

# Stories by Madelyn Rohrer

November/December 2022

Website: [www.storytellermadelynrohrer.com](http://www.storytellermadelynrohrer.com)

Email: [AuthorMadelynRohrer@gmail.com](mailto:AuthorMadelynRohrer@gmail.com)

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClaiVFeYIVF3Oe4i3IwwXSA>

(or search for: Stories by Madelyn Rohrer)

Business Facebook Page: [AuthorMadelynRohrer](https://www.facebook.com/AuthorMadelynRohrer)

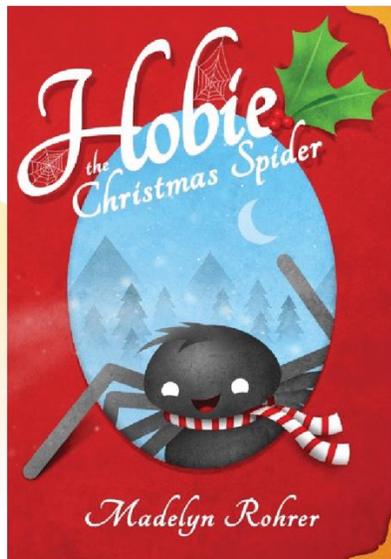
Twitter: [AuthorMadelynRohrer](https://twitter.com/AuthorMadelynRohrer)



Welcome to the first bimonthly newsletter of Author Madelyn Rohrer...and an opportunity to showcase your creativity! It needs a name and a logo. If you have ideas for either or both, please send them to me. If yours is chosen, you may select any one of my books, including the new ones coming out within the next few months, and an autographed copy will be sent to you!

Also included with each newsletter will be a short story, either an original one of my own, or a piece of history. I hope you enjoy them or maybe even learn something that you didn't know.

## *In The Spotlight:*



The holidays are here and **Hobie the Christmas Spider** is ready and waiting for his young audience. In addition to being available in soft cover and hard cover and as an ebook, a free YouTube version is available in its entirety on my YouTube channel.

**Hobie the Christmas Spider** is the first book in “*The Critter Series*” of children’s books. It is a modernized version of a centuries-old Germanic piece of folklore about a Christmas spider and a rather unusual Christmas tradition.

If you would like your own copy, here is Hobie’s information:

Hard cover: ISBN 9780692943809

Soft cover: ISBN 9781733869430

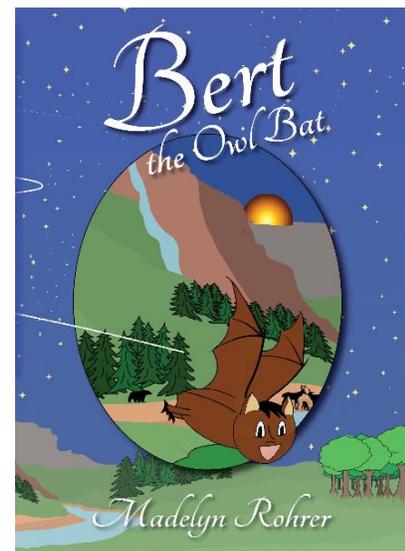
Ebook: ISBN 9781733869478

3x3-3/8” Glass ornament:

Only available through my website while they last.



**Hobie the Christmas Spider** was put on YouTube very late in 2019 as a special Christmas gift to children during the first winter of the covid pandemic and proved to be very popular... so popular, in fact, we are going to do it again with book number two in *The Critter Series*: **Bert the Owl Bat**.



Never heard of an owl bat? Well, that’s because there is only one. He is a little hero (about 2 or 2-1/2 inches tall), and he is going to be making his YouTube debut soon alongside of Hobie. Blue River Studio LLC in Elizabethton, Tennessee is almost finished wrapping up this new version of Bert as another free gift to children in its entirety.

If you have young children or friends/relatives with young children, sign on as a follower of my YouTube channel for a notification when Bert is launched on YouTube.

For your own copy of Bert:

Hard cover: ISBN 9781733869409  
Soft cover: ISBN 9781733869423  
Ebook: SKU 1733869484

3x3-3/8" Glass ornament:  
Only available through  
my website while they  
last.



To see the Hobie video, you can copy and paste this address into your browser to take you directly there:

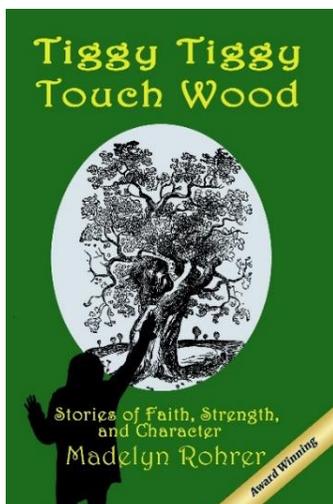
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVQDoJ-tc6o&t=183s>

- or you can simply search for:  
Stories by Madelyn Rohrer

That brings us to the third book in *The Critter Series*, which is currently being illustrated by a talented high school student as part of his senior project. **Eirennie the Dove of Peace** is the children's story of Noah's Ark, but from the perspective of the dove that brought the olive branch back to Noah. Eirennie should be in print by mid-July 2023.

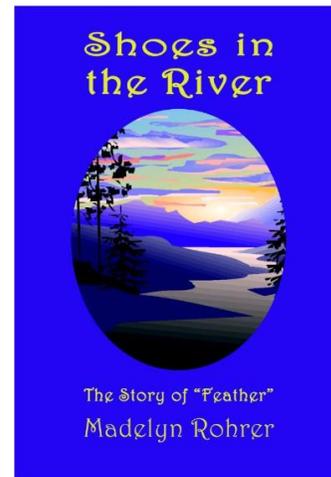
So what is happening in the grown-up world?

Lots!



A revised version of **Tiggy Touch Wood**, my first book of short stories, is in the process of being made into an audio book, once again by Blue River Studio. It includes ten feel-good stories with good moral values – warm listening for the winter days ahead. I am doing the narration and studio owner Tom Hitchcock is adding some of his own special sound effects. Tiggy should be up and running on Amazon's ACX audio book site in early January.

For a print version of Tiggy Tiggy Touch Wood:  
ISBN: 9781733869447



My first novel, **Shoes in the River, The Story of "Feather,"** underwent a revision in 2020 to lead into a sequel, and the sequel is under way. Both books are stand-alone novels, meaning you don't necessarily have to read **Shoes in the River** to enjoy its sequel, although you could if you want to meet some of the characters ahead of time.

"Shoes" takes you inside a fictional family in China and the upheaval and heartbreaks they experience during the years of the one-child-per-family edict. Whether you've been to China or not, or whether you have an interest in world events that involve China or not, the trials, perseverance, and human emotions of the Ming family are bound to touch your heart... and pull you into this previously veiled country, its people, and its role on the world stage.

For a print version of Shoes in the River (Third Edition): ISBN: 9781733869454

Why have I done a sequel? Readers wanted to know what happened to some of the characters. I have been

asked: “What happened to....?” and “What happened after that? Here is some pre-publication information:

### New Novel

?????  
Title and picture of cover  
currently in design

I am pleased to announce that my new novel is going to be published by Koehler Books, a rapidly-growing company based in Virginia Beach, founded and run by its President John Koehler. Being a member of three groups of dedicated writers - the Virginia Writers Club, the Appalachian Authors Guild, and the Lost State Writers Guild, I have gained an appreciation for publishers who work closely with their authors to create quality works. Koehler Books is one of those publishers and I am delighted to be working with them.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the publication process, I want to share with you that it goes along at a precisely laid-out schedule regarding what part of a book gets attention and when. The actual title and cover design are not given stamps of approval until all other aspects of a book have run the gamut of scrutiny. So I should be able to have an approved title and cover picture around March or April. Based on the current schedule, my publication date is set for July 18, 2023.

What I can tell you, however, is a little of the story!

Heo Wong is one of the twin sons of Bin and Yan Wong. He is on the doorstep of a promising career in medicine when he accidentally uncovers family secrets that cause his life to unravel...as well as the lives of those around him. Government mandates that never affected him suddenly become personal and life-changing. Walk with him as he continues to discover more of his true identity and the identities of his family.

Share the emotions of Heo and others as they work their way through disease outbreaks, treatments, incarcerations, persecution, a timely act of nature, and even a world sporting event. Empathize with the personal rejection and guilt of a time gone by, acceptance and forgiveness...and love. And on a larger scale, appreciate a people’s continual longing for change and the hope for personal freedoms.

While the characters are fictional, the scenarios in this new novel are true to life and well documented on the internet. China’s strictness and brutality in carrying out the mandates of its one-child-per-family edict did not go unnoticed by the rest of the world. Yes, we know that leaders and regimes in all countries come and go, as do their laws and policies, but we may never know the rippling effects that can go on for hundreds of years. So what about China? Just because they are the world’s most populous country, should they be held to a different standard than other countries? Does what happens in China really affect the rest of the world? You decide.



### Thanksgiving Trivia

*How important is pumpkin pie?  
Very important!*

In 1705, settlers in a town in Connecticut did not get their supply of molasses in time to make their Thanksgiving pies. The Connecticut River froze over and the ship carrying the sweet syrup from Europe could not get through. So what did they do? They delayed Thanksgiving, of course! When their ship came in a week later, Colchester, CT reinstated Thanksgiving and the baking began. A poem was written about the event and appeared in the July 1908 issue of Good Housekeeping:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/thanksgiving-ideas/a35457/thanksgiving-trivia>

-----

*Not only turkeys get pardoned!*

U. S. presidents receive a lot of token gifts while in office and they are usually acknowledged with a thank you note from a member of the staff. President Calvin Coolidge received one of the most unusual gifts of all in 1926 – a live raccoon to be served with his Thanksgiving dinner. It was sent to him by a lady in Nitta Yuma, Mississippi, who said raccoon has a “toothsome flavor.” But President Coolidge became too attached to the cute little animal. He pardoned it, named it Rebecca, and made it a pet.

First Lady Grace Coolidge also became very fond of Rebecca and shared the pet on the White House lawn with children at Easter.

Does anyone really eat raccoon for Thanksgiving? Yes. It was originally a Native American tradition and everyone who was gathered around for a feast sampled it. In times of hardship in our country, raccoon meat was a staple. It fed a lot of people who might have otherwise gone hungry. It was often served in restaurants and included in cookbooks.



## *A Christmas Story*

...And a bit of history from Madelyn Rohrer (based on information from multiple internet sources)

It was seven hundred years ago in Germany – long before there were any such things as automobiles, paved roads or electricity. If you wanted to go anywhere, you walked or rode a horse or a horse and buggy. If you wanted to see at night, it was by candlelight, a fire in the fireplace, or oil lamps.

\*\*\*

A man named Martin Luther was walking home one evening and his journey took him through a woods. As he walked along with the snow crunching beneath his boots and the smell of evergreens in the air, he happened to look up. It was one of those nights when there was not a cloud in the sky, just the light from thousands of stars shining down upon the earth. He was amused by the stars as they appeared to be playing hide and seek, disappearing and reappearing from behind the branches of trees as he walked by.

After a while, he reached a clearing and decided to stop and simply enjoy the beauty of the night. He looked up again at the stars. This time it seemed like those stars were actually sitting on the branches of the trees. *Surely, he thought, heaven and earth have to be connected in some way, even if it is just through the sheer beauty of God's creations.* And as he stood there, he felt peace...and joy.

When he got home, he tried to explain to his wife and children what he saw and how he felt, but they didn't understand. It was one of those "well, you just had to be there" experiences. So the next day, Martin Luther went out into the woods, cut down a small evergreen tree, and brought it into the house. Using hot wax, he attached candles to the branches – all the way around and from top to bottom. When it got dark, he lit the candles and extinguished the oil lamps...and the house was filled with oohs and aahs as his family finally realized what he was trying to describe.

You can almost imagine what happened next. His children went out and told their friends what their father had done. Then those friends told their parents. And pretty soon, the Luther home was filled every night with neighbors and people from the village wanting to see for themselves what a tree brought inside and decorated with lights was like. They loved it and wanted to do the same. It wasn't long before the entire village was aglow every night with the light from thousands of candles...and a tradition was born – a tradition that would spread throughout the rest of Germany, then to other countries in Europe, and eventually make its way to America where today we celebrate Christmas with a lighted tree.

So from starlight...to candlelight...to electric lights, may the beauty of the lighted Christmas tree fill your hearts and your homes with peace and joy, just like it did with that little village in Germany so many years ago.

*Merry Christmas Everyone!*



*Best Wishes for a Safe and Successful  
New Year*

*Madelyn Rohrer*

Note: If you have friends, relatives or co-workers whom you feel would enjoy my author newsletters, you can let me know through my website: [www.storytellermadelyrohrer.com](http://www.storytellermadelyrohrer.com).

Just click on the Contacts tab at the top of the home page and jot me a note in the email section. All I will need is their first and last name and their email address. Future newsletters will be sent out via a no-reply distribution company, so all email information will remain confidential.