

'Conspiracy on the Housatonic'

*Move over Nancy Drew,
Ellen Anderson is
on the case*

The novel also explores the historical and political milieu of the early 1940s, and addresses the ideological war of ideas that drove the conflict in Europe and in the Pacific. Ellen's high school history teacher, Miss Satterfield, is an inspirational mentor to her still inchoate, yet freedom-loving, political consciousness.

Unsolicited comments from readers have been uniformly positive:

"It was an edge-of-the-seat thriller."

"I would definitely recommend the book to anyone of any age. Fun reading and challenging to the vocabulary."

"Entertaining, educational, enriching, an enjoyable read."

"I am enjoying the book so much — the references to WWII, comments about the Swedes, vocabulary building, the mystery and more. Having grown up in Hamden, CT, and having 100 percent Swedish ancestry, the book has added meaning for me and brings back many memories."

The character of Ellen Anderson is loosely based on the author's wife, the former Ellen Haffling, who grew up in Stratford, although her age has been altered to make her 17 in 1942. Ellen's father, Eric, sang with the North Star Singers for 66 years until his death in 2002. Her mother, Edna, sang with the North Star Ladies Chorus, was an active Swedish folk dancer, and made all the traditional Swedish foods. Ellen is currently a member of the Northern Lights Singers of Fairfield, a Swedish women's chorus organized in 1990, and performs with her husband, the author, at Swedish and Scandinavian musical events.

The author, Kendall Svengalis, is the former Rhode Island State Law Librarian and current president of New England LawPress. He is a member of the North Star Singers, president of the Rhode Island Swedish Heritage Association, and vice-president of the Jussi Björling Society-USA. He is the author of the annual Legal Information Buyer's Guide Reference Manual, and Gary, Indiana: A Centennial Celebration. "Conspiracy on the Housatonic," the first in the Ellen Anderson Mystery Series, is his first work of fiction. The second installment, "The Great Emerson Art Heist," is now being illustrated, with a projected 2015 publication date.

"Conspiracy on the Housatonic" is available online from Duneland Press (www.dunelandpress.com) and on Amazon.com.

EA

CONSPIRACY ON THE HOUSATONIC

Strange lights emanating from an abandoned Victorian mansion on the shores of the Housatonic River in the historic town of Stratford, Connecticut prove an irresistible attraction to Ellen Anderson, a precocious seventeen-year-old Swedish-American girl detective. When her preliminary investigation reveals that the mansion's previous owners are deceased and the house is tied up in a prolonged probate court battle, Ellen suspects that something far more sinister is afoot, with profound implications for national security. Join Ellen and her boyfriend and bibliophile, Ken Swenson, in this intriguing World War II tale of mystery, suspense, and budding romance set in 1942, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

As an added bonus, this book provides students with a novel way to prepare for the Critical Reading sections of the Scholastic Aptitude Tests by introducing them to nearly 1,500 of the most significant vocabulary words, in context, with an accompanying glossary.

Original illustrations by Stratford native, Melissa A. Benson, dozens of period postcards, and other graphics augment its historical milieu and enhance its literary verisimilitude. Take a trip back in time, while growing your vocabulary, naturally.

A perfect gift for a child or grandchild, niece or nephew, this is a book to treasure and pass along to successive generations of mystery lovers or test takers.

Ideal for anyone wishing to grow his or her word power.

Learn about World War II on the home front, life in the early 1940s, Swedish-America, historic and political events, and the world of espionage.



DUNELAND PRESS
Guilford, CT
www.dunelandpress.com

Cover design: Ellen Svengalis
Cover illustrations: © Melissa A. Benson 2014

Conspiracy on the Housatonic

Svengalis

An Ellen Anderson Mystery

CONSPIRACY ON THE HOUSATONIC



A Novel Approach to
SAT Preparation



By KENDALL SVENGALIS

Move over Nancy Drew, or "Kitty," as she's called in Sweden. There's a new girl detective on the case, and she's Swedish-American.

"Conspiracy on the Housatonic" marks the unveiling of Ellen Anderson, a 17-year-old detective from Stratford, Connecticut, with a penchant for crime solving. In this breezy, illustrated tale of espionage and intrigue set in 1942 Stratford and New York City, Ellen tracks a gaggle of Nazi spies to an old house on the Housatonic River and finds them interested in more than the scenery.

Ellen Anderson is very much a product of the Swedish-American community in which

she grew up. Her father, Eric, works at the E.V. Anderson Company, a Bridgeport tool and die shop founded by her grandfather, a Värmländer who emigrated from Sweden at the turn of the last century. In addition to singing with the North Star Singers, a Swedish male chorus, Eric plays the fiddle and dances with Ellen's mother, Edna, in a Swedish folk dance group. Swedish foods and the aroma of the ever-present coffee pot filled with Swedish petrol characterize the Anderson home in the Paradise Green section of Stratford.

Ellen, a junior at Stratford High School, who inherited her love of Swedish music from her parents, sings and plays Swedish folk songs on her guitar. Her boyfriend, Ken Swenson, works part-time at the Dusty Corner Book Shop in Stratford Center. While their relationship is initially more friendship than ardor, it blossoms as the plot thickens, and they become embroiled in a mystery with profound implications for national security.

Conceived in the tradition of Jack Finney's illustrated novel "Time and Again," "Conspiracy on the Housatonic" takes the reader back to a Connecticut coastal community consumed with allied war production shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor — but with a twist: It's also a novel approach to vocabulary-building, with nearly 1,500 SAT words woven into the storyline. Written primarily for an adult audience, the accompanying glossary makes the vocabulary words accessible to younger readers, particularly those preparing for the SAT exams. It gives "Conspiracy on the

Housatonic" a broad appeal and makes it the ideal gift for anyone, but particularly that son or daughter, grandchild, niece or nephew who will reap the benefits of enhanced verbal comprehension.

"Conspiracy on the Housatonic" takes the reader back to the days of the Ford Roadster, the malt shop, big bands, Inner Sanctum Mysteries on the radio, Spike Jones and His City Slickers, Captain Marvel comic books, Ovaltine, Moxie, the Sunday funnies, Shredded Ralston, food and gas rationing, victory gardens, air raid wardens and bond drives. It was a time when the entire nation was mobilized in support of the war effort, where many young men were either enlisting or waiting for their draft notice, and many women were recruited to work in defense plants.

The book is an interesting blend of fact and fiction. Many of the characters in the book are based on real life personalities who inhabited 1942 Stratford, as well as other figures in the popular culture, notably Swedish-American bandleader Ozzie Nelson, Betty Grable, Ronald Colman, Eleanor Powell, opera singer Grace Moore and Katherine Hepburn. References to other Swedish musical notables populate the narrative, including Jussi Björling, Carl Michael Bellman and Hugo Alfvén.

The text is enhanced with over 100 period images, including vintage postcards, photographs, posters, maps and original illustrations by local Swedish-American artist Melissa Benson that make this an especially engaging page-turner.



CONSULATE OF SWEDEN

Fort Lauderdale

Vi har öppet måndag till fredag

kl 9:30 till 15:00

Kontakta konsulatet för
mera information.

Välkommen!

Consulate of Sweden

Tower 101 101 NE 3rd Avenue, Suite 1700B
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Phone: +1 954 467 3507 Fax: +1 954 467 1731

fortlauderdale@consulateofsweden.org

www.consulateofsweden-fortlauderdale.org

Like us on Facebook