

Man Inherits a Mystery

Man inherits — and publishes — silver rush thriller/suspense manuscript 108 years in the making

WHAT: YA Fiction Western suspense/romance: *To Swallow the Earth*

WHO: Multicultural author Karl Beckstrand

WHERE: PremioPublishing.com, Amazon/Kindle, Baker & Taylor, Barnes & Noble/Nook, Deisel, EBSCO, Follett/Title Wave, Ingram, iBooks, Kobo, Mackin, Sony

MORE INFO: What if you came home after a journey and your family was no longer there? What if someone else was living in your house and running what you used to manage? What if they tried to kill you when you showed up?

Wade Forester must stay in the shadows because, it seems, everyone has reason to shoot him. His father has disappeared, and his sister won't speak a word to anyone. Beautiful Patricia Laughlin is searching for her family as well. Few people gain her trust or approval, though powerful landowner Bridger Calhoun just might be the man to do it.

After a clash throws them to opposite sides, Wade must decide if risking his life to help Patricia is worth the trouble. Bridger must win Patricia's heart, and Patricia must learn which killer to trust with her life.

Set in Nevada's silver rush, and reminiscent of Twain, the writing comes from intimate knowledge of the era and area. Having lived off the land, Wilcox depended on his wit, grit, and strength—and that of his animals—for survival, just as these characters do. Wilcox and Beckstrand weave authentic detail and care for the land and its creatures into a mystery that will make your heart pound and fill your lungs with the “rarefied air” of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Comes with additional short story. Family safe (ages 14 & up), diverse characters, 54,000 words, 210 pages, 5.25”x8” paperback, simultaneously published as *A Sky So Big* (also an ebook and audiobook, YA western suspense/romance). Premio Publishing (worldwide rights July 2015) **PremioPublishing.com**, Baker & Taylor, BN, EBSCO, Follett, Ingram, Mackin, Quality Books, Kindle/Amazon.com, Sony, iTunes, Kobo, Diesel, and select retailers. Written by Ransom Wilcox & Karl Beckstrand. LCCN: 2015937400, FIC002000, FIC030000, FIC033000, FIC056000, FIC059000, FIC027270, FIC022070, FIC027230, FIC027110, JUV001010, JUV002000, JUV028000, JUV029000, ISBN: 978-0692436394, ebook ISBN: 978-1311882387

STORY IDEA:

MIDVALE, Utah, May 22, 2015 -- What would you do if you came across an unpublished mystery manuscript by a dead author? If it was good, you might just publish it. That's what publisher Karl Beckstrand did when he inherited the silver rush thriller from his grandfather.

“It was typed and ready for submission to publishers,” Beckstrand said. But while the story, set in 1880s Nevada, was gripping, “there were holes in the plot and the characters needed to be fleshed out some more.”

Because Beckstrand's author-grandfather had grown up in the back country of Northern California in the early days of the last century "his writing was filled with intense action, but also a real care for the land and its creatures," Beckstrand said.

Being careful not to destroy the story's folksy vernacular, Beckstrand decided to fill the gaps and burnish it a bit. "The language practically vibrated with authenticity," Beckstrand said. "I really wanted to preserve that as I worked on it. I think it came out wonderfully."

The result: "To Swallow the Earth," by Ransom Wilcox. "It's a thriller and a romance about man and a woman, each searching for missing family members, who clash amid a Nevada silver rush scheme that leaves both unsure who to trust — and scrambling to stay alive," Beckstrand said.

"While it has the hardened male players you'd expect in a story about that era," Beckstrand said, "it also has a strong female lead character." Beckstrand is proud of his grandfather's inclusion of a gutsy woman.

Beckstrand, who has more than 20 published titles, kept his grandfather's name on the western novel. "I think it's kind of fun that 108 years after his life's adventure began, my grandfather's mystery has been published," he said.

Wilcox also has a book of short stories on the fanciful reminiscences of his early, rugged years in the Sacramento Valley and Sierra Nevada Mountains: "Horse & Dog Adventures in Early California." Both books may be found via <http://www.PremioPublishing.com>, Baker & Taylor, Barnes & Noble/NOOK, Amazon.com/Kindle, iTunes, Follett, Ingram, Mackin and select booksellers.

More quotes: Of his grandfather Beckstrand said, "His family ranched and hunted in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Once, when the hunter became the prey -- of a charging wild boar -- my grandfather stuck a pole he was carrying into the ground and climbed straight up to safety."

On another occasion, Beckstrand's grandfather was saved from a deadly boar by the family dog, an Australian shepherd named Blue. When Blue was later injured in an unrelated accident, Beckstrand's grandfather was able to turn the tables and save the dog with an emergency amputation. "That three-legged mountain dog was kind of a celebrity after that," Beckstrand said.

Company Information

Premio Publishing & Gozo Books has been delighting readers since 2004. Our multicultural app, non-fiction stories and biographies, ebook mysteries, and activity books (geography, astronomy, bilingual and Spanish books with pronunciation guide, animals and nature, and a kid's cookbook) have diverse characters in funny, engaging, vivid color. Nationally-lauded (*ForeWord Reviews*, Horn Book blog, *School Library Journal*, Kirkus Reviews) our educational stories capture attention and create repeat readers. Not about ethnic or racial diversity, they simply feature black, white, Asian, Hispanic and mixed-race characters--with family values like courage, sharing, and giving. Find our books via: Baker & Taylor, Barnes & Noble/Nook, Brodart, EBSCO, Follett/Title Wave, Ingram, Kindle/Amazon, Mackin, Overdrive, Quality Books, Sony/iBooks/Kobo/Android, and Premiobooks.com (FREE online books); a gift of laughter, learning & family fun for ages 2 and up. <https://www.facebook.com/PremioBooks>

"She Doesn't Want the Worms - Ella no quiere los gusanos" was named in the top 10 "Best Books" of 2011 – ForeWord Reviews Magazine and featured in School Library Journal.

"Crumbs on the Stairs - Migas en las escaleras: A Mystery" consistently ranks in Amazon's top 10 bestselling books for ESL, large print, and also Spanish children's titles.

"Bad Bananas: A Story Cookbook for Kids" was praised in Horn Book's blog review.

Bilingual app "Sounds in the House" was highlighted by Kirkus Reviews.

Ransom Wilcox was born in Taber, Alberta, Canada, in 1907. Because he was sickly, it was suggested that the family move to California. They bought land in Vina, north of Chico, but financial hardship forced them to move in search of work. They farmed, tended livestock, and did a lot of hunting and fishing in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Once, to escape a charging boar, Wilcox stuck a pole he was carrying in the ground and climbed up!

One season the family lived in a tent while the men worked cutting hay. Another year, Wilcox joined his father and brothers in Arizona, building a school on an American Indian reservation. Many elements of Wilcox's stories come from his early experiences.

In 1943 he enlisted in the army. After the war, the Great Depression, and a divorce, Wilcox finished his schooling and opened a chiropractic practice off Union Square in San Francisco. Wilcox's friends called him Ray (for R.A.) or Doc. Besides writing, Wilcox loved to walk in the great outdoors. Near the end of his life, he joked about leaving his body to science; "I'm sure they can use my brain. It's in perfect condition—never been used." His short stories and poems are published under the title, Horse & Dog Adventures in Early California.

Karl Beckstrand is the freckle-faced author of fourteen books and more than 40 online titles. Raised in San Jose, CA, he received a B.A. in journalism from BYU and an M.A. in international relations from APU. A bilingual publisher with traditional and digital publishing experience, Beckstrand speaks about both kinds of publishing. He has presented to Taiwan's Global Leadership for Youth, city and state governments, library and humanities organizations, festivals and schools. He has lived abroad and enjoys volleyball and kayaking (usually not at the same time). Beckstrand's nationally-lauded activity books, Spanish & bilingual books (with pronunciation guide), ebook mysteries, and nonfiction stories feature characters of color and usually end with a twist. His work has appeared in: Barnes & Noble, Border's Books, Deseret Book, Costco, Kindle/Nook/iBooks, Amazon, The Children's Miracle Network, LDS Film Festival, U.S. *Congressional Record*, and *Papercrafts Magazine*. <http://GozoBooks.com>, <https://www.facebook.com/KarlBeckstrand.AuthorSpeaker>, <http://KarlBeckstrand.com>

**PUBLISHER AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW, SPEAKING & CONSULTATION
SE HABLA ESPANOL.**

Los libros de Premio Publishing & Gozo han estado deleitando familias y educadores desde 2004. Nuestros libros de actividades multiculturales (incluso libros en español y bilingües con guías de pronunciación, libros de ingenio ilustrados, libros electrónicos, y libros de cocina para niños) poseen diversos personajes en colores divertidos y vívidamente atrapantes. Nacionalmente elogiado por *ForeWord Reviews*, el blog *Horn Book*, *School Library Journal* y Barnes & Noble) nuestras historias educativas captan la atención y crean lectores recurrentes. No son acerca de la diversidad racial o étnica; sino que simplemente caracterizan a los niños latinos, negros, asiáticos, blancos y mestizos, y abordan temas como el miedo, el coraje, el compartir y el dar. Encuentre nuestros libros para niños vía: Baker & Taylor, Bn.com, Brodart, Amazon, Follett Library Resources/BWI Title Wave, Ingram, Nook, Kindle, iBooks, Kobo y Premiobooks.com (libros online gratuitos). Risas, aprendizaje y diversión familiar para niños a partir de 2 años (¡que la hora de dormir no deje a los progenitores dormir!): Premiobooks.com. El Autor Karl Beckstrand está disponible para entrevistas. Se habla español.

CONTACT: Hysen Sisco 801-953-3793 info@premiobooks.com <http://KarlBeckstrand.com>

SEO: Young Adult mystery, diverse characters, family safe, Nevada Silver Rush, strong female, mountain animals, romance suspense, thriller western