously, she signed with a venerable literary agent for historical fiction in the Boston area.

Unfortunately, her agent could not land a publishing contract. "I think a lot has to do with luck and timing, even if you have an agent. It was not my time yet," said Magia.

So she parted ways with her agent and started over. It took another year to realize her dream through self-publishing. "I met a successful self-published author who became my friend and mentor. I could not have done this alone."

Magia has garnered glowing editorial reviews from the *Midwest Book Review* and *US Review of Books*. "The quality of self-published books is so variable. To be taken seriously as author, and to gain the support of the literary community has been the biggest challenge."

She said she's ready to take on the challenge of social media, to learn the new tools of the information age. "I have always been very shy about putting myself out there as a writer."

Audiences of Comcast may remember her as the teenage talk show host on *Teen Talk* and *What's the Good Word*, two weekly public access TV shows run by the late Sr. Agnes Bernard, OP, of the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell College. The TV shows aired for nearly 30 years, and Magia appeared on the shows for at least half that time.

Magia is also a poet, with poetry published in a number of literary journals, including the *Michigan Quarterly Review*.

For now, her career as author is only beginning. *The Fisherman's Bride*, published in November 2016, is available on Amazon in paperback and e-reader format.

She is currently working on the sequel to *The Fisherman's Bride*, which she hopes will be ready for a December 2017 release.