

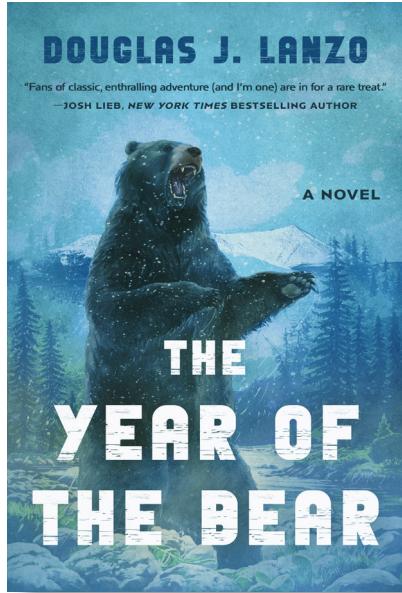


# The Year of the Bear news release

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## COMING-OF-AGE STORY DELIGHTS AND EDUCATES ON FAITH, FAMILY, PREJUDICE, AND INCLUSION



RELEASE DATE: November 1, 2022

TRADE Hardcover and Paperback

PAGES: 316

PRICE: \$27.99 and \$15.99

HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-64960-468-2

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-64960-210-7

**For immediate release:** Award-winning inspirational author and poet, Douglas Lanzo, brings to life the legend of the Penobscot tribe of Maine and their close ties to the black bear through the eyes of Jason Wilson, a boy on the cusp of manhood during the 1980s.

Thirteen-year-old Jason is on the cusp of manhood, striving to find his place at school and at home—especially after his mother has abandoned them and his father is left to deal with his own anger. When Jason and his father encounter a bear while out hunting, they shoot and kill it, not realizing that they have left a cub without its mother. When Sasquot of the Penobscot Tribe, a part of the Bear Family, discovers what they have done, he decides that Jason needs a lesson in caring for God's creatures. Thus begins a year that Jason will never forget as he begins to care and train the cub in order for it to survive. As Jason forms a bond with the bear, he, in turn, learns valuable lessons for life.

"Fans of classic, enthralling adventure (and I'm one) are in for a rare treat," said Josh Lieb, *New York Times* best-selling and Emmy Award-winning author of *I am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil* and *I Want to Be Your Class President*.

Reminiscent of classic novels such as *My Side of the Mountain* and *Call of the Wild*, *The Year of the Bear* is a story that will delight and educate readers as they learn about the Native American culture, black bears, and the rugged woods of rural Maine.

### About the Author:

Doug Lanzo is an award-winning and featured poet and novelist published in over fifty literary publications in the U.S., Canada, England, Wales, Austria, Mauritius, India, Japan, Australia, and the Caribbean. These include over 240 poems published in forty-six literary journals and four poetry anthologies, among them Vita Brevis Press' best-selling *Brought to Sight & Swept Away* and *Nothing Divine Dies* anthologies. *The Year of the Bear* represents his debut novel, which will be followed by his romance suspense novella, *I Have Lived*, targeted for international publication by Ambassador International next year. Doug resides in Chevy Chase, Maryland, with his wife and thirteen-year-old identical twin sons and fellow internationally published poets, enjoying nature, tennis, traveling, biking, fishing, and playing chess. Doug's author website, featuring his poetry and poetry published by his twin sons, is available free of charge at [www.douglaslanzo.com](http://www.douglaslanzo.com), together with pre-order signup for his upcoming novella and links to resources for active and aspiring writers.

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *The Year of the Bear*, please contact publicity director Susanna Maurer at [media@emeraldhouse.com](mailto:media@emeraldhouse.com).

**ABOUT THE PUBLISHER:** Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit [www.ambassador-international.com](http://www.ambassador-international.com). You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl.

## **Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:**

1. What first inspired you to write *The Year of the Bear?* Certain aspects (encounters between humans and bears) in *Legends of the Fall*; love of nature and fascination with American Indians growing up in rural, CT.
2. Why is *The Year of the Bear* a compelling book to read? It is a powerful, inspirational book that will warm your heart but make you cry along the way; it has strong story written with the beauty of a poet.
3. What are the themes of the novel? The themes include a boy coming of age as a hero, healing relationships, overcoming adversity (divorce, bullying, discrimination & peer pressure) and forgiveness.
4. What is the setting for *The Year of the Bear?* The Year of the Bear takes primarily takes place in the pristine environs of Moosehead Lake and Mount Katahdin, Maine during an eight month period from 1985-1986.
5. What is the relevance of *The Year of the Bear* to readers? The Year of the Bear shows through inspirational story and characters how to overcome struggles, heal pain, and transcend darkness, infused with Christ's purpose.
6. Who is the main protagonist? A 13-year old, 8th grade boy named Jason Wilson, a seemingly ordinary kid who becomes a hero in his community thru belief in himself, perseverance and listening to godly counsel.
7. Who are the other main characters in the novel? A wise Indian farmhand named Sasquot, Jason's father, Kyle, a carpenter and avid hunter, and Dawn, Sasquot's daughter who becomes a respected friend of Jason.
8. What distinguishes this novel from others on the market? The Year of the Bear combines the lyrical beauty of a poet with powerful, riveting story of real-life adventure. Your heart will both break and warm along the way.
9. What role did God play in the publishing of *The Year of the Bear?* I prayed for God to be blessed in my poetry and this novel, and my poetry has exploded globally with The Year of the Bear accepted for publication within 2 weeks of submission.
10. What is your philosophy in writing? I only write when inspired and write to inspire others with the story or poetry I feel inside; I unlock a story that already exists and share it.

“Bears can move and climb surprisingly quickly; so, too, does this fast-paced and highly satisfying debut novel set in rural Maine, richly evoked. *The Year of the Bear* tells a coming-of-age story, its action seamlessly interwoven with moments of indigenous wisdom, personal discovery, and universal truth. If the immediate experience is cinematic, its aftereffect is inspirational. A compelling and uplifting work.”

**Scott Mason**

Author of *The Wonder Code: Discover the Way of Haiku and See the World with New Eyes*

“Fans of classic, enthralling adventure (and I’m one) are in for a rare treat.”

**Josh Lieb**

New York Times best-selling and Emmy Award-winning author of *I am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil* and *I Want to Be Your Class President*

“*The Year of the Bear* is a wonderful coming of age story. Jason, our young protagonist, faces a series of challenges, both physical and emotional, and comes out as a better young man as a result. The adventurous story draws you in and the development of the characters keeps you reading. Congratulations on a wonderful story.”

**Robert Ford, Jr.**

2014 Footlocker Co-National Coach of the Year

“This is truly a powerful coming of age story which connects the expanse of nature and human emotion at a level of intensity that carries the reader deep into the lives of its characters. A rich and engaging read!”

**Rev. Dr. Cheryl L. Tatham**

Minister, North Chevy Chase Christian Church, Chevy Chase, MD

“*The Year of the Bear* is an exciting and exhilarating novel that will keep both students and adults on the edge of their seats. Mr. Lanzo does a fantastic job of bringing the characters to life, and allowing young adults to make real world connections to the subject matter and the characters in his work. *The Year of the Bear* is an engaging and compelling read.”

**Gregory D. Pacific, PhD**

Board of Directors/Faculty

Akamai University

Durham, North Carolina

“As a child my grade school teachers read the Laura Ingalls Wilder books to us after lunch. Her descriptions were so clear that it seemed like I was transported into their lives. The time was different, but the place was nearby. Reading *The Year of the Bear* gives me that same feeling. The detailed descriptions of the land, lakes, rivers, with their plants and animals have described a place I have never seen, but I feel like I now know and am walking with Jason and his whole “family.” And the personalities of each of the characters are different, and yet they understand and love each other.”

**Pastor Roger Berner**

Current pastor of Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Port Washington, New York

“A wonderful, multi-layered adventure of a young teen growing up in rural northern Maine.”

**Bob Ford, Sr.**

Footlocker 2014 National Coach of the Year



# author bio

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## DOUGLAS J. LANZO

*Author of "The Year of the Bear"*



An award-winning and inspirational author featured in WestWard Quarterly's Winter 2021 issue and published in three of Vita Brevis Press' bestselling poetry anthologies in 2021 and 2022 as well as in Cafe Haiku's Fifth Poetry Anthology sharing my solitude, since 2020 Douglas' poetry has found homes in fifty literary publications across the U.S., Canada, England, Wales, Austria, Mauritius, India, Japan, Australia, and The Caribbean. A graduate of Harvard College and Law School, where Douglas enjoyed writing editorials for The Harvard Crimson and articles for various other campus publications, he has published professional legal articles throughout his career. A General Counsel by day and writer by night, Douglas resides in Chevy Chase, Maryland, with his wife and thirteen-year-old identical twin boys, fellow internationally published poets, enjoying nature, traveling, biking, tennis, and chess.

### Connect with the Author

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