

JANET RENDALL

publishes
debut novel

By Penny E. Schwartz

Riverside author Janet Rendall has melded the mystique of the Mother Road with the minds of visiting aliens to produce her debut novel, "Route 66 to the Milky Way."

Her imaginative, light-hearted and tongue-in-cheek journey across the iconic highway is peppered with observations about the American lifestyle that only outsiders to the culture could make.

"My husband and I drove the highway a number of years ago and met many Europeans who had their own perceptions of the various roadside attractions," Rendall said. She conceived the idea of alien life forms traveling the road and commenting on traditional American customs and values from their unique, other-worldly perspective.



A science fiction aficionado, Rendall came up with the original idea some 20 years ago and honed it through workshops, writing classes and the support of a loyal writers' group.

The story centers around two plant-based aliens who arrive on Earth and infuse themselves into human bodies around the time of the Pearl Harbor WWII attacks. They spend their time trying to locate a portal to take them home again, as government agents hunt them for their own nefarious purposes.

"I set it in the 1940s because that was a simpler time and also as a gentle poke to the B grade science fiction movies that were popular at the time," Rendall said. She chose alien plant life forms because of the resiliency of plants through many earthly catastrophes.

Rendall hopes that her "sci-fi light" novel will be fun for readers, even those not regular fans of the genre. She finds being a first-time author both exhilarating and intimidating and looks forward to book signings and appearances once the book, currently available on e-readers through Amazon, has come out in paperback later in June. She is also hard at work on a sequel.

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