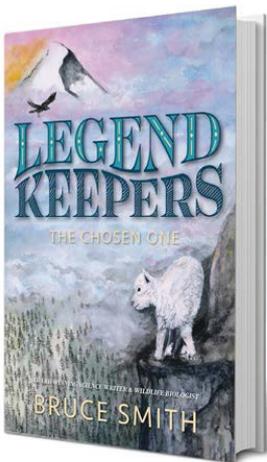


# BRUCE SMITH



# LEGEND KEEPERS

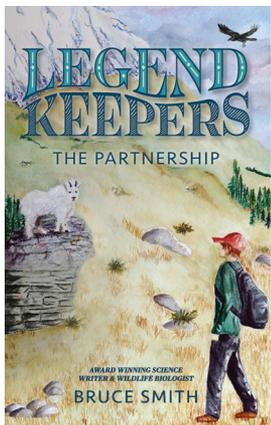
## THE CHOSEN ONE & THE PARTNERSHIP



***A middle-grade novel by award-winning science writer and wildlife biologist, Bruce Smith.***

In a perilous place at the roof of the world, an orphaned mountain goat is rescued from certain death by a mysterious raven. Communication between a mountain goat and raven might seem strange. But what becomes more unreachable is Buddy's realization that she alone can save a band of goats from the great danger foretold in an ancient legend.

This brilliant tale with a clever mix of discovery will spark the intellectual curiosity of every reader.



***Can the answer to a simple science question change your life?***

For Garson Strangewalker, yes. In this second book in the *Legend Keepers* series, twelve-year-old Garson doesn't fit in a school. He's in a new community, hasn't made friends, and his father has gone missing. Each day's a struggle until a simple question he asks at the spring science fair sparks an interest in glaciers. He reads about them but can't get enough.

For his sixth-grade science project, Garson climbs to the Shining Mountain Glacier in the wilderness not far from his home. His chance encounter with Buddy, a remarkable kid mountain goat, changes everything as these two kids' lives become entwined. Their shared alarm over the Great Warming's threat to the glacier, and to Buddy's mountaintop home, transforms an insecure boy into a tenacious environmental advocate. Sometimes it takes a partnership to bring out the best in us.

## PUBLICATION DETAILS

# THE CHOSEN ONE

**Publication Date: 8-24-21**

Names: Smith, Bruce L., 1948-, author.

Title: Legend keepers : the chosen one / written by Bruce Smith.

Description: McCall, ID: Hidden Shelf Publishing House, 2021.

Summary: An orphaned mountain goat and mysterious raven work together to save a band of goats from the great peril foretold in an ancient legend.

Identifiers: LCCN: 2021910038

ISBN: 978-1-7354145-5-3 (pbk.)

978-1-7354145-9-1 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH Goats--Juvenile fiction.

Ravens--Juvenile fiction.

Mountain life--Juvenile fiction.

CYAC Goats--Fiction.

Ravens--Fiction.

Mountain life--Fiction.

BISAC JUVENILE FICTION / Science & Nature / Environment

JUVENILE FICTION / Legends, Myths, Fables / Norse

Classification: LCC PZ7.1.S59556 Le 2021 | DDC [Fic]--dc23

# THE PARTNERSHIP

**Publication Date: 8-30-22**

Names: Smith, Bruce L., author.

Title: Legend keepers: the partnership / Bruce Smith.

Series: Legend Keepers

Description: McCall, ID: Hidden Shelf Publishing House, 2022.

Summary: For his sixth-grade science project, Garson climbs to the Shining Mountain Glacier in the wilderness not far from his home. His chance encounter with Buddy, a mountain goat, changes everything as their lives become entwined.

Identifiers:

LCCN:2022909679 | 978-1-955893-08-4 (hardcover)

978-1-955893-07-7 (paperback)

978-1-955893-09-1 (Kindle)

978-1-955893-10-7 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH Mountain goats--Juvenile fiction.

Climactic changes--Juvenile fiction.

Glaciers--Juvenile fiction.

Friendship--Juvenile fiction.

Human-animal relationships--Juvenile fiction.

Montana--Juvenile fiction.

BISAC JUVENILE FICTION / Animals / General

JUVENILE FICTION / Science & Nature / Environment

Classification: LCC PZ7.1 .S65 Le 2022 | DDC [Fic]--dc23

## REVIEWS

"Legend Keepers is a charming animal centric adventure sure to delight readers with a heart for the wilderness."

- Rosanne Parry, *A Wolf Called Wander*

"In a time in which heroes are needed more than ever, Bruce Smith has now given us Buddy. Though she is small, Buddy shows us what it means to have a big heart, even in the face of daunting obstacles."

- Kathi Appelt, NYT bestselling author of Newbery Honor and National Book Finalist, *The Underneath*

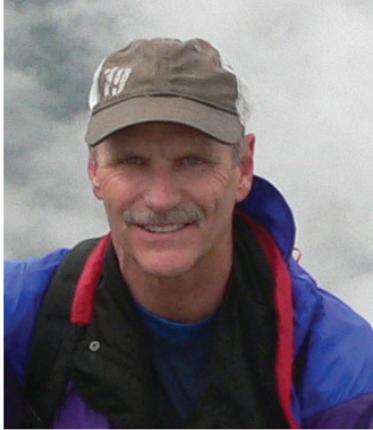
"Smith's storytelling prowess is enriched by a Beatrix Potter-like genius for humorously capturing the essence of wild creatures -- making his characters spring to life."

- Steve Sweeney, Wildlife Biologist

"*Legend Keepers: The Chosen One* is a well-written, informative novel that appeals to both the young and old. It engages the reader from the start with its likeable characters, witty narrative, and factual writing about the mountain goat and other animals. As a teacher of youth, I highly recommend this novel. It unites the imagination with the reality of the fragility of the earth. It is a great tool for any classroom and a must-have for every bookshelf! I eagerly anticipate the sequel."

- Susan Ramsey, Educator

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR: BRUCE SMITH



Bruce Smith is a wildlife biologist who holds a PhD in Zoology. During his career with the federal government, he studied and managed most large mammal species that roam the western United States.

He's authored five nonfiction books of natural history, conservation, and outdoor adventure.

He spent three years studying mountain goats in Montana's Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area — and many days afield with binoculars and camera since — which provided an enduring affection for the subject of

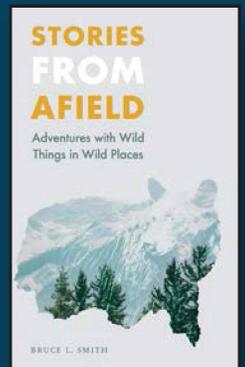
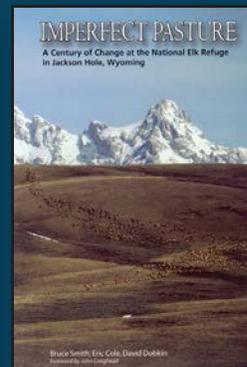
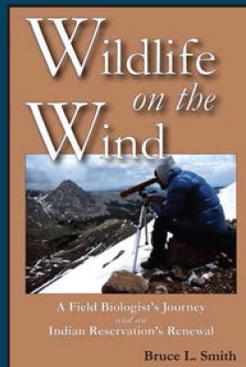
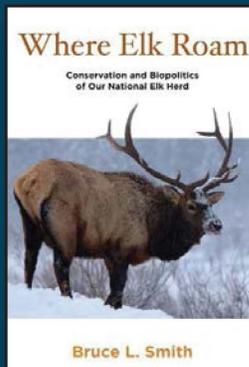
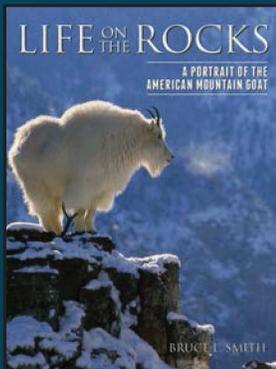
*Life on the Rocks: A Portrait of the Mountain Goat*, winner of the National Outdoor Book Award.

*Legend Keepers: The Chosen One*, received a Feathered Quill Silver Medal Award in two categories!

Bruce and his wife, Diana, live in southwest Montana not far from mountain goats.



### Other books by Bruce Smith:



Learn more about Bruce Smith at [www.brucesmithwildlife.com](http://www.brucesmithwildlife.com)

# Q&A WITH AUTHOR, BRUCE SMITH

## What makes your book different from others in the same genre?

I'm unaware of any children's novels written about a mountain goat. It's also different because the story, while written to entertain, is woven with a subtext about climate change as a means to educate and engage readers through animals whose lives are now being affected by their rapidly changing environment.

## Fan readers of which authors/books do you think would enjoy this title and why?

*The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold, *A Wolf Called Wander* by Rosanne Parry, *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker, *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate, the *Bravelands* series by Erin Hunter, *Guardians of Ga'Hoole* series by Kathryn Lasky

## What inspired you to write this book?

The idea for *Legend Keepers* leapt from the pages of my nonfiction book about mountain goats, *Life on the Rocks*. I was dismayed that few children attended my book events. In an Ah ha! Moment, I conceived a novel for young readers about the lives of mountain goats, and other animals of the alpine zone, that few people see or know about. These species suffer from conservation neglect and need an ardent following, children included. Perhaps especially children.

## How did you develop the main character, Buddy?

Just as the main human characters in middle-grade novels are children, I wanted my story's protagonist to be a juvenile. However, like most animals, mountain goats mature fast. An eleven- or twelve-year old is an "old goat" and unlikely to live much longer. Because mountain goat kids are so dependent upon their mothers the first year of life, I chose to make Buddy an orphan. She loses her mother when very young — tragic but not improbable for a species that spends its life on mountainsides. Without a mother, her story of hope, courage, and triumph becomes possible.

## What led you to leap into the world of fiction?

*Legend Keepers: The Chosen One* is my first effort to create a children's novel with an environmental subtext. I remain hopeful about the future of humans, our planet, and Earth's biological diversity because of the aspirations and activism I see in children. I want to nourish that and kindle the passion of my readers.



## What three words describe you?

Purposeful, patriotic, and passionate

## Where did you grow up?

North Muskegon, Michigan, near a lake, a marsh, and a woods

## If you could compare yourself with any animal, which would it be and why?

I would be a mountain goat (as you must have guessed!). I admire the places they roam and the patient and resolute way in which they live their lives. If a bird, I'd want to be an American kestrel. Why? Just watch one for a while!

## What topics, NOT related to your book, do you feel qualified to discuss when promoting your book?

Wildlife and wildland conservation, climate change

## What book is currently on your bedside table?

*Learning to be Wild* by Carl Safina, *Willodeen* by Katherine Applegate

# ABOUT HIDDEN SHELF PUBLISHING HOUSE

## **HIDDEN SHELF PUBLISHING HOUSE**

Hidden Shelf Publishing House is an independent publisher based in Idaho. Founded in 2017, we aim to amplify underrepresented voices and illuminate hidden narratives through innovative stories and unique perspectives. Our broad range of titles includes historical accounts, fiction, women's interest, children's literature, and more. We focus on building strong relationships with our authors so we can effectively share their stories with the world.

Now in our fifth year, Hidden Shelf Publishing House is a fast-growing press. Releases have included Amazon best-sellers, an Idaho Library Association book of the year, and a new release by a Christy Award® winning author. In 2021, each author we published received an award, short list, or finalist recognition for their writing!

Learn more at [www.hiddenshefpublishinghouse.com](http://www.hiddenshefpublishinghouse.com)

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In the slanting sunlight, a shadow passed. Mom shoved Buddy beneath her belly. That's when the shrieks pierced her ears.

"Yelp! Yelp! Yelp! Yelp! Yelp!"

Rocketing toward them was a menacing sight. Carried on wings that spread seven feet wide, it was so much larger than the croaking ravens whose acrobatics entertained her.

It screamed again, "Yelp! Yelp! Yelp!" Daring a peek, she saw the bird tuck its wings. It wheeled toward them with such power that she felt faint.

"Stay beneath me, no matter what." Jolted by the alarm in her mother's voice, she snapped back to attention. Mom tossed her head in the air as if to challenge the predator. *Whooooosh!* came the blast of air as the attacker veered at the moment Mom leapt to her hind legs to meet it. As it turned, she shook her head, "Get out of here. You've met your match in this mountain goat!"

When her mom stepped clear, the eagle had vanished. She turned her head to her wide-eyed kid, "That golden eagle could bat a small goat like you off a ledge. And it's just one of many dangers here. But I will teach you the ways of the mountains. How to take care of yourself. Until then, I'll protect and keep you safe."

Walking back to the sheltering wall, Buddy clung so near that her nose buried in her mom's shoulder hair. She inhaled its reassuring scent—lanolin with a hint of vanilla.



Her life had begun much like other baby mountain goats. But her dreams that night of screaming eagles with outstretched talons and rocks clattering over the ledge shook her.





## Chapter 9: Shining Mountain

It was a Thursday in early August, three months after the school's spring arts and science festival. In the phone book Garson found a single entry under the last name Rock—D. Rock. Nervously, he punched the number sequence on the phone.

"Hello."

"Mr. Rock?"

"Yes."

"This is Garson, the boy you talked to at the festival last spring." Pause. "About glaciers."

Pause on the other end.

"I read the book you told me about, *Glaciers of the World*."

"Oh yes." An image of a thin boy with a mop of brown hair and probing brown eyes formed in his mind. The boy's uncommon curiosity is what he remembered most.

"What did you think about it?"

"It was the best. And I read more stuff about glaciers too."

Garson couldn't see the smile on Mr. Rock's face. It was so seldom a student took the initiative to do something like this during summer break, much less when it was something this dear to Mr. Rock's heart.

"I've got a question," Garson said with some hesitation.

"Go ahead. Shoot."

"Do you know about the glacier on Shining Mountain?"

The boy's question broadened the teacher's smile. "Actually, I do. I spent some time up there."

"You did?"

Garson's excitement leapt through the phone.

"That was many years ago, though I remember those days well."

"Are you going up there again?"

"Why do you ask?"

"Well ... if you were ..."

Mr. Rock could hear the boy's question without the words being spoken.

"You may not know this, but before I became a teacher, I studied glaciers. I still have a special interest in them. It sounds like you do too."

"Yeah."

"Shining Mountain is perhaps my favorite glacier of all."

"Really? Why?"

"How about I show you why."

"Would you?!"

