

"a gentle story yet poignantly profound."

MEN SHAKE HANDS

A Creative Reminiscence by
DENNIS BRITTEN

In *MEN SHAKE HANDS*, precocious four-year-old Davey grapples with unanswered questions while living the up and down life of a child of divorced parents.

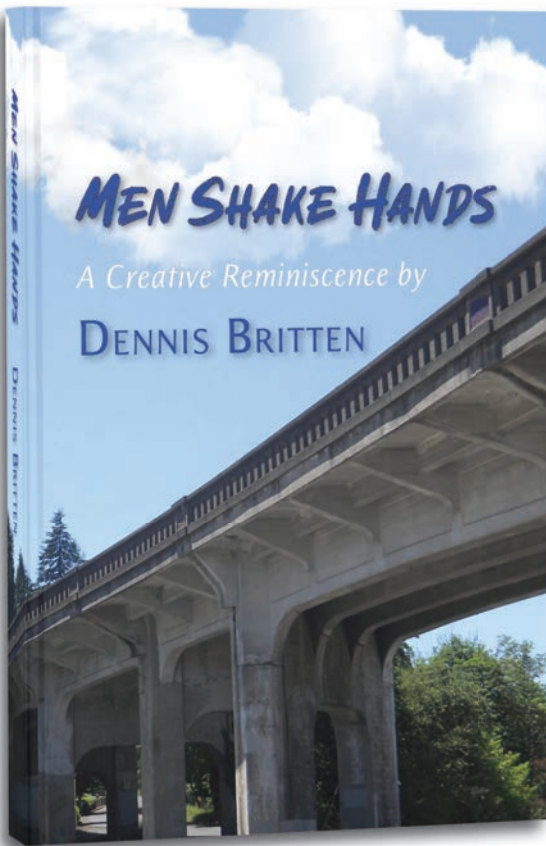
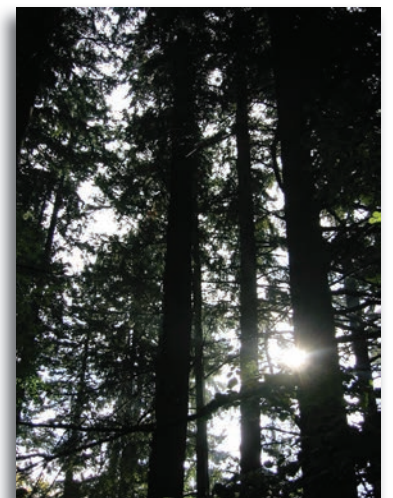
He's in post-war Multnomah, Oregon in the 1940s and 50s, where divorce is unusual. Davey himself is an unusual child, more interested in acting and singing than baseball and tag like the other boys in his neighborhood.

When Davey is betrayed, we cry with him. When he puts on his play in the garage, we clap! At his first sensations of love, we put our virtual arms around him. And when he discovers his voice and sings, we rejoice, and follow him to New York City.

MEN SHAKE HANDS is a heart-grabbing story creatively based on the author's life, told from Davey's own point of view.

An excerpt from *MEN SHAKE HANDS*:

"Billy and me went out to the teeter totter. Out through the bushes along the path with their tiny green buds. Fog was hanging around the trees making the woods quiet and creepy. Black and gray ghost trees. All you could hear was soft dripping from the branches. There was a deep, damp woods smell of dirt and pine needles. The air was heavy to breathe but it felt good in my chest, breathing in that woods. The damp in the wood of the teeter totter board came through my cords. It made my fanny feel cool where I was sitting. Like the woods was trying to get inside you. Into my skin through my wool coat, through my thick cords, through my wet shoes, in through my hair, and through my nose, making me part of it. Like I was part of that April woods starting to come alive."



...an innimitable and unquenchable voice. Kate Gray
I couldn't put it down. Ginna BB Gordon

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Contact: Dennis Britten

email: tlc.britten@gmail.com

info: www.luckyvalleypress.com/britten