

Title: The Wind in the Woods
Author: Rose Senehi
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BISAC: Fiction / Romance/Suspense

About the Book

A Romantic Thriller revealing a man's devotion to North Carolina's Green River Valley and the camp he built to share its wonders, his daughter's pledge to hike the Blue Ridge, never suspecting that a serial killer is stalking her; and nine-year-old Alvin Magee's heart-warming discovery of freedom and responsibility in a place apart from his adult world.

Charismatic widower, Tiger Morrison, spent a lifetime saving children from nature-deficit disorder, only to find himself in the fight of his life to protect his undisturbed world from the land grab waging in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains. He's fighting to win Katie Warlick too, but she can't forgive him for not wanting her the way she wanted him twenty years ago.

Three things that make this book unique

- 1) Woven through this story is the 100-year-old history of summer youth camps in the Hendersonville/Brevard section of Western North Carolina—which has the highest concentration of summer camps in the United States. Hundreds of thousands have had the most unforgettable summers of their lives in this area and this story will bring back many readers' fondest childhood memories.
- 2) The 15 camps in this area comprise over 10,000 acres, and therefore make up a considerable section of unspoiled, undeveloped mountain forests. *The Wind in the Woods* tells the story of one camp owner's struggle to preserve his 3000-acre youth camp with the help of the *Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy* and *The Nature Conservancy*.
- 3) One of the major plot lines traces the murderous rampage of 61-year-old serial killer, Gary Michael Hilton, who confessed to the murder of 24-year-old Meredith Emerson who went hiking with her dog in the Northern Georgia mountains on New Year's Day 2008 and never returned. I used his confession to create, in my novel, his stalking of a young camp employee and the abduction of Katie Warlick, the 41-year-old camp cook. Hilton is also the sole suspect in the killing of John and Irene Bryant, a couple in their eighties, who were murdered in October 2008 while hiking in North Carolina's *Pisgah National Forest*. In deference to the Bryant family, I have changed them to two widows in their sixties and put the scene in neighboring Rutherford County. The book opens with their disappearance and traces an exact timeline sequence of the Bryants' disappearance and subsequent murder investigation.

Target Market: Fans of Mary Alice Monroe, Nora Roberts, Patti Callahan Henry, Sandra Brown, and regional fiction. Readers interested in the history of Western North Carolina, summer youth camps, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Hendersonville, NC, land conservation, effects of nature-deficit disorder, danger of hiking alone in the mountains, hiking trails in the Southern Blue Ridge.

Comparable Books: *Where the River Runs*, by Patti Callahan Henry, *Skyward*, by Mary Alice Monroe, *Chill Factor* by Sandra Brown, and *One Foot in Eden* by Ron Rash

Promotional Plans: Book Launch sponsored by the Friends of the Mountains Library. A minimum of 40 signing events over a three month period including most B&Ns and major Independents in North Carolina, South Carolina and major cities of Florida, Industry & Media Reviews, IBPA **Targeted** National Mailing to Book Reviewers, Libraries, & Bookstores, Presenter at several major regional Book Festivals, aggressive speaking and publicity campaign, extensive Internet program.

Author's Bio:

The Wind in the Woods is **Rose Senehi's** fifth novel, and the second in a series that take place in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains. Her fourth novel, *In the Shadows of Chimney Rock*, was nominated for the 2009 SIBA Book Award by members of the Southern Independent Bookseller's Alliance as the Best in Southern Literature for the year.

Contemporary fiction writer, Senehi, is noted for weaving environmental themes into her plots. A resident of Chimney Rock, North Carolina and Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, she moved from Upstate New York in 1996. Her other novels include: *Pelican Watch*, *Windfall*, and *Shadows in the Grass*. For more information about Rose Senehi visit her website at www.rosesenehi.com

Endorsements:

"Fans of Rose Senehi will not be disappointed in her latest book, "The Wind in the Woods". Set in the mountains of western North Carolina, it's a study in the un-mined territory of summer camps—the people who run them, the challenges facing them, and the long-reaching impact that a wilderness experience can have on a young person's life. In this book an old love is re-kindled, a new love begins, and a young boy takes his first fledgling steps towards manhood. All this while the future of the camp is in jeopardy from real estate developers, and members of the camp staff are stalked by a maniacally devious killer. Writing with a sharp eye on the beauty of the deep woods and a keen ear for the songs of birds and trickle of water, Rose Senehi gives us a vivid picture of modern day drama set in ancient woods." -- **Salli Bissell**, Author, *Legacy of Masks*

"Rose Senehi is that rarest of combinations: fiction writer and environmental activist. Her books are as much about the reverence for the natural world as they are about the fictional history of the places she has inhabited and loved. Set in rural Western North Carolina where, for one hundred years, there is the highest concentration of organized youth camps in the country, Senehi's story is as much about the preservation of place as it is the preservation of souls of the people who inhabit these pages. Just as the Green River valley and headwaters were worth protecting in Senehi's story, for the same reasons is this book worth reading. *The Wind in the Woods* put the reader 'in another zone' and like the young people attending the camps in western North Carolina and their experience in the woods, it gives the reader the joy of discovering themselves for the first time--with as much ease and nurturing satisfaction as 'crumbling cornbread into milk.'"--**Thomas Rain Crowe** author of *Zoro's Field: My Life in the Appalachian Woods* and *The End of Eden*.

See below, endorsements and reviews for *In the Shadows of Chimney Rock* and *Pelican Watch*.

“Rose Senehi knows it’s essential that we save our Southern Appalachians from pollution and over-development, and work for a responsible stewardship of the region. *In the Shadows of Chimney Rock* concerns not only the past, and the all-too-real present, but, more important, the mountain and human future. This story will thrill and disturb you by turns, and also inspire hope for the years ahead for the highlands we love.” – **Robert Morgan**, author of *Brave Enemies* and *Boone: A Biography*.

“Senehi has created a thrilling and heart warming story set against the conflict between developers who are ravaging the mountains of Western North Carolina and those who are fighting to save its beauty for the generations to come. A must read!” – **Joan Medlicott**, Author of the *Ladies of Covington* series and *Come Walk with Me*.

"Rose Senehi begins her new novel, *In the Shadows of Chimney Rock*, with a scene of such high drama you wonder if she can sustain the intensity....Senehi not only sustains that opening intensity, she ups it in a high-speed tale with as many twists as a country road." – Arnold Wengrow, **ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES**.

"A finely written piece about a heroine facing overwhelming odds. *In the Shadows of Chimney Rock* is highly recommended for community library fiction collections." **MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW**

"Senehi's new novel has an intriguing storyline. There is mystery, a lovely heroine, romance, and a message that is urgent in its timeliness. Rose is an astute observer of her fellow man and crafts her characters artfully: the nice, the not-so-nice, the connivers, the manipulators, the innocent, and the talented. They are all here. The work may be fiction, but it stirs a deep sense of awareness of the race against time to preserve the rich beauty and ecological balance of the Hickory Nut Gorge. The message speaks to us; we need to listen well." – **THE FRIENDS OF THE MOUNTAINS BRANCH LIBRARY**, Lake Lure, NC

"*Pelican Watch* has everything I look for in a great read: well-crafted, colorful sentences, interesting, memorable characters, and a plot that keeps you turning the pages. It's a book that I gladly and joyfully recommend. – **Cassandra King**, Author, *The Sunday Wife*

"Senehi adds enough romance that'll keep you turning the pages well after the sun has gone down over the Intracoastal." – Elle McGee, **CHARLESTON MAGAZINE**

"Senehi weaves a murder around her other well-wrought subplots, qualifying this novel not only in the genre of a hair-raising page-turner, but also as one of the best "Chick Lit" novels out there. Her characters are original and quirky, her dialogues zesty. It is obvious that Senehi has a well-honed sense of comic timing also." – Patrice Tappee, **Rapid River Magazine, Asheville, NC**