

Sharyn McCrumb

Sharyn McCrumb is an award-winning Southern writer, best known for her Appalachian “Ballad” novels, set in the North Carolina/Tennessee mountains, including the *New York Times* Best Sellers: *The Ballad of Tom Dooley*, *She Walks These Hills* and *The Rosewood Casket*. In September 2017, Simon & Schuster will publish her latest novel, *The Unquiet Grave*, a well-researched history of West Virginia’s Greenbrier Ghost.

Her novel, *Prayers the Devil Answers*, published by Atria (*Simon & Schuster*) in 2016 as a nominee for the Library of Virginia book of the Year and the Southern Independent Booksellers (SEBA) Book Award. *King’s Mountain* (2013, St. Martin’s Press), the story of the 1780 Revolutionary War battle and the Overmountain Men, received a **DAR Award** from the Edward Buncombe Chapter (NC), and in June 2015 the *Patricia Winn Award for Southern Fiction* from the Montgomery County Arts & Heritage Council of Clarksville TN. *King’s Mountain* is taught in schools and featured at a number of historical museums.

In 2014, Sharyn McCrumb was awarded the *Mary Frances Hobson Prize for Southern Literature* by North Carolina’s Chowan University. Named a “**Virginia Woman of History**” in 2008 for Achievement in Literature, she was a guest author at the National Festival of the Book in Washington, D.C. in 2006. In April 2017, the National DAR recognized her with an award naming her a “**Woman in the Arts**” for literary achievement.

Sharyn McCrumb's other best-selling novels include *The Ballad of Frankie Silver*, the story of the first woman hanged for murder in the state of North Carolina. *Ghost Riders*, an account of the Civil War in the mountains of western North Carolina, which won the *Wilma Dykeman Award* for Literature given by the East Tennessee Historical Society and the *Audie Award* for Best Recorded Book. The Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville NC staged theatrical versions of *Ghost Riders* and *The Ballad of Frankie Silver* in 2014 and 2016.

McCrumb’s other honors include: AWA Outstanding Contribution to Appalachian Literature Award; the Chaffin Award for Southern Literature; the Plattner Award for Short Story; and AWA’s Best Appalachian Novel. She was named “*Best Mountain Writer 2013*” by *Blue Ridge Country Magazine*. A graduate of UNC- Chapel Hill, with an M.A. in English from Virginia Tech, McCrumb was the first writer-in-residence at King College in Tennessee. In 2005 she was honored as the **Writer of the Year** at Emory & Henry College.

Her novels, studied in universities throughout the world, have been translated into eleven languages, including French, German, Dutch, Japanese, Arabic, and Italian. She has lectured on her work at universities and museums throughout the US, as well as at Oxford University, the University of Bonn-Germany, and at the Smithsonian Institution. Ms. McCrumb taught a writers workshop in **Paris**, and has served as writer in residence at **King College** in Tennessee and at the **Chautauqua** Institute in western New York.

St. Dale, The Canterbury Tales in a NASCAR setting, in which ordinary people on a pilgrimage in honor of racing legend Dale Earnhardt find a miracle, won a *2006 Library of Virginia Award* as well as the AWA *Book of the Year Award*.

A graduate of UNC Chapel Hill, with an M.A. from Virginia Tech, she lives and writes in the Virginia Blue Ridge. Sharyn McCrumb’s work is the subject of the book *From A Race of*

Storytellers: *The Ballad Novels of Sharyn McCrumb*. Ed: Kimberley M. Holloway. Mercer University Press, 2005. Sharyn McCrumb's books, frequently used in One Community/One Book programs; include: *The Ballad of Frankie Silver* by the town of Gallatin TN and Volunteer State College; *She Walks These Hills* by the Portsmouth, OH library system; *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter* in Boone County, KY; *St. Dale* in New Hanover County NC; *The Devil Amongst the Lawyers* in Winchester VA; and *Prayers the Devil Answers* in Sevier County TN.