



Patti Shene

WELCOME AUTHOR T. M. BROWN

3/21/2018 3:35:00 PM by: Patti Shene



FEATURED BOOK: *Testament, An Unexpected Return*

AUTHOR: T. M. Brown

PUBLISHER: Palmetto Publishing Group, Charleston, SC

GENRE: Mystery/Suspense

SERIES OR STAND ALONE: Series

TARGET AGE: Though an all-audience read, Adult

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME AUTHOR T. M. BROWN TO *THE OVER 50 WRITER*. T. M. SHARES SOME HISTORICAL BACKGROUND THAT MOLDED HIS DECISION TO CHOOSE HIS SETTING FOR HIS STORY.

T. M. IS OFFERING A GIVEAWAY! SIMPLY LEAVE A COMMENT BELOW TO ENTER THE DRAWING FOR WINNER'S CHOICE OF A COPY OF EITHER *SANCTUARY* OR *TESTAMENT*.

WHY DID I CHOOSE SHILOH FOR MY STORY'S SETTING?

by

T. M. Brown

In *Sanctuary*, my premier Southern mystery, readers are introduced to the quaint, time-lost South Georgia town of Shiloh. The story begins as Theo and his wife Liddy desire to relocate and retire back to their country roots, after investing four decades of their lives in the shadows of Atlanta. According to the story, it is Liddy who discovers an advertisement for a quaint Craftsman home that convinced her Shiloh would be a perfect fit for them.

But, it's what readers sense early on as they arrive in Shiloh that draws them into the story. First of all, Shiloh's reputation paints a serene picture of this time-lost town, but like its biblical namesake, reputation and present reality are subject to the whims and shortcomings of men.

Like the Shiloh of old, *Sanctuary* reveals its once proud town had long lost its luster and status as the county seat decades earlier. Like Jerusalem in biblical lore, Alexandria surpassed Shiloh as the political center of power in Adams County, leaving the proud people of Shiloh with their beautiful, antebellum courthouse in the center of town a victim of progress. According to the backstory in *Sanctuary*, Alexandria blossomed during the post-WWII boom and expansion in Georgia. All the while Shiloh stagnated and struggled, not much different from many real-life rural towns in South Georgia. Some conciliation arrived as Shiloh's beloved courthouse received a superficial facelift and interior remodeling to convert the aging edifice into a functioning city hall. However, the sesquicentenary courthouse's makeover left the skeleton of the 19th-Century landmark kept its original hewn timbers and ornate woodwork intact. Decades later, Shiloh's beloved historical courthouse would be razed in a tragic fire that stole the life of a town hero, who rescued others from the growing inferno.





Biblical Shiloh became the first seat of governance for the Nation of Israel once Joshua completed the conquest of the Promised Land. The ark of the covenant and treasured tabernacle finally had seemingly found a permanent resting place in Shiloh. Israel's priests and judges (tribal leaders) established Shiloh as the central city in the Promised Land. That is until the leaders in Israel contested the way Israel was being governed by judges. The people desired to be like the surrounding nations, and not long after Israel turned to the rule of kings, rather than judges acting on God's behalf, Shiloh fell victim to King David's selection of Jerusalem as the preferred location for his palace and future home of a new temple to replace the tabernacle. A rival army burned and ransacked Shiloh not long before David ascended the throne as the second king of Israel.



(All that remains of biblical Shiloh in modern Israel.)

The name Shiloh to this day still paints a vastly different picture than the historical reality which its namesakes have experienced. One of the bloodiest and decisive battles fought during the Civil War became known as the Battle of Shiloh, in Tennessee.

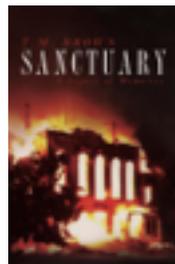
Even the Hebrew origin of the name Shiloh means "place of peace," but as history has revealed, "peace" requires the cooperation of men to live up to the expectation of maintaining peace in their community. My novels, *Sanctuary* and *Testament*, play on the dichotomy of Shiloh's reputation and portrayed reality, and Theo and Liddy discover shortly after their arrival in Shiloh the tranquil facade has a growing rift among the citizens.





BATTLE OF SHILOH, 1862.

All good fiction has its roots deeply planted and nourished in the soil of truth and reality. The settings and characters in all novels cannot spring ex-nihilo (out of nothingness). Good fiction blurs the lines between perceived fact and fiction allowing the reader to enjoy the totality of the story, as though it is real. Nothing brings a smile quicker to my face than when I am asked, “Where’s Shiloh? I want to visit there.”



Blurb for ***Sanctuary, An Legacy of Memories*** (2nd Edition, January 2018)

Newly retired publishing executive, Theo Phillips, and his wife, Liddy, decide to leave the shadows of Atlanta behind and return to their South Georgia roots in time-lost Shiloh. While making new friends, Theo’s interest in a memorial launches him smack dab in the middle of scandal and dark secrets. As Theo digs deeper into the mysterious fire that stole the town’s landmark courthouse and a town hero, he and Liddy’s retirement dreams take a turn that could unravel both them and the idyllic life they and many others look for in Shiloh.



Blurb for ***Testament, An Unexpected Return*** (March 2018)

The sequel picks up the story of little old Shiloh eight months later and significant changes have taken place in Shiloh. New faces from the town’s past emerge as Testament’s tale unfolds. The citizens in Shiloh understand they cannot change their pasts, but they realize their pasts can haunt them in the present in ways no one could predict. A subtle reminder that God orchestrates the course of history for all men, but he allows men to choose how they will come to terms with the events of history as they unfold. As the ending of the story states, “The testament of a man lies not in the magnitude of

possessions and property left to his heirs, but the reach of his legacy long after his death.”

Purgatory, A Progeny's Quest (projected 2019)

DON'T FORGET TO LEAVE A COMMENT TO BE PLACED IN THE DRAWING TO WIN CHOICE OF A COPY OF EITHER *SANCTUARY* OR *TESTAMENT* BETWEEN NOW AND SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST AT MIDNIGHT MDT.

ALSO: On March 22-24, T. M. is providing a prelaunch Kindle promo on both *Sanctuary* & *Testament* - they will be FREE on those three days. The paperback version launches March 27th.

T. M. Brown is a Southern boy at heart, although he's lived and traveled in many states far removed from his beloved boyhood roots in Georgia and Florida. He returned to his Southern roots several years ago while his two sons were still in school and regularly traveled throughout the South before returning to college shortly after his youngest son graduated. In the last fifteen years he has preached, taught and coached in Alabama, Georgia and Florida until his wife and he moved outside of Atlanta and retired to write, travel, and spoil grandchildren.

Connect with T. M. online:

Website (<http://tmbrownauthor.com>)

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