



**KATHLEEN JUENGLING**  
Series aimed at pre-teens

## BH author writes books about triplets

One of the area's newest authors is writing for young people.

She is Kathleen Juengling of Benton Harbor, who writes under the pen name of Kathleen Iris.

Her first book is "Triple C Adventures: Mysteries in the Woods." It is the first in the series she is planning about triplets Carrie, Candace and Casey Carlson.



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The now 10-year-old triplets have just moved with their family to their new 140-acre property in Michigan where there are mysteries to solve in the deep forests.

One day, while hiking, the triplets hear a man's voice calling the name of Helen. Shortly after, they see a little girl with long dark hair running through the woods. Who are these people? Are they real or ghosts?

Searching for the supernatural, they stumble upon another mystery they know is real. They find that someone is burying large, metal cans on their property. They also discover boot prints along the stream. Between possible child ghosts and weird metal cans, the three girls have their work cut out for them this summer.

"It's aimed for pre-teens, ages 7 to 14," Iris said.

"It's the first in a series," she said. "I'm working on number two and looking to get it published early next year. Book one is 'Mystery in the Woods' and book two is 'The Case of the Missing Aunt'."

While the story in the first book is during summer vacation, the second book takes place after school starts, when the triplets go to a new school and make new friends.

"It revolves around a report they have to do for school," Iris said.

"I'm going to keep it going as long as I can," Iris said of the series. "I have ideas for another two after this one."

Iris found the inspiration for her book in her own life. She is the mother of triplets herself, although her triplets are a bit younger than those in her book.

Iris also has two sisters with whom she was involved in a series of adventures during her own childhood.

"The crazy ideas we had as kids are getting incorporated into the book," Iris said.

She also has a cousin who lived on a farm near Eau Claire that had a large woods, and Iris lived in a rural area near the Paw Paw River in Hagar Township.

"The book is a combination of what my sisters and cousin did," Iris said.

She credits one of her teachers, Mary Jane Johnson who taught creative writing at Lakeshore Junior High

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School, for encouraging her to write.

"She wrote one time on one of my papers, 'You've got a gift for writing, don't ever stop.'"

"I've written poetry and short stories," Iris said. "This is the first time I've tackled a novel."

Iris herself moved around growing up and graduated from St. Joseph High School.

With three triplets running around, it isn't easy to have some quiet time to write.

"God prompted me to write," Iris said. "A really good friend came over one evening a week so I could get off by myself. She still does."

Her husband Michael not only gave her strong support, but also designed the cover for her book and her Web page.

She started writing last July and had the first draft done by fall.

"Then I started looking for a publisher," she said. "I started working with a publisher in February and finalized it in June."

When school starts, Iris plans to accompany The Herald-Palladium Newspapers in Education coordinator Traci Smith to area schools to talk to kids on a variety of topics from learning to read and write to staying in school.

Iris enjoys working with children and taught Sunday school and was a leader in the kids' club at her church. She earned an associate's degree in early childhood education and later worked in the Southwest Michigan Headstart program.

Those wishing more information or to order books can do so at [www.triplecadventures.com](http://www.triplecadventures.com). The books also are available at the

Christian Center Book Store in Bridgman, Banner Books in St. Joseph, Amazon.com or through [www.1stBooks.com](http://www.1stBooks.com) where they can be ordered or downloaded.

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