

Susan McDuffie Biography

A fan of historical fiction since childhood, Susan McDuffie spent such vast amounts of time reading stories set in the past that she wondered if she had mistakenly been born in the wrong century. As an adult her discovery that Clorox was not marketed prior to 1922 reconciled her to life in this era.

Susan grew up in Washington, Pennsylvania, and Binghamton, New York, where her father worked as a professor of Analytical Chemistry. She later lived in Rochester NY and attended graduate school in Boston before moving to Santa Fe, NM in 1982.

Susan's first published works were two Regency short stories in Regency Press anthologies. Her childhood interest in Scotland, fueled by a great-uncle's stories of the McDuffie clan's ancestral lands on [Colonsay](#), led eventually to her Scottish novels. Her clan's traditional role as "Keeper of the Records" for the Lords of the Isles may in actuality have been a somewhat tedious position, but it all sounded incredibly mysterious and intriguing to Susan.

On her first visit to Scotland she hitchhiked her way through the Hebrides and that visit planted the initial seeds for her medieval mysteries. These grew into the award-winning Muirteach MacPhee Mysteries, set in medieval Scotland during the Celtic Lordship of the Isles. The mysteries include A MASS FOR THE DEAD, THE FAERIE HILLS (2011 [New Mexico Book Awards](#) "Best Historical Novel"), THE STUDY OF MURDER ([New Mexico Book Awards Finalist 2014](#)), and THE DEATH OF A FALCON (NM/AZ Book Awards winner 2018). THE SUICIDE SKULL, out in 2022, shares this medieval setting.

Susan's life in New Mexico over the past forty years helped inspire the 2023 DEATH ON THE RIO CHIQUITO. Set in WWII New Mexico, on the fictitious Native American Pueblo of San Antonito, the mystery features the Anglo schoolteacher Emily Schwarz who stumbles over a dead body on her afternoon walk. Is it a local killing, or could wartime secrets be at risk in this sleepy backwater?

Susan belongs to the [Historical Novel Society](#) and regularly reviews historical fiction books for their "[Historical Novels Review](#)". She also belongs to [Mystery Writers of America](#) and [Sisters in Crime](#). She has participated in panels and presentations at numerous conferences including the [Historical Novel Society Conference](#), [Magna Cum Murder](#) and [Left Coast Crime](#).

Susan lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico and shares her life with a Native American artist from Cochiti Pueblo and several unruly and cosseted cats. She worked as an occupational therapist in the Santa Fe Public Schools before retiring in 2007 and has also worked as a potter. She enjoys taking dance classes in her spare time. She loves to hear from readers and can be contacted via Facebook, her website, or email.