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Tale of Marquette's First Ghost Told in New Historical Novel

From automated writing and secrets in the deep north woods, to ghosts, folklore, and reincarnation, Tyler R. Tichelaar's new paranormal romance "Spirit of the North" offers an old-fashioned story with an extraordinary new vision of life.

Marquette, MI April 1, 2012—Forced to spend the winter alone in a northern woods cabin in 1873 Upper Michigan, sisters Barbara and Adele Traugott battle the elements and their own fears to discover the miracle of their own being in Tyler R. Tichelaar's new novel "Spirit of the North" (9780979179068, Marquette Fiction 2012).

In 1873, orphaned sisters Barbara and Adele Traugott travel to Upper Michigan to live with their uncle, only to find he is deceased. Penniless, they are forced to spend the long, fierce winter alone in their uncle's remote wilderness cabin. Frightened yet determined, the sisters face blizzards and near starvation to survive. Amid their difficulties, they find love and heartache—and then, a ghostly encounter and the coming of spring lead them to discovering the true miracle of their being.

Fans of Tichelaar's popular Marquette novels will enjoy this new story that reintroduces many familiar characters from his first book *Iron Pioneers*, including loggers Ben and Karl, Sophia Henning—the woman readers love to hate—Molly Montoni and the Whitman family. But at the center is Barbara Traugott, a woman used to holding everyone together until circumstances arise that even she cannot control but will awaken her to a new vision of life.

Influenced by the Gothic tradition, Tichelaar weaves stories within stories, including ghost stories and a tale of Paul Bunyan, all containing supernatural elements. And among them is the tale of Annabella Stonegate, a minor character in some of Tichelaar's previous novels, whose story is told in full here. "Annabella was a ghost in a story I wrote in middle school," says Tichelaar, "she has haunted me for more than a quarter of a century, insisting I tell her full story. I think I have finally satisfied her insistence."

Readers love Tichelaar's new literary departure into the spirit world. Diana M. DeLuca, Ph.D. and author of "Extraordinary Things" states, "Tichelaar's characters...are shaped by the northern Michigan woods he describes so lovingly...The woods, of course, are dark and hold their secrets, but when the past starts to take a direct hand in the present-day lives of the main characters, it's clear that Tichelaar believes human lives are full of beauty as well as of things that defy rational explanation." And fellow Upper Michigan author of "Finding My Light," Chris Shanley-Dillman, declares, "In 'Spirit of the North,' Mr. Tichelaar cleverly weaves together the past,



present, and spiritual worlds to create a heart-touching story that will inspire readers to ponder their own existence.”

About the Author

Tyler R. Tichelaar, Ph.D. is best known for “The Marquette Trilogy,” where his characters serve as a microcosm for the American Dream being played out on Lake Superior’s shores. In 2009, he was awarded Best Historical Fiction in the Reader Views Literary Awards for his novel *Narrow Lives* and now he sponsors that award. For his travel/history book “My Marquette,” he received the 2011 Barb H. Kelly Historic Preservation Award from the Marquette Beautification and Restoration Committee. That same year he was named the “Outstanding Writer” in the Marquette County Arts Awards. Tyler is a seventh generation resident of Marquette, Michigan, where the roar of Lake Superior, mountains of snow, and sandstone architecture inspire his writing.

“Spirit of the North” (9780979179068, Marquette Fiction 2012) can be purchased through local and online bookstores. For more information, visit www.MarquetteFiction.com. Review copies available upon request.

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