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Demons, secrets escape from author's head

Name: K Spirito.

Local connection: New Hampshire resident for more than 20 years.

Title of your book: "Candy-Colored Clown."

Synopsis: Life is perfect for Julie Waters - great husband, gorgeous home overlooking the Atlantic off Cohasset, Mass. But when she becomes pregnant, Ken's reaction is not a happy one.

Years before, Ken's only daughter, Katrina, and his first wife, Regina, died in a plane crash. Julie's pregnancy releases shadowy demons in his mind.

Ken hears Katrina beckon from the beach far below the manse, and as the mansion explodes into flames, Ken falls, clutching a stuffed toy clown.

Julie must outsmart the demons bent on destroying Ken as secrets of family, friends and the candy-colored clown endanger mankind - and Katrina!

Publisher: AuthorHouse.

Price/where is it available?: \$16.95; available at Blackbird Books & Cafe, The Toadstool Bookshops, www.kspirito.com and through several bookstore Web sites.

Web site: www.kspirito.com.

Brief biography: Spirito holds a bachelor's degree from Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire and an associate's degree in interpreting for the deaf from Pierce College in Los Angeles. Her diverse work history ranges from building power supplies for the lunar excursion model to transcribing the children's book "Five Little Firemen" into Braille for the Los Angeles Public Library. Spirito's affinity for history often leads her to the Boston Public Library, seeking out archived human-interest stories to weave into her fictional chronicle.

Previous published works: "Father Sandro's Money," historical fiction; "Time Has a Way," inspirational fiction; "Yesterday, Tommy Gray Drowned," mystery. **Upcoming events at local bookstores:** Saturday, 11 a.m., reading and book signing at The Toadstool Bookshops, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough.

Saturday, March 12, 2005, 1 p.m., reading and book signing at The Toadstool Bookshops, Lorden Plaza, 614 Nashua Street, Milford.

1. What motivated you to write this book? How long have you been working on it?

"This story as well as others in the LaRosa Chronicles have been roaming about my head for years. It was only after my children grew up and left home and I went back to college that I took writing seriously. Professor Gary Baker said I have a down-to-earth writing style that readers might be attracted to. I told him I didn't think I had anything to say, but I gave it a try and the stories haven't stopped yet."

2. Is the book geared to a particular type of reader? What do you hope readers will take from the book?

"I present my stories in various genres and points of view, which draw in a variety of

readers, but more significantly, my books chronicle the lives of the LaRosa family and the people who come and go in their lives. I like to think that readers take pleasure in reading stories about New Englanders, set in New England and told in a New Englander's voice. I have great fun writing and meeting people and I hope that comes across in my books."

3. Name some of your favorite books and authors.

"I like everything by William Martin, especially 'Back Bay' and 'Cape Cod.' I read Robert B. Parker - Spencer and Jesse Stone series, et al. Mary Shelley had an incredible ability to 'paint' the story of Frankenstein. Reading Grace Metalious' "Peyton Place" gave me courage to write about New England. I like Margaret Mitchell's 'Gone with the Wind' and Herman Melville's 'Moby Dick' and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's, 'Evangeline.' Gosh, did you open a can of worms with that question?"

4. If you have to give an aspiring author one bit of advice, what would it be?

"Sit down and write. Don't worry about perfection. Practice makes perfect as well as study. Aspire be the best writer there is with the knowledge that it might never happen. Just have fun trying."

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