

Kansas Author Announces Book Release (06-23-25):

First-time novelist, Daniel J. Markowitz, born and raised in Olpe, Kansas, a farming community located 10 miles south of Emporia, is announcing the release of his historical novel, *The Spoils of Victory*, Book One in the *Prisoners of War Series*, published by Flint Hills Publishing, Topeka, Kansas.

Since the dawn of the 20th century, war has been a ubiquitous element of American life. The U.S. has committed military personnel and materiel in dozens of wars. The total costs, in human life and economic terms, are incalculable and growing. War is now inexorably woven into the fabric of the nation.

The Spoils of Victory offers an intimate look at the costs of war. It's a story of everyday Germans and Americans caught up in the global cataclysm of World War II, but this story takes place in the Kansas Flint Hills, far from the battlefields. *The Spoils of Victory* focuses on a largely forgotten aspect of World War II, the confinement and employment of hundreds of thousands of German POWs throughout the United States from 1943 to 1946.

Markowitz's novel chronicles the journey of a German corporal, Rolf Mueller, who is wounded and captured in North Africa in May 1943. After recovering from his injuries, he is transported to a newly created camp for German POWs in Concordia, Kansas, then sent to a subcamp in Peabody to work, for pay, on a farm owned by the Unruhs, a German Mennonite family. *[During World War II, tens of thousands of German POWs who were not ardent Nazis and were deemed to be low security risks were in fact hired by American farmers and businesses to offset the acute labor shortage caused by the war. They are credited with saving the American harvests in 1943 through 1945, but these extensive interactions between Americans and their captives have now largely been forgotten.]*

On the farm, the eldest Unruh daughter, Loretta, catches Rolf's eye, and in turn she finds herself attracted to this handsome, engaging outsider. Theirs cannot be a conventional romance, but it blossoms despite the circumstances. And it meets with the stern objections of Loretta's mother and Rolf's German superior officers.

Rolf must adjust to being imprisoned and separated from his family still trapped in the fury of war in Europe. And he struggles to face his personal guilt for the atrocities he committed during the war and for his complicity in his country's horrible collective wrongs. There is no easy path to forgiveness and atonement for this young German who got caught up in Hitler's promise to make Germany great again.

At the same time, Loretta is embarking on her own uncharted journey as she seeks to follow her dreams amid rapidly changing social mores while continuing to honor the traditions and faith that sustain her. Together, she and Rolf try to find happiness as their respective worlds are blown apart.

Douglas Nelson, Pulitzer-nominated author of *Heart Mountain: The History of An American Concentration Camp* and trustee of The Carter Center, describes *The Spoils of Victory* as “a love story of exceptional beauty and depth.”

Antonia Felix, *New York Times* bestselling author, writes, “*The Spoils of Victory* gives us a dramatic new perspective on how war reshapes the world, one life at a time.”

Wynn M. Goering, Ph.D., Chair of the Bethel College (KS) Board of Directors, says *The Spoils of Victory* is “a tale well worth reading – and pondering.” He adds, “I’m looking forward to more.”

Markowitz is himself a descendant of German and Slovenian immigrants who arrived in America during the late 1800s and early 1900s. He grew up listening to his elders’ stories about their home countries, traditions, and the hardships and joys they experienced on their way to stability and prosperity. His love for history and storytelling grew out of their often humorous and occasionally hyperbolic oral family sagas. He earned degrees from Emporia State University and the University of Kansas and spent decades in quixotic pursuit of success in a career for which he was ill-suited before embarking on a trial-and-error journey for authenticity and purpose.

Markowitz is a passionate advocate for peace, equality, justice, and respect for all. He has five children and five grandchildren and currently lives near the beaches of Baja California, where the big skies, low horizons, and undulating waves of the Pacific Ocean remind him of the rippling tallgrass prairies of home.

The Spoils of Victory can be purchased on Amazon.com, BookShop.org, and wherever books are sold. Subsequent installments in the *Prisoners of War Series* will continue to chronicle the lives of the Mueller and Unruh families through the aftermath of World War II and America’s subsequent wars, from Korea through the current Middle Eastern conflicts. Publication of Book Two is anticipated in early 2026.

For more information on the author, to read excerpts from *The Spoils of Victory*, or to order the book, please visit www.djmarkowitz.com or contact him at markowitzauthor@gmail.com.