

BOOK REVIEWS

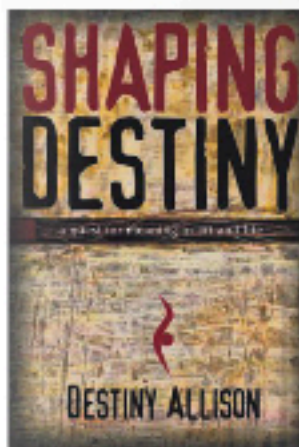
BY CRISTINA OLDS

Shaping Destiny: A Quest for Meaning in Art and Life

BY DESTINY ALLISON
2012, CreateSpace
Paperback, 218 pp
\$14.95
ISBN-13: 978-1468077339

The subhead says it all about this memoir by sculptor Destiny Allison. She delves into self exploration as she equates her developing art form to the discoveries along her life journey from housewife to Santa Fe artist.

The writing is thoughtful and thought-provoking, filled with poignant prose about creating and appreciating art. "We tend to look at light when we look at a sculpture. Light reflects off the high points and creates flow. ... We seldom look at the shadows because shadows can be frightening." Although the sentiments of a woman discovering her full potential at home and in her career can sometimes seem a bit like trite '90s feminism, the focus on art and the fine writing carry a compelling story. Currently, Allison is a managing partner of a community space in Eldorado that sponsors music, art, classes and community building events. She also blogs about art and writing at shapingdestinythebook.com.

**Hard Country: A Novel of the Old West**

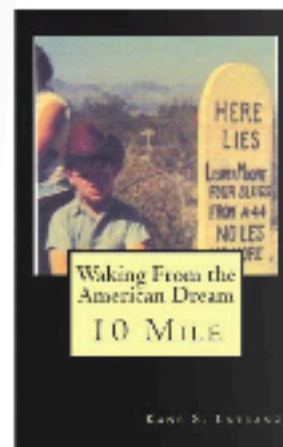
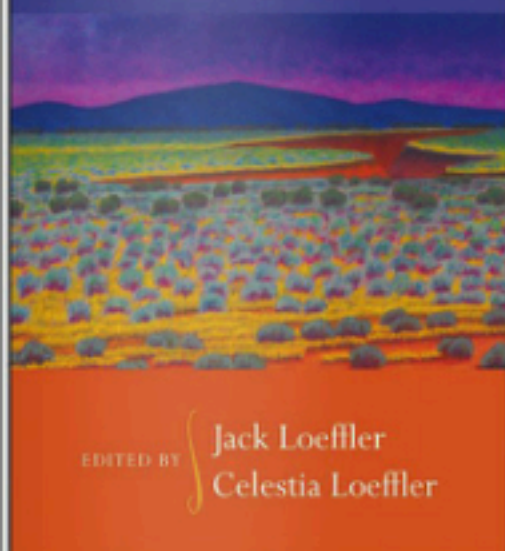
BY MICHAEL MCGARRITY
2012, Dutton Adult
Hardcover, 624 pp
\$28.95
ISBN-13: 978-0525952466

Fans of Westerns are rejoicing in the release of this latest Southwest-based saga by local author and former deputy sheriff of Santa Fe County, Michael McGarrity. McGarrity is widely acclaimed for his 12 popular Kevin Kerney crime novels — his notable reviewers include N. Scott Momaday, Douglas Preston and Max Evans. This latest book is the first in a prequel trilogy about the Kerney family, set in the era between the Civil War and World War I. Compared to Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* and A.B. Guthrie Jr.'s *The Big Sky*, *Hard Country* follows the struggles of a family man who loses his family. Drawing from a slice of American history filled with drama, the novel relishes in the complex characters and the vivid yet harsh landscape of Texas and New Mexico. McGarrity calls *Hard Country* "first and foremost an historical novel" and cites the extensive bibliography referenced on his website. The Western genre may be experiencing a resurgence currently because, McGarrity said in a press release, "We need reassuring reminders of something heroic and larger than ourselves."

**Waking From the American Dream: Ten-Mile**

BY KANE S. LATRANZ
2012, CreateSpace
\$19.47
Paperback, 206 pp
ISBN-13: 978-1475166552

Readers are forewarned on the back cover about how the memoir *Waking From the American Dream: Ten-Mile* is going to unfold: "He overcame a devastating childhood to become the father he never had." It's a little confusing who the "he" is in the "true story of Michael Sullivan," since the author uses his pseudonym Kane S. Latranz (from *canis latrans*, the scientific name for the coyote) and apparently his real surname is Donohue. That aside, Latranz is a burgeoning Albuquerque writer with obvious skill at his craft. In true form for the memoir genre, the author battles and overcomes challenges as part of a large family that includes a bipolar father, a manipulative mother and a schizophrenic older brother. Although there are several dark themes in the author's life, the short, introspective soliloquies that build throughout the book are free-wheeling and poetic, ending with a mostly happy conclusion.

**Thinking Like a Watershed***Voices from the West*

Produced in conjunction with the documentary radio series entitled *Watersheds as Commons*, this book comprises essays and interviews from a diverse group of south-westerners including members of Tewa, Tohono O'odham, Hopi, Navajo, Hispano, and Anglo cultures. Their varied cultural perspectives are shaped by consciousness and resilience through having successfully endured the aridity and harshness of southwestern environments over time.

Come for the reading, stay for the signing.
Jack Loeffler and Celestia Loeffler present their new book,
Thinking Like a Watershed: Voices from the West

Friday, October 19th
6:00pm
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Santa Fe, NM 87501
505.988.4226

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Albuquerque, NM 87107
505.344.8139

Thinking Like a Watershed
Voices from the West
Edited by Jack Loeffler and Celestia Loeffler
280 pages • 6x9 • 12 halftones, 1 map
978-0-8263-5233-0 • \$24.95 paper

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