

REMEMBERING THE RAPE OF NANKING...and Minnie Vautrin, the American hero who saved the lives of 10,000 innocents.

AUTHOR, KEVIN A. KENT, SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST UNSUNG HEROES

About the Guest:

Kevin A. Kent is an author, screenwriter and composer.

Kent is the second son of a WWII English RAF pilot with a family tree dating back almost a thousand years. A pilot fell for an American girl while learning to fly American planes during the war, married her and became an American. The girl had direct lineage to John Alden of the Mayflower.

Kent is passionate about all of history and politics, and was particularly engulfed by the historical significance of the Nanking Invasion and the role American missionaries played, especially the astounding American woman, Minnie Vautrin.

Kent also owns Inspired Arts & Media which produces digital media such as: DVD's, Animations, websites, CDs and even podcast's.

Kent has also written screenplays, children's books and is completing a new novel

Although most Americans recall the suffering the Jews endured during the Holocaust in World War II, many remain in the dark about the Japanese Invasion of China. In 1937, Japan invaded Nanking, China, and another terrible holocaust began, hundred of thousands were lost in a matter of weeks. It was the single worst massacre of unarmed troops and civilians in the last century. In fact, it has been estimated that China lost over forty million lives as a result of the Japanese invasion

This event has caused friction between the two countries for nearly 70 years as Japan has never apologized for what happened. This important slice of World History has been cast aside for far too long...Yet from the midst of the immense brutality and suffering, an unexpected American heroine emerged.

"Minnie Vautrin was one of the greatest American heroes of the last century and virtually no one has heard of her, yet alone the tragedy of Nanking." says Kevin A. Kent, author of *Nanking* (Published by Booksurge/Amazon, 2006). "She came to China as a missionary to save souls, and instead, at great personal peril, saved over ten thousand girls' lives."

In order to shed some light on this momentous historical chapter, Kent wrote *Nanking*, spotlighting the story and the unselfish heroism of Minnie Vautrin, one of the greatest woman heroes of all time. "*With the Olympics coming up in China in 2008, it is time for the world to try and develop a better understanding of the Chinese mindset,*" says Kent. "*To look forward, we must look back. Most people think of World War II war heros as men with guns battling up a hill to save their platoon. Yet, Minnie Vautrin with her faith and her girls school battled the Japanese and saved the lives of 10,000 innocent girls.*"

In the grand tradition of *Shindler's List*, Kent presents an incredible untold tale of heroism in the midst of untold suffering. There is good reason this important story has been called the "Chinese-American Shindler's List." Minnie Vautrin's legacy of hope, courage and

<p>called "Bear Mountain".</p> <p>Kent is a well-respected member of the Hollywood community and a founding board member of the Producer's Guild of America's New Media Council.</p> <p>Kent lives with his wife and two children in Irvine, California, but writes from his log cabin in Big Bear Lake, California. The cabin sits at over 7,000 feet, has an internet connection but no phone.</p>	<p>incredible bravery is sure to inspire your listeners. Your listeners will be delighted to learn about one of the greatest unsung American heroines of all time.</p> <p>Questions For The Guest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · What inspired you to write this book? · What kind of hero is Minnie Vautrin? How does she compare to Oscar Shindler? · Where was the first attack on the U.S. by the Japanese prior to World War II? Was it Pearl Harbor? · What do the Japanese have to say about Nanking? · What real evidence is there from Nanking? · Why was the city Nanking so important to the Japanese? · What was the American political stance in Asia at this time? · Why was the Japanese prime minister turned away from a bullet train deal between Shanghai and Beijing in 2005? · Why is Nanking/Nanjing so important to World History? · What was the International Safety Zone and why was it so important? · What was the Ginling College and why did Madame Chiang Kai-Chek support it? · Why do you think so many of the Chinese people and even Jackie Chan supporting your story?
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ADDITIONAL IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS

- 1- The massacre at Nanking was the single most atrocious and brutal assault on unarmed civilians in the 20th century. Why do you think so few people have heard of it?
- 2- The author created Yen Hsu and his family to represent the plight of the Chinese people. What did Yen Hsu do for a living and did he consider himself a failure?
- 3- Kenji is a character that is torn between loyalties to his country and his love. Was he a repentant man?
- 4- Reverenced Magee was driven to capture the historical significance of the events on film. If you were in his position, would you have done the same?

- 5- Mei Ling was conflicted by her loyalties to her country, family, Minnie, and her love for Kenji. What conflicts were resolved by fate?
- 6- If you could spend a day in Nanking before the assault began, what would you do to try and change the outcome?
- 7- America was supporting Chiang Kai Chek with advisors and military aid while doing the same for Mao Tse Tung. What was America doing for Japan's war effort in 1937?
- 8- Has this book changed your ideas about history, religion, or China in any way? How?
- 9- China has emerged from its own shadow dramatically in the last ten years. How have your ideas of China have changed?
- 10- Both Yen Hsu and John Magee fancied themselves as artists. How were they different artistically?
- 11- Minnie placed a lot of trust in people. Who deceived her most and why?
- 12- If given a choice would you rather live in a world without religion and no war...or a world with religion and war? Minnie's faith was deeply challenged? Has yours ever been?
- 13- What marked the very first military aggression against the United States by Japan in World War II?
- 14- If Mei Ling and family were to arrive in Honolulu on December 7, 1943 on a U.S. military ship, do you think she would have made it back to San Francisco?
- 15- What do you think might have been said by Hitler, Roosevelt and the Emperor of Japan after viewing Magee's footage?

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The author is well spoken— his writing is historically and politically charged, and he has an impressive ability to bring history forward, challenging the way that we think about politics, historical events—such as Chinese relations—, and even the war in Iraq. At the heart of his story are the challenges of faith that this hero-missionary experienced during the Rape of Nanking. Below is the first review of his book.

Review of NANKING the novel by Kevin A. Kent

Written by the New York Times best-selling author Ellen Tanner Marsh

All too often in the literary world, the horrors of war are made even more grotesque by bad writing *about* war, from poorly plotted action-adventure tales to cloying melodramas. In contrast, author Kevin A. Kent's WWII epic, *NANKING*, is a highly-informed, crisply written novel that, though set in a period of intense conflict, does not rely upon the setting alone to drive the tautly-paced narrative.

NANKING is the story of the eponymous city in China that was the target of invading Japanese forces in the late 1930s. More than a historic account of a siege, it is the wrenching drama of the everyday heroes—mostly foreign—who stayed through the city's occupation in order to help save its beleaguered residents.

Kent's heroine is diminutive Minnie Vautrin, an idealistic American missionary who chooses to remain in the doomed city to safeguard the students of the all-girls school she administers. Yet this is no overblown melodrama; Minnie's journey is tragic, and Kent knows better than to romanticize even the most inconsequential detail. Yes, the reality is stark, but the tone is never maudlin, while Kent's carefully executed series of flashbacks, along with deliberate and tautly stylized pacing, allow readers to empathize with the characters and the situation—one that, thankfully, falls outside the bounds of common experience.

NANKING is vivid and cinematic, a tale that is evocative of a place and time that, played out on so many ferocious fronts, forever changed the world. Readers will no doubt look forward to future works by this author—although writing a novel as compelling as *Nanking* would be a feat, indeed.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Kevin A. Kent's Memorable Story of Hope, Courage and Unparalleled Bravery in Wartime China

***Nanking*, by Kevin Kent, is a riveting account of American Minnie Vautrin who saved more than 10,000 lives during the Japanese invasion of Nanking**

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA – In 1937, the Japanese invaded Nanking, China and a magnificent city was destroyed. Noted screenwriter Kevin Kent's new novel, *Nanking*, tells the story of one heroine who stepped forward amid the unparalleled brutality and almost single-handedly saved more than ten thousand lives.

On the day the Japanese entered Nanking, the rapes began. Minnie Vautrin, an American teacher and missionary, took it upon herself to become the protector of the women and girls of Nanking. Inside the walls of the Nanking Ginling Girls' College, a campus designed for 300 women which she helped to co-found, Vautrin managed to shelter more than ten thousand.

Unlike many novels based on history, *Nanking* glamorizes neither the marauders nor the victims, but lays out a story based purely on historical fact. The author deftly takes real and fictional characters and weaves a narrative around them that is believable and compelling, heartbreaking yet filled with hope. When it comes to Minnie Vautrin, no dramatic storytelling is necessary. The stunningly dramatic landscape painted by Kevin Kent reflects a well-developed cinematic eye, making *Nanking* as compelling as the story itself.

For more information or to request a free review copy, please contact the author at kevinAKent@nankingthebook.com or through the author's website: www.nankingthebook.com. *Nanking* is available for sale online at Amazon.com, Borders.com, BookSurge.com, and through additional wholesale and retail channels worldwide.

About the Author

Kevin A. Kent is a novelist, screenwriter and composer living in Irvine, California. He is also the founder of Inspired Arts & Media, one of the country's earliest interactive media development companies. The author has written nearly 20 screenplays, as well as historical, dramatic, and romantic comedies and children's books. He resides with his wife and two children in Irvine, California.

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