

Synopsis

Thomas J. Soucy

June 8, 2022

Firesticks

Metrics:

15 chapters

298 trade-sized pages

About 77k words

Third of a planned series of five, the author believes it would be a suggested read for high school students and/or college students. Schools that use the inter-disciplinary approach have teachers select material that covers STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, Math) and/or SEL (Social Emotional Learning). It seems likely that a geometry teacher, for example, would suggest this entire series. The material is very current (2022), reaches into philosophy, politics, relationships, etc. The young adult or new adult readership can benefit from the didactic presentation.

Page 5 text reads: “Very fundamental societal issues are discussed - -the range being climate control to, let’s say for now, what might have been written into our Constitution. The reader, pretty much an adult, should be disturbed while resolved to correct bad judgement calls.”

The prior book in the series, “Water Sayings”, concluded when the intrepid heroine managed to recover her lover’s unique sailboat. The unscrupulous individual that brazenly stole the craft thought nothing of pummeling her with a barrage of bullets fired from what she calls a ‘firestick’.

In this volume she and her lover have emerged as new adults. They make discoveries. They carve out two separate paths that they respectively follow in order to make the world better. Complementary paths to improve climate threats, societal threats (including, for example, mitigation of unwarranted, lone-wolf firestick attacks on innocent victims).

A wide range of STEM/SEL topics are exposed as their story is told. The barely new adults confront prison conditions, senseless political rhetoric, sensitive caring for disabled veterans who may have become impaired defending democracy, the relevance and/or irrelevance of religion, urban issues, cultural disparities and mental health - their own, their peers, as well as

children's or the elderly (such as dementia). Significant topics deal with climate threats and firestick threats.

The story describes episodes where each of the pair's lives are in peril. It addresses continued courtship-related relationship hiccups as well as strengthening growth paths. Age appropriate romance/sex as well as platonic love provide a background that threads itself throughout this volume.

The reader is confronted with assorted tensions ranging from just how vulnerable a character can be versus 'how high they can fly?', 'how complete an adult can they become?'

Following precedent from previous volumes, the language/cultural enrichment theme is obvious in this story as propelled forward by setting changes: the USA, Brazil, Africa and Cuba.

The volume begins to conclude as the two lovers become soulmates. The unusual marriage portrayed, makes it clear that Mother Nature stepped in to play her hand and bless the couple. But the wedding is followed by a somewhat bumpy honeymoon (in Africa). The new husband faces challenges trying to 'find God'. The new wife agrees to leave her mate behind (in Africa) in order for him complete his endeavors and his quest. By so doing, she keeps a 'beautiful promise about God' she made at their wedding.

Any questions about searching for 'God' are answered concretely by the husband who comes 'down to earth'. He describes a meaningful portrait of any human being's *soul*. As a result of his 'discovery', he addresses society's intractable issues related to managing 'firesticks'.

At the end, a happy observation is made by their five year old goddaughter. The reader can also make observations based on assorted hints about the next volume in the series.

Author's book tour page (see QR code):

The BISAC (Book Industry Standard) applicable codes are:
• YAF011000 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Coming of Age
• YAF058280 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Social Themes / Activism & Social Justice
• YAF055000 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Technology

