

The Death of Us All

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Press Announcement



March 18, 2025

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FIRST TIME AUTHOR PENS BOOK ON NUN ASSASSINATED IN THE AMAZON

POWAY, CA - Sister Dorothy Stang dedicated 40 years of her life striving to saving the Amazon rainforest and stopping the atrocities inflicted upon Brazil's indigenous peoples. These efforts ultimately cost Dorothy her life when she was brutally murdered at age 73 by contract killers.

Already being hailed as a masterwork in storytelling, Gregg Brandalise's first book - *The Death of Us All* - follows Sister Dorothy's narrative from early childhood when she knew her life would be dedicated to the service of God. Embracing her purpose, she spent decades working tirelessly to combat corruption, subjugation, and deforestation.

Recognizing that the devastation of the Amazon would mean the death of the planet, Sister Dorothy consistently and bravely stood up to those in power. Despite dangerous forces lining up against her, she continued to speak out for the poor and the oppressed.

In this gripping novel based on true events, Dorothy's work intertwines with a gifted singer and skilled horsewoman who marries a powerful cattle rancher . . . only to discover his dark secret, which drives her to make a life-changing decision to protect her daughters.

We also meet a young Amazonian native forced into an arranged marriage in which she endures constant verbal and emotional abuse. An encounter with Sister Dorothy leads her to question her beliefs and seek answers from a shaman who uncovers a profound truth.

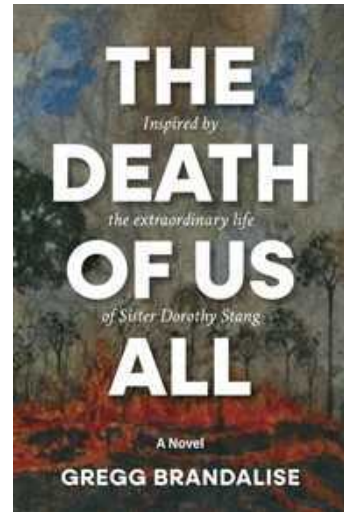
Readers gain a kinship with this truly remarkable woman while entering into the otherworldly life of the Amazon. In order to stay true to Dorothy's character, Brandalise held lengthy interviews with Sisters Joan Krimm and Judi Clemens, both of whom spent decades in Brazil with Sister Dorothy, as well as her brother, David Stang, who graciously shared many family tales.

Over the course of 22 chapters, *The Death of Us All* takes readers through an in-depth exploration of social and political aspects of Earth's most biodiverse ecosystem. The author's perceptions of indigenous life and relationships with outsiders deliver an intense and impressive perspective on the shadowy world of global forces that are slowly but surely destroying the lungs of the planet.

Released in January 2025, *The Death of Us All* (Blindfold Publishing) is available on Amazon and at www.greggbrandalise.com in hardcover, paperback, Kindle, and audiobook.

Book Profile

The Death of Us All, Gregg Brandalise's first book, is a masterwork in storytelling. Inspired by true events, the reader follows the life of Sister Dorothy Stang, a Catholic nun who dedicated her life to saving the Amazon Rainforest and stopping the atrocities inflicted upon Brazil's indigenous peoples. Her work intertwined with locals, church leaders, media, and countless corrupt officials, before she was brutally murdered in 2005 by contract killers.



Book Details

The Death of Us All is published by Blindfold Publishing.

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Available at www.greggbrandalise.com or on Amazon.



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Chapter 10

As they headed up the ridge and entered the thick forest near the top, a large flock of macaws came screeching overhead, startling them.

“That scared me!” Lucinda yelped as she relinquished the lead to her mother.

“That’s unusual they would fly into the wind like that,” Adriana said.

“Where do you think they’re going?” Gabriella’s heart raced.

“I’m not sure, Gabby.”

The horses whinnied and stepped back as the sound of thrashing branches grew closer. A large male jaguar burst out of the bushes to their right. Gabby and Luci screamed as it scrambled down the hill. Three black spider monkeys swung and leapt through the trees above, bending and snapping branches as they rushed past.

Luci whimpered, “I don’t want to ride by myself anymore.”

“*Mamãe*, what if the jaguar comes back?” Gabriella’s words were wrapped with fear.

“He didn’t want anything to do with us, Gabby, but let’s get to the top and regroup—we’ll be safer up there in the open field.” Adriana gave her horse a kick and they hurried up the switchbacks toward the summit.

Clearing the trees, the sky opened before them revealing a huge brown and orange cloud. It covered half the sky. As they rode out into the meadow, they could see it was smoke from raging fires in the valley below; the wind had kept it concealed from the other side. Five tamarins scurried by, followed by a lumbering tapir, all oblivious to their presence.

Gabby watched in disbelief. “That jaguar didn’t want to hurt us—he was running for his life.” Like an assembly line of destruction, huge clear-cutting tractors toppled trees like twigs. Giant trucks were stacked high with immense logs and rumbled off. Lastly a steady stream of workers set fires, burning anything that remained. Some of the flames rose as high as forty meters into the air. Adriana was stunned.

“What are they doing, *Mamãe*?” Luci cried out.

Dazed, Adriana spoke as if in a trance, “They’re clearing the forest . . . for more pastureland.”

Birds continued to flee overhead. A young ocelot darted in between the horses, causing them to stagger and stomp.

“That’s where the birds were going.” Gabriella steadied her horse.

“I thought the predators were chasing them—like in *Granpapai’s* story,” Luci fretted.

“The predators *are* chasing them,” Adriana said under her breath. At that moment she realized that everything Francesca had been saying was true. Adriana had never witnessed this destruction before and was sickened.

“This is wrong,” Gabby muttered.

“I’m afraid, *Mamãe*. I wanna go home.” Luci pulled closer to her mother.

This used to be home, Adriana thought, as she turned her horse. “Let’s go!”

A group of capuchins loped in front of Adriana. A tiny baby with singed hair clung desperately to its parent’s back. Its haunting wide eyes mesmerized Adriana as they passed. The adult had a wisp of white hair and a smooth patch of skin on its shoulder. It glanced at Adriana, but didn’t stop.

“Will the fire burn us?” Luci asked as they headed for the trees.

“No, *Bebê*, the wind is too strong for the fire to come our way.” They descended the ridge in silence as the horrific images played mercilessly in Adriana’s mind. *This is the peril Dorothy and Francesca have been talking about.*

Chapter 11

“Paje, what have they done?” Tears flooded her eyes. She turned to her left—the forest was cut, as if by a giant cleaver in a straight line, as far as she could see. Turning to her right, the same tree line continued in the opposite direction. Before her, the forest had been leveled; all that remained were blackened spars and scorched stumps. Her nostrils burned from the pungent air thick with the smell of wet charred wood, rotting fruit, and carrion. The great boulders were gone, the shards of one were scattered about like broken porcelain. Absent too were the ancient mounds, flattened, their artifacts and history destroyed. Virtually all forest life was absent.

Izabel began to sob. “Why?”

A glint of sunlight reflected off a small fragment of stone resting on the wet ground in front of her. Picking it up, she rubbed away mud, revealing an obelisk shaped crystal. It was translucent, like a purple shaft of ice that had a shimmering gold vein running through its center. *I have seen something like this before*, Izabel thought, recalling her time at the burial grounds with Paje. Approximately six centimeters in length, she noticed it had a small hole on one end. Enchanted by its smooth texture, Izabel rolled it easily between her fingers. She slipped it into her satchel, wondering how it could have survived the devastation around her. *Who could do such a thing?* Her mind raced. “How could you let this happen, Paje?” Izabel cried out. “You saw this coming, you knew what was going to happen . . . why did you not stop it?” Her sadness had veered toward anger.

Chapter 17

Dorothy's face was wet with tears as she walked along the charred edge of a recently cleared hectare. *How is this possible, I was just here?* She gazed at the black smoldering devastation that appeared endless. In the jungle behind her, the snap of a branch above her head broke her doleful trance. Turning, she looked up and saw a man ably navigating his way down a tall Brazil nut tree. His boots hit the ground with a heavy *thunk*. He brushed off his clothes as he turned around.

"Oh! Where'd you come from?" he yelled.

"I'm not sure who gave who the bigger fright!" Dorothy caught her breath.

The man looked around. "Are you out here all alone?"

"Apparently not!"

"Ah, a sense of humor—I like that!" His broad smile was framed by thick dark curls that danced around his face. He was fit and lean. A backpack rested snugly over his shoulders and a Nikon camera was strapped tightly to his chest.

"My name is Sister Dorothy, pleased to meet you." She extended her hand.

He briskly wiped his hands on his khakis and shook hers firmly. "And I am Carmelo Mendia."

He took a step back, and eyed her worn sandals, faded shorts, and white t-shirt. "Hmm, you don't look much like a sister to me."

"I've heard that before," Dorothy grinned.

"By the look of your eyes, you seem upset—is there something wrong?"

"It's just—I was walking here three months ago and this was all beautiful, pristine forest . . . it breaks my heart to see it now."

"I know what you mean, I've been documenting this hectare for forty-five days. The speed of this mass destruction is mind-numbing." His voice was filled with disgust.

"Why're you documenting it, do you work for the government?"

"The government?" he scoffed. "No, I can guarantee you the government would not endorse my efforts."

"Then . . .?"

“Ha! *Then*—I’m an investigative journalist. I work for a couple of newspapers in São Paulo and Belém.”

“I see. And exactly what is it you’re investigating?”

“Right now, I’m tracking forest destruction and how it’s tied to the homesteading abuse taking place in Jacundá.”

“Oh my, I’d love to read that article when it’s finished!”

“Well, don’t get too excited, it’ll probably be a couple months before it goes to print. I’m still following up on some leads regarding multinational companies.”

“Really, that’s news to me—like who?”

“Well, Volkswagon, Mercedes, and Phillips to name a few.”

“That’s so sad. The world is coming to the Amazon for all the wrong reasons.”

“Frightening is more like it—no one is holding any of the giant corporations accountable. The four biggest candy makers still clearcut for palm oil plantations, despite having mission statements *against* deforestation.”

“And here I thought it was just the ranchers and the loggers.”

“Don’t get me wrong—those two are by far the worst for the Amazon—we’re talking apocalyptic scale.” He shuddered. “Nestle, Mars, Mondelez, and Hershey’s just add to that devastation.”

“It seems the suffering doesn’t end for the people and the forest.”

“Yeah, and it will only get worse if they build the Kararaô dam.”

“I’ve not heard about that.”

“That’s because it’s still in the planning stages. Not surprisingly, they don’t mention that it will flood the rainforest and displace over 20,000 people—they only push the *benefits*.”

Dorothy sighed, “Oh my, Carmelo. What are we to do?”

Content Photos



Dorothy Stang



Dorothy's pilgrimage



Always positive



Dorothy in her habit



Local crafts



Life in Coroata, Brazil



High school



Dot as a youth



The Stang Gang

Reviews

“I was completely transported out of my small but all-consuming world and into a much more important one.”

--Gerry Schmelter, Esq.

“A real page-turner. I missed dinner one day and prayer another – it was hard to put down.”

--Sister Joan Krimm, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

“The tension built consistently – violence contrasted effectively with playful lightness and hope.”

Beverly Berwick, Artist

“The story of Sister Dorothy helps show how we are all truly connected. A MUST for every reading list!”

Rob Weinberg, Author, *5 Minutes to Better Branding*

“Beautiful, Eye-Opening and Inspiring! This story brings clear awareness of the terrifying devastation happening to the Amazon rainforest and the global consequences.”

Karen Bramwell

Author Biography

Writer. Lyricist. Composer. These are the words Gregg Brandalise uses to describe himself, but he's SO much more than that. Gregg appreciates how blessed we all are to see the sun rise each morning, and knows that each moment is a miracle in itself. He is thankful for today, recognizing that tomorrow may never come.

This is a man who knows the importance of love and joy, valuing a beautiful sunset, good friends, and loved ones for who and what they are. Gregg has soared to the heights - and the depths - of emotion, and he understands the importance of making the most of every day. He's a man in touch with his feelings, and who's never afraid to show gratitude for those who contribute to making life worth living.

This philosophy has led him to a lifetime of giving back to his community via sports, social groups, scouting, theater, and music. Gregg has actively guided high school and college students towards their respective career goals, as well as helping to create Poway, California's 10-acre Aubrey Park with four ball fields, backstops, dugouts, play structures, jogging trails, and foot paths.

As the author and composer of *Love is the Answer: A Musical* and *Second Chance: A Journey of the Heart*, Gregg has always been fascinated by the power of words on a page and how they can transport you. Thus it was a natural progression for him to try his hand at writing a book, resulting in the inspiring *The Death of Us All*.

Gregg has spent his entire career in the entertainment industry as a musician and recording artist. There he has won an Emmy, Wildscreen Panda Award (Green Oscar), and Telly for his music compositions, songwriting, and sound design. He has recorded countless high-profile personalities, including Louise Hay, Tony Robbins, and Matthew McConaughey.

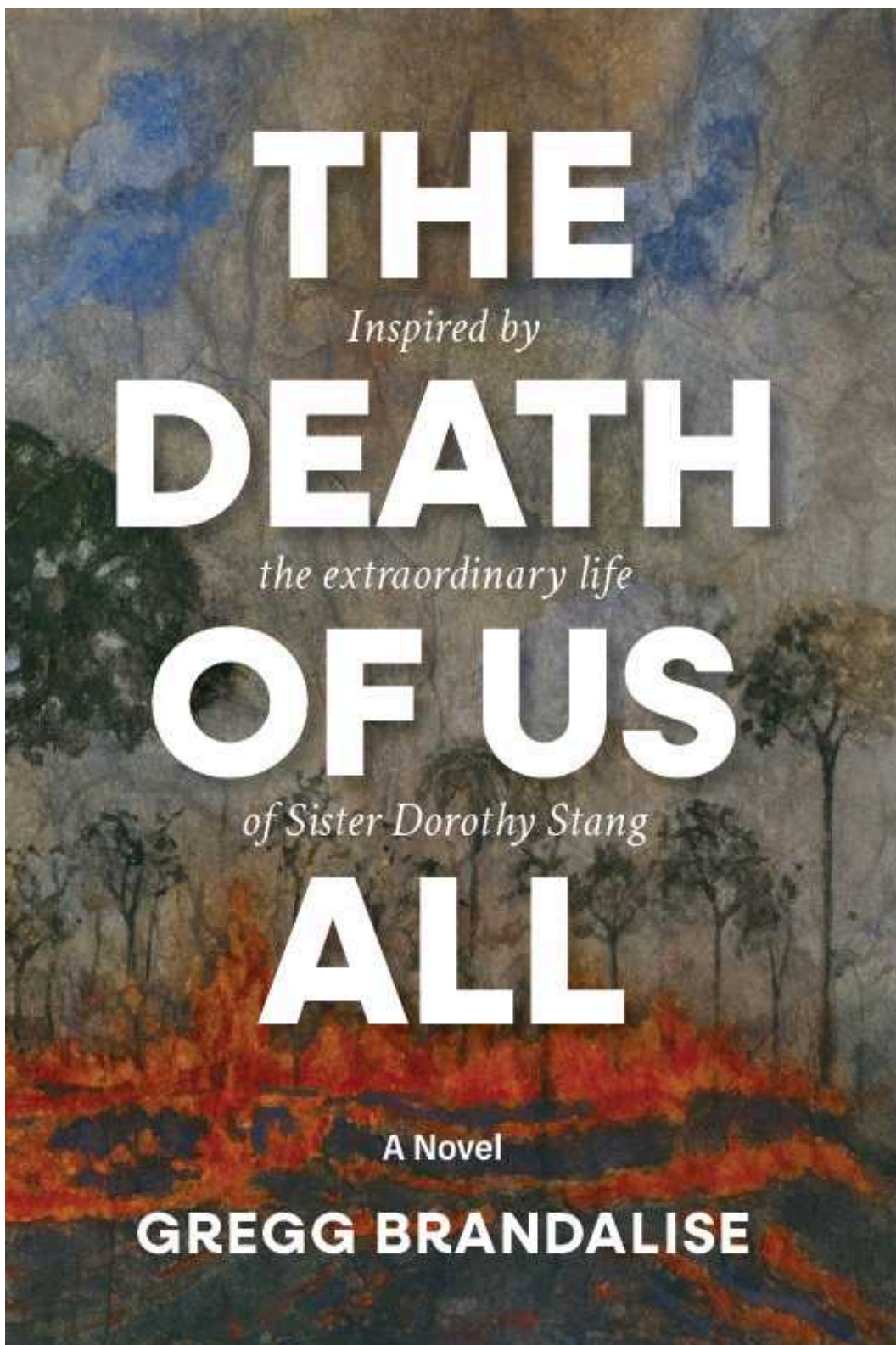
Born and raised in Southern California, Gregg received a BA from San Diego State University, majoring in Creative Writing and Music. An Adventure Scientist, Eagle Scout, and environmentalist, he maintains local hiking trails, volunteers at the La Jolla Playhouse, and has provided music programs for the local elementary school.

Today, Gregg lives with his wife Christie in Poway, CA, enjoying retirement and grandparenthood. You can visit him at www.greggbrandalise.com.

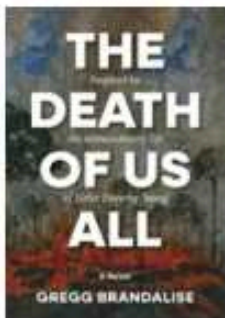
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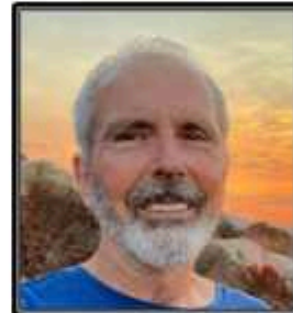


Sales Flier



Gregg Brandalise **THE DEATH OF US ALL**

*Inspired by
the extraordinary life of
Sister Dorothy Stang*



The Death of Us All, Gregg Brandalise's first book, is a masterwork in storytelling. Inspired by true events, the reader follows the life of Sister Dorothy Stang, a Catholic nun who dedicated her life to saving the Amazon Rainforest and stopping the atrocities inflicted upon Brazil's indigenous peoples. Her work intertwined with locals, church leaders, media, and countless corrupt officials, before she was brutally murdered in 2005 by contract killers.

We also follow the tale of Adriana, a talented singer and skilled horsewoman who, under pressure from familial and societal forces, marries a powerful cattle rancher. Discovering her husband's dark secret, she faces a life-changing decision to protect her daughters.

Finally there's Izabel, a young Amazonian native who is forced by her tribe into an arranged marriage in which she endures a barrage of verbal and emotional abuse. After crippling loss and an encounter with Sister Dorothy, she questions her Gods and seeks answers from a shaman who uncovers a profound truth.

Amidst the destruction of the rainforest, entangled in the semantic chains of religion, and under the hierarchy of men, they rise above their challenges through friendship, faith, and determination.

With almost 50 years in the entertainment industry as a musician and recording artist, Gregg Brandalise has won an Emmy, Wildscreen Panda Award (Green Oscar), and Telly for his music compositions, songwriting, and sound design. He has recorded countless high-profile personalities, including Louise Hay, Tony Robbins, and Matthew McConaughey. His meticulous attention to detail fueled years of research on the history of the Amazon rainforest. In pursuit of accuracy and proper tone for his book, Gregg held lengthy interviews with Sisters Joan Krimm and Judi Clemens, both of whom spent decades in Brazil with Sister Dorothy. DaAvid Stang also graciously shared many family tales.

Born and raised in Southern California, Gregg received a BA from San Diego State University, majoring in Creative Writing and Music. An Adventure Scientist, Eagle Scout, and environmentalist, he maintains local hiking trails, volunteers at the La Jolla Playhouse, and has provided music programs for the local elementary school. He lives with his wife Christie in Poway, CA, enjoying retirement and grandparenthood. You can visit him at www.greggbrandalise.com.

Reviews

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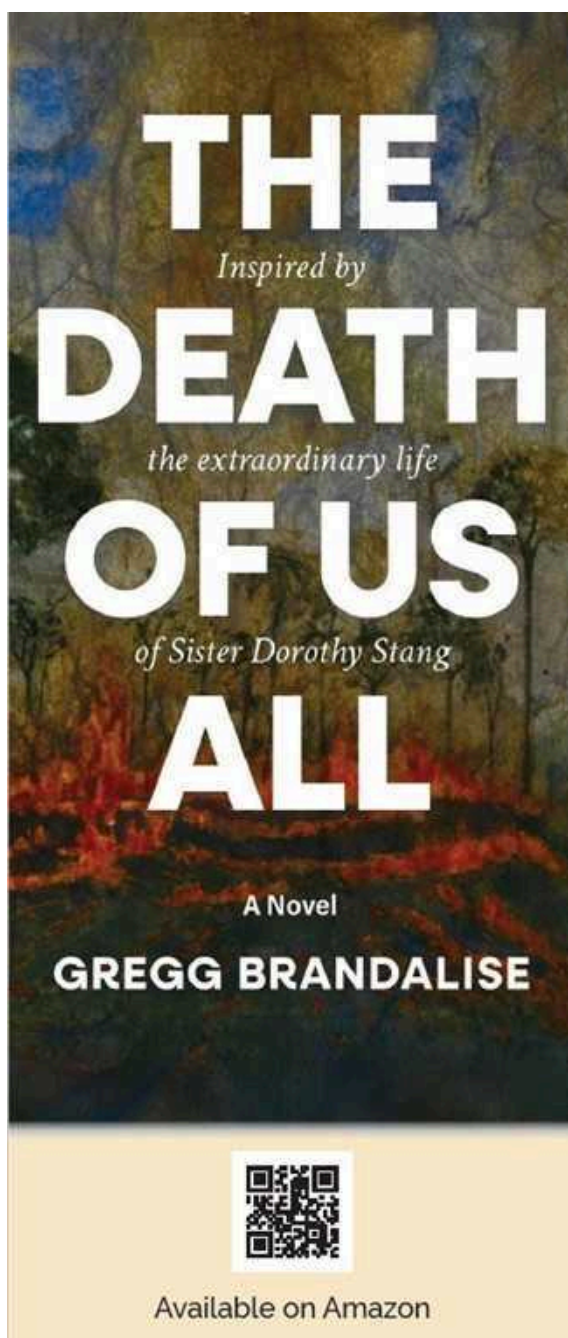
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Sales Brochure



INSPIRATION FOR *THE DEATH OF US ALL*

In 2018, I watched the documentary, *Cowspiracy*, which had a short segment on a nun who was murdered in South America in 2005. Intrigued, I watched the scene again. The catholic nun was Sister Dorothy Stang; captivated by her story I thought it would make a fascinating musical.

Reading everything I could find on Dorothy, I was moved by how this 70-year-old woman forever touched everyone she encountered. Her tenacious spirit and unwavering dedication to the Amazon and its peoples were awe-inspiring.

As the musical began to take shape, I realized something wasn't quite right—perhaps it's a play. I began to write Adriana's backstory and within two weeks had 4,000 words. Sitting back, I came to the conclusion: this wasn't a play—it was a novel!

My inspiration soared after reaching out to Sisters Joan Krimm and Judi Clemens who both missioned with Dorothy in Brazil. David Stang also graciously shared many family tales.

Armed with volumes of facts, stories, and the Internet, the book began to unfold. The love and support I received in bringing it to print was incredible—truly a labor of love.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



With almost 50 years in the entertainment industry, as a musician and recording artist, Gregg Brandalise has won many awards, including Emmy, Wildscreen Panda Award (Green Oscar), and Telly, for his music compositions, songwriting, and sound design. He has recorded the likes of Louise Hay, Tony Robbins, Matthew McConaughey and many other well-known personalities.

Born and raised in Southern California, Gregg received a BA from San Diego State University majoring in Creative Writing and Music. An Adventure Scientist, Eagle Scout, and environmentalist, he maintains local hiking trails, volunteers for the La Jolla Playhouse Partners, and has provided music programs for the local elementary school.

Gregg currently resides in Poway, CA, where he and his wife, Christie, enjoy the bliss of retirement and being grandparents.

www.GreggBrandalise.com

*Inspired by true events, **The Death of Us All** follows the life of Sister Dorothy Stang, a catholic nun who was brutally murdered by contract killers in 2005. Dorothy dedicated her life to saving the Amazon Rainforest and ending the atrocities inflicted upon its indigenous peoples.*

In this poignant, gripping novel, Dorothy's tireless work in Brazil intertwines with two locals. Adriana, a gifted singer and skilled horsewoman, who under pressure from familial and societal forces, marries a powerful cattle rancher. Discovering her husband's dark secret, she faces a life-changing decision to protect her daughters.

Izabel, a young Amazonian native is forced by her tribe into an arranged marriage in which she endures a barrage of verbal and emotional abuse. After crippling loss and an encounter with Sister Dorothy, she questions her Gods and seeks answers from a shaman who uncovers a profound truth.

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