

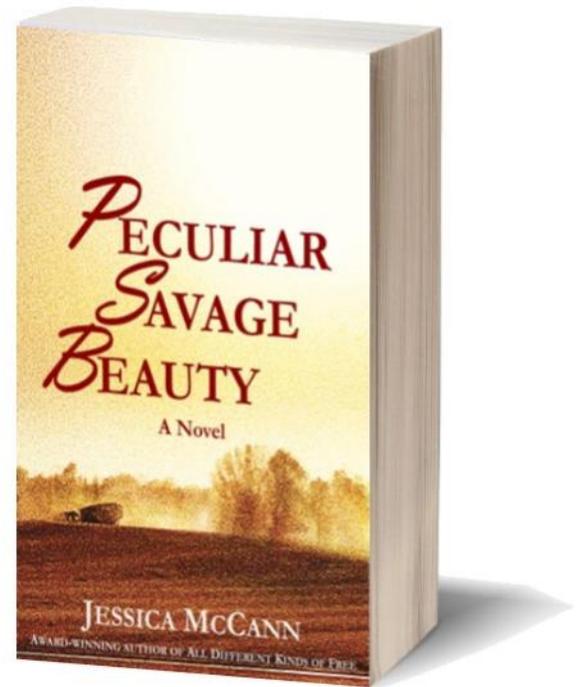
## *Kansas, 1934*

The black blizzard is a formidable enemy. The furious dust storm blots out the sun, chokes the life from both man and beast. When RJ Evans finds herself engulfed in inky blackness and holed up beneath her Model AA Ford on an isolated plains road – dirt caked beneath her fingernails, skin flecked with blood drawn by the biting dust – she has no idea this trial won't be her toughest.

What awaits her in the small farming town of Vanham, when she begins her job as a geologist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, is even more daunting. Drought and over-plowing have turned the once-lush plains into an unforgiving wasteland. Headstrong and intent on healing the earth through conservation farming, RJ must somehow find her place in a community that welcomes neither women in authority nor changes to their way of life.

She befriends Woody, an autistic savant born in an era long before any medical diagnosis would explain his peculiar ways and unique talents. The locals label the young man an idiot and RJ an armchair farmer. Yet, in each other, they see so much more.

Beating back the dust is a daily battle. It is a clash that creates unlikely alliances. As RJ learns she must rely on her adversaries if she is to survive the dangers of the Dust Bowl, she also grows to realize that she – like the land itself – is in desperate need of healing.



*Peculiar Savage Beauty* was released in hardback [cover price US \$24.00, 6" x 9", ISBN 978-0-9994602-0-7] and e-book [ISBN 978-0-9994602-1-4] in April 2018. It is published by Perspective Books, the author's personal imprint. The book is distributed by Ingram (retailers receive a 35 percent discount from the author) and is returnable. *Peculiar Savage Beauty* also will be published in trade paperback and audio book, September 2018.

"...gripping, atmospheric. McCann's Dust Bowl saga meshes a seminal event in American history with a suspenseful plot and insightfully etched characters." ~ **PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**

"McCann has crafted an unforgettable novel." ~ **BOOKLIST**

"This tenderhearted, eloquently-written tale set against the historical backdrop of a small town ravaged by the Dust Bowl is a story of what it really means to love."

~ **RACHEL SIMON**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Story of Beautiful Girl*

"Impossible to put down. McCann's remarkable storytelling skills are on full display as we root for her unforgettable characters who fight the forces of nature while battling societal expectations." ~ **ANN WEISGARBER**, award-winning author

of *The Personal History of Rachel DuPree*



Jessica McCann worked for more than 25 years as a professional freelance journalist and corporate writer. Her debut historical novel, *All Different Kinds of Free*, won the Freedom in Fiction Prize. She lives with her family in Phoenix and is currently at work on her third novel. McCann loves interacting with readers and is available for book signings and other events.

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