

What
the
Willows
Know



Claude Douglas Bryan

© 2014

Published in the United States by Nurturing Faith Inc., Macon GA, www.nurturingfaith.net.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

978-1-938514-44-9

All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America.

DEDICATION



Dedicated to the Ora Maes, male and female, remembered and forgotten, who provided support, nurturance, and guidance in the shaping of our lives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND APPRECIATIONS



What the Willows Know represents a new phase of life and career, a new extension of observation, reflection, personality, and creativity. Compelled by the magical allure in the simple words of look, see, work and play learned in first-grade, I continue to follow those early directives.

Words of appreciation and acknowledgement must proceed the telling of *What the Willows Know*. A number of patrons were those friends who provided the encouragement, the correction, the guidance that made *What the Willows Know* possible. These encouragers include

A high school teacher, Evelyn Burrell, who taught me the importance of sentence variations and transitions that I still treasure today;

Two university colleagues in my early teaching career, Evelyn Romig and Wallace Roark, who read early drafts of an immature manuscript and who still gave the encouragement to write and not to abandon writing for the pursuit of water colors;

More recent university colleagues, Nancy Bottoms and Joseph Webb, who continued to provide encouragement not to give up the life-long dream of writing a published novel;

An author friend, Phyllis Tickle, whose unwavering encouragement kept me persistent throughout the complex pathways of the publishing world;

Two deeply loved sons, Matthew and Stephen, who have been the primary audience for my modeling the love of learning and the art of creativity; and most importantly,

My devoted and beloved wife and best friend of over thirty years, Julie, who has always supported my career and interests and who offered always whatever fashions of encouragement needed along the way.

To these I pledge my continuing appreciation for their encouragement with my adventure with words and my ongoing commitment to encouraging others to create new worlds with words.

— Claude Douglas Bryan

CONTENTS



| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Chapter One | 1 |
| Chapter Two | 13 |
| Chapter Three | 23 |
| Chapter Four | 31 |
| Chapter Five..... | 38 |
| Chapter Six | 51 |
| Chapter Seven | 61 |
| Chapter Eight..... | 72 |
| Chapter Nine | 79 |
| Chapter Ten | 86 |
| Chapter Eleven..... | 98 |
| Chapter Twelve..... | 109 |
| Chapter Thirteen..... | 119 |
| Chapter Fourteen | 129 |
| Chapter Fifteen | 143 |
| Chapter Sixteen..... | 160 |
| Chapter Seventeen..... | 172 |
| Chapter Eighteen | 185 |
| Epilogue..... | 197 |