



CHERYL A. MCKENZIE

AUTHOR • STORYTELLER • CREATOR OF THE TOGETHER COLLECTION & YONDER CREEK



Stories that inspire. Hearts that connect.

Cheryl A. McKenzie writes books that bring people together - from interactive keepsake journals that preserve the stories of the people we love, to children's adventures filled with friendship, courage, kindness, and belonging.

About Cheryl

Cheryl A. McKenzie's journey as an author began with a simple thought: **"I can do that myself."** After seeing a guided book designed to help people write their life stories, Cheryl realized she did not need a fill-in-the-blank book to tell hers. She sat down and began writing what would become her memoir, *Moments Along the Way*.

That first memoir opened the door to something much larger: a love of writing, storytelling, and preserving the moments that connect us. Cheryl realized that while she could write her own story, many people might want to preserve their memories but simply would not know where to begin. Even more importantly, she believed the experience could become something shared.

That idea became **The Together Collection** - interactive keepsake journals designed not only to preserve a person's story, but to create new memories while recording the old ones.

Cheryl had also always wanted to write children's books. After The Together Collection, she was still excited to create. She wanted a character children and adults would remember - even a name people might say accidentally and then smile because it reminded them of him. From the everyday phrase **"Oh no!"** came Ohno the Opossum, and soon afterward his friends and the world of Yonder Creek followed.

Cheryl has spent her life along the Pacific West Coast. Her children and grandchildren are at the center of her world. Now retired, Cheryl and her husband enjoy golfing, traveling, spending time with family - and discovering that retirement can be a wonderful time to begin an entirely new chapter.

"I started writing because I realized I could tell my own story. I kept writing because I realized how many stories are worth preserving."

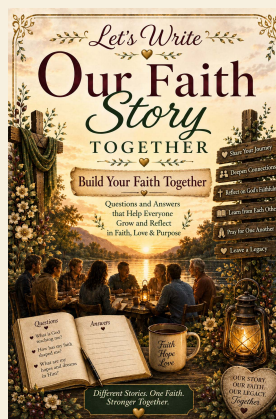
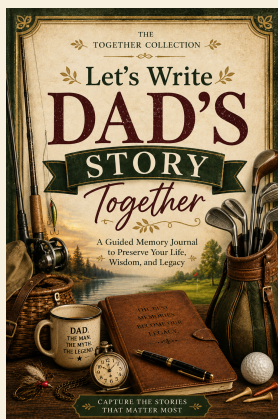
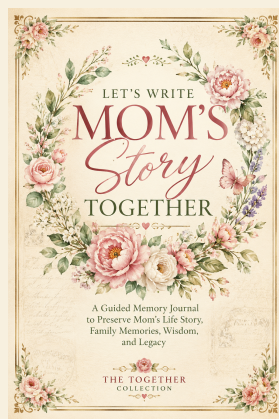
The Together Collection

These books were never meant to be filled out alone.

The Together Collection was created with a specific person in mind - the parent, grandparent, spouse, friend, or loved one whose stories you want to know and whose memories you want to preserve. Rather than handing someone a journal and asking them to complete it quietly on their own, Cheryl designed these books to be experienced **together**.

Sit beside one another. Ask the questions. Listen to the stories behind the answers. Laugh about the things you had forgotten. Discover things you never knew. Remember the people, places, traditions, and moments that helped shape a life.

You create new memories while preserving the old ones.



The collection currently includes 14 titles spanning family stories, friendship, love, faith, traditions, recipes, pets, laughter, growing up, and holidays.

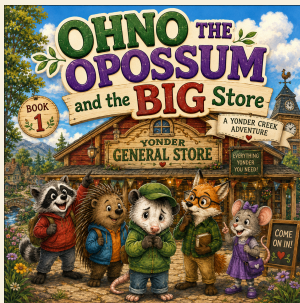
Yonder Creek & Ohno

Stories that make little readers smile.

At the heart of every Yonder Creek adventure is a simple hope: **that children will smile**. Some young readers may see a little bit of themselves in Ohno and his friends. Some may be encouraged when a character faces something that worries or frightens them. Others may discover a small lesson they can carry into their own lives.

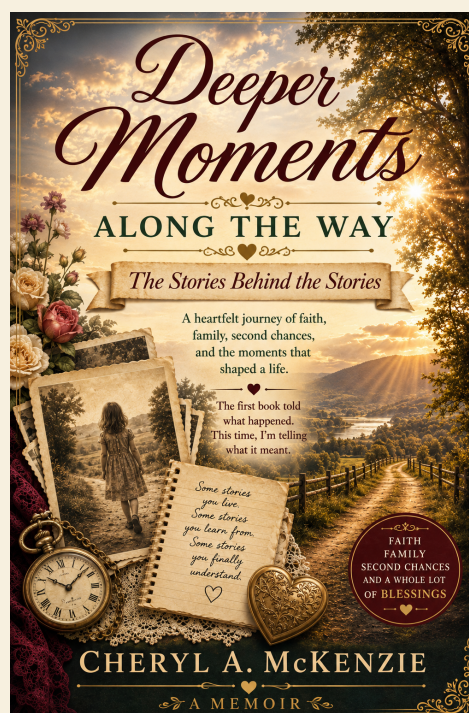
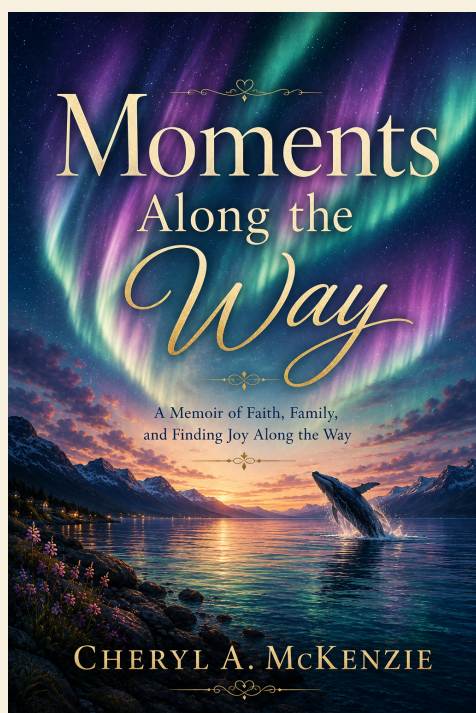
The lessons are woven naturally into the adventures rather than becoming the adventure itself. Ohno and his friends are there first to make children laugh, wonder what will happen next, and want to turn the page.

Ohno began with Cheryl's desire to create a character whose name would be almost impossible to forget. His friends came next, each bringing a distinct personality to the group, and together they grew into the animal-only town of Yonder Creek.



For young readers: friendship • courage • kindness • problem-solving • belonging • everyday worries • learning through adventure

Memoirs: The Story Behind the Stories



Moments Along the Way was where Cheryl's author journey began. Through memories and experiences from her life, she shared the moments that helped shape the person she became.

After reading the book, a good friend gently told Cheryl that she felt the memoir had skimmed across many of the stories - she knew what happened, but did not always feel she had gotten the entire story. Cheryl listened.

That observation inspired *Deeper Moments Along the Way - The Stories Behind the Stories*. Cheryl returned to those moments willing to look more closely - to tell what was happening around them, what they meant, and the stories that could not always be seen on the surface.

The first book told what happened. The second goes deeper into what it meant.

Reader Response

“Her storytelling is amazing! Love the ‘Ohno’ series. Great for kiddos! Super special.”

- Tonya Jordan, reader recommendation

“It was so adorable. I loved the characters and the story line... kids will love it... I look forward to the next book.”

- Angie Cannon, reader recommendation after reading *Ohno the Opossum and the Big Store*

Early reader response has highlighted the warmth of Cheryl's storytelling, the appeal of the Yonder Creek characters, and the desire to follow Ohno into his next adventure.

Interviews & Conversations

Cheryl enjoys relaxed, conversational interviews about writing, family stories, creativity, children's books, and beginning a new chapter of life after retirement. Her author journey offers plenty to talk about - from the memoir that unexpectedly started it all, to creating The Together Collection, to building the world of Yonder Creek.

Available for: Podcast interviews • Author conversations • Book discussions • Q&A features

Suggested Interview Questions

- How did seeing a guided memoir book unexpectedly begin your writing career?
- What makes The Together Collection different from traditional fill-in journals?
- Why do you believe we should hear our loved ones' stories with them?
- What does "creating new memories while preserving the old ones" mean to you?
- Where did the name Ohno come from?
- How did Ohno grow from one character into the world of Yonder Creek?
- What do you hope young children take away from an Ohno adventure?
- What was it like becoming an author after retirement?
- Why did a friend's comment inspire Deeper Moments Along the Way?
- What's next for Cheryl A. McKenzie?

Books & Collections

The Together Collection - 14 interactive keepsake journals

- Let's Write Grandpa's Story Together
- Let's Celebrate Our Friendship Together
- Let's Write Grandma's Story Together
- Let's Preserve Our Family Recipes Together
- Let's Write Mom's Story Together
- Let's Write Dad's Story Together
- Let's Celebrate Our Family Traditions Together
- Let's Write Our Love Story Together
- Let's See How Well We Know Each Other!
- Let's Laugh About It Together
- Let's Remember Our Pets Together
- Let's Grow in Faith Together
- Let's Remember Growing Up Together
- Let's Remember Our Holidays Together - Holiday Memory Journal

Yonder Creek - selected adventures

- Ohno the Opossum and the Big Store
- Ohno and the Day Nothing Went Right
- Ohno's First Sleepover
- Ohno and the Really, Really Bad Idea
- Ohno Gets Lost
- Ohno and the Big Hill
- Ohno and the Runaway Wagon
- Ohno and the Special Christmas Tree
- Ohno and Friends Give Thanks
- Ohno and His Friends Celebrate New Year's
- Ohno and the Secret Valentine
- Ohno and the Great Easter Egg Hunt
- Ohno Gets a Baby Sister

Memoirs

- *Moments Along the Way*
- *Deeper Moments Along the Way - The Stories Behind the Stories*



Connect with Cheryl

For media, podcast, bookstore, library, and professional inquiries:

camckenzie55@gmail.com

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Stories that inspire. Hearts that connect.

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