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## TRAGIC TALE OF CIVIL WAR LOVE GONE WRONG (Inside Columbia, April 2006) -

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### TRAGIC TALE OF CIVIL WAR LOVE GONE WRONG

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Blinded by desire, Anna chooses the wrong man at the wrong time, and he brings disaster on her family.

Self-published under the name Bear Cave Press, *Anna's Wish* is set in a small Central Missouri town before and during the Civil War and is based on a story told to co-author Paul Daniel by his grandfather.

Daniel and co-author Ann Thompson Carter tell the story largely through the principal characters' letters and journals. Born in Moberly and raised in Columbia, Daniel worked for the *Columbia Daily Tribune* and was a columnist for *Media One* magazine before turning to writing full-time in 1998. Carter is a writer from New Hampshire. *Anna's Wish* is the team's first novel, with a sequel planned for 2007 that follows the life of one of the first novel's main characters.

If you like historical fiction and romance rooted in another era, you will enjoy this novel. However, be ready for some explicit sex and uncomfortably gory details about abortion practices of the time. Also, because the story is told largely through letters and journals written by the characters, the plot sometimes moves along at an agonizingly slow pace as one character gives his or her perception of an event, followed by another character who does the same, *Rashomon*-style.

The letter-and-journal exposition device helps in some instances, but hinders in others, leading this reader to skim through the more ponderous "meaning of life" sections that had little

bearing on driving the plot forward. The novel is a good read overall, but it could have been substantially shorter if excerpts could have been used at strategic times instead of entire letters and journal entries.

Anna's Wish can be found at local bookstores such as Ninth Street Bookstore or from Bear Creek Press, 573-874-5829, [bearcavepress.com](http://bearcavepress.com).

