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Diaries, Moonshine, and Hand-Me-Downs:

The latest novel from award-winning author Deborah Hining brings to life the struggles of Depression-era Tennessee

New Orleans, LA, June 13, 2018—Award-winning author Deborah Hining brings her epistolary novel, *In the Midst of Innocence*, to ALA.

During the conference, Hining will be signing free copies of her latest release, an “**endearing ballad of the struggle for existence and understanding**” (*Booklist*). *In the Midst of Innocence* was released on April 17, 2018 and is available from IPG.

Hining uses diary entries, letters, and poetry to paint a vivid picture of the Tennessee mountain people during the Great Depression and several years into Prohibition. Ten-year-old Pearl Wallace struggles with her moral dilemmas: What can she do to protect her best friend Darlene from an abusive stepfather? And, especially, how much does she need to tithe on the money she has earned from stealing her daddy’s moonshine and selling it? Meanwhile, Emily Weston, a missionary, has come to “lift the poor hillbillies of the region out of their ignorance and misery.” Coming from a place of affluence and privilege, she is quickly overwhelmed by the social and racial issues facing her students and their families.

When murder, fire, and heartbreak threaten those they love, Pearl and Emily must confront the hate and bigotry of their neighbors. Emily’s time in the mountains will be one not of saving souls, but of personal reckoning.

While this isn’t Hining’s first appearance at ALA, this year’s event is extra poignant for the author who has been battling glioblastoma brain cancer since January 2017. In the acknowledgments to *In the Midst of Innocence*, Hining writes, “I have a number of people to thank just for the fact that I lived long enough to finish this book,” recognizing that she has overcome great obstacles to finish her novel and attend ALA.

Find Hining for signings on Friday from 6:30pm–7:00pm and on Saturday from 3:30pm–4:30pm at the Light Messages booth, #3549.

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