



Media Kit | Press Package

Included (in order):
Press Release
One Page Information
Book Excerpt
Author Biography (3 options)
Feature Article for use (Lifestyle Article)
Endorsements/Reviews
Suggested Interview Questions
Author Q & A
Author Head Shot
Book Cover

M.A. Senft

M.A. | Senft

PRESS RELEASE

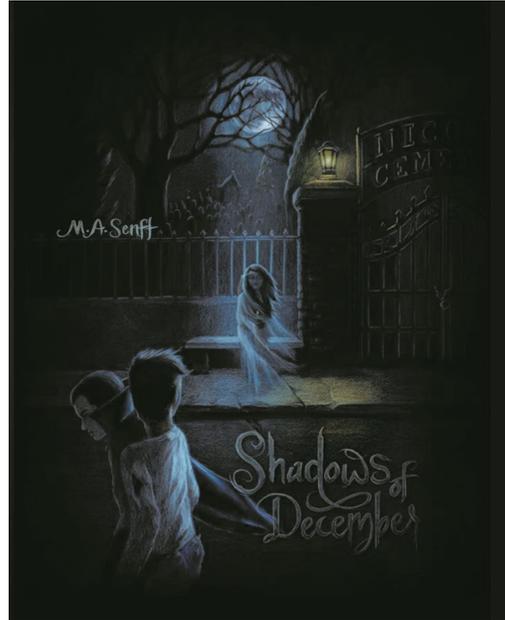
New Book reveals the fate of Mankind on Earth

For Immediate Release

February 20, 2020 Indianapolis, Indiana USA

Shadows of December: Illusions of Time, the space-time fantasy fiction of new author MA Senft, illustrates the devastating ramifications that our decisions can have on the future of life as we know it on earth through the fantasy of time and dimensional travel.

At a time when the future of our planet feels to hang in the balance, this brand new book touches on the issues of the day questioning our ethics and morality, spirituality and the weight of our daily choices told through the eyes of a self-centered teenager who learns that his life decisions greatly impact the future of humanity.



Jay, a 14-year-old boy living in the small sleepy town of Lake Itasca, Minnesota finds himself face-to-face with the fate of the earth when an angel arrives and takes him on a journey through time and space to a future he never could have imagined, upending his self-absorbed unscrupulous life.

Based on real science questions of today, such as global warming, gene splicing, new ways of finding power and the politics that surround all of them, Jay is forced to reevaluate what is important while journeying through space and realities never imagined.

Shadows of December: Illusions of Time is an engrossing and entertaining read with global themes and significance that is ideal for both adolescents and adults

About MA Senft

MA Senft is a grandmother known to her family as an incredible cook but she is a fresh new author with stories and ideas ready to spill out onto the page. This book was a labor of love with every character a nod to her children and grandchildren in a tale she has been telling and retelling in various forms to them as a bedtime story since her grandchildren were quite small. MA Senft was inspired to put the tale into print form as a lasting memoir for her family by her oldest grandchild and namesake for her main character, Jay. Randy, M.A.'s brother, encouraged her to release her book to the public. He was captivated with the tale and insisted it should be shared. In his honor the book is dedicated.

Published by iUniverse and distributed by Ingraham Book Distribution. Available at local bookstores and online at www.masenft.com or major online retailers such as Amazon.com and Barnes&Noble.com

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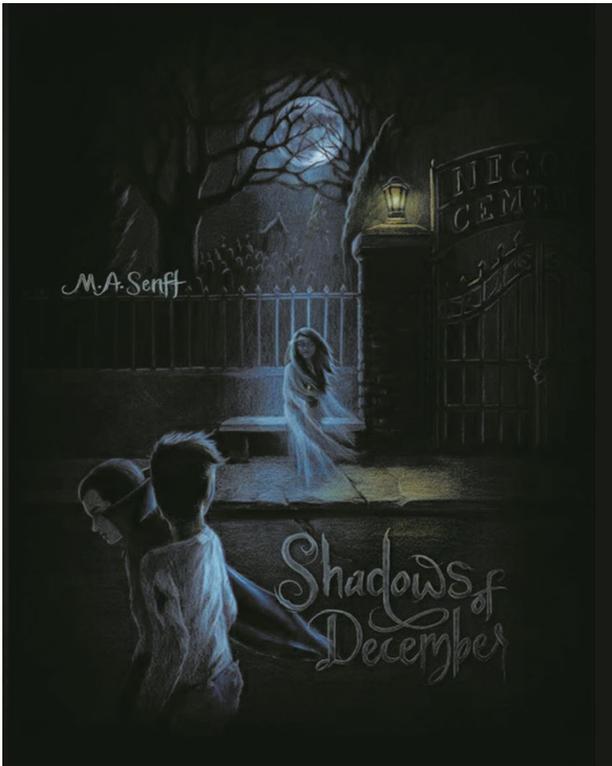
If you'd like more information about *Shadows of December*, or to schedule an interview with MA, please contact herb@masenft.com.

#shadowsofdecember #masenft

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M.A. | Senft

ONE-SHEET
INFORMATION



Title: Shadows of December

Author: MA Sneft

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About the Author

A grandmother who has been making up stories for her children and grandchildren forever, MA Senft is a fresh new author with fantasy and science fiction stories ready to spill out onto the page. Her newest book, *Shadows of December* was a labor of love with every character a nod to her children and grandchildren in a tale she has been telling and retelling in various forms as a bedtime story since her grandchildren were quite small. She was inspired to put the tale into print as a lasting memoir for her family by her oldest grandchild and namesake for her main character, Jay.

Shadows of December

Illusions of Time

Jay, a 14-year-old boy living in the small sleepy town of Lake Itasca, Minnesota finds himself face-to-face with the fate of the earth when an angel arrives and takes him on a journey through time and space to a future he never could have imagined, upending his self-absorbed devious life.

Based on real science questions of today, such as global warming, gene splicing, new ways of finding power and the politics that surround all of them. Jay is forced to reevaluate what is important as the book illustrates the devastating ramifications our decisions can have on the future of life, as we know it on earth through the fantasy of time and dimensional travel.

Selling Points

- Engrossing and entertaining read with current global themes and significance
- Ideal for both adolescents and adults
- Based on real science questions of today

Endorsements

I enjoyed reading Shadows of December. I liked the moral message it brings to the reader. The decisions we make do affect others in the present and future.

~ Anna J. | Louisville, Kentucky

A real page turner. I couldn't wait to see what happened next!

~ Jeff F. | San Antonio, Texas

Get in Touch

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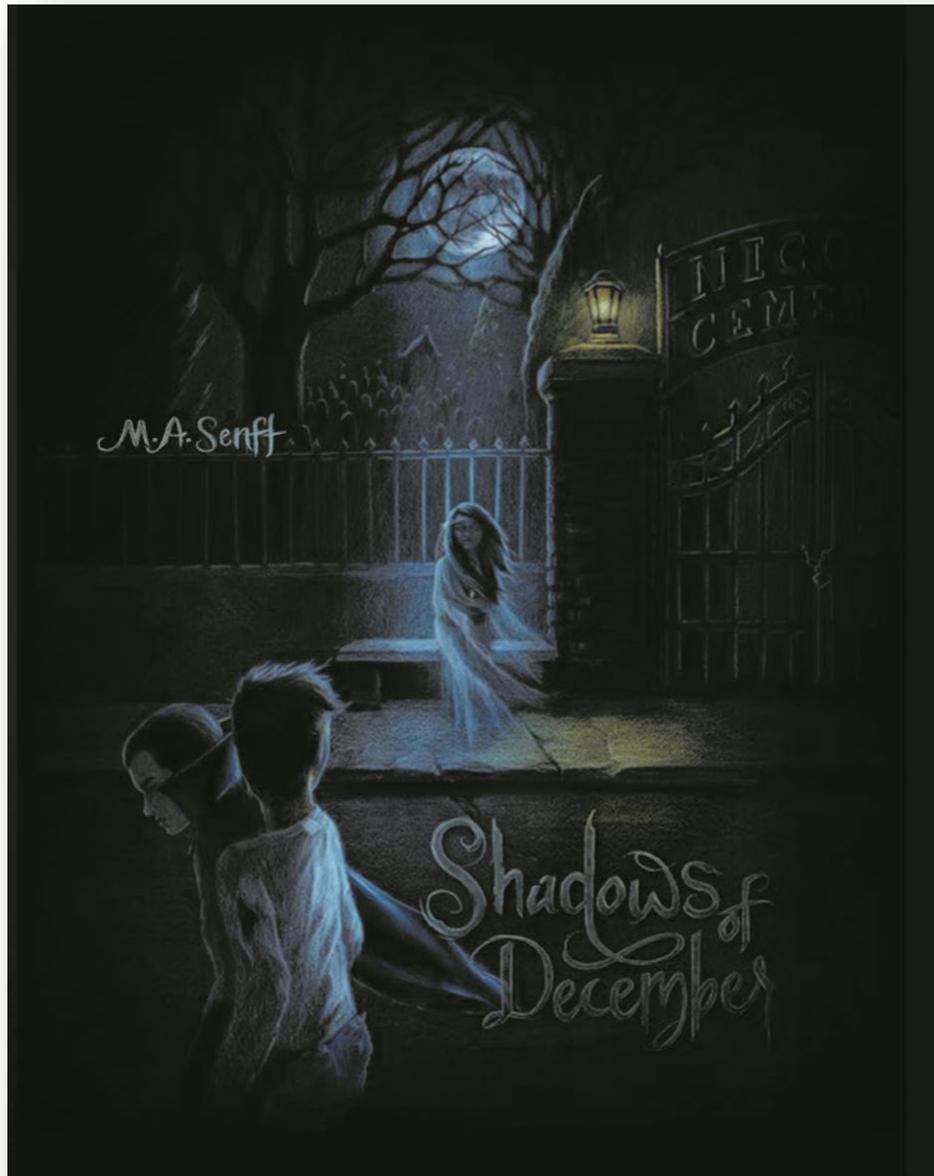


M.A. | Senft

BOOK EXCERPT

Shadows of December

Illusions of Time



Written by M.A. Senft

From Chapter 31

A New Kind of Christmas

It wasn't until Jay saw a large, deep crater, miles off in the distance, that it dawned on him what she meant. "What is that over there?" he asked fearfully, pointing to what appeared to be an enormous, endless basin. With his heart caught in his throat, he waited for her to reply. Convinced he was looking at an ancient lakebed, he prayed he was mistaken.

"You don't recognize it?" Danielle scoffed. "That's Lake Itasca! We're not too far from where your home used to stand."

"This is Lake Itasca?" Jay cried, hardly able to choke down her words. He gawked out the windows at the abandoned buildings and barren landscape on the other side of the glass. Jay probed for a more reasonable explanation than the one Danielle had given. There were a few clusters of trees off in the distance but nothing like the dense, lush green forest he was accustomed to seeing in and around Lake Itasca.

"This isn't Lake Itasca!" Jay insisted, refusing to believe what Danielle had imparted. "Nothing about this place resembles the place I live. Why do you tell me this? When you know it's not true! You're lying." Jay's face looked like he might pass out. "You're trying to scare me."

The quaint small town that fringed Lake Itasca had vanished from existence, along with the enormous body of water the town was named after. Woods and meadows—gone. Replaced by countless ruins dotting a bleak landscape. If this indeed was Christmas Day, in no way did it resemble the place he had awakened to that morning.

Danielle spoke in a matter-of-fact tone, "Your hometown wasn't so special. You said so yourself. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Haven't you heard? Your Lake Itasca isn't any more unique than these people's version of it."

Jay snapped, feeling paralyzed at the thought he was standing in Lake Itasca. He didn't appreciate Danielle spewing his words back in his face. "Do I look stupid to you? No way is this Lake Itasca! And you're not going to convince me otherwise!" "I wouldn't dream of it," Danielle challenged with a gleam in her eye. She knew his ignorance would turn to knowledge soon enough. A pleasant surprise it would not be. But until then, Jay could hold tight to his version of reality.

Nothing about this place resembled Jay's hometown, and he wasn't about to buy into a story designed to frighten him. "For some reason, you are bent on upsetting me! Don't

you think you've done enough?" Jay spat. "I demand you take me back. This very instant."

Jay wasn't about to let his guard down. Although he looked as if he would crumble, Danielle was certain he would not. To appear anything less than a man, albeit a young one, was not about to happen.

"What you don't know is that within one century of your time, a severe imbalance took place, largely caused by humans. Lack of respect for the planet and overuse of resources brought devastating droughts in some places and catastrophic floods in others. Humankind's day of reckoning had arrived."

Danielle gazed out across the landscape. "You see the aftermath before you. It was an unspeakable time of loss. However, discovery rose from the rubble." She smiled. "People here live by the slogan 'You can do the impossible when you've been through the unimaginable.'"

"I don't understand," Jay said in a low voice. Feeling ignorant, he tried to clarify his remark. "I mean weather doesn't have this kind of power. How could it cause a transformation on this scale?"

Jay surveyed the land and felt sickened by what he saw. "Are you telling me, for real, that I've moved forward in time?" Jay's eyes widened. "Like a real time-traveler?" His mind visited one of his comic books, recalling a fictional scientist that had figured out how to move forward and backward in time. Comic books were make-believe, but Danielle was telling him that he had crossed time barriers to end up here. Jay had no way of reconciling this in his head.

Danielle stared deep into Jay's eyes, leaving no doubt that what she was telling him was, indeed, the truth. "The abuse was a prescription for extinction." Her face was grim. "Toxic bacteria got released that had been previously buried in permafrost. From species that had died off millions of years earlier. Sadly, that was only the beginning. Mother Earth is equipped to take care of herself. And that she did. When glaciers started melting in the early twenty-first century, sea levels rose, destroying many large coastal cities. Tornadoes, fires, hailstorms, and hurricanes on a scale you cannot imagine eradicated entire regions."

With her hand on Jay's back, Danielle gently nudged him through the door. Outside the building she said, "Greed is how it all started. The rest was a trickle-down effect. No one really paid much attention to the rising temperatures and increasing storms at the start. But that soon changed when catastrophic weather became more widespread and billions of people lost their lives. Triggered displacements and deplorable living conditions inescapably led to all-out worldwide mayhem."

Danielle continued her narrative, taking in the streets and the crowds moving through them. "The globe is noticeably warmer than it was in your day. Winter season

temperatures range seventeen degrees higher on average than in 1947. There is no measurable snowfall. It's nearly always above freezing. A pretty big difference from back then." She looked to Jay to see if her words had sunk in. She could tell they had.

"During summer months, there is even a greater temperature gap. Much drier conditions, a consequence of escalated evaporation years ago. Precipitation patterns are erratic at best. Many lakes have shrunk to almost nothing or have evaporated entirely. When it does snow, it snows heavily but melts quickly because of the warm ground temperatures. Rains often turn into downpours."

"I can't take all of this in. It's too fantastical." Jay felt stunned by what she claimed had happened in the past. He was clinging to the thread of hope his situation wasn't permanent, that it would, indeed, revert backward in time—hopefully to the instant before the trapdoor appeared on his radar. Before he climbed down the hole.

"You'll find out soon enough that what I've shared is unfortunately true." They stood on the steps, watching the crowds move about. Danielle led Jay down to the street. "These poor people inherited your violated, ravished world. One destroyed by amoral acts of utter selfishness."

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Praise from Early Readers

As a professional editor, I found this book to be well-written, well-paced and very intriguing.

~ Grace M. | Louisville, Kentucky

I finished your book at 1:00am. It was terrific. My husband now has it to read. When he's finished I am going to read it again. It appealed to my spiritual side and my beliefs philosophically. It made me smile, it made me cry, and it scared the be-jeezus out of me.

~ Dusty F. | Indianapolis, Indiana

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Learn More about *Shadows of December*:

<https://www.masenft.com/shadows-of-december>

Fun Facts about *Shadows of December*:

<https://www.masenft.com/fun-facts-about-shadows-of-december>

Get to know the inspiration behind the characters and more:

<https://www.masenft.com/blog-1>

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I see the learned man in what you say!

What you don't touch, for you lies miles away;

What you don't grasp, is wholly lost to you;

What you don't reckon, you believe not true;

What you don't weigh, that has for you no weight;

What you don't coin, you're sure is counterfeit.

—Goethe, *Faust II*

M.A. Senft

M.A. | Senft

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY
(3 OPTIONS)

Short Bio: A grandmother known for her anecdotes, MA Senft is a fresh new author with fantasy and science fiction stories ready to spill out onto the page.

Medium Bio: A grandmother known for her anecdotes, MA Senft is a fresh new author with fantasy and science fiction stories ready to spill out onto the page. Her newest science fiction book, *Shadows of December* is a tale she has been retelling her family as a bedtime story for years.

Long Bio: A grandmother who has been making up stories for her children and grandchildren forever, MA Senft is a fresh new author with fantasy and science fiction stories ready to spill out onto the page. Her newest book, *Shadows of December* was a labor of love with every character a nod to her children and grandchildren in a tale she has been telling and retelling in various forms as a bedtime story since her grandchildren were quite small. She was inspired to put the tale into print as a lasting memoir for her family by her oldest grandchild and namesake for her main character, Jay.

M.A. | Senft

FEATURE ARTICLE
(LIFESTYLE ARTICLE)

From Bedtime Stories to the Social Conscience of Today

New Author MA Senft takes on the fate of Mankind on Earth in her novel Shadows of December

At a time when the future of our planet feels to hang in the balance, who would have thought that a book dealing with the social, ethical and moral issues that surround our future would come from a cheerful grandma known for her amazing baking and cooking skills in the kitchen? Brand new author, MA Senft, known to her grandchildren as "Mott", offers up a poignant tale that touches on the issues of the day questioning our principles and the weight of our daily choices told through the eyes of a self-centered teenager who learns that his life decisions greatly impact the future of humanity.

The basis of her science fiction fantasy came from a much-loved bedtime story she used to tell her grandchildren. Jay, her the oldest grandchild, used to ask for a bedtime story whenever he spent the night. MA started making up tales based upon a smart-alecky kid who is taken to the future to entertain him.

As Jay grew older, the main character's adventures to the future became more fanciful, largely based on MA's love of the Twilight Zone. Often, they would cozy up on a swing outside in the evening long after the other children had gone to bed with a flashlight. The story changed and transformed over the years, always with the same premise, the characters and scenery growing and mutating. As MA came across new scientific ideas, such as stem cell advancements and climate change, new creatures and inventions based upon the science of today made their way into the version that would eventually become the book *Shadows of December*.

In a nod to all of her cherished family, MA has based every character in the book on a child or grandchild...she even included herself as the spunky matriarch of the main family. The main character, named after Jay, is a 14-year-old boy living in the small sleepy town of Lake Itasca, Minnesota. He finds himself face-to-face with the fate of the earth when an angel arrives and takes him on a journey through time and space to 2363, a future he never could have imagined, upending his self-absorbed life. Jay is forced to reevaluate what is important as the book illustrates the devastating ramifications our decisions can have on the future of life as we know it on earth through the fantasy of time and dimensional travel.

Originally, MA Senft thought *Shadows of December* would only be entertaining to her grandchildren. Jay encouraged her to put the story down in print so the family could enjoy it for generations to come. It was her brother Randy, who read the first copy of her story, which insisted she release the tale to the world. As he said, "This is too entertaining and heartfelt to keep to yourself: you need to share this story with the world."

From a whimsical bedtime story to science fiction novel that speaks to the conscience of our future, MA Senft has found an interesting way to discuss the implications of our actions today on the science discoveries and advancements of tomorrow.

Get your copy of [Shadows of December](http://www.masenft.com) at www.masenft.com or at your local bookstore.

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M.A. Senft

ENDORSEMENTS
REVIEWS

As a professional editor, I found this book to be well-written, well-paced and very intriguing.

~ Grace M. | Louisville, Kentucky

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~ Dusty F. | Indianapolis, Indiana

I enjoyed reading Shadows of December. I liked the moral message it brings to the reader. The decisions we make do affect others in the present and future.

~ Anna J. | Louisville, Kentucky

*Finished you book late last night. Couldn't put it down. VERY IMPRESSIVE!
I see a movie in your future.*

~ Andrea M. | Fishers, Indiana

A real page turner. I couldn't wait to see what happened next!

~ Jeff F. | San Antonio, Texas

M.A. | Senft

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW
QUESTIONS

AUTHOR Q & A

Suggested Interview Questions

1. This was apparently a bedtime story you told your grandchildren? What inspired you to put it into print?
2. You dedicate the book to your brother Randy; is there a story behind this?
3. I understand Randy once asked you if Jay knew you had made him so churlish as a character? What prompted you to make Jay such a impish and self-absorbed teenager?
4. Food seems to be a major part of the book – lots of mentions of specific cuisine – why was it important to highlight things like scones, tea-rings and other baked goods in the book?
5. You seem to purposely jump around in time throughout the book. It is not a straight line from past to present to future: what was the inspiration behind writing in such a way?
6. How did the characters of your book *Shadows of December* come to be based upon your children and grandchildren?
7. Different family members inspire all of your characters: are you in the book as one of your characters as well? Who do you relate to?
8. Why did you choose to base the story in 1947?
9. A large part of your story takes place in 2364: why choose that date? What was the most challenging part about writing for a futurist world?
10. Danielle seems to be an Angel that grapples with human emotions and frustrations, why is that?
11. Your writing seems to be a mix of spiritual fantasy and sci-fi time travel: what inspired you to combine the two genres?
12. Are there any lessons you hope your readers learn from this book?
13. Will there be a sequel?
14. Why start writing at this point in your life?

Author Q&A

Why did you choose to base the story in 1947?

I was a small child in the 1940's; it was a simpler time....I remember sitting around the table listening to the radio with my family and thinking the world had so much potential. It was just after the war and everyone was hopeful for the future. There was massive expansion industrially

How did the characters of your book *Shadows of December* come to be based upon your children and grandchildren?

I have been creating and recreating this story to entertain and delight my grandchildren since they were small. Using them as the characters helped keep them fascinated with the story as they could recognize parts of themselves in the personas created for them. This is a favorite cozy-up-before-bedtime-with-flashlight story that found its way to print.

***Shadows of December* is a bedtime story you told your grandchildren: What inspired you to put it into print?**

My oldest grandson, Jay, the inspiration behind the main character of the book, inspired me to write the tale down as a memoir for the family. He loved it growing up and always asked for me to regale him with it. It was at his prodding and at the insistence of my brother Ray, who read the first completed version of the book, that I published it.

A large part of your story takes place in 2363: why choose that date? What was the most challenging part about writing for a futurist world?

The hardest part was that while this story is fiction, I wanted it based a bit on fact. I am a huge science nerd and love reading articles about new technology and science, like that of gene-splicing, stem cell advancement, new energy sources, climate

change, etc. These concepts really dominated my writing and I found myself constantly wondering what the world would be like in 300 years if some of these ideas went unchecked? That thought process led me to the world the characters visit in 2363.

Danielle seems to be an Angel that grapples with human emotions and frustrations, why is that?

I wanted Danielle to be just as relatable a character as any of the others in the book. We often view Angels and spirits as “all knowing serene beings” and I thought that seemed rather boring. I thought that it must be difficult helping people cross over from this realm to the next. Why not make Danielle a creature that continues to learn in the next life? A being that is compassionate, kind, but also fiery and a little mischievous as well. I think we can all empathize with her throughout the book; which helps to make the fantasy more genuine.

Your writing seems to be a mix of spiritual fantasy and sci-fi time travel: what inspired you to combine the two genres?

That’s lovely, isn’t it? Mixing it all up and smashing the two together? It may come from my love of the Twilight Zone: there are many topics in that television series that walked the line between spiritual fantasy and science fiction. Many scientists, including Einstein, were huge believers in God and the unending probabilities of the universe. I think I consider myself open to all the possibilities of what might happen after we die: the last great mystery. I love the idea that things like time travel, changing dimensions and places, etc. could be so easy once we pass through the veil of death. At the same time, science and technology are constantly growing and changing: there is no reason why some of the ideas that seem preposterous today couldn’t be realities tomorrow.

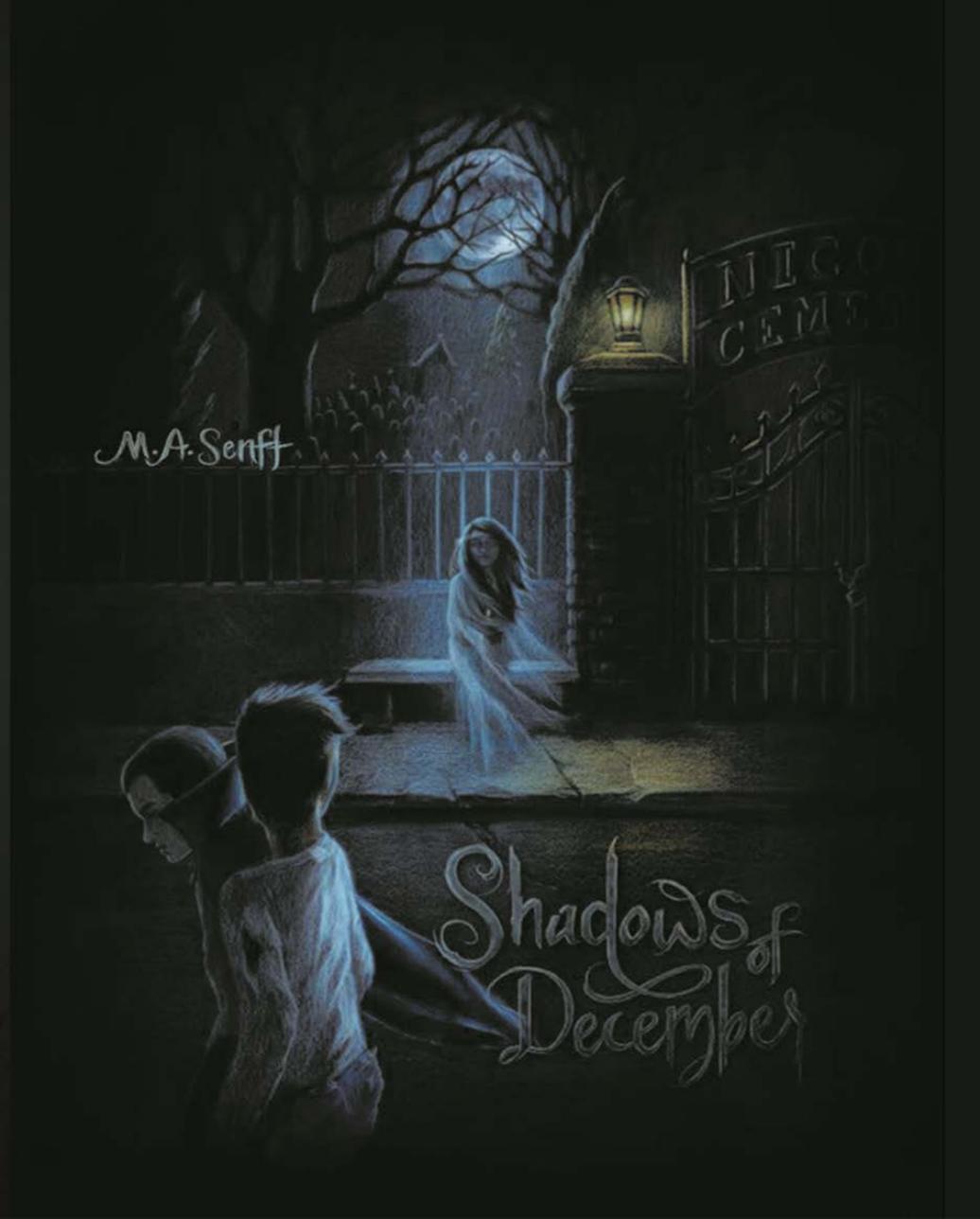
Are there any lessons you hope your readers learn from this book?

1) The grass isn't always greener and 2) be grateful for what you have currently...we all fall prey to thinking our lives are mundane and find ourselves wanting a life that is more exciting, lavish, extravagant, but at what cost? Decisions we make today can have a profound effect on others in the future. It's important to weigh out all of the outcomes before making decisions. Jay learns this the hard way and I hope that it will act as a warning to all those who read the book as well.

Will there be a sequel?

My grandchildren are all asking me the same question! There are quite a few unanswered questions at the end of the story and several characters that deserve a closer look. I think a sequel is definitely forming in my head. Right now, the characters of my current book *The Unseen Player* are dominating my thoughts, so I'm afraid a sequel will have to wait until they have all had their say, but after they all make their way to the page, perhaps!





M.A. Senff

Shadows of
December