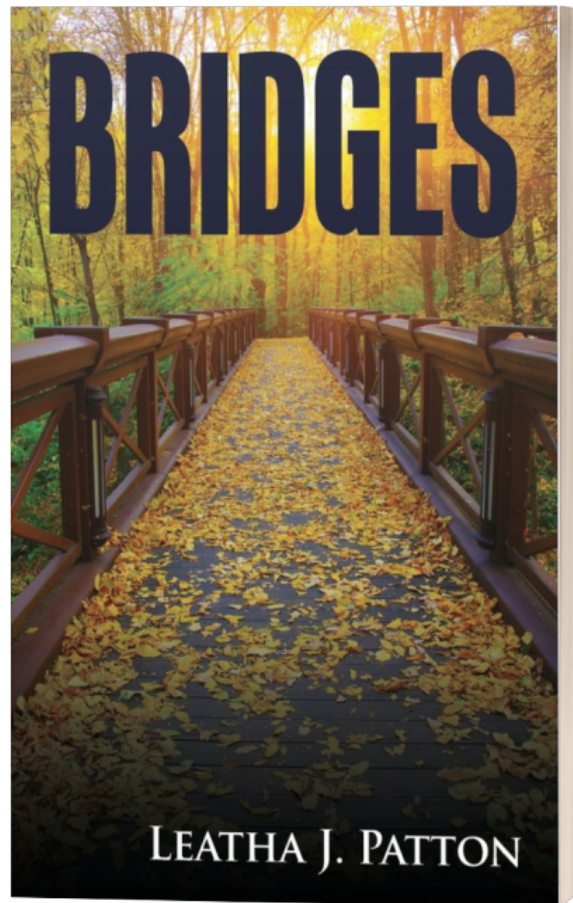


Uncover the Power of Transformation in Bridges at NYLA 2024: A Journey Through Family and Identity by Leatha J. Patton

Exploring the Threads of History and Personal Legacy



Syracuse, New York Nov 4, 2024 (Issuewire.com) - [Maple Leaf Publishing](http://MapleLeafPublishing.com) is excited to present [Bridges](#), the debut novel by Leatha J. Patton, at the **New York Library Association (NYLA) trade fair**. Join us at The Oncenter in Syracuse, New York for an exploration of resilience, family dynamics, and the quest for identity set against a backdrop of historical significance.

A Story of Resilience and New Beginnings

In *Bridges*, Leatha J. Patton delves deep into the lives of the Beckford family, whose existence is haunted by the residual effects of a horrific ordeal from the post-Civil War era. The novel captures the essence of family, exploring how past traumas shape present realities. When a particularly harrowing event disrupts the peace on their sprawling estate, the Beckfords find their familial bonds tested,

resulting in a rift that lingers for years.

As the narrative unfolds, we follow the youngest Beckford siblings, Ned and Estelle, as they grapple with their complicated family dynamics. Seeking a fresh start, they move to Chicago, where Estelle's journey of resilience takes center stage. Faced with numerous challenges, she remains steadfast in her pursuit of a better life, instilling the same optimism and resourcefulness in her children, Clare and Jeffrey.

Clare, embodying stubborn persistence, emerges as the novel's focal point. Her marriage to Grady Mayfield intricately weaves the Mayfield family into the expansive narrative that stretches into the 21st century, exploring themes of connection, heritage, and the pursuit of happiness amidst adversity.

Historical Depth and Modern Relevance

[Bridges](#) is not just a story of one family; it encapsulates a broader historical context that resonates with contemporary readers. Patton skillfully intertwines the legacy of the post-Civil War era with modern-day challenges, creating a narrative that speaks to anyone navigating the complexities of family and identity. The emotional depth of the characters invites readers to reflect on their own journeys, making this novel both relatable and poignant.

Leatha J. Patton's ability to craft vivid characters and intricate plots is a testament to her keen understanding of human experiences. The novel not only offers an engaging storyline but also serves as a platform for discussions about resilience, legacy, and the impact of history on personal lives.

Meet Leatha J. Patton

[Leatha J. Patton](#), born in Youngstown, Ohio, and raised in La Porte, Indiana, has called Chicago home since adulthood. *Bridges* is her first published work, and she is currently working on her second novel, promising more rich storytelling to come. Patton's educational background in journalism and creative writing from DePaul University informs her compelling narrative style, allowing her to weave intricate tales that resonate deeply with readers.

In addition to writing, Patton enjoys sewing and gardening, passions that reflect her love for creativity and nurturing growth in various forms. With a son in Las Vegas and two brothers, her family continues to inspire her storytelling journey.

Why You Should Attend NYLA 2024

The NYLA trade fair is a premier event bringing together librarians, publishers, and literary enthusiasts. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with Leatha J. Patton's writing, discuss her work, and explore the themes of *Bridges*. This event is a must-attend for anyone looking to discover new literary voices and enrich their collections with powerful narratives.

Whether you're a librarian seeking compelling titles, a publisher on the lookout for fresh talent, or a reader eager for stories that resonate with your experiences, *Bridges* promises to spark interest and inspire conversation.

Join Us in Syracuse!

Don't miss your chance to explore *Bridges* at **The Oncenter in Syracuse, New York on November 7-8, 2024**. Experience the power of storytelling through [Bridges](#), a novel that not only entertains but also

encourages reflection on resilience and the enduring strength of family ties.

Maple Leaf Publishing is dedicated to promoting diverse narratives that foster understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage through powerful storytelling.

For more information about the book and to explore opportunities for consignment or acquisition, or for interviews, please contact info@mapleleafpublishinginc.com.



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