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FEATURED

TOP STORY

Author Sharon Brubaker weaves magical tales in Cecil County

By Kris Kielich kkielich@chespub.com 8 hrs ago



Author Sharon Brubaker writes mysteries that take place in Cecil County.

Photo Courtesy of David E. Moore and Sharon Brubaker

ELKTON — Mystery, romance, and a bit of the supernatural may not be what one thinks of when they think of Cecil County, but to novelist Sharon Brubaker, this area is a setting for all of that and a lot more.

Brubaker, who moved to Cecil County after living in Pennsylvania, has been writing since she could

put pen to paper.

"I remember writing a story about my Troll doll in second grade," said Brubaker.

Working as a librarian and studying for her master's degree, Brubaker decided to take a break from studying and focus on a lifelong dream.

"I really wanted to get into fiction writing," she said, "and I knew no one was going to write a book for me."

So between studying, Brubaker worked on the series that's become her most recognizable, the "Green Man" series, which is entirely set in Cecil County. While all the location names have been changed in the books, locals will likely recognize many of the places portrayed. With six books planned overall and three completed, Brubaker knows these books are a part of her.

"It's a mystery series with a little bit of magic and romantic suspense in it," said Brubaker. "I used to have dreams about this Green man walking next to me and after researching it, I found out he's a pretty universal archetype. You can see his image in the history of every culture."

But Brubaker certainly isn't a one trick pony. Not only has she continued work on this series, but she's also delved into the worlds of adult romantic fiction and history.

"A friend of mine wanted me to write something a little steamier, so I wrote a paranormal romance, 'Between Earth and Sea,' about a Selkie, or seal woman. That's definitely an R-rated book, whereas the 'Green Man' series is more PG," said Brubaker.

And she currently is working on a historical novel about sea glass, which she likes to make into jewelry.

For authors, what makes a good mystery, or a good romance, or a good story in general differs, but Brubaker knows that the stories that endure from her youth impact her writing now.

"I'm one of those kids that always loved fairy tales and I'm all about the story, and I want a good ending," said Brubaker.

Combined with her interest in the environment, Brubaker said her "Green Man" series comes quite naturally to her and she's going to continue on, but has so many future ideas it's hard to keep track.

"I'll never be bored. I have more books in my head than I could write in my whole life," said Brubaker.

And so Cecil County continues to foster a sense of wonder and mystery. For those who'd like to follow along, Brubaker has travel guides based on her books available at The Palette & The Page in Elkton and on her website, sharon-brubaker.com.

Nothing like a little real life mystery from the mystery novelist herself.