



## A story of generations

*Gentle Spirits* follows Samuel and Angelique through nature in many forms while they navigate the challenges of growing into an adult world full of uncertainty.

Samuel's mother passes on following his birthing. His father, Firestone, raises Samuel alone, teaching him the peace of fishing and the joy of fresh dirt in his hands while tending vinifera on a small farm in the hills of Northern Michigan. Seasonally, father and son travel to the Georgia coast, where Samuel learns to swim and sail the Atlantic off St. Simons Island.

As a young girl, Angelique loses her father to the perils of sailing the Caribbean Sea. Marie, her native Carib mother carries Angelique to safety amongst the wild horses on Cumberland Island in post WWII Georgia.

In the wake of a hurricane, their lives are forever altered. A simple adolescence on the barrier Islands off the Georgia coast and on the streams and in the forests of Northern Michigan is shattered by societal pressures of the late 1960's, and the turmoil of the Vietnam War, though a seed has been cast.

Journey with Samuel and Angelique and experience the grace of dolphins and wild horses on Cumberland Island; birds, dogs, butterflies, brook trout, and grapevines in Northern Michigan; trout-fishing in Spearfish Canyon; dogs and sheep on a Montana ranch; breathtaking duck migrations in the Canadian Provinces - and a deeper meaning in the aura of a mountain in the Black Hills. With each step, our intrepid pair search for meaning in the great circle of life, finally understanding that as long as a soul remains in memory, a spirit never dies.

"Tom Conlan's *Gentle Spirits* pulls the reader into the story from the first page. The characters and settings come alive with description and pacing that is *just right* as the story banks and turns. "*Just one more chapter*" quickly turns into a binge-read. Conlan's deft storytelling touch is hard to resist as we follow Samuel and Angelique and the rest of the cast and pull hard for them all to find their way." Michael K. Brantley, author of *Galvanized* and *Memory Cards*

### About the Author

Tom Conlan lives, writes, and tends his modest grapevines on a small farm in the highlands of northern Michigan. His prose and poetry has appeared in numerous literary journals, as well as *Michigan Trout Magazine*. His lyrical memoir *My Journey Begins Where the Road Ends...* was released in June 2017 (Mission Point Press, Amazon.)

Tom attended the Iowa Writer's Workshop, holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Queens University of Charlotte and a Master of Science from the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey, California.

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