

The Fallen Snow

An extraordinary
coming of age

A Novel by John J Kelley

“A gripping tale of self-exploration and atonement . . . emotionally complex and brimming with grit”

-Publishers Weekly (starred review)

A *ForeWord Reviews* Book-of-the-Year Award Winner

THE FALLEN SNOW

In the autumn of 1918 infantry sniper Joshua Hunter saves an ambushed patrol in the Bois le Prêtre forest of Lorraine . . . and then vanishes. Pulled from the rubble of an enemy bunker days later, he receives an award for valor and passage home to Hadley, a remote hamlet in Virginia’s western highlands. Reeling from war and influenza, Hadley could surely use a hero. Family and friends embrace him; an engagement is announced; a job is offered.

Yet all is not what it seems. Joshua experiences panics and can’t recall the incident that crippled him. He guards a secret too, one that grips tight like the icy air above his father’s quarry. Over the course of a Virginia winter and an echoed

season in war-torn France, *The Fallen Snow* reveals his wide-eyed journey to the front and his ragged path back. Along the way he finds companions – a youth mourning a lost brother, a nurse seeking a new life and Aiden, a bold sergeant escaping a vengeful father. While all of them touch Joshua, it is the strong yet nurturing Aiden who will awaken his heart, leaving him forever changed.

Set within a besieged Appalachian forest during a time of tragedy, *The Fallen Snow* charts an extraordinary coming of age, exploring how damaged souls learn to heal, and dare to grow.



About the Author

John J Kelley is a fiction writer crafting tales of healing, growth and community. Born and raised in the Florida panhandle, he graduated from Virginia Tech and for a time served as a military officer.

John lives in Washington, DC, where he is a member of The Writer’s Center. His acclaimed debut novel recounts a WWI soldier’s difficult return to a Virginia community reeling from war, influenza and economic collapse.

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