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**RETAIL PRICE:** $22.95

**DISCOUNT:** Booksellers/Distributors

**SYNOPSIS:**

Andee Camp inherits a box of family history after tragedy strikes along with a challenge to write a novel based on her ancestors. To fulfill this dream, she would exchange her book reviewer hat for one of a writer, forcing the seeds of self-doubt aside. With obstacles littering her path, she discovers the mystery surrounding her relationship with her parents and theirs with each other alongside new pieces in a complicated puzzle.

Catherine and Fulton Smith added twins, Victoria Jeanne and Benjamin Thomas, to their family in Portland, Oregon on August 13, 1922, the same day twins, William Theodore and Joanna Abigail, blessed Eve and Leon Brown with an addition to theirs in Amarillo, Texas. Many years later behind the backdrop of the San Gabriel Mountains in Southern California, whether by fate or destiny, the Smiths and Browns form a bond lasting three-quarters of a century.

***Life in a Box*** is like leaping off the diving board and seeing the sky from the bottom of the pool. When the author breaks through the ripples, a layered story rich with humor and heartache, discovery, and growth emerges and in the end, readers understand the depth of the story.

**HOW THE FIRE IGNITED:** Our book club chose ***Olive Kitteridge*** by Elizabeth Strout as our November 2009 selection. My co-chair forwarded a copy of my review to Ms. Strout and she commented:

*“This is one of the most wonderful things I have seen! I laughed out loud reading it, and I will keep it and cherish it forever. What a piece of writing it is; I swear Olive was writing it. I am so appreciative of the 28 women who took her into their hearts, responded so vividly and deeply (sexy! Exactly, who knew?) – and I am especially appreciative to you for sending it along. It just warms my heart. Please give my very best wishes and heartfelt thanks to all – Sincerely, Elizabeth.”*

She followed up by sending an autographed copy to me with the inscription*, “With gratitude, affection, and admiration – for being such a good reader, and writer.”* I came down from cloud nine, took a deep breath, and began fulfilling a dream.

In 2014 Bookers selected Catherine Ryan Hyde’s ***Don’t Let Me Go*** and we sent my review of the selection to her.

 “*This is quite an amazing piece of writing! I took the liberty of sharing the link with my Twitter and Facebook readers, since it's already publicly posted. Thank you so much for sharing it with me! Wish I could have been a fly on the wall for all that.”*

-Catherine

With Emma Donoghue’s ***Room***, we recreated it to scale, sent her the minutes and pictures to which she replied,

*“utterly fascinating! I know book clubs who have held their meeting in a taped-off 11-by-11-foot space, but none who have actually recreated Room or dramatised bits of it like you guys... Thanks so much for letting me know, and for engaging so passionately with Jack and Ma's story!”*

*best wishes*

*Emma*

[www.bookers-online-blogspot.com](http://www.bookers-online-blogspot.com)

**REVIEWS:**

*“This book could be called fascinating, but that’s not even close to the reality of the entangled relationships and intriguing story this novel brings to the reader. Beautifully written, I highly recommend it.”* Ginnie Siena Bivona, author of *Ida Mae Tutweiler and the Traveling Tea Party* and *The Secret Lives of Ordinary Women.*

“*Incredibly lyrical like the beautiful symphony of a constant breeze ruffling the palms. Lovely, yet powerful – with the force and impact of a hurricane. The character development creates friends that you want to keep forever in your circle. The descriptions paint a poignant backdrop for the story to develop and come to life. You will fall in love with this family and wonder what secrets your own might hold.”* MN Spafford Stanky lecturer, reading specialist, founder of two bookclubs, library volunteer.

“***Life in a Box*** *is a literary masterpiece. You will encounter characters that are so clearly defined you will love them, maybe even recognize them, but you will not forget them. Historical eras combine with complexity, intrigue and blend with familiarity…a roller coaster ride until the end.* ***Life in a Box*** *is beautifully written, a colorful page-turner indeed.”* Patti Branco entrepreneur, author of *The Path to Million Dollar Production.*

*“In* ***Life in a Box****, JoDee Neathery presents a narrative of two families united by marriage and a daughter who is charged by her mother to chronicle their story. In the process, secrets emerge that alter the very fabric of previously held beliefs. The result is a tapestry woven with love, betrayal, joy, tragedy, humor, melancholy, and an infusion of mystery. It begs the question, ‘Would we want the opportunity to examine our life in a box?’ The question is not easily answered and will resonate for many years to come.”* Penny Barshop, High school English Literature teacher, specializing in the study of the American novel.

**PROMOTIONAL:**

Paid advertising campaign, July 6-26 on BookBub and Goodreads through M.J. Rose of AuthorBuzz

 Author profiles created on Amazon and Goodreads

 Author page and personal page on Facebook. Boosted post on book announcement

E-mail marketing campaigns to my ninety-seven member book club plus friends and family.

Available on Smashwords as of July 11,2017

Member of Writer’s League of Texas. Announcement to run in July 18, 2017 newsletter of publications.

E-mail, phone contact, or Facebook messaging with the top 10 bookstores in Texas ranked by Lone Star Literary. Copies ordered by Paragraphs on Padre Boulevard and The Last Book Store in Tyler.

Sending a copy to Barnes & Noble small press division for consideration in their stores.

Became an affiliate with IndieBound and listed the novel in their database.

Joined the On-Line Bookclub on Facebook.

Joined the Independent Book Publishers Association

Became a bronze member of AuthorsDen.com

Press releases to local newspapers and magazines

Am working on a new novel, ***The Whisper Room***, and compiling data on my marketing experiences in promoting my debut novel for a “How to” book.

I’m considering IngramSpark as my distributor.

Copies will be donated to the Cedar Creek Library, Tri-County Library, and the Athens Library.