

Once Upon a Time on the Banks



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Once Upon a Time on the Banks takes place in Mattagash, the same backwoods Maine village that provided the setting for *The Funeral Makers*--a first novel celebrated by *The New York Times Book Review* as "hilariously irreverent, comic, tragic, and lyrical." Cathie Pelletier's new book opens on the first day of spring in 1969, the day Amy Joy Lawler--descendant of Protestant settlers, granddaughter of a missionary to China,

daughter of a schoolteacher who ended his life in suicide--has announced her impending marriage to a young man of French-Canadian descent.

Amy Joy's mother, Sicily, has taken to her bed in protest. Across town, the wives of the two no-account Gifford brothers have begun a blood feud precipitated when Goldie Gifford cornered the market on Christmas tree lights at a post-holiday sale; and the Gifford brothers themselves, Pike and Vinal, are looking forward to new opportunities for hubcap theft, disability-benefit fraud, and soap-opera monitoring. In Portland, eight hours drive downstate but light-years away, Amy Joy's Aunt Pearl is longing to return to Mattagash; her husband Marvin Ivy is experiencing a supply shortage in his funeral business; their son Marvin, Jr., is having an affair with Monique Tessier, a bosomy, violet-eyed secretary at the funeral home; his wife is looped on Valium and hooked on *The Price is Right*; and their son Marvin III, has dropped out of school and been busted for Driving While Intoxicated.

What happens when this lively assortment of characters (and more) comes together by the Mattagash River for Amy Joy's wedding is the story of *Once Upon a Time on the Banks*--a book about families, about heritage, about place, that

combines ribald humor with tenderness and a rare breadth of vision. Cathie Pelletier is that rare thing, a real storyteller: one whose literary

作者介绍:

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