



For September 22, 2020 Release

## **New Novel Shows Military Heroism off the Battlefield To Save Fallen Soldier's Child**

Men and women in uniform perform acts of heroism far from the battlefield. This is the central message that resonates in *The Spiderling*, a November 3 novel by an award-winning author and mother of a career military officer.

*The Spiderling*, by Marcia Preston, also sheds light on the closeness of the military community. Kiwi Seager, the 11-year-old daughter of a soldier killed in Iraq, runs away from home, in fear of her grieving mother's abusive new lover. The man who rescues Kiwi—and, ultimately, her mother—is also a soldier, a man of honor like her father.

Winner of the Mary Higgins Clark Award for Fiction for her 2003 novel, *Song of the Bones*, Preston was inspired to write *The Spiderling* after watching her two granddaughters grow up as Army brats in the shadow of war.

“An author's mind can move in strange directions,” she explained from her home in suburban Oklahoma City. “I couldn't help wondering, what would happen if a child didn't have the loving family of my grandchildren.”

### *The Spiderling*

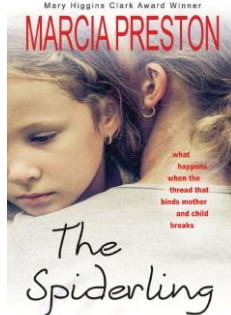
**Kiwi Seager has committed an unpardonable sin and knows two things: she's going to hell, and her mother can no longer love her. Kiwi has done something no mother could ever forgive, which has forced them to flee their California home—and to accept the help of strangers. Can they run fast enough and far enough to lose the evil following them? Or does new danger await them, wearing the face of a helpful stranger? Kiwi knows she must do what her soldier daddy taught her—the right thing, even when no one is watching. She sets out alone to make matters right. But who can she trust? The truck driver, the bag lady, the soldier on the bus? Or will they lead her to the cruel destiny she knows she deserves?**

The author of seven mysteries and adult fiction novels, Preston earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Central Oklahoma and served as public relations/publications director for the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. She was the founding editor of *Byline* magazine for writers.

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For a print review copy of *The Spiderling*, or to interview the author, contact Nancy Berland, [Nancy@NancyBerland.com](mailto:Nancy@NancyBerland.com), 405-206-4748. Learn more about the author on <https://www.marcia-preston.com/>.

*The Spiderling*  
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"... shimmers with sadness, mystery, and the enduring hope of redemption. Written in the alternate voices of a military widow who turns to the wrong man in her grief and a young girl who's forced to become far too old for her years, this book will make your heart ache and sigh and, ultimately, sing. It did mine! If you only buy one hardcover this year, buy this one."

— Lt. Col. (Ret) Merline Lovelace, author of 100+ mystery, historical, and romance novels

"Beautiful, honest, and haunting. Marcia Preston blends page-turning prose with an incisive portrayal of a mother-daughter relationship in all its complexity. This is a life-changing book by a superb writer at the height of her ability. Easily the best book I've read in years."

—William Bernhardt, internationally bestselling author of *The Last Chance Lawyer*

"... engrossing.... Readers looking for an affecting tale of overcoming—or at least coming to terms with—personal tragedy will be more than satisfied." — *Publishers Weekly*

*The Spiderling* is available from Ingram, Baker & Taylor, Brodart, Coutts, Emery-Pratt, Follett, and Midwest Library Service, plus FitzHenry & Whiteside in Canada—and directly from the award-winning publisher, The RoadRunner Press, [info@therrpress.com](mailto:info@therrpress.com), 405-524-6205.