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**New Historical Fiction Book by Author Kerry McDonald
Challenges Cancel Culture**

'Stanley and Livingstone' get a harsh make-over in attempt to learn from the past.



JAMUL, CA (July 2020) — Authors Kerry McDonald and Robert Coles see Sir Henry Morton Stanley as a historical figure that shouldn't be erased, but instead, learned from. Their debut book, **Into Africa**, is a re-imagining of the Stanley-Livingstone story. It highlights Stanley's troubling attitude towards race and women, amidst the stark realities of the African slave trade.

“Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”—a phrase that captured the imagination of millions and catapulted Stanley into international stardom nearly 150 years ago—has come under new scrutiny. According to BBC News, more than 1000 people, inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, have signed a petition to remove Stanley's statue in Denbigh, Wales. They claim that he is a symbol of “excessive violence, wanton destruction, the selling of laborer's into slavery and shooting Africans indiscriminately.”

“Slavery destroyed Africa to such an extent that it has not recovered,” states Coles.

“Through the main character, Janet, and to a

lesser extent David Livingstone, I want readers to see it was possible then and now for whites to change, to break from Victorian racial mores. I want readers to view this change from an African



perspective, where it will take more than words and promises to transform. For whites to change they will have to initiate new deeds and actions and make difficult decisions, but it is possible. Therein is the hope.”

In an Africa under British colonial rule at the end of the 19th Century, world-famous missionary and explorer, David Livingstone, had millions of fans who read about his travels through the Colonial British Empire ... but then he simply vanished.

So, when his sister, Janet Livingstone, received a cryptic message from Africa, along with a necklace she had given her him, she knew he was still alive and needed her help. But a woman traveling alone to the farthest corners of the Empire was simply out of the question.

Enter the divisive Henry Stanley, the over-confident American explorer. All too happy to make his mark by finding David Livingstone, he was not about to let a woman, of all things, slow him down. He'd lead the team, assuming Janet, who had never left her tiny Scottish town, would simply drop out before they even started.

Into Africa is the thrilling story of Janet Livingstone, her epic clash with Henry Stanley, and her surprising relationship with their guide, Goma Foutou, amidst the brutal reality of a continent ravaged by the slave trade and European colonialism.

If you liked the movie *The Lion in Darkness*, you'll love this book.

“Into Africa offers a truly fascinating and original depiction of a true story.” –Screencraft

Kerry McDonald is an all-American gymnast and life-long adrenaline junkie who enjoys rock climbing, base jumping, paragliding, yoga, meditation, lucid dreaming, and survival-focused getaways. An expert marksman with both rifle and pistol, Kerry enjoys writing action-adventure stories that provide an adrenaline rush equivalent to the excitement of real life when lived to the absolute fullest to the readers.

Originally founded in 2006 with a focus on poetry, Level 4 Press has won nine literary gold medals and 24 finalist awards, including Forward Magazine Audiobook of the Year; Poetry Foundation Best Verse Drama; Bill Fisher Award for Best New Fiction; USA Book News Best Audiobook; Indie Excellence Awards for Best Poetry and Best Current Events Book; and Forward Magazine Book of the Year finalist.

If you would like more information or to interview Kerry McDonald, please contact Alyssia Gonzalez at alyssia@level4press.com