

# A PUBLISHING PROPOSAL

New Manuscripts with Bestselling Backlist Rights

by

JAMES MICHAEL PRATT

New York Times and USA Today Bestselling Author



*“I just finished Ticket Home. Beautiful, moving, sensitive, human, moral! Out tomorrow to purchase The Last Valentine and The Lighthouse Keeper. Don’t stop now! We need more writers like yourself. God bless and Keep the Faith.”*

*~ Gloria Smith*

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# JAMES MICHAEL PRATT

New York Times and USA Today Bestselling Author

*“Dear M. Pratt: I just finished reading *The Last Valentine* for the 4<sup>th</sup> time and I love it! I am homebound and since 1995 I have read 1,215 books.*

*It is #1 on my list! God bless you!” ~Vera Bradley*



*“Pratt’s debut novel, like Casablanca, tugs at the heartstrings and brings out the hankies. Natural for television.” ~ Kirkus Reviews*

*“A return ticket to Bridges of Madison County territory.” ~ People*

*“A heart-rending tale of love, loss, and redemption from a master of moral fiction.”  
~ Booklist*

# THE VALUE PROPOSITION

## ORIGINAL BESTSELLER RIGHTS & NEW WORKS



*“Pratt shows that the human spirit is like a lighthouse, capable of shining through the most devastating storms. His simple story will please readers ready for a good cry.”*

*~ Publishers Weekly*

A multi-book rights proposal should lead with what makes it promising for a publisher. That includes, an established brand as a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author with time-tested and deep online roots for each bestselling title. Free publicity from a world class entertainment company, with ongoing annual showings of the author’s major book-to-film title, encourages reader handselling which continues after 25 years. A timelessness of evergreen storylines of inspiration and love with a fan base asking for more, makes the new novels offered—along with the seasoned backlist—a high value proposition as presented in this proposal.

## WORLDWIDE AWARENESS



*“Some love stories have a cheerful demeanor with that instant satisfaction reaction but no lasting impression. Others use cheap gimmicks to equate love with something it is not; and then there are the rare few timeless dramas. The Lost Valentine fits into the last category.” ~ Rissi Writes*

For twenty-five years *The Last Valentine* has been selling itself to readers of historical romance from around the globe. Retitled *The Lost Valentine* since 2011 for the *Hallmark Hall of Fame* and *CBS Movie of the Week*, new story lovers everywhere became aware of author James Michael Pratt’s name and work.

With 14.53 million premier night viewers and regular replays many times each year since 2011, millions of Hallmark movie fans worldwide have come to adopt the main character’s tragic romantic tale—played by Betty White—as their favorite Valentine’s Day love story of all time.

When *The Lost Valentine* first premiered in 2011, Hallmark and CBS hit a record for the annual world premiere event, performing 1<sup>st</sup> in viewership against all other televised broadcasts

for the evening; including beating out FOX's televised coverage of the NFL Pro Bowl. The film went on to earn *Movie Guide's* "Faith & Freedom Award" in 2012 for television broadcasts.

With rights of a well-regarded out-of-print title now owned by the author—boasting an annual multi-million-dollar publicity effort through Hallmark Channel promotions—the author sees a uniquely timed opportunity for major publishing to bring *The Lost Valentine* back into the marketplace in an active effort along with his new novels, bolstered by his popular backlist as presented here.

Pratt titles have been reviewed online for two decades. An opportunity to spark a flame of newness, through collaborative marketing and distribution to a larger readership than ever before, exists with libraries, as well as online and brick and mortar retailers.

A franchise effort for a seasoned author, favorably compared to other well-published love story novelists in online and fan searches, can attract readers who have yet to experience Pratt's enduring style in historical and contemporary romance and inspiration. Long-time fans have communicated their desire for more, as attested by thousands of emails from them. They will embrace new printings and other formats of a popular main selection, along with all the other backlist reads. In collaboration with each new novel from James, seasonal promotions may be designed for scheduled Hallmark movie replays of *The Lost Valentine*, offering millions of movie and reading fans a new look at a respected storyteller.

With a backlist of highly respected inspiration and love story titles to enjoy, from James Michael Pratt's library of successes, along with available new works and an increased awareness of his career-founding title *The Last Valentine*, a publisher may expect immediate and long-term sales and profit.

**THE AUTHOR**  
**&**  
**RIGHTS REVERSION TO BESTSELLING BOOKS**



*“A heart-rending tale of love, loss, and redemption from a master of moral fiction.” ~ Booklist*

James Michael Pratt details his rise from obscurity as a new author in 1998, to a seasoned and well-regarded author, at his [ABOUT](#) section of his website as well in this proposal. Grateful, and yet unaware at that time that his premier title *The Last Valentine* (1998) would last—and even grow in popularity over two-and-one-half decades—the author required additional patience to see him to this new day of a reversion of all publishing rights of his backlists from two different publishers.

His journey to this day, where a “comeback” is in the making, also marks a different era for traditional publishing. His career began in the pre-digital and pre-online bookstore days of

1,000's of traditional brick and mortar stores which no longer exist. Traveling all over the country in pre-zoom meeting days meant constant expenses and publicity outreaches to make booksignings a reality each day during two-week author-planned country-wide events.

Prohibitive constant personal costs required sustained “word-of-mouth” handselling of Pratt bestsellers to continue among fans old and new. The *Hallmark Hall of Fame* movie event occurred 13 years after *The Last Valentine* 1998 hardcover publishing. The 14.53 million initial audience viewing became known to new fans as *The Lost Valentine*. Now 12 years after that first airing, an end for the beloved story—revised and edited in 2023—does not seem to be in sight.

Today the author is eager to comeback with new stories, and bring the beloved novels of his backlist to a new worldwide audience. Through affordable editions and the growing online tools that are now the mainstay of authors, James Michael Pratt has begun the “comeback” story with strengths not available to him for over one decade.

With seven backlist titles and four new works and an author name deeply embedded in searchable online resources, James Michael Pratt creates a *newness* with valuable assets which he believes may be appealing to a major publisher wishing to reach the highly regarded historical romance and inspiration category reading audiences.

This multi-book proposal offers valuable assets and the author's talent to take his titles to a profitable *new level* never before available. James Michael Pratt seeks to promote his list with a publishing partner, and to continue to write in the reader-cherished style which he has become known for.

With age and wisdom combining since his entrée into the publishing world, his talent and deeply embedded searchable author status offers the kind of return to mainstream publishing readers have begged for.



Joy Cragen of Minnesota writes:

*“Mr. Pratt – I have just finished reading Paradise Bay. I am stunned and amazed at the plot and joyous and teary-eyed at the ending. NO story has ever moved me such as this one. I am an avid reader, averaging 6 books a week... YOU Mr. Pratt have topped all I have read in eighty-years!”*

From a fan in Virginia seeking another book from the author comes this:

*“I bought The Last Valentine and read it in one sitting. Thank you for writing books with so much meaning and emotion in them. After reading your books I think about the characters and their lives for days afterwards. The Lighthouse Keeper made me want to go stand on the shores of the Atlantic and look out to sea. Please write another book!” ~Maureen Bankes, Virginia*

From highly regarded film producer energy that a brand like *Hallmark* possesses, to the natural online publicity from recognition which 25 years in search engine optimization offers, an inherent value exists to take the author and his backlist works aboard in a sustained franchise effort, along with his latest unpublished novels, to a reader base asking for more.

## PRINT HISTORY



*Dear James: I read your love stories. I cried, I laughed, I thought, I pondered, I loved more. You are indeed an amazing writer. Thank you so much for sharing them with me!*

*I can't wait to have you on my show! ~Pat Sheranian, Radio Host*

In the spirit of Pratt's *New York Times* and *USA Today*'s bestselling novel, three additional historical romance novels in hard, soft, book club, international, audio, and other rights followed *THE LAST VALENTINE* 1998 hardcover and have also reverted to the author. They are:

- *THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER* (2000)
- *TICKET HOME* (2001)
- *PARADISE BAY* (2002)

From the *Hallmark* movie debut to the present day, the author did not have access to personally promote, autograph, or connect fans seeking affordable copies of the beloved story.

Available in traditional bookstores and on Amazon, the one 2011 mass-market printing of *The Lost Valentine* was published to coordinate with the highly publicized *Hallmark Hall of Fame* hit. The books quickly sold out. No associated *backlist bestsellers* or additional printings of *The Lost Valentine* were made available by the author's publisher as follow-ups to Hallmark's ongoing airing of the movie tie-in.

Unexplained passive interest in printing, promotion, and sales followed until rights reverted. Expensive print-on-demand trade paperbacks finally were made available on the publisher's website and at B&N (POD) in 2014, along with eBooks, through regular author encouragement. Requests by the author to make *The Lost Valentine* and his other sought-after novels easily available for fans to find, resulted in the four original MacMillan novels to finally revert to the author in late 2021.

A desire by James Michael Pratt to revisit each title with a thorough revision and edit, adding a bonus section of anecdotal storyline highlights, as well as free reading of chapters of his works, has caused him to not rush these titles to self-publishing. The author gratefully acknowledges the publisher's regards for his titles by making them available for global distribution once again through a sustained author-led effort.

Readers have continued to contact the author over the years through his website seeking *how to* purchase affordable copies of his novels. Pratt regularly answered inquiries from new and devoted fans seeking autographed copies of his backlist books with, "Coming soon." Of course, the author could not reveal a business struggle to get the novels back in competitive print.

Additionally, due to a much-needed healing taking place from severe physical injuries and spinal disabilities during the 2000s—until surgical remedies occurred in 2016 as revealed in the

[ABOUT](#) section of the author’s new website—a “comeback” story couldn’t be completed without coordinating publishing assets and an energetic health status to promote them.

Patience can be hard earned. Timing is not always what one wishes. But ideal *timing* always blends ability with what readers are seeking. That day to *comeback*, with both valuable publishing assets and highly-valued physical strength, has arrived for the author.

Readers continue to yearn to know that traditional love, faith, and stories of hope can be available for them. *The Last Valentine*, and those Pratt novels following it, have gained a “cult-like” following; but in a good way. Timing could not be better for the reintroduction of love stories that captivate, offer hope, and reach back in time with values useful in today’s chaotic world.

#### REGIONALLY PUBLISHED WORKS

Three additional books in *hardbound* editions were then published between 2003 and 2005 by Shadow Mountain, a regional imprint of Deseret Books in the Intermountain-West, and became #1 Bestsellers in their marketplace among their private company-owned stores and clientele of over 50 additional independent bookstores. In these pre-digital-driven publishing years, the three books were *not written* to target the specific faith their readership largely patronized, and never made the national market for distribution, though attempts were made. This makes the evergreen titles of 5,000 hardcover printings virtually unknown to a market of today. They are:

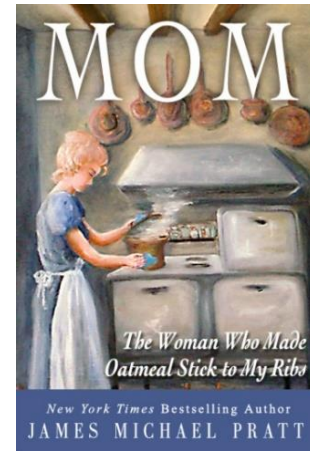
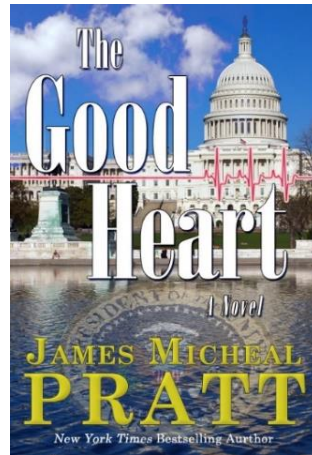
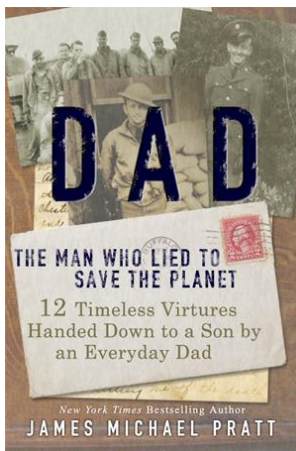
- *DAD, The Man Who Lied to Save the Planet* – 2003 Non-Fiction Inspiration
- *MOM, The Woman Who Made Oatmeal Stick to My Ribs* – 2004 Non-Fiction Inspiration
- *THE GOOD HEART* – 2005 Political Suspense Novel

The two non-fiction hardcover memoirs of faith and values—*DAD* and *MOM*—earned out on advances, while the suspense fiction hardcover did not get past the regional opportunity to earn out. Because of a specific and captured audience for Deseret’s catalogue and website, rights in eBook were therefore agreed to be shared for unearned advances on *The Good Heart* hardcover editions, but also made available for the author to price at his determined values for his readers. Deseret Book has had that privilege to “earn out” for over 15 years without any author self-publishing of the same titles except for one audio book read by him; *DAD, the Man Who Lied to Save the Planet*. A similar recording is now being produced for the author’s *MOM, The Woman Who Made Oatmeal Stick to My Ribs*. As evergreen titles, the passage of time has only made the memoirs more attractive with messages meant for our day. Additionally, a “Post Script” chapter of additional poignant material will be included in the revised and edited 2023 draft manuscripts.

James Michael Pratt LLC, retained all print, audio, film, and eBook rights, including mass market and trade-paperback. With hardcover rights also reverted, these three evergreen titles are now in the revision and editing process and have not scratched the surface of their potential.

## Proprietary Cover Art

James Michael Pratt has designed cover art for the following books, but has yet to list these books for sale with his own imprint.



*"If you enjoyed TUESDAYS with MORRIE, you're going to love James Michael Pratt's MOM, the Woman Who Made Oatmeal Stick to My Ribs!" Inspiring wisdom for everyone!"*

*~ Bestselling Authors, Joy & Gary Lundberg*

## BACKLIST VALUE & POTENTIAL



*I bet I am your youngest fan! I am eleven years old and my mom gave me The Lighthouse Keeper to read. It's much better than Harry Potter. I'm in chapter nineteen now. It's so sad.*

*Bye for now. ~Caitlan Kudlow*

Because of the regular monthly replay and ongoing future exposure to millions worldwide by the Hallmark Channel, *The Lost Valentine* and the accompanying historical romance backlist of titles which followed, may yet experience hundreds of thousands in book sales through collaborative marketing and promotion of each title with the others in this proposal.

Serving as an *anchor* for all other offered works, the movie creates an ongoing *platform* for new readership in the timeless historical, romance, and inspiration categories offered by James Michael Pratt.

Called "A master of moral fiction," by *Booklist* for his third novel, *Ticket Home*, Pratt's audience is worldwide with his top bestsellers translated into various languages. His fans have

reached out from the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, France, Hungary, and other European nations. Australia, the Philippines, Asia, India, Pakistan, the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, and of course from all over North America. These fans have written to thank the author for his works, expressing a desire for more.

Bestselling historical romances age well, as many classic works attest. Establishing book values for the publisher would become a subjective endeavor. However, it can be safely said regarding a “franchise” style effort, that hundreds of thousands of copies may find reader homes over a sustained publisher and author-led effort. By including landing pages for James Michael Pratt’s books combined with the Hallmark movie branding of *The Lost Valentine*, search engines will cross-promote the well-known with lesser-known titles to booksellers and readers alike.

Creating a franchise platform takes time with effort. However, the status of the seasoned author, along with the established reviews from professional critics, makes him familiar with the various retail and wholesale venues required for such a launch.

The good news is that the *potential* for a James Michael Pratt franchise is all ‘up.’ The author acknowledges an absence from active publishing for focused health and family reasons as he transparently lays out at his website. The love people have shown for his titles has been revealed in thousands of emails, physical cards, and letters over the past 25 years; with regular communications continuing each week. The author’s name and backlist titles have legs, and can become reintroduced worldwide based upon creative marketing and timing, along with his new novels. Pratt’s known qualities as a “bestselling author” and the searchable value to library, brick and mortar, and online catalogues, along with *new* novels, represents a true value to a partnering publishing house.



Readers have always been generous with their self-initiated communications to the author as a few of these comments show:

*“Dear Mr. Pratt, I found your book The Last Valentine in an antique store here in Texas! It has touched my heart! God has truly given you a gift for feeling a woman’s desire to be totally and unconditionally loved by a man! Thank you!!!!” ~Debra Rodenburgh*

*“Mr. Pratt, I just finished reading Paradise Bay. I have never been so moved. I cried my eyes out the last three chapters. You are the newest author on my “must read” list of books. I can’t wait to read your other books. Please keep writing these wonderful books. GOD BLESS YOU and your wonderful work!” ~Jenny Figueron*

*"As a big Nicholas Sparks fan, I posted a message on a board asking for author suggestions of similar stories. Your name was the response I received. I just finished The Lighthouse Keeper a few moments ago! I am still tearing up at what a great story that was. Thank you for the hours of enjoyment added to my life. I look forward to reading your other three books." ~Jennifer Goldstein*

*“Hi my name is Momi Tong. I’m 15 and live in Hawaii. Your book was the only book I couldn’t put down. Your book was the only book I ever in my life finish with passion and love. I bought The Last Valentine at a book sale not knowing that it would take me places that I’ve never dream of going. I just want you to know that down here in Hawaii in the middle of the sea I read your book; and so did my friends. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter!” Kindly ~ Momi Tong*

Fifteen-year-old Momi received an autographed hardcover first edition from the author’s personal inventory for her sweet and touching email.

## AUDIENCE DEPTH



*Mr. Pratt – Hello. My name is Samantha Silva. I live in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. You are my favorite author. I am right now awaiting your next book Paradise Bay. I think you are a very inspirational writer and you make people like me take a realistic look at life.*

*I am truly grateful that we have you to inspire and make people feel good about themselves when reading your novels. Thank you for being my inspiration as a young poetry writer, and I hope you will continue to write more meaningful novels. ~ Samantha*

The primary audience is the female reader. Fans reaching out have often offered their ages. Those, including from ages eleven to ninety years-old react with different world views and perspectives but always find Pratt's works touching them where it matters most; the heart.

When *The Last Valentine* first appeared as a novel in 1998, it was written as a “hoorah” for whom Tom Brokaw coined the term that year with his book, “*The Greatest Generation.*” Both

Pratt's and Brokaw's books were written by sons of that generation; part of the 75 million "Baby Boomers" born between 1944 and 1964.

That heroic generation of young adults from the 1940's World War Two years are largely gone from us, but they, their children, and grandchildren, received *The Last Valentine* with affection and passed it along hand to hand. Pratt completed two more novels at the request of his publisher to honor the love stories from those days: *The Lighthouse Keeper* and *Ticket Home*. All three have endured the test of time, finding new readers even today, as attested by the author's fan mail.

One additional novel, written for Pratt's 1960's generation of youth, highlighted their music and the tragedies of that era and how it affected all of us today. It was published following the World War Two trio, and titled *Paradise Bay*. The nature of the history and inspiration of music and healing from Vietnam still resonates with the generation who lived those years, and grew up with the influences as portrayed in the novel.

Now the *Baby Boomers* are retiring—many seeking reading for pleasure. They come largely from a generation emphasizing reading, visiting libraries, and entertainment found from a story that carried the mind and heart to other places, other times, and circumstances which they now recall from youth; and have ties to through birth.

The market has never been better for Pratt's style of backlist stories, as they ponder their own lives, those of their parents and grandparents as well. These are the now estimated 72 million people remaining from the Baby Boom generation in 2023 with wallets, brought up in the "Golden Age" of storytelling and the romance found in books and movies. They have wealth, seek inspiration, and still possess influence. What's more, they know James Michael Pratt is one of

them and that he understands their emotions, history, and can connect with them. This trust can be built upon with strong publisher collaboration.

As a writer—on past and present stories of life, love, history, faith, and general inspiration—Pratt crafts each novel with carefully researched historical elements and settings as portrayed through the eyes of present-day protagonists reaching back in time to deal with something lost to them in the present.

All novels combining love, loss, romance, and history have appealed to a wider readership as well; including males of military age from the present through seniors who have served in past wars described in Pratt novels, and the wars on terror of recent years.

*Hello Mr. Pratt—I have just finished reading Ticket Home. It was one of the best books I have ever read. I can relate to this story as I was in the Philippines during the war. I got there after the fall of Bataan as a replacement in the 32nd Infantry Division. You are now on my ‘MUST READ’ author list! ~ Duane from Michigan*

Reader’s comments here and at the author’s website, attest to the wide audience demographics in age and gender. From a 31-year-old came this Facebook message in 2022:

*“Hi Mr. Pratt! When I was 11 years-old I won a copy of The Lighthouse Keeper from a radio station. That started my collection of all your books. I even got a Christmas card from you in the mail at our apartment. I felt so important that you would send them to me each year. I showed all my friends at school every December. I was someone to you even if you didn’t know me and that helped on multiple occasions. Thank you so much for your books and cards! ~ Stephanie Marie Hawk*

A professional trauma counselor read *The Lost Valentine* and wrote this on April 7, 2022:

*“I have just finished reading your book, The Lost Valentine and I was particularly moved as I work with our veterans, facilitating retreats for those who have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress. On pages 92-94, you described perfectly what I teach the vets: Moral Wounding. In all the psych books and workshops, I’ve attended, I have not found such a poignant description. The reason I am writing you is to say, “Thank You!” I will use your words during my teaching about moral wounding. Again -I just wanted to say thank you and that your words will help veterans to begin to understand and heal. I am curious - are you a veteran?”*

Lin Daley, Director

National Veterans Wellness and Healing Center

Angel Fire, New Mexico

Since the first self-published copies of *The Last Valentine* in 1997, veterans with wartime experience have praised Pratt’s works for authenticity and thoroughness, including asking if he had served in World War Two or Vietnam. Female readers have commented on understanding their husband, father, brother, or grandfather’s military experiences for the first time. A World War Two veteran offered this at the release of *Ticket Home 2001*:

*“Mr. Pratt: I was in 6th Infantry Division, in Luzon in 1945, and met some of the men who were rescued from Cabanatuan POW camp that you describe. Their tales are similar to yours, about the Death March, and prison treatment. I was in Division Headquarters, G-2 section, so I got insights on the enemy cruelty. Thanks so much for the book!” ~Charles F. Hanks*

A retired Coast Guard veteran offered in 2006:

*“I just finished The Lighthouse Keeper. A wonderful story. The cover drew my attention away from Clancy, Koontz, K. Mills, Cobb, P. Robinson military, espionage-action-adventure novels I usually read. Being a former lighthouse technician, and instructor of automated lighthouse maintenance for the Coast Guard, I have a special fondness for lighthouses. I was surprised to find so much 'action' in the story. You did an outstanding job of capturing my interest from cover to cover. I will definitely recommend this book to friends and family. Keep up the good work.” ~Brian Kelley USCG Retired.*

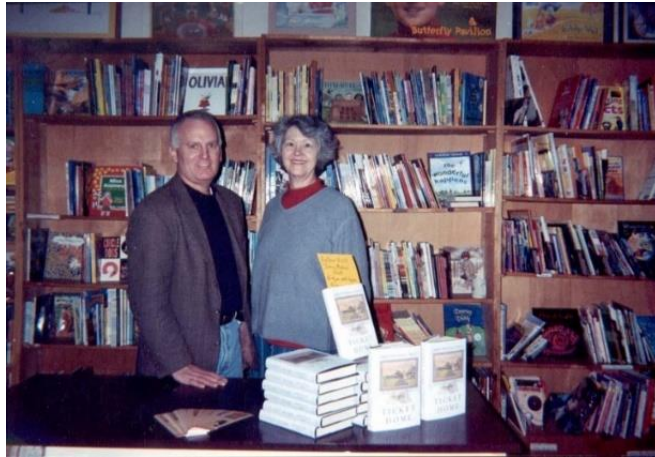
Additional fans cite:

*“Mr. Pratt, I am an avid reader who lauds outstanding writers – especially you, Nicholas Sparks, Richard Paul Evans, Francine Rivers, and Jan Karon – to my small circle of friends, but I have been remiss in letting the authors know. I hope that you will be able to inspire us with many more books. However, if you stop with the three already published, you made a great contribution to mankind.” ~ Betty Boynton*

*“Dear James—I just finished reading Paradise Bay and it was great. It was such a beautiful story of love and several times brought tears to my eyes. This book would make a terrific movie. Is there any chance of that?” ~Bill Bilger*

*“I have recently read The Lighthouse Keeper for the second time. I loved it and am eagerly awaiting Ticket Home. I have read The Last Valentine now three times in two different copies, the hardcover and mass market paperback. I LOVE reading all of your books!” ~Diana Law*

## REIGNITING a LOYAL AUDIENCE & NEW READERS



“THAT BOOKSTORE IN BLYTHEVILLE”

*“The world breaks everyone, and afterward many are strong at the broken places. But those it does not break it kills. It kills the very good, the very gentle, and the very brace impartially.”*

*~ Ernest Hemingway*

### A COMEBACK

Comeback stories are filled with overcoming obstacles, shining the path for others to follow. They inspire. They lift when others are seeking a way out from being down-hearted and depressed. Pratt offers a glimpse to his comeback in his website’s [ABOUT](#) page with audio.

We are global in reach in the 2020’s unlike any other time in book publishing history. Expanding the audience in the age of podcasts, online events, and social media are tools James Michael Pratt did not enjoy with his original publishing experience. He will employ all these tools

to reach out and grow a worldwide audience; and his own “comeback story” will be told to inspire readers everywhere who seek to know that life’s challenges and hurdles are meant to be overcome.

Understanding his gentle *love story* brand and the audience seeking it, will be the focus Pratt will engage in with these new tools of the trade. And history—as it served so well for past novels—will be examined in present and future novels to add the realistic nature of conflict, tests and trials, along with intrigue which the present generation has become familiar with; not alone in reading suspense and thriller works, but also in *real* life.

## **RECENT WORLD HISTORY & STORIES MAKING a DIFFERENCE**

History lives in all of us. And never was a time so necessary to reexamine our most recent global history in order to come to terms with it and to avoid mistakes from our collective past. Now we have just gone through 20 years of a global war on terror. Even children have grown up in the shadow of military conflict and understand that it is a real part of many lives. Our country never experienced wars in which fathers were followed 20 years later by sons who served in their footsteps on foreign battlefields.

With the combined emotions of family members, their romances, and a yearning for peace that those experiences lead to, we now have a huge number of aging and young veterans who continue to suffer from PTS-Post Traumatic Stress. These include the author’s nephew who still suffers from the horror of combat engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan as a Marine, and Pratt’s two older brothers; disabled Army veterans from the Vietnam War years.

As the writer makes his own “comeback” in 2023, readers from around the globe are working by the millions on their own private and similar stories. Pratt’s novels—intended to entertain and inspire—have offered compensative thoughts for those who have suffered. In fact,



personal stories have been sent, or described to the author by readers, about loved ones long passed on, and how *The Last Valentine*, or other Pratt novels, helped them finally come to terms with the events that so affected them in their youth.

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In February 2023 Grace Jenkins emailed the author about her recent experience with *Paradise Bay* which she found through a friend's recommendation:

*“Dear Mr. Pratt, I hesitated to read your novel Paradise Bay, as much of it is placed in the Vietnam years. Not a good memory. My first husband was in the Navy’s underwater demolition teams. Today they are called SEALs. We sometimes cried together over his experiences and the medals he was given. Eventually he succumbed to his PTSD, becoming homeless and committing suicide. Your book Paradise Bay, has taken me back to that time in the early 1960’s when our country was still innocent, music was everything, and people lived happily ever after.*

*“Vietnam took from us that innocence. That being said, maybe because I am considered an ‘old lady,’ I’m enjoying your references to the music of that time, the feeling of it—beaches, boyfriends, etc. Your Vietnam narrative is descriptive and informative in ways I wasn’t expecting. I’m learning things I didn’t know, so now I can view it from a perspective that’s not so painful. Vietnam will always be a sort of sad, complicated event in our country’s history, but your novel has lessened some of those feelings of sadness from me.” ~Grace Jenkins*

Grace was sent an autographed first edition hardcover from the author's remaining original inventory, meant for friends and special people he has met along the way.

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It is this “timelessness” of plots and storylines in the *historical romance fiction* that seems to gain the affection of aged readers as well as youth; sometimes seeing conflict and romance, for the first time, through the eyes of characters who become real to them. One example is the story of twin brothers, Lucian and Norman Parker of *Ticket Home*, who were named to honor two of Pratt’s uncles who died tragically after surviving World War Two.

*Ticket Home* was inspired by a tender-hearted senior, Ima Rose, who offered her name from a wheelchair after announcing to the author at a *Last Valentine* book signing in 1998: “*I’ll bet you could never guess what my name is.*” The author smiled and waited to hear her story. Her two older brothers served together in the Pacific during World War Two. They promised their mother to bring each other home, and experienced battles that should have ended their lives; but they indeed did end up keeping their promise. That realism offered from real lives, including true military engagements, was at the center of this tale of brotherhood and love.

*Ticket Home* is offered in a classic war story of two twins, fighting to help each make it home alive, to keep the promise they made to the sweetheart they both loved. A real military unit and their exploits is used for the brother’s identities, giving authenticity to the gritty fictional story of sacrifice and survival behind enemy lines in the Philippines.

As Pratt threads the needle in writing to the broadest audience possible, he pens a novel to seek young readers without a historic footing or context in a world that often misstates, or does not teach, our common past. Seeking to blend historical knowledge with entertainment to fit the older audience—both male and female—with an understanding of history from their own living experiences, he shows the nature of love, hate, war, peace, and humanity.

He is pleased to bridge the age divide as he weaves each tale with teens to senior citizens in mind, realizing self-proclaimed sophisticated readers may not always enjoy Pratt-styled

sentimental tomes. But the audience proves to be there for the James Michael Pratt brand—book after book—and that is all an author or publisher can ask for. In correspondence with youth, the author often finds validation from readers like Momi from Hawaii in the Pacific and Julie a 14-year-old in the Atlantic:

*“Dear Mr. James Michael Pratt – I absolutely loved your novel Ticket Home! This novel was definitely one of the best I have ever read! I live on a small island in the Azores with my Air Force father, mother and five sisters. My sister, Kimberly, heard about your book and I managed to borrow it from a friend. I finished it in two hours! I could not put it down! Although I am only a 14-year-old in high school, I really appreciate your talent! Never stop writing!” ~Julie Andersen*

From those more advanced in life-experience and age, Pratt is gratified to hear from the reading audience members such as Dr. John McCord, from Washington state:

*“Greetings Mr. Pratt, Last week I visited my favorite book shop. It has a selection of fine literary fiction. My goal is to discover a good writer who also is a gifted storyteller. I found Ticket Home and fulfilled that wish. I finished it last night in the wee hours with the fireplace glowing, classical music playing, and my kitten asleep on my lap. Life just doesn’t get any better except it was hard to stay awake in my clinic today. Thanks for a wonderful novel!” ~Dr. John McCord*

And... from a new reader writing to him on March 1, 2023 comes this:

*“Dear Mr. Pratt, I would like to know if it’s possible to get my favorite book signed by its author. Where could I send it to get signed? Just recently ordered another of your books. Hope it’s just as good as The Lost Valentine! Thank you!” ~Cinde Shaw*

## BELOVED BESTSELLERS & NEW WORKS



*“Dear Mr. Pratt — It is now mid-night, the witching-hour, and I just finished reading The Last Valentine for the 6th time! Yes, I cried my eyes out again, at the most beautiful love story I have ever read! Everyone from 16 years old and up should read this story!”*

*~ Helen Mulholland*

Along with collaborative reprint sales of his widely sold bestsellers, *The Lost Valentine*, *The Lighthouse Keeper*, *Ticket Home*, and *Paradise Bay*, incentives to get to know additional James Michael Pratt’s newest novels exists for the reader.

Readers are asking for more from their favorite book author. Pratt immediately offers two new novels, with more in the writing process. Combining marketing efforts of beloved seasoned backlist reads with new James Michael Pratt novels of the same nature, a unique opportunity exists

to reignite loyal readers from the past and create new readers today for the publisher choosing a franchise level publishing experience with ready-made author assets.

New author works can synergistically be marketed to those global fans of not only the *Hallmark Hall of Fame* movie, but just as Stephanie Marie Hawk remembers as an 11-year-old, the other Pratt books that touched fans lives in enduring ways these past two decades. In a short period of time the publisher may be able to cross-promote Pratt's four popular backlist novels with other new titles currently available for publishing.

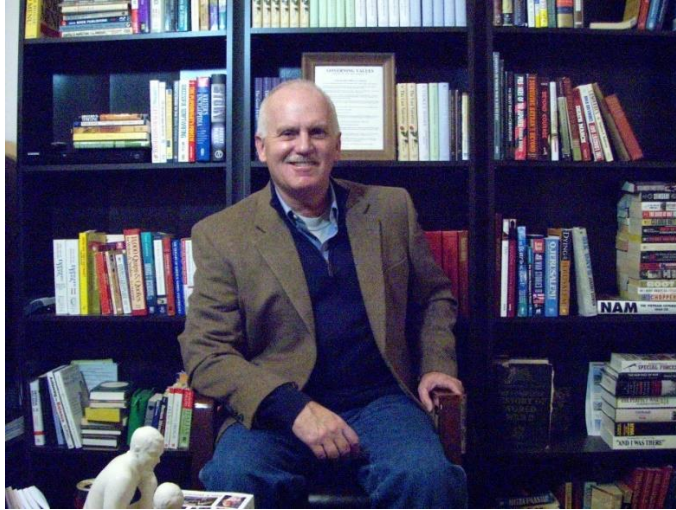
Pratt not only contemplates special editions with notes and commentary to accompany each work re-introduced to the world, but will be offering "free reads" of chapters from each book he writes to engage reader curiosity and their love for reading.

Each backlist title and *new novel* will highlight "Free Chapters" from prior James Michael Pratt novels with special offers for their purchase. As all Pratt works combine to pique curiosity and satisfy readers looking for more, a genuine *new* author-publisher franchise may be built.

As his website will show, he has been busy creating new historical romance, inspirational fiction, and non-fiction manuscripts for present and future publishing consideration.

It is a new world since Pratt's backlist were penned. The opportunity to creatively publish, distribute, create specials, link to appropriate holidays, and synergistically sell new stories readers will enjoy, has never been more promising.

## NEW NOVELS



*“There are a few authors who can create characters that make you feel like you know them personally. Charles Martin and James Michael Pratt are two of those.”*

~Larry J. McGarr

It is fitting that the audience for so many of Pratt’s former novels may be introduced to two new manuscripts at this time, which include retired military protagonists seeking love and peace. The two titles included in this proposal for the consideration of major publishing are:

***IN a PLACE CALLED LOVE*** and ***WHEN THE LAST LEAF FALLS***

James Michael Pratt held off self-publishing these two novels. He understands the quality and the familiarity they may bring to loyal Pratt fans, and wishes to bring them through the doors of major publishing to the public in a way that also achieves a synergistic effect for the sales of his treasured bestselling backlist.



(Rights to Cover Art Available)

Titled *IN A PLACE CALLED LOVE*, a present-day romance is set during Christmas holidays at an obscure Wyoming highway crossroads known by the locals as the Love Ranch.

Jake Monson, a 38-year-old recently retired Special Forces Army veteran, seeks answers and peace for his empty and traumatized life after 20 years of warfare. Nagging him are ghosts of the many men he loved as brothers. One, his best friend from youth and Army comrade since they were both 18-year-old recruits, lives with him daily.

He is now on his way to make the long overdue visit to Bill Dawes' grave and family in Star Valley, Wyoming; their boyhood hometown. Jake knows that events outside of his control are pushing him into uncharted territory, as war and the business of it have been all he has known since leaving Wyoming as a teenage Army recruit. He also senses that the healing he requires will come if he just pushes as hard as he did as a soldier. He can't explain it, but unseen hands seem to be reassuring him; just as real as his friend Bill's hand was in reaching out over a wall to save him in combat years ago.

When unexpected injury leaves him stranded in stranger's hands on a Christmas Eve like no other, he begins a journey of hope. What he discovers on that stormy Christmas Eve, when blinding snow and an unforeseen accident stops him on a lonely stretch of rural highway, is Rachel Love Strong, a beautiful woman inheriting the three-generation owned Love Ranch who had—until then—no intention of rescuing anyone.

Rachel, a successful Los Angeles catering company owner, thinks she is home for Christmas to settle a ranch sale and final family affairs after her mother's death. Instead, she finds the real purpose of her companionless and unsatisfied life *in Love* as she rediscovers values she had tried to run from for years.

And there is an aged ranch manager, Daniel Echohawk, the voice and narrator of the Love story. With a terminal illness, Dan gradually becomes aware—with the help of a stranger simply known as “William” who appears suddenly onto the scene—that he holds the untold truths to the place's real history, the easing of pain in his heart, and the key to Jake and Rachel's future happiness.

Now Daniel Echohawk must keep a promise made to Rachel's deceased mother to share the long-held Love Ranch secrets kept from Rachel. With mere days to live, little does Dan know that his helping to rescue Jake from freezing temperatures in an over-turned vehicle near the ranch entrance, will not only help both Rachel and Jake find the one thing missing from their lives, but also help him to settle the traumas of his own life.

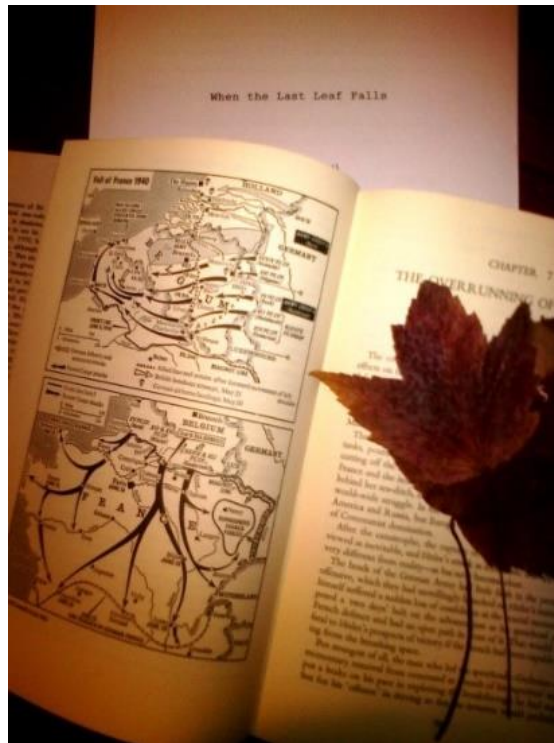
And, while building the fires of love in his heart for Rachel's mother “Missy,” even more than he ever could have imagined, Daniel Echohawk reveals elements of Rachel's family history in a surprising way neither could have known without this converging event of Jake's arrival and Rachel's coming home to Love.



And then there is William, the stranger. Who is he? And, does his quiet influence have a major role to play in the eventful Christmas week?

As Dan Echohawk wraps up his own final business of life, Rachel and Jake find the meaning for their lives as Dan reveals some things that allows his soul to be at peace. In what can only be described as a Christmas story of unexpected miracles, magic, and healing, there is a reader journey to begin: *In A Place Called Love*. \*

\*Working Title: *In a Wonderland Called Love*



Just as those of us from the seventy-five million “Baby Boom” generation may recount our parent’s war histories, a son narrates the heartwarming story of loss, rebirth, and second chances for both himself and his aged father in *WHEN THE LAST LEAF FALLS*.

In a chance meeting with a veteran of World War Two at Normandy, France on June 6, 2004, James Michael Pratt became fast friends with the late Howie Beach, veteran of D-Day, and in 1944 an unexperienced eighteen-year-old soldier in the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Pratt soon found himself editing the veteran’s war memoirs, *The Secret War of Howie Beach*. From it was born the idea for the fiction work — a final “Hoorah” for a beloved generation.

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There is a magical spot of healing and revelations at Anderson’s Mill, Virginia. And there is an oak tree that symbolizes more to one man than anyone else from the small township named

for the family homestead, could ever imagine. The reader follows an American father and son, and a French mother and daughter, on an unlikely journey when Shenandoah Valley farmer, Howie Anderson comes to final grips with his World War Two losses and a secret he had been ashamed to reveal before and after the recent death of his wife Alice. Trauma that are both real and are of the mind, are visited as his widower son Steven takes him back to the places he knew as a teenage infantryman.

Both realize that wartime stress also plays a role in their dilemma to find mental and emotional peace. The final father and son trip should be epic, Steven realizes, as he plans an elaborate itinerary to help his aging hero father come to peace with the losses of war. He also hopes by doing so his own wounds of losing his wife, Yvonne, may become finally healed as well.

An aged French woman Marie Alderette – once married to a young American soldier who had saved her during the war – kept the marriage secret from her children until now by order of her recently deceased and abusive husband, Pierre.

Pierre had created an elaborate ruse during the war to win Marie's hand by concocting a telegram announcing her American husband's death during the December 1944 "Battle of the Bulge." He also created a fictitious telegram to the American soldier telling her that Marie had died from American military mistakes made attacking a passenger train as she traveled to Paris to look for him.

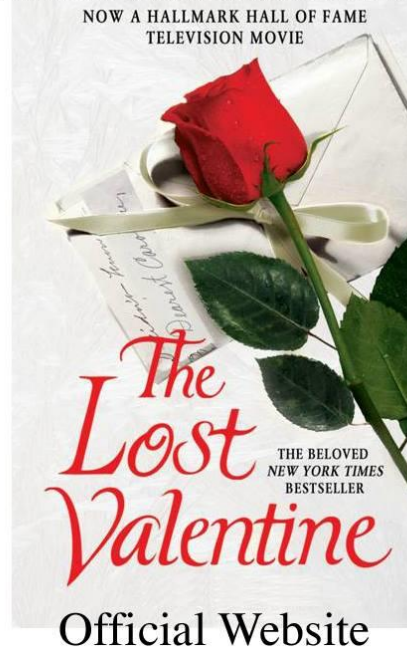
Marie now seeks to bury her undying love for the American with a visit to his grave, taking the tokens they once gave to each other—an oak leaf from under the tree where they married and a photo of brief happiness during the chaotic days of war—to leave upon it. Her daughter Jeannette discovers the love story and is determined to help her mother become the young woman from 1944 again, if only for a day.

What happens when the American and French lover's present and past lives collide unexpectedly at an American Military Cemetery in Belgium, becomes a magical story of second chances.

As Howie Anderson's son Steven narrates his reluctant father's hero journey, we discover that healing and love never come too late, and may blossom once again in the most mysterious ways *When the Last Leaf Falls*.

## THE RETURN TO MAJOR DISTRIBUTION

James Michael Pratt



*“The story has endured with readers for 25 years and the film audiences for 12 years. Readers have asked for several years: ‘When can we purchase an autographed copy?’*

*I always answer, ‘Coming soon.’” ~ James Michael Pratt*

James Michael Pratt offers the world a new [website](#) and a new reader experience in 2023 with a private Book Club, Podcasts, a Store, and the opportunity to creatively publicize and market his entire library of works in a way that never existed in those early years of the 1990s and 2000’s.

The world of 2023 is in crisis and faces times of uncertainty, wars, natural disasters, pandemics, and destruction of personal hopes and dreams in ways no other generation has experienced. Timeless ideals of love, hope, and redemption offer readers from around the world

what they need in times of difficulty and danger. Hearing from readers for just over 25 years now, the author has been made aware of their desires to escape to other places, even if just for a few hours.

The author understands this intimately from his own experiences in family crisis, health challenges, as a young service volunteer in a desperately poor Spanish speaking country under revolutionary military rule for two years, witnessing the deaths of friends and unfinished lives, and training in law enforcement in his home state of California as a young man.

Pratt views the world through both a lens of experience as an adult with five decades of work and volunteer experiences, and as a writer with both a creative and a journalistic eye. Facts matter. Historic views matter. People matter, and sometimes fiction allows for healing human hearts. Great fiction affects, and that is something hard to force; but the reader knows and shares things deeply felt with others.

*“Mr. Pratt – I am a journalist writing news/sports/features for a small daily newspaper in Arizona. Just got through reading Ticket Home. An outstanding piece of work. It took me all of two days to finish. It was hard to put down. I’ll be purchasing your first two books shortly. I am a fan of Nicholas Sparks’ work and found through something written that you were compared to books written by him. His latest, The Rescue was good, however, Ticket Home is in a league of its own. Thank you for writing such a wonderful book.” Sincerely ~ Marty Shevelove*

*“Mr. Pratt – I am a Viet Nam Veteran. I just read and enjoyed Paradise Bay. The facts of history of that are correct. Very nice story and was glad to see everybody win. Thanks for the excellent escape from the Atlanta, Ga. traffic to a sweet story in Paradise Bay, CA.” ~ Carl S. Jackson*

People yearn for the same things everywhere. Pratt's novels mean something different to each reader, yet responses also carry a common theme: "There is hope" and "I am not alone."

From a suicidal 15-year-old in Indiana, who wrote to thank the author for the hope found in *The Lighthouse Keeper* that changed her mind, to the North Carolina US Army veteran, Larry McGarr who lost the love of his life and read the same book on his sweetheart's final days of life, and from a 17-year-old trapped in an aged 80-year-old body in Philadelphia, come thanks and praise.

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In lands of civil unrest and terrorism—as a young lady of privileged society described her Yemen's war-torn uncertainty—people seek the pleasure of escape and surprise that turning each page offers them. The highly educated Yemini reader described how she felt to be comforted from the effects of daily gloom and lockdowns in her home by a copy of *The Lighthouse Keeper* she purchased in an international airport in Europe.

Lara, a broken-hearted soul in Argentina, who lost her fiancé in the Falkland's War of 1982, keeps a candle burning for him and never has been able to love anyone else. Caroline of *The Lost Valentine* has given her hope of seeing him once more.

Words carry thought, but also emotions when building each sentence in crescendo. Book magic carried these readers away to places they may have never known, and to be part of people's lives in a way they never could. Pratt novels have helped them see through other's eyes; finding that struggle and uncertainty can be overcome, and that hope and love will see them through the dark nights of the soul.

*Dear Mr. Pratt - I first wrote to you when I was a 12-year-old in middle school to tell you how much The Last Valentine had affected my way of thinking about love and life. I'm now at Boston*

*College and will be graduating next year. I see that The Last Valentine will finally be made into a movie. I just wanted to write and congratulate you. I cannot wait for MORE! ~ Grace Huang*

It is time to re-engage with these wonderful readers and others of similar fiction and non-fiction tastes. Now with more global connectivity than ever known James Michael Pratt seeks to reach out to readers with a hard-earned wisdom and a renewed commitment to make a difference in reader lives. Whether Pratt titles become published again through a professionally managed publishing house or by the author's use of widely accepted online platforms, all James Michael Pratt titles *will* become new again; for those around the world to enjoy as these readers have:

*"I just got through reading The Lighthouse Keeper and I was so touched by it that I am going out tonight and buy all the books that you have written. I thought you would like to know this is coming from the other side of the world, Guam... Keep writing!" ~Fe Mendiola*

*"I have read a few hundred books over the years, including the Pulitzer Prize Winning "Lonesome Dove". In my mind, Ticket Home should win a Pulitzer as well. Now it's time to pass this book along to others who will love it as well. Thanks Again!" ~Michael Riley*

*"Dear Mr. Pratt, we have the habit of finding good authors and reading everything they write. You have joined a special club at our house with your three novels: Tom Clancy, Dale Brown, and John Grisham. My wife hopes you are working on book #4 and that it is not too long in coming. Keep up the good work!" ~Gerald Bolen, Oklahoma*



## MARKETABILTY



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## JAMES MICHAEL PRATT

*“Dear Mr. Pratt: Wow!!! I have read both The Last Valentine and Paradise Bay in one day each. I cried, I laughed, and I prayed...I have recommended them to many people for encouragement. Thank you for your wonderful books!” ~ Linda Peraldo*

James Michael Pratt represents his own titles in this first promotion of his reverted and new book rights to major publishing for nearly two decades. As mentioned in the print history section of this proposal, Pratt’s backlist titles have experienced printings in hardcover and mass market editions. They have *never* been published in trade paperback.

In addition to the 7 backlist titles, two privately held works printed in ARC format in 2008 are under revision and may be made available along with two new manuscripts make 11 books available for publishing and introduction to a reading audience seeking the uplifting romantic, history, and inspiration categories.

Pratt is developing additional fiction and non-fiction titles in anticipation of future publishing between 2024 and 2030's as displayed at the [BOOKS](#) page of his website. It is the author's opinion that a purchaser of backlist rights may anticipate immediate sales due to demand which world familiarity continues to increase with the widely broadcast *Hallmark Hall of Fame* story of *The Lost Valentine*. Even before the present movie magic causing searches to be made, readers learning how to use the emerging online search tools found Pratt's books the old-fashioned way; just as Gloria Smith from Massachusetts expressed:

*"I just finished Ticket Home. Beautiful, moving, sensitive, human, moral! Out tomorrow to purchase The Last Valentine and The Lighthouse Keeper. Don't stop now! We need more writers like yourself. God bless and Keep the Faith." ~ Gloria Smith*

Coordinated backlist promotion of Pratt's reverted titles may also create immediate and sustained sales for new and never-before published titles as readers anticipate the pleasure found in a newly discovered author and his style.

The relaunch of a well-regarded and established author presence in the marketplace, and a considerable reading list with new works, may be considered a ready-made and substantial value proposition for a major publisher prepared to make the commitment to a franchise-author style publicity and marketing campaign.

The following venues have already experienced positive sales and continue to seek seasoned works as solicited by readers:

## Public and Private Libraries

It's time to return to the libraries; a place many go for their escape to other places and times. Libraries have shown enthusiasm over the years for Pratt's titles as contact with the author and reader comments indicate. Fans write:

*"Dear Mr. Pratt, the waiting list at the last count for Ticket Home is 182! Being such a small library and Utica such an old town we have a lot of elderly people that use the library. They are always looking for a nice clean book to read. So, I start them off with The Last Valentine, and they always come back and ask for more of your books so I give them The Lighthouse Keeper. Now they are waiting for Ticket Home! I just started reading it again!! My son wants to read it after me so we can discuss it! -Debby Whittet*

Recently (2023) from a small town on the coast in Maine, Patty Mae wrote:

*"I just finished Ticket Home and our library just ordered Paradise Bay. There are so few copies of your books that libraries are sharing them. I hope you write more soon!"*

Libraries in the United States and Canada have never had trade style paperbacks offered. They have exhausted their original hardcover and mass market copies of Pratt-SMP works and have relied upon POD at high priced retail since original printings ceased.

The brand has been deeply established in public and private libraries and should be easily welcomed back with available copies of Pratt's novels and non-fiction.

## Book Clubs

*Mr. Pratt, I wanted you to know that I gave an oral review of The Last Valentine just the other day at our local book club and there wasn't a dry eye in the room by the time I finished. You sure do have a way of telling a love story. Thanks for just writing as you do. Don't change!*

*~ Georgina Tacconi*



Doubleday and Literary Guild, as well as other commercial book clubs, offered the author's titles as "Main Selections" and succeeded well with all original James Michael Pratt book releases. Those book clubs still active today, may also wish to reintroduce the reprint titles to their loyal audience.

In addition, private community book clubs across America have shown an interest in romance, history, and inspiration category works. Many have connected with the author, and have become hand-selling fans.

James Michael Pratt has initiated his own privately themed book club at his website. ["Once James Michael Pratt's Once Upon a Time BookClub"](#) shall soon be listed for fans to join through Amazons collection of author-led book clubs. The author has begun offering selected "Free Reads" at his website as found at this link: <https://www.jamesmichaelpratt.com/valentinesday2023promo>

With millions of readers visiting the world's default book-selling platform daily, Pratt anticipates promotional and unparalleled reader list building opportunities. A sample of "Reader Comments" may be found at the author's website page: [Reader Comments](#)

*"Mr. Pratt, I just wanted to write and tell you how much our book club, here in Webster SD, enjoyed your book, The Last Valentine after watching the Hallmark movie. We followed it with The Lighthouse Keeper. After reviewing both books there was not a dry eye in the room. Thank you so much for your writing. How may we obtain copies of your work? ~Sincerely Joy Kragen*

Joy and her book club received a gift set of four of Pratt's works from his personal inventory, while also directing them to his new website, where a limited number of original out-of-print hardcovers kept in reserve for 20 years by the author can be purchased.

## **Audio Books with Special Author Participation**

James Michael Pratt proposes that a publishing partner purchase non-producing audio books from 2000, 2001, and 2002 respectively from audio book producers who originally purchased the sub-rights from St. Martin's Press. Presently these books are not generating revenue due to inactive promotion. Those three titles were produced with professional actors during the tape cassette years in abridged and full book styles. They are:

- THE LAST VALENTINE
- THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER
- TICKET HOME

Extremely well-produced, these three preceded the dynamic years we now are in of iTunes, Audible, and other companies offering easy access to those of audio listeners who prefer the present era of podcasts and audio books over reading print books. The at-home listener, the commuters, and those during other down-times preferring audio to the written word, including the challenged reader due to eyesight, or other difficulties are on the constant outlook for engaging fiction and non-fiction that affects the senses of the heart and the mind.

The ease of use through devices that did not exist then begs for a renewed production of these classics, Pratt's other backlist stories, and new works.

### **NEW AUDIO PRODUCTIONS with AUTHOR BONUS**

All of James Michael Pratt's books not yet produced in audio, may follow with professional audio production, including the bonus of the author recording his own memories, insights, real history included in his stories, and the anecdotal influences that affected the writing of each novel.

This "Bonus Section" would be included at the end of each Audio Book, along with a "Sneak Peek" reading from other works and new manuscripts, bringing the personality and warmth of the author-voice to the audio-book lover.

James Michael Pratt has recorded two of his inspiration-category works and will make them available to the publishing partner. They will be listed on Audible until such time as a partnership becomes realized. They are:

- *DAD, The Man Who Lied to Save the Planet*
- *MOM, The Woman Who Made Oatmeal Stick to My Ribs*

## Online Stores & Brick and Mortar Opportunity

*Dear Mr. Pratt – I just finished reading Ticket Home. You are one of my favorite authors, some of the others being John Grisham, Richard Paul Evans, and Nicholas Sparks.*

*Thank you for your wonderful books. ~ Robert Paddock*

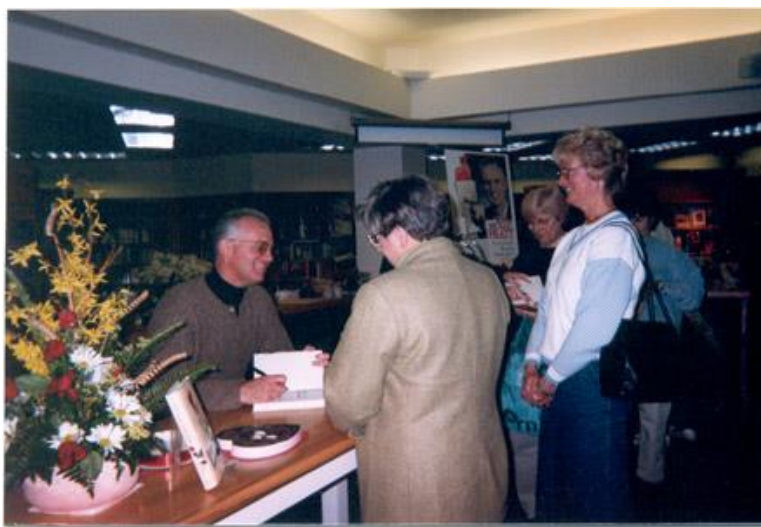
A tepid past interest by Pratt's former publisher after 2011 may be exploited in a positive way with Pratt titles given a well-announced rebirth and marketed in coordination with distribution of *new works* in the many high profile store locations now available across the web.

Accenting "free reads" in promotions, may also encourage the past and a present reader base to consider the multi-book offering Pratt and a publishing partner makes.

Retail stores may be offered soft cover titles in mass market, trade, through POD or traditional print runs, with special *Book Display Bin* packages using *The Lost Valentine* as the anchor book for the re-introduction of the author and his collection of historical, romantic, and inspirational works to the marketplace.

Well placed internet web pages offering "*Free Book Chapters from Bestselling Author James Michael Pratt*" may also be located throughout the search engines and online reader review sites to ensure new readership are led to online stores, where they may purchase Pratt's backlist and new novels and non-fiction.

## AUTHOR HISTORY



*"I enjoyed reading your first two books. I'm excited about reading your third and can't wait for your fourth. I did get the opportunity to meet you at Books-A-Million in Nashville. You need more advertising and publicity! ~ Teresa Minert*

James Michael Pratt enjoys twenty-five years of deeply embedded search engine results for his name, author brand, sales, reader comments, and professional title reviews. All results of book sales, other data, as well as reviews, are available online through industry resources.

At a pre-launch of the official *Grand Opening* version of [www.jamesmichaelpratt.com](http://www.jamesmichaelpratt.com), the [ABOUT](#) page explores the author's life in a conversational, authentic, and transparent manner. James Michael Pratt's writing and personal history is also delivered in a Press Release style PDF at the same page. Influences, personal interests, his youth, and physical disability challenges—which created an unexpected pause in activity—are transparently explored at his website to offer inspiration to readers, and also to give a reason for a longer-than-anticipated absence from active publishing.



An audio link titled [BACKSTORY](#) at the ABOUT page gives a glimpse into Pratt's first 25 years leading up to the publishing of *The Last Valentine*, including what he learned, and how it became the influencing factors for his talents and abilities in writing then and now. He describes a history of disabling effects that increased over fifty years; from a very active youthful lifestyle to chronicity in pain, which caused a temporary step back and retreat from pressures of active publishing and daily promoting. He also encourages every reader to adapt and choose to make “the road less traveled” a winning journey, if they are called to take it.

Pratt offers a preview of coming podcast delivery style, personality, and voice in his audio found at the Backstory page. Unscripted, he offers his voice in a natural conversational tone. With some unexpected emotion—realizing everyone has something to deal with—the author simply seeks to lift, encourage, and inspire readers to never give up when challenges face them with a force that sometimes feels overwhelming.

James Michael Pratt's style of conversational delivery will soon begin to be offered in Pratt's “*Sundays with the Author*” in 2023 and “*Straight from the Heart*” in 2024 podcasts highlighting book readings and inspirational stories.

During down time for family and personal wellness issues, Pratt wrote four additional novels. With his film-maker brother Rex J. Pratt, he also produced a war documentary starring actual US Marines during two tours on the front lines, titled *Between Iraq and a Hard Place*.

With three of those Marines now deceased after suffering from PTS, (and affecting the author deeply) it makes the case for all of Pratt's novels being even more poignant and timely. Narrated by Martin Sheen, the entire documentary may be found here: [BETWEEN IRAQ & HARD PLACE Pratt Bros Entertainment](#)

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## PROPOSAL SUMMARY



*“I can’t believe you found this much stuff to fuss about. I’m nobody special,” she said.*

*“Believe me Mom, you are special beyond words.”*

Post Script - I Love You Forever (Audio 2023)

This proposal has been prepared for the publisher looking to add a seasoned author with a valuable backlist and promising new titles, to their stable of franchise-capable authors. The James Michael Pratt author-brand carries an intrinsic value through decades of established online name recognition. His works continue to show strong appeal and are sought out by readers, thanks in part to *Hallmark Hall of Fame’s* ongoing support for *The Lost Valentine*. A newness applied in promotions attached to this anchor story beloved by millions, can produce sales for all his titles for years to come.

James Michael Pratt understands that an author needs to understand his or her role. The strength of any partnership resides in understanding the what talents each partner possesses and moving forward together to maximize those. Authors write and promote, creating fans as they do. With the well-published first print run opportunity given him, Pratt realizes that a lot of profit has

been left on the field for both the author and a prospective publishing partner of his titles.

Some books age well, and time only makes them more endearing. In Pratt's reflective style of writing, love, heroics, and common bonds that tie beating hearts together, never grows old.

Pratt understands that publishers have earned their trust among readers through successful publishing of high-quality works. They produce the authored assets in multiple formats for the widest possible distribution. Their established markets likewise seek reward and offer digital and brick and mortar shelf space to accomplish maximum profit.

The goal of this proposal is to offer a valuable seasoned author and his library to a publisher for business exploitation in exchange for a financial reward to the author; much like any company selling its assets to another.

Strong publishing expertise and financial reward allows the author to pursue a robust schedule of production in new works, while also enthusiastically promoting past and current works. Creating a franchise-author for the publisher seeking to grow its bestseller lineup and expand categories for the widest readership possible, provides a path to increased profitability for both parties.

The author begins engaging the public from his website's *Once Upon a Time Book Club*, and Podcast recordings, with a *Grand Opening* of his website in Spring and Summer 2023. The relaunch effort of titles along with publicity will be multi-year in scope. It offers as many as ten never before seen books, now either written or conceptualized for publishing through the 2030's.

Woven into the fabric of publicity is the obvious tie-in to Hallmark Hall of Fame's *The Lost Valentine* movie popularity around the world. An amplifying effect on profitability due to the evergreen book-to-film association, with regular showings on the Hallmark Channel, may occur

by having seasoned *bestseller reprints* available over the course of several years, as *new* James Michael Pratt novels are announced.

With a positive view toward the future, author James Michael Pratt now offers publishing rights past and present. The author invites the proposal reader to visit [www.jamesmichaelpratt.com](http://www.jamesmichaelpratt.com) for a comprehensive look at his life, seasoned literary works, and present offers.

# ADDENDUM

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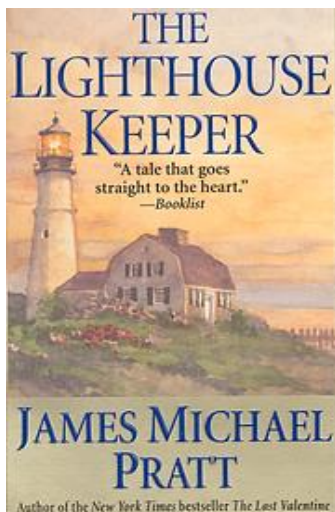
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## BOOK TITLES LIST with SYNOPSIS

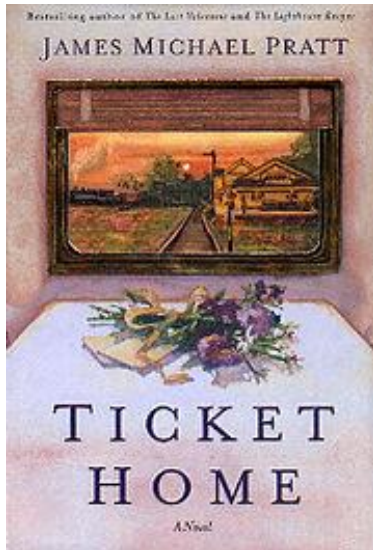
"Dear Mr. Pratt -- I first wrote to you when I was a 12-year-old in middle school to tell you how much THE LAST VALENTINE had affected my way of thinking about love and life. I'm now at Boston College and graduating next year. I see that The Last Valentine will finally be made into a movie. I just wanted to write and congratulate you." — Grace Huang



**THE LAST VALENTINE** became a *New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestseller in 1998. *Hallmark Hall of Fame* and *CBS Movies of the Week* premiered Pratt's story to 14.53 million on a world debut in 2011. Now viewed by millions more, this beloved tale with flashbacks to World War Two was renamed for the film title: *The Lost Valentine*. Called a "Return ticket to *Bridges of Madison County*" by *Publisher's Weekly*, the author's mother inspired the story.



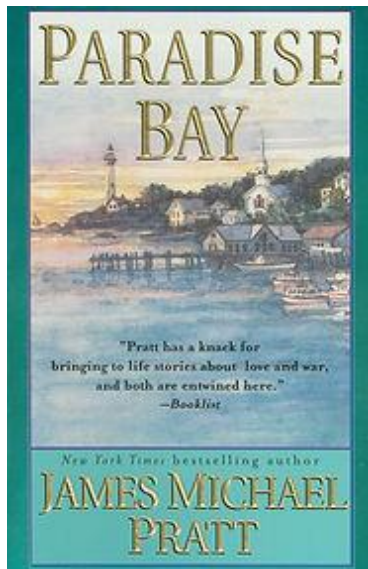
A *USA TODAY* and National Bestseller, *The Lighthouse Keeper* was first released in 2,000 in hardcover, then paperback and audiobook. Still being read today, it tells the story of two Irish American lighthouse keepers as they experience loss and love over a 90-year history. Now in the present day, the surviving daughter learns secrets of reclaiming hope after devastating losses; showing us values found in purpose and love become a light that saves in the end.



A National Bestseller with an attached screenplay, *Ticket Home*, is a sweeping 80-year journey through a worldwide depression, a world at war, to peace, then final redemption and forgiveness as twin brothers Norman and Lucian Parker – in love with the same girl Mary Jane – fight to survive and keep a family legacy alive. Now in the present day, one final promise must be kept by the war's surviving brother to the other at his gravesite. But which brother is it?

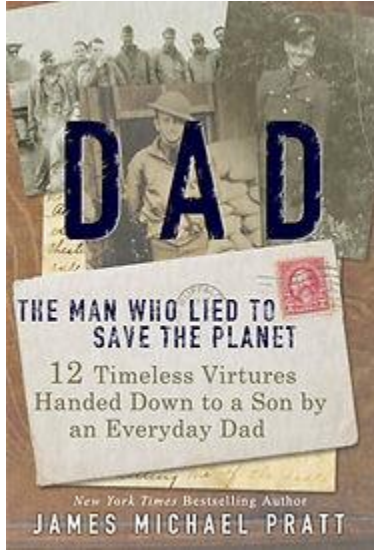
***“Hi Mr. Pratt! I just wanted to tell you, I just finished reading Ticket Home with tears in my eyes. It was wonderful! Keep up the good work. Can’t wait for your next novel.***

***God bless you!” —Joey Bravo***



Bestselling *Paradise Bay* (2003) became one of Pratt’s favorite stories to tell. Originally titled "The Piano Man," it includes anecdotal elements in time and geography to places known in his youth. A story of immense tragedy and reconciliation with Vietnam era losses, a severely wounded Marine awakens from a 30-year coma to find a son, redemption, and a better way to live through transformative music; and yes--a love thought lost finds a way to strike twice. This novel is timely for 2023, especially in the

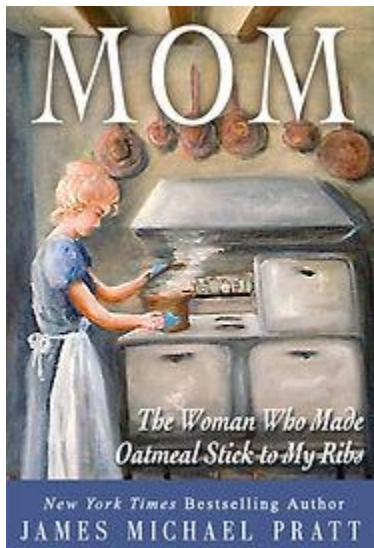
PTSD filled post 20 yearlong Global War on Terror!



*DAD, The Man Who Lied to Save the Planet* (2003) became a regional hardcover bestseller. 12 timeless lessons based on the author's memories of growing up in Southern California during simpler times and the common-sense truths taught by an ordinary Dad who raised 9 children during the post-World War Two decades. Father really does know best in Pratt's book of enduring values meant for our day. Author's revised, Print, Audio, and eBook Edition coming Oct 1, 2023!

***"For anyone who admits to having forgotten the important things of life, DAD, The Man Who Lied to Save the Planet is here to remind you."***

**— Kenneth J. Atchity, Film Producer & Author**



*MOM, The Woman Who Made Oatmeal Stick to My Ribs* offers 12 humorous and poignant lessons learned by the author from his Mom from the 1950s through her passing in 2008. An Intermountain Region Bestseller in 2004, "MOM" lived to know others were interested in simple truths of living that helped her raise 9 children before and after the Vietnam War era. If faith, good behavior, treating others like you'd like to be treated, and caring with common-sense traditions mean anything today, the values always started with a bowl of hot oatmeal, but never really end. Print, Audio & eBooks coming 2023!

***"If you enjoyed TUESDAYS with MORRIE you're going to love MOM, the Woman Who Made Oatmeal Stick to My Ribs!" ~ Bestselling Authors, Joy & Gary Lundberg***





*IN a PLACE CALLED LOVE, a Christmas Story*— Audiences will want to revisit the Love, Wyoming ranch year after year. In the working title: "*In a Wonderland Called Love*," a present-day supernatural Christmas takes three lonely people with a longing for love and “peace on earth” to a Yuletide miracle. A broken-hearted soldier, a single woman with a sprawling ranch to manage, and an aged cowhand on his deathbed are offered hope, healing, and second chances they long for. Unpublished

manuscript 2023.

*“The story really affected me, especially the part where he feels so lost after 20 years at war.*

*Felt like I was there again. Teared me up.”*

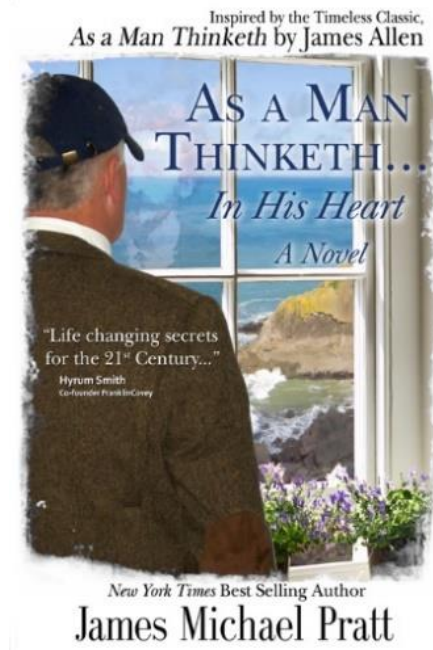
~ **Luke S. Former US Army, Special Forces Operator, Retired**



In this 15-year writing journey for the author, we find *WHEN THE LAST LEAF FALLS* becomes the magic, we all long for. When broken-hearted father and son from the Shenandoah Valley—both veterans and widowers—travel to the WWII battlefields of France, secrets are finally revealed while healing, romance, and second chances step in to complete their lives and those of two French women; mother and daughter. eBook and *Special Collector’s Hardcover Edition* release anticipated

for Fall 2023.

**MAKING A CASE**  
**for**  
**The Inspiration Category**



*“I have read all of James Pratt's books and found them wonderful reading, but this one is special. The author takes you on a trip filled with your own dreaming. You are sitting on a grass knoll overlooking the ocean and WHAT peace you find there. This story can change your life.”*

*~ Charles C. Drinkwater, Vermont*

Three bestselling authors influenced Pratt more than any others in terms of how and why he was affected by their works. They are: Lloyd C. Douglas (*The Robe*), Og Mandino (*The Greatest Salesman in the World* and *The Greatest Secret in the World*), and James Allen (*As a Man Thinketh*).

All three authors offered the world inspirational fiction in different ways. Douglas’ was a story of faith set in the first century A.D. and changes that happen as a result of belief. Mandino’s many personal growth fiction bestsellers were a blend of faith in something greater than ourselves

and self-improvement ideals. James Allen wrote of personal growth through the thought process, and perhaps has been more widely read than the other two authors.

All bestsellers from these authors, selling in the tens of millions of copies over a period of many decades in print, continue to make an impact today; each influencing readers, just as they had first inspired author James Michael Pratt for 50 years.

The inspiration category is both wide and deep. In a few words it covers topics and areas of: self-management and goal setting, homilies and aphorisms for better living, poetry, proverbs, stories of faith, overcoming, comeback stories, thought mastery, life meaning, love, romance, stories of triumphs, psalms, spiritual growth, esoteric ideas, physical development, prayer, relationship, influencing others, self-control.

What follows are the early influences, inspirations which molded the author's views, and some backstory on the life of James Michael Pratt.

## LITERARY INFLUENCES

*“I must admit, I have a romantic heart. I wished my wife was here; that all my loved ones and friends were here to share this with me. For romance is not the moment found in intimacy between partners alone, but a way of living in wonder, and with awe for the matchless creation life really is.” ~ AS A MAN THINKETH...In His Heart, pg. 66*



### THE AUTHORS

Pratt was heavily influenced in his early years by the authors previously cited, who combined fiction with personal growth. Og Mandino was a leader in this style, whose series of novels, beginning with *The Greatest Salesman in the World* (1968), *The Christ Commission*, *The Greatest Secret*,

plus others sold over 50 million copies from the 1960s through the present. Straight forward non-fiction authors such as early 20<sup>th</sup> century philosopher-thinker James Allen, offered the world a timeless fifty page multi-million copy selling masterpiece, *As a Man Thinketh* (1904). It spread around the world through self-published copies shipped from his basement on 33 Broad Park Ave. in Ilfracombe-Devonshire, England as depicted in this image of the author with the current homeowner giving him a tour. The book continues to sell well today.

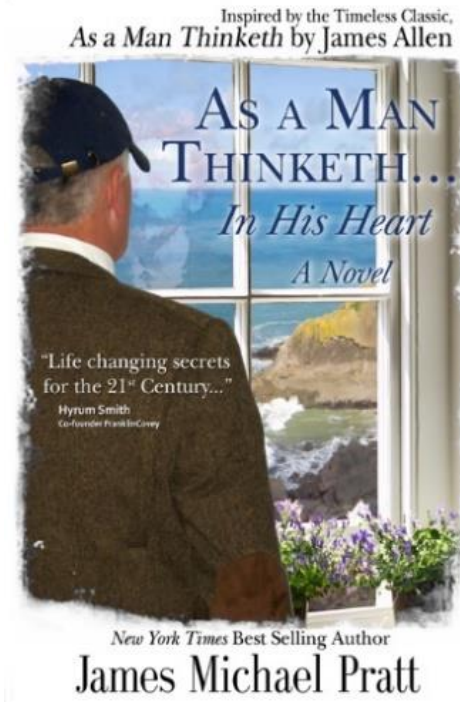
Author Pratt has listed the following two new works as Amazon Kindle eBooks, and created original ARC's to give away for free at LA Book Expo in 2008, but has not spent any time in promotion or marketing; rather awaiting the re-launch of a career that could include all of his

works as presently set forth in this proposal. Revisions to the two works cited here, are also being produced at this time as updates and improvements to the original text.

Other storytellers which influenced Pratt along the way were: Lloyd C. Douglas (The Robe, 1942), Leon Uris (Exodus, 1958), Harper Lee (To Kill a Mockingbird, 1960), among others.

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## TWO ADDITIONAL WORKS



*“As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.” ~ Bible – The Book of Proverbs*

James Pratt will often state how his mother gave him a self-help book to read in his 18<sup>th</sup> year. His path was one of self-serving and unfocused directions; not at all out of sync with his contemporaries of that day.

The wisdom of that book, *As a Man Thinketh* by James Allen, carried Pratt through life to this day and marked a turning point in his young happy-go-lucky, California beach-going, and pleasure-seeking life. Allen’s metaphors of the mind as a garden, and assurance that “thoughts are things” are well known and widely read among all who have explored success, motivational, or personal growth literature.

In *As a Man Thinketh... In His Heart*, Pratt plays protagonist as one of his early literary influences, author Og Mandino did in three of his bestselling novels. He weaves a tale of traveling to England to research for his next romance novel not expecting to become the house guest of one of the most influential authors of personal growth and inspiration of all time, James Allen of Ilfracombe, in Devonshire.

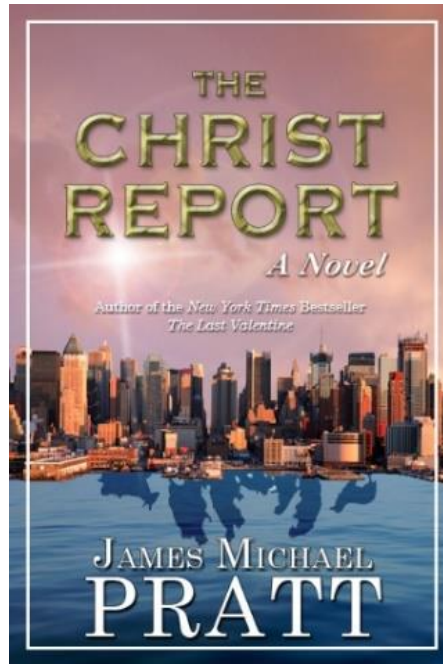
In both USA and UK settings the author finds himself in a journey where time melts and where a literary ghost and his contemporaries from the past become determined to deliver to a noisy and distracted present-day world new information required for personal growth and happiness.

Inspired by Og Mandino's page turning and entertaining approach of being the storyteller and main character as found in *The Greatest Secret in the World*, Pratt becomes the protagonist-storyteller in similar first-person voice. The bonus included in Pratt's novel is the public domain book, *As a Man Thinketh*, by James Allen.

In an entertaining way to bring old and simple truths to life, the reader must determine if Pratt is right about his mystical journey and the secrets for a better life found in Ilfracombe, England. By the end, the reader will at least smile at a playful approach to basic personal growth truths brought to life in *As a Man Thinketh... In His Heart*.

*"James, this book is beyond amazing. I can't imagine ever being able to come up with a story like that. It really, even at my age, makes you really stop and think about life and how you should live it. This book has made me really stop and think about how I live my life. I'm sure it will change my life for the better. You are an amazing author."*

*~Patty Mae, March 21, 2023*



*“This book warmed my heart. I love the Lord Jesus and this was like being there when our Lord fulfilled his promise to the world. It gives hope that anyone can accept what can't be seen simply by believing. God Bless You.” ~ Teresa Watson*

A timeless and magical tale of finding hope and redemption, appealing to the billions worldwide constituting the fan base for two of the greatest stories of all time, the birth and the resurrection of the Christ, *The Christ Report* offers two love stories running simultaneously.

One is as ancient the Christmas manger and the Easter tomb, as seen through the eyes of a 2,000-year-old Bethlehem businessman—the most vilified innkeeper of all time—and the other in the present day; a stress-filled New York radio and television personality.

Both are in love with women who want to help them but aren't sure how to do so. When time blends past with the present, for their sakes and for love to save them from disastrous destinies, they must meet seemingly impossible tasks given them by a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Roman known as Cornelius; the gate-keeper to their futures and a secret the world needs now more than ever.



Each must report back to a present-day world—one exploding with chaos and dissent from ancient wisdom—what they experience as time dissolves, and each needs the other to pull it off. How they do this will become known to the world of the present day as *The Christ Report*.

Timely, for an audience in the billions worldwide who revere joy-filled holidays; Christmas and Easter, *The Christ Report* offers entertainment. The story is evergreen and fresh. It is a love story meant for all. It is not meant to be a moralizing tome nor must it be represented through a religious perspective alone. It is a tale of two destinies and two roads; one from Jerusalem in 33 A.D. to a village called Emmaus, and one from Central Park to Midtown Manhattan in the present.

An ARC is available for review at this link: [The Christ Report pdf ARC](#)

## **General Note**

Inspiration is what drives the writer. James Pratt believes that the inspiration category audience resides not only in the “self-improvement” seeker, but as well in the romance, general fiction, and faith-based reader, and that the heavily branded James Michael Pratt name does not require a one-size-fits-all niche or narrow catalogue category.

In fact, in today’s online world, his books enjoy the combined categories and benefits of a wider reach to readers through the search engine optimization (SEO) tools that have already categorized many of his writings; in a way far different from former days of book selling.

While inspirational in tone, but without hitting a reader over the head, or narrowly placing *As a Man Thinketh...In His Heart* or *The Christ Report* style of reads in a catalogued grouping of

strict *romance, personal growth* or *faith*, Pratt believes in skillful entertainment, allowing the reader to reach their own conclusions regarding values his novels promise.

The author wishes to use these two novels of personal growth and faith as tools to help build his reader's club audience list through promotions and giveaways. James Michael Pratt's intention is that they, like his backlist of original bestsellers, never go out of print and can be built upon with appealing complimentary works now being contemplated by him.

## CONTACT INFORMATION



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