The Allies: Family and Friends Book 40 – The Ring of Montezuma

Here we are, folks! The latest installment of the Allies series takes our fabulous superhero team to sunny ARIZONA!!! Here, the Allies will meet a new hero, hear an
amazing legend, fight alongside one of the most incredible warriors of the tribes, AND find more clues to the strange events surrounding their latest quest!

How can we fit it all in one handy volume?! Pack your sunscreen, ’cause all this action is about to get HOT!

The Allies find new hope, and new dangers, as they continue on the journey. I hope you’ll love travelling alongside the Allies as much as I do. The rollercoaster just gets crazier from here on out!

God Bless, and keep your head up, fellow Ally! We can do this – together!

-Dakota Love

Create Your Own Superhero! Character Creation in Ten Easy Steps!
ALRIIIIIIGHT! Here’s the latest book, folks! Here, in one handy volume, you get ten easy steps to creating YOUR OWN superhero! The world’s a big place, and it needs lots of defenders. I can’t wait to see what superheroes YOU will create!

This book was totally fun to write. It not only has a super-fun step-by-step guide, but also features stunning Allies art within its concise and mildly sarcastic interior!

Create Your Own Superhero collects the posts from this very blog about character creation, plus a few added goodies. Such as this:

ATTENTION, TETIANA! This book is dedicated to YOU, the first person to follow this blog, and one of the few people awesome enough to keep up with my craziness for over three years. Thanks for the support!

This volume also includes new stories about my own
writing experiences, but the main focus is YOU, the reader. I love superheroes. They inspire me, and I’m sure they inspire you, too. I’d love for all of us to write our own incredible stories, and make the world a richer place. Sometimes, we just need a bit of inspiration. I hope this newest book helps all of you as you continue your journey to becoming the next most awesome writer!

It’s here and waiting for you on Amazon.com for only $9.99!

God Bless, and Write That Story!

Dakota Love

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**Verner Crane’s “The Southern Frontier” – A Great Book for People with Cherokee Heritage**

*The Southern Frontier* by Verner Crane (Duke University, 1929) is a book I discovered due to my Mom’s research. This book is about the interactions between the American Indians and European Colonists during the late 1600 to early 1700s.

As a girl trying to learn more about her Cherokee heritage, this book was AWESOME!!! This book tells the missing bits of our history. In this book, you will read how the Cherokee had working mines as early as 1660, an unbending ethics code, a strong sense of honor, and expert diplomacy skills.

The intrigues of the Yamasee War was the most interesting part of the book to me. Some colonists were bad, and some American Indians were bad. And some colonists and American Indians worked together. There was warfare against the colonists from other tribes, due to inter-tribe scheming and unfortunate trading practices by colonists. The other tribes warred against civilians, a dark and tragic fact. The Cherokee worked alongside the British colonists to stop the warfare, and pretty much saved the day (yay!). After the conflict, everyone worked together to get along, and everything was pretty good!

You will also read how close Virginia was with the Iroquois nations. People from the Virginian government would actually go up to have political talks with the Iroquois government at Albany. Virginia had such good relations with the American Indians that Virginia could not understand why other states had conflicts.

This book is a treasure trove of Tribal history, and I hope every one of you can find a copy at a good price. Well worth the read, this lovely book is the untold story of
interactions between colonists and Indians, and how closely our peoples are linked. Together, we all share a sense of freedom – and I hope that the flame of freedom burns strongly in our hearts, for now and ever!

God Bless!

Dakota Love

The Allies: Family and Friends Book 23: O, Canada!
The newest book in the Allies series just released! And yes, it is VERY Canadian! I think that it’s always a great idea to show case national symbols in writing. Every country, state, and province has so many symbols that are beautiful and rich in history.

The lovely lady on the cover is Lady Canada, the Protectress of Canada. She’s amazing. She loves nature, fellowship, and all those who are good. She appears within these pages in the most unexpected of ways...

The Allies venture to Glacier National Park, a park that shares the border between the United States and Canada. This park is bigger than the entire state of Rhode Island, so there’s a lot of chances for adventures. And the solution to the problems may be the most unusual the team has seen so far!

I hope you all enjoy this book. May there be lots of goodwill between the United States and Canada this year! God Bless our Canadian neighbors!

And yes, national symbols are cool in writing. Go for it!

Now, if I could just get over this homework hangover... Ugh. I know more about the Heinz Ketchup company than I ever thought possible...

God Bless,

Dakota Love
Here it is – the latest, possible coolest of the Allies series so far – SHADOWS OF THE ANASAZI!

In this volume, the quest to find the Seven Sacred Tree Seeds kicks into high gear as the Allies go to exotic new locations, and fight new hidden enemies. The Paladin and Fireangel, shown on the cover, examine the ancient secrets of a lost civilization to find clues to the past – and the present day.

The wall behind Angel and the Paladin is Newspaper Rock, the petroglyph carved by an unknown Native American
artist and chronicler over a thousand years ago. In the beautiful state of Utah, there are many echoes of the ancient tribes that lived there long ago, including the Anasazi, a common ancestor shared by both the Pueblo and Navajo peoples. Angel and the Paladin look to the stone, and the stars, to uncover the mystery of the symbols in stone before time runs out.

The Kindle edition is already available on Amazon.com for only 4.99, and FREE if you are a Kindle Unlimited subscriber. The print copy should be available within a few days for 9.99. It’s an adventure worth checking out. And remember – you are living your own adventure! Go out and see what hidden gems this wonderful country of ours has waiting just for YOU!

God Bless!

Dakota Love

The Allies Christmas Special! “The Gifts of Christmas” by Dakota Love!

https://www.amazon.com/dp/1790894085
Here it is – the FIRST EVER Allies Christmas special!!! I’m so excited!!!

In this fun-filled volume, Amethyst tries to show the time-lost Heyawata the new world in which he now lives. But not all goes according to plan, as strange undercurrents and an unseen villain add to the mayhem. Heyawata feels overwhelmed, as he struggles to understand the new future world. Will Amethyst and Heyawata be able to overcome their problems, and understand more bout each other – and about themselves?

This book was super-fun. The villain on the cover there is Tundra, spirit of Ice. He doesn’t like holidays. And he’s definitely going to be trouble for the Allies!

The Allies were stuck back in World War Two last Christmas, so I didn’t get to do the Christmas special then. But that just means I can have oodles of fun sharing my first one with you now! And here’s a message for all of YOU –

Sometimes, the world can get really darn overwhelming. And sometimes, it’s hard to see the good side of things. But here, at this Christmas time, I hope we can all take time out to relax and see the blessings all around us. Jesus loves us all – and I hope we can all share His love with one other. It’s peace on earth – good will toward men.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!

-Dakota Love
Hi, everyone! I don’t usually wax academic here, but I wrote a paper for class that I’d like to share.

My grandfather was Cherokee, and we love the earth, and all the wonder that God has created. I love St. Francis, too. He was the coolest missionary in the middle ages, and his legacy continues. And no matter what modern propaganda says, the Franciscan monks were good to the Native Americans. They carried the love St. Francis had for God, nature, and people with them wherever they would go.

I had to write this in MLA, which is officially the weirdest form of academic citations ever. But, here it is!

St. Francis’ Legacy and Native American Missions: Two United Faiths

St. Francis of Assisi lived in the 11th century A.D. and remains one of the most well-known of all the saints of
the middle ages. St. Francis work, “Canticle of the Creatures”, show a closeness with God and the world He created. St. Francis calls the various creatures and aspects of the natural world, which he sees in his journey through life, his brothers and sisters. St. Francis’ view of the created world as brothers and sisters provided a bridge of understanding and common worldview which influenced missions to the Native American peoples in later centuries.

St. Francis was born in Italy and was the son of a very wealthy cloth merchant. As the son of a travelling merchant, Francis would have been exposed to stories and songs from every nation to which his merchant father traveled. And this source was not the only foreign influence that St. Francis would have as he continued in life. Travelling far and wide, St. Francis would journey to Rome to seek approval of Pope Innocent III to found the order of Franciscan friars. Rome was a very cosmopolitan city, and St. Francis would have observed many different cultures during his visit to the Holy City.

St. Francis would also travel well beyond the borders of his native Italy. One of St. Francis’ most famous journeys is his journey to the Middle East, where he met with one of the great Muslim leaders. Though scholars have debated the importance of St. Francis’ visit to the Islamic leader (Welle), St. Francis’ journey to the Middle East is nonetheless important. St. Francis would have seen, in the vast regions of the Middle East, new perspectives, stories, and ways of communicating one’s thoughts in poetic form.
St. Francis is well-known for his love of God’s creation. The oft-told story of how St. Francis tamed the terrible wolf which threatened the town of Gubbio, and St. Francis’ famous sermon to the birds, are but two examples of his love for the natural world. St. Francis is known not only for these two incidents, but also for his love of and connection with all creatures (Gonçalves). Spoken of as “Master of the Animals” (Gonçalves), St. Francis was remarkable in his talent of interaction with animals of all kinds, even the fiercest of carnivores.

This love of God’s creation is exemplified in the Canticle of the Creatures, also known as the Canticle of the Sun, in which Francis calls every natural force his kindred. With God as the Father of all, St. Francis rejoices in the beautiful creation, when he sings:

“Most high, all-powerful and good Lord!
To you are due the praises, the glory,
The honor and the blessing,
To you only, O highest one, are they due
And no human being is worthy to speak of you.
Be praised, my Lord, with all your creatures
Especially by brother sun
By whom we are lightened every day
For he is fair and radiant with great splendor
And bears you likeness, O highest one.”
Though many authors, including McGrath, have spoken of the extreme difficulty of translating from Italian into English with any integrity, the words of St. Francis are simple yet profound, and intensely beautiful. Taken on its own, with no other information, St. Francis can be called a great writer for only this single work. The literary gift given to modern readers in the technology age is that of a picture of a simpler time, when all creation seemed as one. What reader cannot identify with the thoughts of “Mother earth” and “Sister moon” that St. Francis presents?

How much more profound does this work become when put into context! The Canticle of the Creatures was written towards the end of gentle St. Francis’ life and ministry. According to Speelman, St. Francis was undergoing a period of illness and intense physical pain when he spoke these words. The poem, though beautiful on its own, becomes even more special when presented as a holy man’s reaction to the pain, as Speelman notes.

Speelman declares that this canticle was not only a song, but a light in the darkness, as St. Francis chose to embrace the beauty of God’s creation in spite of the terrible trial he had endured. This is a lasting legacy of faith in the face of hardship that is certain to impress upon the minds of all people of faith who read St. Francis’ poem. The saint closes his song with the words:

“May I bless and praise you, my Lord, and give you thanks
And serve you with great humility,”

Taken purely by itself, The Canticle of the Creatures is a
legacy of faith in Christian literature that has stood the test of time. But there is much more to be seen in relation to this beautiful poetic work. St. Francis’ wording in his poem echoes the faith and culture of the American Indian peoples. “Mother Earth” is spoken of by St. Francis, in “Canticle of the Creatures:

“Be praised, my Lord, by our sister, mother earth,
She sustains and governs us
And brings forth many fruits and colored flowers and plants.”

Many Native American cultures, from the American Southwest to the Great Plains, also speak of Mother Earth (Chief). Known as Grandmother Earth (unci maka) to the Sioux peoples, earth, and indeed, every force of nature, is considered special and sacred (Chief). This is clearly in harmony with the faith and respect for the natural world created by God demonstrated so well by the writings of St. Francis of Assisi.

Water also plays an important role in Native American culture. According to Chief, water is sacred, and is to be cared for respectfully by those around it. The words of St. Francis echo again, as he says:

“Be praised, my Lord, by sister water,
For she is useful and humble and precious and chaste.”

This harmony of belief between American Indian peoples and St. Francis, a monk from over five centuries ago, is wonderful to behold. Moreover, faith in the Creator God
was also espoused by the Native American peoples. In Alexis de Tocqueville’s famous book, *Democracy in America*, Tocqueville describes the inherent faith in the Creator God that was possessed by the native inhabitants of North America. Later missionaries, such as Stephen Riggs, missionary to the Dakota peoples, would also write about the faith in the Creator God (Wakantanka) that the tribes held.

Between all these sources, the reader can see that there is a common faith that is shared between people of very different cultures and time periods. The faith of the Native Americans and the faith and respect for nature shown by this famous saint are not at all at odds with one another. The belief systems and respect for the earth are incomplete harmony with one another, though the people groups are separated by the vast expanse of time.

But what is the connection between the two cultures? The answer is simple: It is St. Francis’ legacy and contribution to Christian literature as a whole. His worldview provided a common understanding between Franciscan missionaries to the New World and the Native peoples whom they would encounter. Certainly, a commonality of worldview is not enough to justify a connection between St. Francis and the Native American peoples. However, the wide success of the Franciscan missionaries to the Native Americans is enough to show the continuing legacy of St. Francis’ writings.

The Franciscan missionaries were among the first believers to carry the Christian faith to the native peoples of both North and South America. Leon Portilla’s
A comprehensive book on the conquest of the Aztec Empire by the Spanish explorers mentions a city that was entirely converted to Christianity by a group of Franciscan monks. This conversion, according to Portilla, commenced without any bloodshed or intimidation. Portilla shows that the Franciscans were able to show the Native peoples the faith of Jesus because they were able to build bridges of common understanding.

These monks helped to define the beautiful faith and respect for the natural word that the Native peoples possessed, while highlighting the love and ministry of Jesus as a focal point for that faith. In this case, the Franciscans did not take away from the Native faith; rather, they dispelled the darkness of human sacrifice while preserving the deep respect for nature, and all that was good about the Native faith. The two faiths were not as incompatible as it may have seemed on the surface, and these particular Franciscans are a case study in successful and meaningful evangelism.

This specific settlement was not the only Franciscan success in South America. Candelaria mentions a comprehensive hymnal containing over three hundred Christian hymns composed for the Aztec peoples. This hymnal was written in the native language by Franciscan Bernardino Sahagun. This was a labor of love, and a valuable resource or the modern student of history.

North America also greatly benefited from the presence of Franciscan monks. The Native culture was often preserved by the accounts of the monks. As Bletzer states, some of the first recorded Native words were preserved by the
missionaries who encountered the Native Peoples at the beginning of the colonial period.

Well-known Franciscan missionary Junipero Serra ministered to the Native peoples of California. Brother Serra, according to Orique, was well-versed in Franciscan teachings and theology before he journeyed to the New World to teach the Gospel. Although many modern resources, including Bletzer, portray the monks like Serra as “yes men” to the Spanish government who wanted to assimilate the Native cultures and thereby destroy them, the evidence to the contrary is clear. As Orique states, Brother Serra founded many missions along the California coast.

These missions begun by Brother Serra have familiar names, such as San Francisco and Santa Barbara. The missions started by this humble Franciscan monk have transformed into giant metropolises over the centuries. And, as Orique also notes, Brother Serra and the Franciscans did not own any of this property because of their observance of the Franciscan Rule of Poverty. To start so many missions for the Native peoples of California, and not to own any of the property personally, suggests another labor of love, and not one of selfishness or colonizing.

These examples of Franciscan success in mission work amongst the Native Americans in both North and South America show that there must have been a reason for the Franciscan’s ability to interact so well with the Native peoples. The Franciscans truly had a gift for showing the common ground between the Native faith and the Gospel
of Jesus Christ. As previously stated, Brother Serra had intense training in the Franciscan way before he ever set foot upon the New World. It is this author’s belief that it is due to St. Francis himself, the one who penned the words that would bridge the faiths of such distinctly divergent cultures, that the success of the missionaries was so widespread.

St. Francis’ poems have the ability to resonate with many cultures. Many ancient belief systems would find common ground in the saint’s words:

“Be praised, my Lord, for sister moon and the stars;
You have set them in the heaven, precious, fair and bright.”

However, St. Francis’ faith and respect for the natural world were uniquely suited to evangelism to the Native Americans, who shared that respect. Not only the Franciscans, but missionaries from other denominations would go on to write beautiful songs and poems in the Native languages that would exemplify the pure faith of the Native Peoples. Stephen Riggs and John Williamson, missionaries to the Dakotas, would contribute to this effort, working with others to write a hymnal in the language of the Dakota peoples.

All of this mission work by the Franciscans, and their bridging of multiple cultures, would not have enjoyed such widespread success without the writings of St. Francis himself. St. Francis left the world not only a beautiful song and poem, but a vessel for understanding cultures that revered nature. St. Francis’ contribution to
Christian literature in “Canticle of the Creatures” resulted not only in amazing mission work in multiple continents. I also produced more Christian literature for endangered Native languages by way of hymnals and multitudes of other Christian writings, as mentioned by Portilla, Williamson, and Riggs.

St. Francis left the world of Christian literature a beautiful foundation for fostering understanding between divergent cultures. St. Francis’ writings laid the foundation for successful interaction between missionaries and Native Americans, and resulted in hundreds, if not thousands, of additional pieces of Christian literature to be formed throughout the world. The “Canticle of the Creatures” is beautiful for its own sake, and becomes even more so when taken in context. St. Francis’ praise in the face of pain leaves the modern reader, and indeed, the world, a rich legacy that has lasted for centuries.

Works Cited


Now, I just hope my grade is good...

God Bless!

Dakota Love
Yeehaw! It’s here, guys! In this newest book, Missionary hero Heyawata finds himself thrown forward in time to a modern world far from his home. But, even in the midst of chaos, the Creator can help us find new friendships. Follow Heyawata’s journey as he meets the other members of the Allies team, and a new quest begins!

I’ll admit it... I’m a sucker for a good time travel plot. I love Doctor Who (before they killed it with weirdos), and I love Captain America, another time-flung hero. The Avengers/Invaders story arc of 2008 was so epic! NOT for younger readers though...

I love time travel, and I’ve loved incorporating it into my books. I also love my new retro covers! For those following the series for awhile, I did an awesome World War Two story arc. But this time, time travel comes to the Allies, as this new story arc begins. God willing, we’ll have a lot more travel in store for the Allies as the arc progresses!
As with all ALLIES titles, this book is only $9.99 on Amazon.com, with a digital version at a discounted price. And buy the paperback, get a digital copy ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Thanks to everyone for reading. God Bless! And stay warm!

-Dakota Love


The villain is defeated. There’s anew team of superheroes in town. The day is saved. But...Now what?
This book delves into the lives of the new superhero team just after the battle with the terrible Mantra! After the battle is over, what does a new superhero do?

The story begins as Amethyst struggles to help the Cleric adjust to his new life. But how can she help the young Catholic monk who has been through so much in such a short time? Faith and friendship may be the only way to overcome the traumas in the Cleric’s recent past.

The paperback version of The Calling and the Vocation is available at Amazon.com for only $9.99! The digital version is also available for only $1.99!

God Bless!

Dakota Love
I love writing manga. I love superheroes. And I love sharing the world of superheroes with kids. And now, you can share the magical world of the Allies: Family and Friends with even the youngest readers in this new children’s book!
Featuring the same art style as the mangas, *Meet the Allies* has the entire origin story of the Allies team, originally published in four volumes, in one handy book! From the monastery in Feliciana to the boss battle at the Sacred Mountain powwow, young readers can experience the journey of Franciscan superhero Krishna Patel. Krishna will meet other heroes along the way, and team up with them to become the Allies: Family and Friends team!

Not only does this book have the same art style as the manga, but it also features color illustrations! This is a great jumping-on point to the world of the Allies, for new and experienced readers alike. Perfect for reading with your kids, your friends, or a younger brother or sister, you can experience the incredible origin story in an all-new way.

I hope you all enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it! And may you and your family and friends have
the best superhero day ever!

God Bless!

-Dakota Love
Native American art and culture have had an influence on fashion. Not only within the U.S. but throughout the world. You can see new boutique brands opening up and promoting their lines all the time. They strive to ensure that Native American culture is continually passed between generations.