



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Casey Cowan, CEO

479-684-6772

Former PA Resident Releases Second Novel, *Type and Cross*

Staci Troilo, former Vandergrift resident and graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's writing program, has penned her second novel, *Type and Cross*. Published by Oghma Creative Media, the book was released late last year.

Type and Cross is a mainstream novel, subcategorized as a medical drama. It explores the dysfunction of one family and the trials they undergo when a tragedy reveals secrets and unleashes turmoil that threaten to destroy a career, a marriage, and a family.

Troilo says the idea for the novel came when her husband had blood work done and the results didn't make any sense. She began researching blood—how the types work, how the RH factor impacts people, how the types combine. They learned shortly thereafter that her husband had received erroneous results, but by then, the seeds of a novel had already sprouted. After much more research into blood, transfusions, and medical conditions, she explored all sorts of new and exciting directions. What grew from that research had almost nothing to do with her husband's original test results, but the novel concept had formed into something she'd never seen before.

The novel was complete and accepted for publication by Oghma Creative Media in May 2014. Edits were finished at the end of November, and the book was released in December 2014. There are two more novels planned for the series. Book 2, *Out and About*, is scheduled for release in November 2015. Before that, she will release the first in a new romance series, *Bleeding Heart*, in May 2015.

Troilo grew up in Vandergrift and is a 1989 graduate of Kiski Area. She attended Carnegie Mellon University, where she received her bachelor's degree in Professional Writing and Creative Writing in 1993 and her master's degree in Professional Writing in 1994. She worked in development for Baptist Homes of Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh and in corporate communications and technical communications for Robicon (now Siemens) in New Kensington before moving out of state. She worked as an adjunct English professor in Ohio and was (and still is) a freelance writer and editor.

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Bio



Staci Troilo grew up knowing family is paramount. She spent time with extended family daily, not just on holidays or weekends. Because of those close knit familial bonds, every day was full of love and laughter, food and fun. Life has taken her one thousand miles away from that extended family, but those ties remain. And so do the traditions, which she now shares with her husband, son, and daughter... even her two dogs.

Her fiction combines dark, dangerous heroes and strong, capable heroines woven together into a contemporary tapestry of tantalizing romance. Compelling villains and gripping mysteries engage the reader from page one of her novels and her short stories feature ordinary characters conquering the odds in extraordinary situations.

It's through her fiction that she shares the importance of relationships with her readers. Mystery or suspense, romance or mainstream—in her stories, family, however you define it, is paramount.

Social Media Contact Information

Website:

<http://stacitroilo.com>

Amazon Author Page:

<http://amazon.com/author/stacitroilo>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/stacitroilo>

Facebook:

Staci Troilo's Author Page: <https://www.facebook.com/authorstacitroilo>

Staci Troilo's Novel Idea Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stacitroilosnovelidea/>

LinkedIn:

<http://linkedin.com/in/stacitroilo>

Google Plus:

Profile: <https://plus.google.com/+stacitroilo>

Page: <http://tinyurl.com/stacitroilo-GooglePlusPage>

Pinterest:

<http://pinterest.com/stacitroilo>

Goodreads:

http://www.goodreads.com/staci_troilo

Published Works

Type and Cross, Book 1 of the Cathedral Lake Series

Mainstream Medical Drama (novel)

Published December 2014, Oghma Creative Media

Amazon link: <http://tinyurl.com/typeandcross>

Mystery, Ink: Mystery Heir

Mystery (novel)

Published July 2013, Progreso Press (formerly Goldminds Publishing)

Amazon link: <http://tinyurl.com/mysteryheir>

Bigfoot Confidential: Finally the Truth Revealed

Anthology (short story "The Den")

Published December 2012

Amazon link: <http://tinyurl.com/bigfoot-theden>

Coming Soon

Bleeding Heart, Book 1 of the Medici Protectorate Series

Paranormal Romance (novel)

Expected release: May 2015

Out and About, Book 2 of the Cathedral Lake Series

Mainstream Crime (novel)

Expected release: November 2015

Mind Control, Book 2 of the Medici Protectorate Series

Paranormal Romance (novel)

Expected release: May 2016

Awards

2013 Ozark Creative Writers Contests

- “My Favorite Things” won First Place in the *Creative Nonfiction Essay* category.
- “Homecoming” won First Place in the *Young Adult Short Story* category.
- “A Walk on the Wild Side” won Second Place in the *In Someone Else’s Shoes* category.
- “Chad and Emma Jean” won Second Place in the *Shakespeare in the Ozarks* category.
- “Candle in the Window” won Second Honorable Mention in the *Western Short Story* category.
- “The Next Generation” won Second Honorable Mention in the *Flash Fiction* category.
- “Bleeding Heart” won Second Honorable Mention in the *High Hill Press* category.

2012 Ozark Creative Writers Contest

- “No Peace in the Quiet” won Second Place at the 2012 OCW Conference in the *Storyteller Magazine* category.

June 2012 A Writer’s Universe Teen Fantasy Fiction Contest

- “Rite of Passage” won First Place.

Organizations

Italian American Writers Association

Member, 2015-present

Ozarks Writers League

Member, 2014-present

Fundraising Committee, 2015-present

Northwest Arkansas Writers Workshop

Member, 2011-present

Arkansas Authors

Member, 2011-present

Reviews

Type and Cross <http://tinyurl.com/TACreviews>

★★★★★ There are rare books that you cannot simply put down between chapters, and this book is in that company. There was so much I could relate to in this book. Beautifully written and I look forward to more in this series. —*Staci Herbold*

★★★★★ Troilo hits us off the bat with a situation that seems beyond comprehension. The characters are forced to deal with tragedy and betrayal that could destroy their existence. Told in a captivating way that keeps the reader guessing to the end, rooting for a miracle to make it all better. This is a great page turner, and with Troilo's obvious talent, the next book in this series is bound to be just as much of a nail-biting story. —*Lori Ericson*

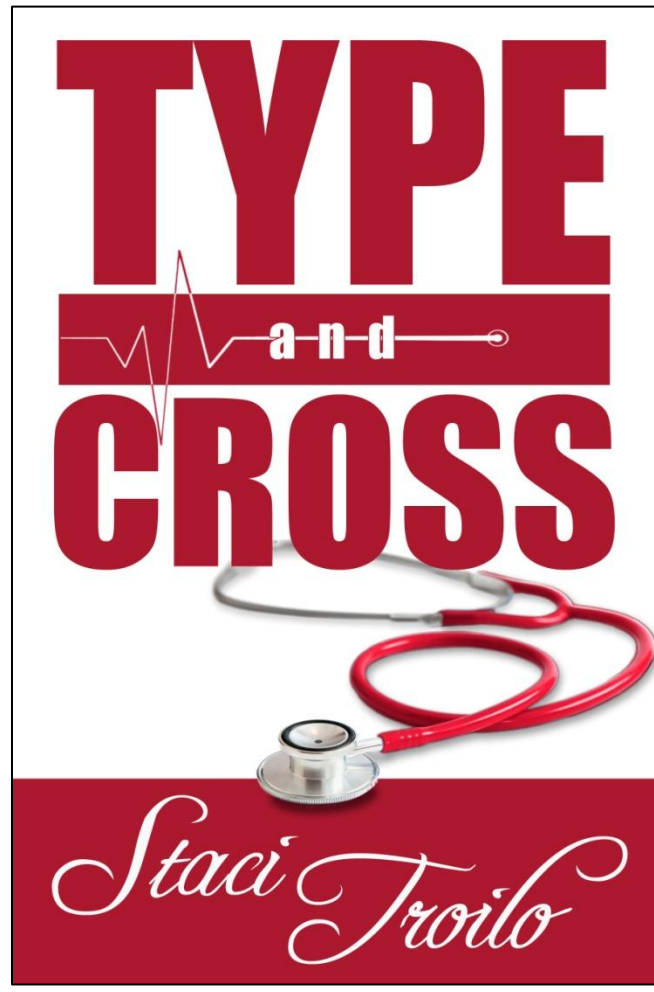
★★★★★ "Type and Cross" was one of those gripping, heart-wrenching books that brings to to [sic] places you don't want to go -- through betrayal, anger, loss. But this is far from a two-dimensional depiction of a family's struggles. Staci Troilo's masterful journey, of a family whose normal life is shattered by circumstance, has a depth that few writers have achieved. And we follow the Keller family on their hard road to redemption all the way.

I was captivated from the first page. I will eagerly be awaiting other novels by this author, whose skill in plot and characterization is truly wonderful. I do not hesitate to give it five stars. —*Gordon Bonnet*

★★★★★ Staci Troilo has created a cast of expertly flawed characters that leave the reader hoping each will get precisely what they deserve, be it good or bad. This story holds surprising twists and turns and an original premise that intrigued me from the beginning. It's a masterfully woven plot in which a tragedy reveals secrets that explode within a family, turning their world upside down. Troilo is a master at writing. Love and hate, hope and despair, are handled with a delicate balance that would not let me put this book down. A deeply satisfying read. —*Velda Brotherton*

★★★★★ I like this book! Troilo's plot is pure genius, full of twists and turns that kept me up till the wee hours of the morning saying, "Just one more chapter then I'll go to bed." If you're looking for a book that will keep you entertained and guessing to the end, Type and Cross is a must read. Congrats to Staci Troilo for a job well done! —*R.H. Burkett: author*

Cover



Blood defines family. Blood reveals betrayal.

Dr. Royce Keller is no stranger to blood. As Chief of Emergency Medicine at Oakland Regional Hospital, it's his job, his calling. To Royce, it is the very essence of life—what ties his family, his career, and his world together. Until he learns everything he believes is wrong.

Vanessa Keller has a secret she has kept hidden for almost two decades. It's her burden, her cross to bear. To Vanessa, the truth is a choice—something best forgotten for the greater good of her family and their future. Until the day it comes back to haunt her.

A tale of family dysfunction, betrayal, heroism, and loss, *Type and Cross* is the story of one family's journey from devastation to redemption.

Teasers

He felt like fresh asphalt. Hot and steamrolled.

“Damn it, Stanford,” he said.

“I don’t want to hear it.” Stanford put his hand up and walked behind the bar. He poured himself a drink and downed it in one gulp. “He’s the **best shrink I know,** and I expect you to make use of his services. Both of you. Don’t just go through the motions but actually participate in the program.”

“There’s a program?” Royce asked.

“How the hell do I know?” Stanford said. **“My marriage and career are fine. I never needed counseling.”**

Royce glared at him.

TYPE and CROSS

Staci Troilo

“I was on my way back when my phone rang. It was

Hospital Administration.”

“What’d they want?”

“To tell me they anticipate wrapping up their investigation in a few weeks. **They want to schedule my hearing in six weeks.”**

“Six weeks? Why so long? The police only needed a couple of days to know this was a joke.”

“Well, HA isn’t trying to prove **malicious intent.** They need to **prove incompetence.** I guess that takes longer.”

“Six more weeks? That will be eight weeks total.”

“I know. That’s why I freaked yesterday. I just needed some time to wrap my head around everything. They aren’t just looking at that one case, Ness. **If they need eight weeks...**”

“They’re building a big case.”

TYPE and CROSS

Staci Troilo

TYPE and CROSS

She winced. "Oh, I forgot you didn't know that part."

"Vanessa," her dad said.

"Look, we weren't in love, and it was only one time, but there was affection on both our parts, and—"

"Affection? Affection?" Her mother's voice grew shrill.

"So you didn't say, 'I love you.' You said, 'I affect you?'"

"Don't be ridiculous, Mother."

"We raised you better than that, Vanessa."

"I'm sorry."

"Are you?"

Staci Troilo

Staci Troilo

"We don't have a minute," Royce said. **"Type and cross her. Now!"**

Ellie reached for the girl's hand and gasped. "Royce."

"Now, Ellie."

Ellie shook her head.

"Do it, or get the hell out of the way."

"It's Hope."

"Hope? Hope for what?"

"No. Your Hope."

Royce looked up from the head wound and saw Ellie staring at the girl's face. A face she recognized before he did. **His daughter's face.**

And he didn't even realize it.

What kind of father didn't even recognize his own blood?

TYPE and CROSS

Staci Troilo

"What's going on, Mia?"

"Nessa's out of sorts because **I told her I know she slept with Ben.**"

Royce laughed to hide his shock. **"Is there anyone in this town that doesn't know?"**

"Who cares?" Mia said. "We're adults. Ben's a great lay. I'm surprised it was just the one time. I just wondered if it was going to happen again. Apparently it's not."

"Mia." The smile fled from Royce's face. "Ness and I are married. Were married when it happened. You and Ben were married at the time. **How can you be so blasé about it?"**

"It's just sex, Royce. It's not love."

"It's intimate. Personal. And **it's a huge betrayal.**"

"This, coming from the man who's screwing his maid."

TYPE and CROSS

Synopsis

ROYCE AND VANESSA KELLER seem to have the ideal marriage. But it's superficial—perfect on the surface and weak at its depths. With one accident and one horrible decision, secrets and insecurities surface that threaten to destroy Royce's family and career. TYPE AND CROSS is a 498 page contemporary mainstream novel focused on dysfunctional family dynamics and the nature versus nurture debate.

Type and Cross begins in a typical May morning in a typical ER setting. Victims of a crash are brought to the hospital, and Chief of Emergency Medicine Royce Keller begins work. He's disdainful of the girl on his table—bemoaning her parents' lack of responsibility and the girl's scant clothing, overly made-up face, and dyed hair. When the nurse points out that it's his daughter, he's horrified he didn't recognize her and desperate to save her. Breaking numerous hospital rules, he gives her a direct blood transfusion, and she suffers a negative reaction from his blood, ultimately killing her. Royce is forced to acknowledge she wasn't his biological daughter.

Because of his actions in the ER, Royce is forced out of the hospital. Both the hospital and the police begin investigations into his daughter's death and his culpability in it. Meanwhile, he begins therapy in hope of saving his career. If he manages to save his marriage, that will be a miracle. His daughter's death has proved that Vanessa cheated on him. Through a series of exercises with their therapist, Royce works on repairing their damaged relationship. But first he has to work through some painful truths. First, it's not just anyone who turned him in to Hospital Administration and the police. It's one of his best friends, WADE UNGER. Second, not only did his wife cheat on him, she cheated with his other best friend, BEN LYNDON. Third, he has favorite kids, and he didn't think he was so callous as to shut out one of his children, especially to the point of losing touch with her—to the point of her death. Fourth, neither his son nor his daughter intend to follow the paths he's laid for them.

As he works through the stages of grief, he starts making over his backyard. Plants and flowers he never recognized or acknowledged before suddenly become important to him. Of paramount importance are the flowers from Hope's funeral. He begins a massive renovation of his backyard, turning their austere grounds into a lush and fertile landscape, something he can cultivate and nurture with his own vision and hard work. It's the only substitute available to him. It's his homage to his dead daughter. He feels his work will somehow make up for what he lost due to his neglect and arrogance.

As the hospital is conducting its investigation, Chief of Staff and mentor STANFORD HAMMOND is keeping Royce and Vanessa apprised of what he knows. And Royce is doing some digging on his own. They learn their daughter was involved with a criminal, and possibly involved in the crimes. Only at the end are they able to clear her name.

After Royce's reinstatement hearing, a police detective calls Royce aside. He gives him a chance to confront the man behind it all—Wade Unger. Wade had framed Royce for the hospital's drug theft problem while pocketing the money and positioning himself for the promotion. When he learned Hope was involved, he staged the motorcycle accident to get the boy out of Hope's life, but ended up killing Hope instead. Royce punches his former friend and leaves with his wife, preparing to embark on a new life with her.

Author Q&A

1. **Where did you get the idea for *Type and Cross*?**

Several years ago, my husband got blood test results back from the lab, and they didn't make sense. I started researching blood—the types, the RH factor, the donors and recipients, the ways types could combine and the ways they couldn't. I probably wasn't three articles in when I was fascinated. The lab contacted us and told us they'd made an error, but the seeds were already sown. I started conceiving a plot for a new novel. It wasn't really anything like what my husband's results were, but the concept of blood types and what could be done with them really appealed to me by then. Life events took me away from that work for a while, but when I finally got around to writing it, the words just flowed.

2. **You've written standalone novels and series work. *Type and Cross* is the first of a series. Which do you prefer to write?**

I like writing series work because I like my characters. If I can live in their worlds for a while longer than one book, I'd like to do that. I hate to say goodbye. But I'm not interested in extending what should be a standalone book into a series. If the story is over at the end of book one, then it's over.

3. **You write different genres (mystery, romance, suspense). Do you have a favorite?**

You know, I really don't. I write different genres because I have a lot of different stories to tell. I don't really have a favorite genre because I don't have a favorite story. At least, not yet.

4. **You've worked as a writer, an editor, a marketer, and a professor. Which job did you like best?**

I've loved everything I've done. As a professor, I got to teach, to help people understand and grow. That's very fulfilling. And I had some wonderful students; some I keep in touch will still today. As an editor, I get to help people hone their craft. And that's also fulfilling. Marketing is fun because it lets me not only help get a message out, it also lets me interact with people. Writing is such a solitary endeavor, having a built-in social outlet is great. And writing is my first love, so of course I adore it. Writing for clients is nice, because I have a chance to make their message clear and accessible. But writing my own stories is so satisfactory, because I get to entertain people and share my message with the world.

5. **You say in your bio that family is paramount. Does your family inspire your written work?**

That's hard to answer. On one hand, my family inspires much of what I do. But on the other, I don't take people I know and love and translate them onto the page. My characters are their own people. And many of them are quite different from my family and friends. Most of my characters are dysfunctional in one way or another. But my family is about as normal as they come.

Sample Questions

1. How did you decide on writing as a career?
2. Where do you get your story ideas?
3. Are you a “pantser” or “plotter?” (Do you free write or outline?)
4. How much effort do you put into character sketches before you begin writing?
5. How many works in progress do you have going at any one time?
6. Does one genre stand out as being easier or harder to write?
7. How does your heritage affect your work?
8. How do you deal with different points of view, particularly if you have no experience with writing as that type of character?
9. Where do you get your information for realism (such as medical jargon or legal procedures)?
10. What’s more important? Character or plot?