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Cracker Queen's New Book Set for 2014

Powder Springs author Laretta Hannon hopes "Sermons for Twisted Sisters," a spiritual memoir, will be a guide to a banquet for those hungry for life.

By [Michael Stone](#) | [Email the author](#) | July 6, 2012

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The chapter Laretta Hannon is working on now for her upcoming book is about scars.

Hannon—a 43-year-old resident of Powder Springs who has enjoyed literary success following the 2009 release of *The Cracker Queen: A Memoir of a Jagged, Joyful Life*—had a form of skin cancer years ago, causing a scar on her forearm.

People would tell her of cream that would reduce the scarring. "And I thought, 'Why would I want to make it go away? It's reminding me every day that I've been given some more opportunities here.'"

Such struggles and how they affect spiritual growth is the central theme of the book. With the working title *Sermons for Twisted Sisters*, it's set to hit shelves sometime in 2014.

"If I had to sum up what the book is about," Hannon said, "I'd refer to the quote by Auntie Mame: 'Life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death.' My hope is that the new book will help show people how to get to the banquet."

While *Sermons* will be somewhat of a continuation of *Cracker Queen*, Hannon assures that the two will have differences from cover to cover. She describes the first book as a "straightforward memoir with a self-help part in the back," and, not wanting to give too much away, she says the new one will be "more of a spiritual memoir."

Sermons will take readers to dark places—"it's not going to be pretty all the way through"—but Hannon hopes the story will generate smiles, uplift thoughts, and enhance spirits.

"I'm no guru or cult leader or anything like that," she explains, "but I know what has worked to give me a really happy, fulfilling life. And I've seen a lot of other folks who wish they were just as happy, so in a way, that's what this book is about."

A similarity between the two: "It still has the attitude of the *Cracker Queen*, which is, 'We are warriors. We have wicked senses of humor.' It's kind of a battle cry as far as the spiritual nature of our lives."

The Beginnings of a Queen

[An original contributor](#) to West Cobb Patch when [the site launched in December 2010](#). Hannon said the phrase "Cracker Queen" was just part of a book title, and she didn't intend to attain the name.

But as her following grew, the pseudonym uncontrollably latched on. "Instead of fighting it, I just said, 'OK I'm the Cracker Queen.'"

Hannon's first career job was as a science writer for the University of Georgia. She has since worked in advertising and other roles in higher education, including her current position in Atlanta Technical College's student affairs department.

Her curriculum vitae also includes newspaper columnist, Georgia Public Radio and National Public Radio.

"The one common thing from all the jobs I've had is storytelling," said Hannon, originally from Warner Robbins, Ga.

Before *Cracker Queen*, she had one book published: 2004's *Images of America: Powder Springs*, a photo history of the city, which, when incorporated in 1838 as Springville, was Cobb County's first.

Hannon's passion for Powder Springs' history quickly grew when she moved into a historical house on Atlanta Street near downtown. It's the same house in which the great-grandmother of Hannon's husband, Jim Kilgore, raised Kilgore's mom.

Kilgore's family moved out in 1939. But while he and Hannon were living in Lithia Springs in the early 2000s, the house went up for sale, and the couple jumped on the opportunity.

They have no sons or daughters, but Hannon said she does have kids: "Really, I consider my books as my children. It sounds kind of hokey, but they are. Those are my creations."

Outside the house is a 12-by-12 shed, where, besides the occasional Waffle House trip, Hannon does much of her writing. And until she produces the *Sermons* manuscript around September, writing will continue to take up 15 hours of her weekends and one hour of each weekday.

Hannon plans to have a good chunk of material ready by Sept. 29, when, at 2 p.m., she'll be doing a reading from *Sermons* at a fundraiser at and for the Marietta Museum of History.

The \$10 admission includes access to the museum's exhibits, reservations aren't required, and the first 20 guests will get a "special gift."

Hannon is hoping the event will be well attended, but even if the crowd can be counted on one hand, she said she'll be just as enthusiastic.

"I'm like James Brown," she said, "I perform the same whether it's two people or 200."

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[Myra Coker Crawford](#)

10:45 am on Friday, July 6, 2012

I have been waiting (impatiently at times) for Lauretta's next book. Cracker Queen resonated so with me and as she so eloquently puts it, helps us put the "fun" in dysfunctional. In the vein of Capote, Harper Lee and many others, Lauretta weaves a web in which we are delightfully trapped. I'll be reserving my copy as soon as they are taking orders.

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[Lauretta Hannon](#)

11:35 am on Friday, July 6, 2012

Queen Myra! Thank you so much for your kind words. My life would be so much poorer without readers such as you. Sparkle on!

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[Jamie Wyatt](#)

1:29 pm on Friday, July 6, 2012

I wish you'd quit planning things on the few weekends I'm ever out of town! LOL!

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[Reply](#)**Laretta Hannon**7:03 pm on Friday, July 6, 2012

Now Jamie, you might need to reschedule your other plans! LOL

[Delete](#)**Annselma Wood**3:03 pm on Friday, July 6, 2012

Can hardly wait to read the sermons inspired by your twisted sisters of the Cracker Queendom! You know THE POSSE will be at the museum...waving our banners for "CRACKER QUEENS OF THE WORLD". So... Preach it, our CQ! Lovin' you forever, AintSelma.

[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Laretta Hannon**7:04 pm on Friday, July 6, 2012

Aint Selma, You are such an inspiration. Thanks for sticking with me all these years! You are MY queen!

[Delete](#)**Alvetta Thomas**4:48 pm on Friday, July 6, 2012

So proud of you, I can't wait to read it!

[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Laretta Hannon**7:05 pm on Friday, July 6, 2012

Alvetta, You rock! Thank you for every last thing you've done to support me.

[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Terri Foschini**7:39 pm on Friday, July 6, 2012<http://www.thecrackerqueen.com/theBook.html>

I think those who read this article about Laretta Hannon should check out her web site for The Cracker Queen. She is very cool and has a down home writing school for those of us who are writing challenged and need her input on manuscripts or other help with the challenges of creative writing.

I would like to know how Laretta gets to sit and write at Waffle House. A few years ago my friend and I got kicked out for taking too long. Wasn't busy, didn't ask too much of the waitress and behaved ourselves, even always left a great tip. Waffle House must love, The Cracker Queen! Wink to Laretta!!

www.homemadedaze.com[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Laretta Hannon**9:31 am on Saturday, July 7, 2012

Terri, honey, you have to find a better Waffle House! Hope you've been well and writing your butt off!

[Delete](#)**Donna Campbell**10:05 pm on Friday, July 6, 2012

I nod and smile just thinking about the new book. It already grips me, speaks to me, and is calling my name. Kudos to the lady who has inspired me to be "me." You are a gifted spirit, Laretta!

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**Laretta Hannon**9:33 am on Saturday, July 7, 2012[Delete](#)

Okay, Donna....you're about to make me cry. Can't wait to work with you at the upcoming writing seminars!

Mary Hollowell[Delete](#)8:51 am on Sunday, July 8, 2012

Great article! Thanks for this breaking news about Laretta Hannon. She exudes a generosity of spirit that is palpable and amazing. Plus, she's a stitch. I cannot wait to read her spiritual memoirs!

[Reply](#)**Laretta Hannon**10:47 am on Sunday, July 8, 2012[Delete](#)

Mary, I love being called stitch. Happy travels in China!

Trish Hawkins[Delete](#)4:21 pm on Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Laretta, it's Trish Hawkins aka Harriett Time for Your Meds girl...so glad you have another book coming out...are you planning to be at the Dahlonega Literary Festival in November?

[Reply](#)**Laretta Hannon**7:00 pm on Wednesday, July 11, 2012[Delete](#)

Trish! I KNOW who you are! I'm bummed to report that I won't be in Dahlonega this year, but tell 'em I hope to get invited next year. In the meantime, bless your writing hand!

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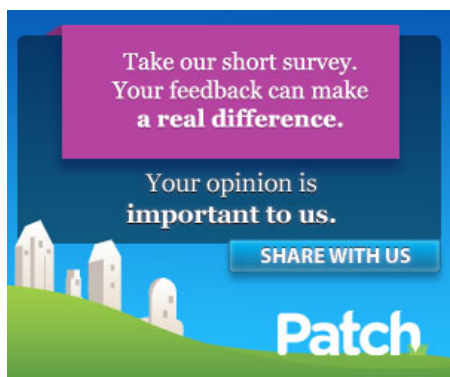
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