

Media Release

April 11, 2018

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Bestselling Canadian Author Releases New Novel Corinne Jeffery, releases a coming-of-age novel set in the heart of the Canadian Prairies

CANADA – Francine Stonehenge has always been a unique girl; some might call her a dreamer. But when her parents disappear in a boating accident, her dreams turn to nightmares. Ripped from her home in Prince Edward Island, Francine travels to Manitoba to begin a new life with her aging twin uncles. Battling loneliness, solitude, and the expectations of those around her, Francine befriends three girls and begins a lifelong journey of friendship, betrayal, and love.

About the author:

Corinne Jeffery is the author of the bestselling Canadian historical fiction trilogy *Understanding Ursula* with titles *Arriving: 1909–1919*, *Thriving: 1920–1939*, and *Choosing: 1940–1989*. A graduate of the Brandon General Hospital School of Nursing with a Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Manitoba, she is a former educator with Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton. After many years in Winnipeg, she moved to St. Albert, Alberta, where she has been a long-time resident with her husband and family. *Lords and Lepers* is her fourth novel.

“Lords and Lepers examines the unbreakable, yet fragile bond between friends who live, love, and suffer together, through the crests and pitfalls of life,” says Jeffery.

About the book:

This prairie saga tells stories of bullying, elopement, prodigious talent, fraudulent greed, heartbreak, death, joy, and deep love. As the girls lose their innocence and mature into young women, they forge lifelong friendships; share the pinnacles of success and the depths of despair; and experience how all too often people are valued for what they have or what they do rather than for who they are.

Review copies are available by request by emailing: karleighstevenson@gmail.com

Lords and Lepers will be officially released on Saturday, April 28 and is available directly from the producer, FriesenPress, and from most major online book retailers including Amazon, Chapters.Indigo.ca, and BarnesandNoble.com. The ebook is available on Kindle, iTunes bookstore, Nook, Kobo and GooglePlay.

www.lordsandlepers.ca / www.corinnejeffery.ca

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Author Bio: Corinne Jeffery

Short Bio:

Corinne Jeffery is the author of the bestselling Canadian historical fiction trilogy *Understanding Ursula* with titles *Arriving: 1909–1919*, *Thriving: 1920–1939*, and *Choosing: 1940–1989*. A graduate of the Brandon General Hospital School of Nursing with a Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Manitoba, she is a former educator with Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton. After many years in Winnipeg, she moved to St. Albert, Alberta, where she has been a long-time resident with her husband and family. *Lords and Lepers* is her fourth novel.

Long Bio:

Corinne Jeffery is the author of the bestselling Canadian historical fiction trilogy *Understanding Ursula* with titles *Arriving: 1909–1919*, *Thriving: 1920–1939*, and *Choosing: 1940–1989*. She was born and spent the first six years of her life on the "Little German Farm on the Saskatchewan Prairie" featured in her *Understanding Ursula* trilogy, before moving to a farm in Manitoba bordering the Assiniboine River Valley. From an early age, Corinne was enthralled with the joy and wonders of Mother Nature, and her love of the outdoors is often woven through her novels.

Not long into her three-year training program to become a Registered Nurse at the Brandon General Hospital School of Nursing, Corinne realized that she had little inclination to be a hands-on practitioner. Still, she persevered recognizing that there was a host of career options she could pursue as a graduate. During her final semester of a subsequent three-year Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Manitoba, she found her niche in program development and supervision. Before becoming a stay-at-home mother to her two children, she was hired to develop, write, implement, and evaluate a counselling program for registered nurses, the first of its kind in Canada for hospital-based nurse training schools. Over the course of her nursing career, Corinne was responsible for initiating five diverse areas of programming, with her twenty-year visionary project at Grant MacEwan Community College to train home and auxiliary support practitioners lasting until her retirement.

From the age of seven, Corinne had a dream of writing her own book. Her older brother taught her to read before she turned five years old, and she instantly came to love words and books. During her many years as an educator, she encouraged her learners to "find your path and follow your dream." Corinne lives by the motto: "Become the master of your destiny, not a victim of your history."

After many years in Winnipeg, she moved to St. Albert, Alberta, where she has been a long-time resident with her husband and family. *Lords and Lepers* is her fourth novel.

Book Synopsis

Lords and Lepers

Category: Historical Fiction

Premise of the Book: *Lords and Lepers* is a coming of age, social commentary within a Canadian historical context.

What makes this book a good addition to the genre? The characters and many of the incidents in *Lords and Lepers* are based on real life experiences. Readers will be able to relive their own school days, relationships, struggles, and triumphs as they embrace the individuals and families depicted in this Canadian story.

Overview: *Lords and Lepers* is the story of four girls as they progress through adolescence into adulthood, detailing their experiences, choices, and the positive and negative, sometimes tragic events which impact their lives. The story spans a period of nearly thirty years between 1950 and 1980, focusing on the thesis that all too often people are valued for what they have and what they do, rather than for who they are.

How is the book organized: By chapter.

Target audience for this book: Anyone who enjoys a story about real, average Canadians growing up and living on the Canadian prairies.

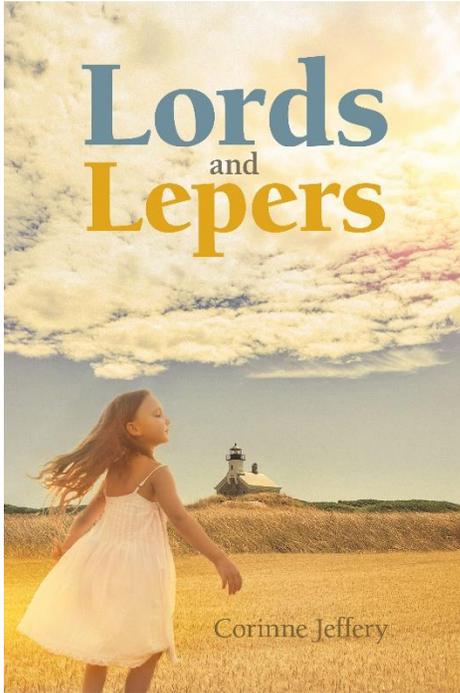
What motivates a reader to seek this book: Extensive character development, a plot that often surprises, suspense, and a fluid storyline that delves into the complexities of relationships and life.

Points of interest about the book:

1. *Lords and Lepers*, a coming of age story of four girls, evolved into a six hundred plus page prairie saga.
2. When Corinne was completing the final book of the *Understanding Ursula* trilogy which primarily takes place in Manitoba, she was already at the concept stage for *Lords and Lepers*. As a child, walking across the Souris Swinging Bridge (the longest suspension pedestrian footbridge in Canada) left an indelible memory. She knew that *Lords and Lepers* would be set in Hartney, Souris, and Brandon in the province, and the heart of the prairies, where she'd spent almost 30 years of her life, and loves to revisit through her writing.
3. The longer Jeffery wrote the more she was intrigued by how the characters were developing and maturing into young women.

4. The book asks: Are we truly valued as human beings or are we really appraised as human doings and human havings?
5. Can our friendships influence and define the essence of our life, like the friendships in the book?

Lords and Lepers Book Information



Six-year-old Francine Stonehenge lives with her parents near the ocean in Cavendish, Prince Edward Island when the unthinkable happens: both her parents drown. Her aging uncles, whom she has never met, take her by bus, ferry, and train to live with them on their sheep farm in Manitoba. As she settles into her new home, Francine remains traumatized by the death of her parents, for which she feels responsible. Even the pristine peace and stillness of the prairies doesn't keep her recurring nightmares at bay. With the loving support of her uncles and new stepmother, Francine builds friendships and before long, becomes one of a foursome with Cassandra Jamison, Jessica Yang, and Hope Harding. This epic prairie saga tells stories of bullying, elopement, prodigious talent, fraudulent greed, heartbreak, death, joy, and deep love. As the girls lose their innocence and mature into young women, they forge lifelong friendships; share the pinnacles of success; the depths of despair; and, experience how all too often people are valued for what they have or what they do, rather than for who they are.

Literature & Fiction

Family & Relationships, Friendship
660 pages B/W 6×9 inches

Hardcover

\$31.99 USD
978-1-5255-1822-5

Paperback

\$24.99 USD
978-1-5255-1823-2

eBook

\$8.99 USD
978-1-5255-1824-9

Wholesale available through Ingram.
Consignment available through author.

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Photos of Corinne Jeffery



Sample Interview Questions

1. How do you think readers can identify with your main character, Francine?
2. How do you think Francine's life would be different if her story took place in the current decade?
3. Are your main characters based on personal experience?
4. How long have you been writing *Lords and Lepers*?
5. What prompted you to write a completely different story when so many of your readers were requesting a prequel, a sequel, and even a cookbook for the *Understanding Ursula* trilogy?
6. What will motivate your readership to purchase this epic prairie saga?
7. When and why did you choose Manitoba as the primary locale for *Lords and Lepers*?
8. How do you bring your "ordinary" characters to life and "build a real world story of love, maturation, intrigue, deceit...", etc.?
9. How has becoming published author affected your life?
10. What's next?