



## About the Author

### **Clyde Curley**

With respect to my biography, this is all that matters: I've grown up and now I'm an author. For me, the permanence of art stands as a bulwark against the slings and arrows of outrageous real life. The highest, richest form of art is that which is formed from words—the first and most important attribute of

humans striving to behave less like animals and more like gods.

Bookworm that I and am, when it came to figuring out how I was going to make my own life with a guaranteed paycheck, I stumbled across the notion of teaching high school English. Following college at San Francisco State and marriage to the sweetheart of my dreams, Susan Allison, I first taught at Astoria High School, then South Albany High School, then Milwaukie High School, all in Oregon. My last gig landed my family in Portland which in many ways was the city of my dreams. Although this is not the place to detail my working life, I will say that teaching high school English was enriching, frustrating, exhausting, and satisfying. (I took smug comfort when Ken Kesey said there's a halo waiting in heaven for English teachers. Of course there is.)

I should probably mention that a guitar and a banjo found their way into my hands in early adolescence; I hold onto them still and continue to strive to get it right. Just as important, I continue to cherish the friendships I've developed over the long years of playing great music handed to us by the traditions. (Readers wanting to know more about this can visit [theportlandcollection.com](http://theportlandcollection.com).)

Central in my life now that I'm retired to the bayside city of Bellingham, Washington, is this writing, this compulsion to play with words, with ideas—with the act of creation. This I take seriously. This I take pleurably.

*It's my hope that by writing about Detective Sergeant Matthew Toussaint—a man who's life is centered in world of murder, compassion, ignorance, commitment, selfishness, and altruism in Portland, Oregon—I will produce books worthy of your interest and your time.*