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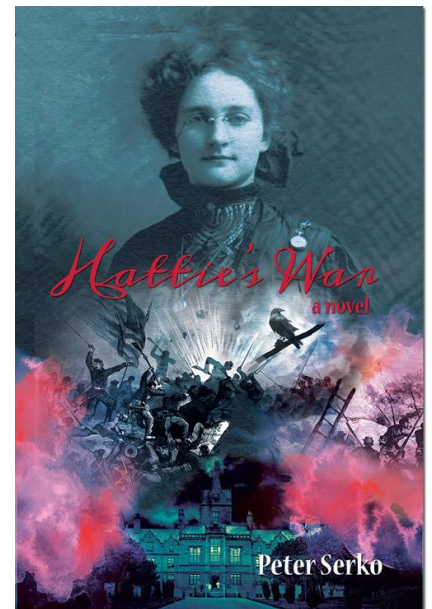
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A young girl with big dreams tries to make sense of one of the darkest episodes in our nation's history.

A Civil War historical fiction novel like no other for middle-grade readers, based on the author's family.

WINTRHOP, Washington, October 12, 2023 – A family trip to Gettysburg National Military Park as a teen left a lasting impression on author Peter Serko. His mother's vague recollection of a relative who fought and died at Gettysburg stuck with him. Forty years later, the discovery of a tattered cardboard box with nearly century-old scrapbooks, news clippings, and diaries belonging to his great-grandmother sparked renewed interest in the mystery of who died during the epic battle at Gettysburg. With this treasure trove of family memorabilia, Peter embarked on a historical scavenger hunt of sorts, resulting in the masterfully written middle-grade historical fiction novel *Hattie's War*, chronicling the life of a teen girl emotionally scarred by the trauma of the Civil War and the death of the father she never knew.

Serko's evocative story follows fifteen-year-old Hattie Howell—a character based on his great-great-grandmother of the same name—as she desperately tries to make sense of her father's death and his reasons for volunteering to fight in the Union Army with his two brothers. Born five months after her father left home, the mystery surrounding his death still haunts her family more than a decade later.



Hattie dreams of being an artist like her late father but is caught in the bind of all young women of that era: few options outside married life. A slow, smoldering romance with a boy named Arthur further amplifies her dilemma. With the sudden death of her sister, Jennie, Hattie's life spins out of control as she falls into a debilitating depression. She panics after overhearing the family doctor recommend placement in an asylum. Desperate, her best friend orchestrates a secret meeting that sets Hattie on a remarkable journey of discovery.

Hattie's War is both a family saga and a coming-of-age story that illuminates the harsh realities of the "War of the Rebellion" and its enduring effect on families and our country. Through masterful storytelling, Serko seamlessly fuses family narrative with the fascinating history of the war, making *Hattie's War* a must-read story for middle-grade readers, their families, and educators. Serko's *Hattie's War* is available on Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. The book is also available to order through your local bookstore.

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If you want more information about author Peter Serko and *Hattie's War*, please contact peter@peterserko.com or peterserko.com