

# JOEL EMMANUEL

A coming-of-age story, set in the rainy Northwest country.

J.P. KENNA

Eight-year-old Joel Emmanuel—named after a long-ago executed labor hero—is growing up happily isolated in an “off the grid” cabin, nestled between saltwater and farm fields. Fishing for the sockeye salmon and gleaning firewood feel more like fun than work. But in sun-filled summer of 1978, the boy senses coming intrusions. Nance, his hippie mom, learns she'll have to start paying rent. Her onetime lover is reinventing himself from commercial fisherman to high-rolling real estate agent, putting pressure on her to rejoin the “cash economy.” Joel is attuned to growing racial tension springing from fishing rights, affecting just who might become his stepfather. Will he have to attend school and live in town? Or move to the Reservation? And he wonders about his missing real dad—whether he might make a surprise, unwelcome visit.

As Joel Emmanuel turns 11, his once-idyllic world is shaken by a boat explosion, a barn burning and a murder trial.

“KENNA WEAVES HIS LITERARY SUSPENSE LIKE A TRUE MASTER.”

- CHANTICLEER BOOK REVIEWS



Cover Art by Mike Phifer



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A NOVEL BY  
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“EDGY AND ARTICULATE...A BEAUTIFUL STORY OF GROWING UP IN A RURAL AREA AND THE CLASH OF CULTURES.”

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