

For Immediate Release

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AWARD WINNING AUTHOR HEATHER SHARFEDDIN'S
"SWEETWATER BURNING" WEAVES A BRILLIANT TALE OF
BIGOTRY AND THE FORCES OF NATURE

"Sharfeddin weaves elements of suspense and the supernatural through this accomplished thriller... Authentic descriptions of the stark, isolated landscape, rustic conditions, and the bitter winter form a backdrop to the character's turmoil, suggesting a timelessness that is only occasionally broken with touches of modernity." Publishers Weekly

"Sharfeddin's...eye for detail...and her unsentimental compassion for her characters...will entrance readers. Stark terrain beautifully rendered." — Kirkus Reviews (starred)

"Superbly crafted....A story about the miracle of love blossoming in unlikely places. Highly recommended." — Library Journal (starred)

In the small Idaho town of Sweetwater, Chas McPherson tends his blackbelly sheep and keeps to himself. Honoring his familial ties, Chas hires a home-care nurse to help care for his elderly father in his last days. Mattie Holden arrives and makes her place in the McPherson home just as trouble ensues. The home of Sweetwater's lone Muslim family is burned on Christmas Eve and the town is pointing the finger at Chas.

Sheriff Edelson, new to Sweetwater, begins to untangle the strange stories about the McPherson men, many of which are centered around Chas's father. The elder McPherson was a long-time minister in the community, and reportedly had the ability to see into each person's soul, revealing their sins. Presenting his uncanny insight during his sermons, Franklin McPherson made a lot of enemies.

Alone with Franklin day and night, Mattie senses his bizarre abilities—or is it her imagination? Fleeing from her own problems, she questions whether sequestering herself at the McPherson ranch was the right thing to do.

Before long, Mattie is unable to sleep, sorting through demons of her own. Chas comforts her and their professional arrangement becomes personal.

About the Author...

Heather Sharfeddin's "Sweetwater Burning" (originally released in hardcover as "Blackbelly") has received numerous starred reviews and honors, including the Eric Hoffer awards (2005). Most recently it was honored by the San Francisco Book Festival (May, 2010) as one of their ten best fiction entries. Sharfeddin spent much of her childhood in central Idaho and western Montana where her stories are set. She currently lives in McMinnville, Oregon, nestled midway between Portland and the Pacific coast. She is working on her Masters and has written three other books, "Mineral Spirits" (Bridge Works Publishing), "Windless Summer" (Bantam), and "Damaged Goods" (Bantam, Spring 2011). "Windless Summer" was recently honored at the New York Book Festival (June 2011).