

Press Release

Even Sunflowers Cast Shadows

By Douglas Armstrong

“Even Sunflowers Cast Shadows” chronicles the story of Emma Starkey, a spunky little girl trying hard to be charitable and virtuous in small-town Kansas in the 1920s. Emma’s calculated efforts have a way of backfiring with tumultuous consequences in Douglas Armstrong’s poignant coming-of-age story, which spices its tales of engaging disasters with oddball neighbors and youthful hijinks.

“Growing up with a nutty mother probably twisted me for life,” Armstrong says. “Mom was forever telling low stories of her small-town days, of crackpots and strange doings. Her hilarious acquaintances occupied my youthful imagination. Her homespun expressions deeply infiltrated my own.”

Some of her stories found their way into “Even Sunflowers Cast Shadows.” Ask Armstrong how much of the novel is true, and he replies, “It’s all true. It just didn’t happen this way. Or as my mom put it when she read the book, ‘This is your story, not mine.’ ”

In the book, Emma’s best friend is a transplanted Yankee whiz kid, Margaret Drummond, whose family arrives one summer burdened with a heavy secret and a flair for the dramatic. As a result of the girls’ chaotic friendship, a chain of events begins to unfold with perilous, even tragic turns.

Meg Kissinger of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel praises the novel, calling it “charming, compelling, and masterfully told.”

“I fell in love with Emma,” she writes. “Like Huck Finn before her, she is plucky and funny, a moral compass in a town with more than its share of weirdos and wild adventure.”

“Even Sunflowers Cast Shadows” is available in paperback for \$18.95 and hard cover for \$28.95. More information is available on-line at www.evensunflowerscastshadows.com. For an interview with Armstrong, see the “Book Clubs” page of the [Website](#). The author’s [biography](#) is there as well.