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Announcing

The Plume Hunter

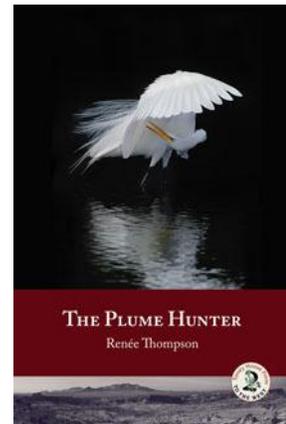
A Novel by Renée Thompson

2012 da Vinci Eye Award Winner from the Eric Hoffer Award

“...A compelling chronicle of avarice, betrayal, and redemption.”

—**Tim Gallagher**, author of *The Grail Bird*

A moving story of conflict, friendship, and love, *The Plume Hunter* follows the life of Fin McFaddin, a late-nineteenth century Oregon outdoorsman who takes to plume hunting – killing birds to collect feathers for women’s hats – to support his widowed mother. In 1885, more than five million birds were killed in the United States for the millinery industry, prompting the formation of the Audubon Society. The novel brings to life an era of our country’s natural history seldom explored in fiction, and follows Fin’s relationship and conflict with his lifelong friend Aiden Elliott, a leader of conservation efforts in Oregon who strongly opposes Fin’s livelihood. Thompson skillfully incorporates historical figures such as Frank M. Chapman into Fin’s story. Curator of birds for the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, Chapman was a crucial supporter of the Audubon Society. Thompson’s striking prose and vivid historical accuracy educates and entertains from beginning to end.



ISBN: 978-1-937226-01-5 / \$15.95 / 270 pages / Trade Paperback / December 2011

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Praise for *The Plume Hunter*

“A fascinating glimpse into the life of a bird hunter and the complex social, economic and personal issues swirling around the birth of the conservation movement.”

—**David Sibley**, author of *The Sibley Guide to Birds*

“Renée Thompson’s gripping novel transports the reader to a time when our nation was trying its best to grow up, yet seemed mired in its own awkward “teen” years...I read this book in one sitting, finding it no easier to put down than Fin did his hunting guns.”

—**Bill Thompson, III**, Editor, *Bird Watcher’s Digest*

“Renée Thompson brings us to a place of semi-darkness, with its confused emotions, and allows us to witness the “Hunter” changing from within. This is a story of process and a quest to redeem.”

—**Fr. Tom Pincelli**, Former Chairman, American Birding Association

“Renée Thompson’s novel *The Plume Hunter* paints a vivid portrait of the bad old days of the feather trade, when market gunners slaughtered stately wading birds by the tens of thousands to decorate women’s hats. A compelling chronicle of avarice, betrayal, and redemption.”

—**Tim Gallagher**, author of *The Grail Bird*

What Reviewers Are Saying About *The Plume Hunter*

“An economically written literary drama sparked by expert dialogue and visualized through an acute sense of place.”

—Allen Pierleoni, [The Sacramento Bee](#)

“Thompson is a gifted writer, and her appreciation for, and knowledge of, the natural world is evident throughout her novel.”

—James Currie, [10,000 Birds](#)

“Thompson makes full use of lush language to invoke the natural world.”

—Kel Munger, [Sacramento News and Review](#)

About the Author



Renée Thompson writes about wildlife, her love of birds, and the people who inhabit the American West. Her first novel, *The Bridge at Valentine*, received high praise from Pulitzer Prize-winner Larry McMurtry, author of *Lonesome Dove*. Renée lives in Northern California with her husband, Steve, and is at work on a short-story collection.

Visit Renée’s website: www.reneethompson.com

Readings and Events

Thursday, February 7, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

Plume-hunting presentation and discussion

[Mt. Diablo Audubon Society](#)

Gardens at Heather Farm, Camellia Room

1540 Marchbanks Drive

Walnut Creek, CA

About Torrey House Press



Torrey House Press is an independent publisher based in Torrey and Salt Lake City, Utah. By crafting stories rooted in the land, history, people, and cultures of the American West and Colorado Plateau, [THP authors](#) are writing the new West. This distinctive genus of captivating tales ranges from historical to contemporary to futuristic, incorporating cultures both pioneering and ancient, and utilizing language as rich and varied as the landscape itself. A passion for place drives THP and its authors, and this passion manifests itself strongly in the striking prose and unexpected plots of each Torrey House title.

By providing readers with good books, Torrey House seeks to increase appreciation for western landscapes and foster awareness of many often-overlooked environmental concerns. Two percent of Torrey House sales are donated to not-for-profit environmental organizations. Donations also fund a scholarship available to upcoming writers at western colleges.

