

# Stories by Madelyn Rohrer

January/February 2023

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](#)

Twitter: [AuthorMadelynRohrer](#)



*Welcome to 2023!*

The new year has long been considered a time to “turn over a new leaf.” That is usually interpreted as breaking old habits, adopting new life styles, embarking on an exciting new venture that you’ve had simmering on the back burner for a while or, in many cases, making a list of “resolutions” to strive for in the new year.

But what does “turning over a new leaf” really mean?

It’s an expression from the 16<sup>th</sup> century that had to do with books, writing, and the printing industry. In a printed book, a page is one side of a sheet of paper, but a leaf is two pages – a front and a back. It meant that by turning over a new leaf, a writer would have two new pages to write on.

So whether you need a page or a leaf to list all of those new year’s resolutions, I hope that 2023 will be a year of good things happening for you!



*Congratulations...*

...to Carole Marks for her suggestion of “Madelyn’s Musings” for the name of my author newsletter. In my first issue, I invited readers to suggest a name for it, and many did. So thanks to all of you for your great ideas. Even though I had second thoughts and decided to keep it as it is, Carole’s suggestion seemed like a good title for a section at the end for meandering thoughts and stories.

So thank you, Carole. You have your choice of any of my books, including my new one (name announced on the next page) when it is released in July. Just let me know your choice.



*In The Spotlight:*

*Bert the Owl Bat*  
*is now available on YouTube!*

Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nb-IthPqDo>



Thank you to Blue River Studios LLC for creating the YouTube version of **Bert the Owl Bat**. Thank you also to Howard Rohrer and Tom Hitchcock for their additions of sounds and music.

**Bert the Owl Bat**, published in 2019, is book 2 of “The Critter Series.” Cover and illustrations are by Jerry Paulsen.

As a parent and grandparent, I know that children are curious and inquisitive. They like to ask questions, even if it is only “why?” The added information at the end of **Bert the Owl Bat** (compiled from on-line sources) is to assist parents and other adult readers with answers to questions most likely to be asked by

a child. One of my goals as an author is to write entertaining children's books with interesting educational material included.

For your own copy of Bert:

Hard cover: ISBN 9781733869409

Soft cover: ISBN 9781733869423

eBook: SKU 1733869484



## *Meet Eirennie!*



Eirennie is Noah's small but significant helper in book 3 of "The Critter Series," **Eirennie the Dove of Peace.**

She is cute, yes, but can be very serious while on her historic mission for Noah.

Collin Grape is the illustrator and plans to be finished with his work for a mid-

summer release with all original drawings. Way to go, Collin!



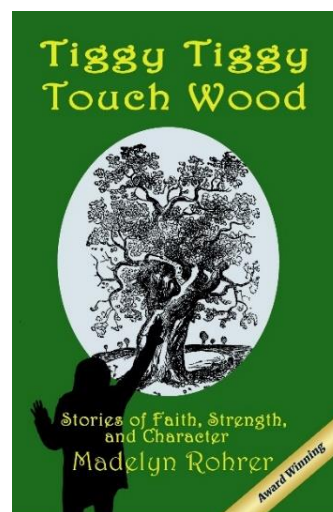
## *My new novel has a name!*

After considering several possibilities, the publisher has made a decision. My new book is going to be called:

## *Children of the Edict*

**Children of the Edict** is on schedule for a July 18<sup>th</sup> roll-out by publisher Koehler Books. It is the sequel to my 2015 novel **Shoes in the River**, which has undergone several changes to bring it into line with introducing a sequel. The most current version of **Shoes in the River** is the Third Edition printed in 2020. Several of the main characters in that book carry over to **Children of the Edict**.

Taking place in China beginning in 2002, you will meet one of the main characters on the first page – Dr. Heo Wong, whose life is about to be turned upside down. Born during the 35 tumultuous years of China's one-child-per-family edict, he was one of the fortunate ones to have a sibling – Jin, a twin brother. Twins was one of the few exceptions that allowed parents to have more than one child. Of the millions of children born during that time frame, few were as "lucky" as Heo and his parents. They enjoyed a normal, happy childhood. Then things changed.



There have been a few unexpected delays in getting the audio version of **Tiggy Tiggy Touch Wood** recorded. It will be finished in February and will include musical background sounds by Howard Rohrer on clarinet plus other interesting and unusual sounds by Blue River Studio LLC.

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



**Reminder:** If you have friends or relatives whom you feel would enjoy my author newsletters, you can let me know through my website:

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

## *Madelyn's Musings*

February is a month for love. Through the ages, nothing has been written about or sung about more than love. We all know that. But why is it attached to February 14<sup>th</sup>?

Historically, February 14<sup>th</sup>, AD 496 was established as the Feast of Saint Valentine by Pope Gelasius I in honor of Saint Valentine of Rome, who was imprisoned and ultimately martyred on February 14<sup>th</sup> AD 269 for performing weddings for soldiers forbidden to marry, and for ministering to Christians who were persecuted by the Roman Empire.

Romantically, it was in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century when courtly love flourished in Europe, thanks in large part to author Geoffrey Chaucer (Canterbury Tales). Three hundred years later, February 14<sup>th</sup> was chosen as an official day to celebrate love – to acknowledge one's affections with flowers, candy, gifts, and cards called "valentines."

Religiously, love is not necessarily about romance, but the love in our hearts for other people...all people. It is a way of life, a way of treating others. Depending on the translation, meaning, attitude, and description, the word love appears in The Bible between 361 and 645 times. Saint Paul described it well to the people in Corinthians over 2000 years ago, and his words are still quoted today:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV84)



### *The Blanket*

Victoria was 25 years old when she was on vacation in Mexico, strolling through the shopping district on a sunny day. As she walked past one vendor, a display of blankets caught her eye. She was drawn to one in particular – a heavy weave of blue, green, maroon, and white with an unusual design pattern. She picked it up...then put it back down. As much as she liked it, it would be too big and heavy to get home to New York without a lot of trouble. It would undoubtedly take up all the room in her suitcase.

But the vendor was not about to let a potential sale walk away. He followed her down the street, offering her a reduced price. Then another one. And another. Finally, there was no way she could pass up such a bargain. It was worth the effort to try to get it home *somehow*. To her surprise, it did fit into her suitcase, even with a little room to spare. She found room for the rest of her belongings in two smaller suitcases.

It was the beginning of a love affair...and a story. Whenever Victoria couldn't sleep for whatever reason, she would go to the linen closet and pull out her Mexican blanket. Its weight felt good on top of her other bedding; snuggling under its warmth did help her sleep. She called it her "magic blanket."

"It's magic," she told her young daughter one night when she was frightened by a storm. "Let me put this over you. It will keep you safe so you can sleep." It worked. Her daughter believed the story and fell off to sleep. She did the same thing several years later with her son. No, it wasn't magic, of course, but he believed it was. Even though Victoria was a strong proponent of honesty with her children, a fictional story about a magic blanket felt strangely permissible. The "magic" *was* real. It had the ability to provide comfort.

That was thirty years ago. Now Victoria is involved in the needs of her aging mother who has heart issues and is on blood thinners. "I just can't seem to get warm," her mother said one day.

Victoria immediately thought about her magic blanket. "I think I can help with that," she said, and brought the blanket to her mother's house. "I'm giving you my magic blanket, Mother. It will help you sleep."

"Oh, sure," her mother said with a smile.

"Just try it. You will see what I mean."

Her mother tried it that night. The added weight kept her warm and comfortable. She slept well.

And Victoria slept well too, knowing that her mother was covered with her magic blanket – the same blanket that comforted herself and her children through the years. *Yes, it is alright to stretch the truth sometimes, she assured herself. It's just a story, but it is told in love.*

(A true story, told with permission)

*Madelyn Rohrer*