

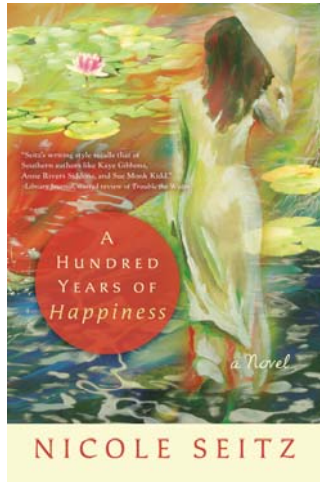
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A Hundred Years of Happiness
by Nicole Seitz

(Nashville, TN) Thomas Nelson is pleased to announce the publication of *A Hundred Years of Happiness* by Nicole Seitz, critically-acclaimed author of *Trouble the Water* and *The Spirit of Sweetgrass*. Set in the South Carolina Lowcountry, *A Hundred Years of Happiness* is a moving story of family, war, loss and longing, and the transforming power of truth. The distance between children and parents, past and present, reality and deception narrows in this spiritual fable of life and war.

Narrated in numerous voices, *A Hundred Years of Happiness* weaves together the stories of two daughters who search for the truth they hope will set them free. Vietnam veteran John Porter, now a successful builder near Charleston, still aches with battle wounds which never healed. His daughter Katherine Ann, a struggling lawyer turned stay-at-home-mom, takes it upon herself to help him deal with his scars.

Fifty miles north in Georgetown, a young fry cook named Lisa Le is trying desperately to connect with her Vietnamese mother, a war refugee whose secrets stand between them. Each of these souls is a captive in an isolated little world . . . until a modern-day land mine sets off a string of events to unite them all.

Advance Praise for *A Hundred Years of Happiness* –

The must-read book of the year.

—Cassandra King, best-selling author of *The Sunday Wife*

A Hundred Years of Happiness focuses on two families irrevocably changed by the Vietnam War in [Seitz’s] latest Lowcountry saga. All Lisa Le knows of her father is that he was an American soldier who died in Vietnam, before Lisa’s Vietnamese mother and uncle moved to America, and that her mother continues to mourn him in their Georgetown, S.C., home. John Porter, of Charleston, is a veteran haunted by his past. His daughter, happily married Katherine, hopes to help by taking him to a veterans’ event, but instead sets in motion a chain of events that will bring the two families crashing together. Seitz deftly shifts perspective among Lisa, Katherine, John and a koi fish in Vietnam who was once an American soldier named Ernest, giving her familiar themes—post-traumatic stress disorder, adjusting to civilian life, survivor’s guilt, small-town Southern living, aging, the quest to belong—sensitive and original treatment. For anyone touched by war, this tale of life after wartime should resonate strongly.

—Publishers Weekly

Lowcountry native Nicole Seitz’s third novel, *A Hundred Years of Happiness*, could have stayed within the comfortable boundaries of a family drama with a Charleston backdrop. Instead, and to her great credit, Seitz surprises with fresh characters that add cultural and generational depth to the story. Foremost among these is Georgetown fry cook Lisa Le, who escaped Vietnam with her mother for a better life in America. Le’s search for a sense of belonging in small-town South Carolina provides the riskiest and best work Seitz has offered to date. While the Charleston-based portion of the narrative owes much to Conroy and others, *A Hundred Years of Happiness* is redeemed by unexpected voices from the other side of the world.

—Charleston Magazine



About the Author

Nicole Seitz grew up on Hilton Head Island, a small town off the coast of South Carolina, where she was surrounded by palmetto trees, marsh grass, sandy beaches, and unique Southern characters. As an author, artist and speaker, Nicole's work is deeply influenced by her faith and the mystique and charm of the Lowcountry.

The Spirit of Sweetgrass (March 2007), Nicole's debut novel, was selected as the **May 2007 FaithPoint Book-of-the-Month for Books-a-Million**. Her second novel, *Trouble the Water*, was chosen as one of the **Best Books of 2008** by *Library Journal*. It was also seen in the **May 2008 issue of *Southern Living*** and was an **editor's pick** in the **May 2008 issue of *Charleston Magazine***. The book went into a second printing within two weeks of its release date. Her third novel, *A Hundred Years of Happiness*, will be published by Thomas Nelson in March 2009. It was featured in the **January 2009 edition of *Charleston Magazine***.

Nicole received a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B.F.A. in Illustration from Savannah College of Art & Design. Her freelance articles have been in *The Island Packet*, *The Bluffton Packet*, and *South Carolina Magazine*. Nicole is also a published illustrator, and her artwork has been exhibited in Southern art galleries. Her novels feature her paintings/illustrations on the covers.

Nicole enjoys meeting her readers and often speaks to groups on writing, art and faith. In 2008 she gave the Baccalaureate address for the College of Charleston. An artist at heart, Nicole enjoys painting pictures with words and bringing her characters to life through detail and dialect. She lives in the Charleston, South Carolina, area with her husband, Brian, and their two children. She owns a web design firm and is currently writing her next novel.

For further information about Nicole Seitz, please refer to her website – www.nicoleseitz.com

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