

Local Author Releases Third Book in the Jevic O'Connor Series

by Christine Barton

Town of Pittstown native and self-published local author Lisa Popp just released the third book in her Jevic O'Connor adventure series, *Jevic and the Spear*. Although the series was written for a young adult audience her books have captured readers of all ages and interests. Popp says, "while the series does have an element of fantasy, it is a well-grounded action adventure that breathes new life into old-world beliefs." Reviews have compared it to the Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter, but the Jevic O'Connor series has a distinct style and personality all its own. The main character Jevic leads readers on the personal journey of an "ordinary kid with the heart of a hero."

Popp, in addition to being an artist and a writer,

is the proud mother of four and grandmother of two. She is currently employed as a website manager for a healthcare organization. She spends her time hiking, camping, and kayaking with her family enjoying the outdoors in rural Pittstown. It was her fascination with Old Irish legends that inspired the plot for the Jevic O'Connor series. Popp, in her youth, initially focused her energy on the visual arts such as drawing and painting. She later began to develop her passion for writing and story telling as she embarked on combining her talents to create the Jevic O'Connor book series. The covers for her series are all her own original designs. As she nurtured her gift of drawing and painting she would often find that her mind would wander off on some wild adventure.

"There were whole new worlds just waiting for me to discover," she states. "Occasionally I would put pen to paper and write poems about some of these wonderful places, but most of the time I kept my wild adventures to myself," she adds.

Later she began painting with words instead of brushes as her wild adventures began to take shape. Her husband suggested one day that Jevic would be a great name for a character in a book, and then, "there he was," she said, referring to Jevic. "It was like we suddenly had another child." As she visualized Jevic as a character she began to write and explore her storyline. Using her Irish heritage as a springboard, she researched facts, legends and stories that that further sparked the inspiration for the Jevic O'Connor series. Popp self-published *Jevic and The Stone* in November of 2014 and *Jevic and The Sword* a month later.

Popp says that her main strategy for her writing is to let the stories flow from her head to her keyboard. She has visited most of the places that Jevic goes on his adventures but also puts a lot of time and research into her work to further illustrate the details that ensure readers can see and feel the adventures as they read the story. Readers of all ages have given Popp feedback about her series offering comments such as; "the book is a fast easy read that offer readers the opportunity to create vivid images in their minds." Some readers have commented that they just can't put the book down, which is a testament to the engaging plot and honest connection that quickly forms with the characters. "Every reader I

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have heard from tells me they can see what they are reading as if they are right there and they can't wait for the movies." *Jevic and the Stone* and *Jevic and the Sword* and most recently *Jevic and the Spear* are available on Amazon .com in both paperback and digital format. Popp has also donated copies to local schools and area public libraries.

I loved writing the first book and challenged myself to write another, says Popp, When *Jevic's* second adventure was even better, I was confident that my storyline and characters were powerful enough to complete a series of four. Popp is now actively working on her fourth book, *Jevic and the Cauldron*. "Seeing how readers love getting carried off on Jevic's adventures as much as I do is what keeps me writing," she adds. Popp says that her dream is to someday write full-time. According to her stories, "nothing is impossible until you believe it to be." Readers can anticipate reviews of her books in the upcoming weeks.

