

Odessa Blaine Biography and Blurbs

Information in this document is for use in articles, promotionals, and event marketing. If you need additional material, please reach out to me.

List of Published Work

Book: *Where the Roots Tangle*, published by Mercer University Press, September 1, 2026

Anthology: *The Crow Speaks Vol II*, a collection by Cartersville Area Writers Group, 2024, Contributing Author

Short Film: *And the Moon Sees Me*, coproduction of Bang Productions Inc and Cakebaby Productions, 2023, Writer, Producer, and Performer, Earned Outstanding Visual Achievement from the Appalachia Film Festival In West Virginia, Currently showing only at film festivals.

Short Author Biography

Aspiring cryptid and general oddment, Odessa Blaine haunts the north Georgia mountains. She's farm raised and steeped in Southern traditions, folklore, and history. When she's not haunting the woods or performing stories, Odessa spends her time volunteering for nonprofit organizations and encouraging others to embrace their superpowers.

Full Author Biography

Aspiring cryptid and general oddment, Odessa Blaine haunts the north Georgia mountains. She's farm raised and steeped in Southern traditions, folklore, and history. When she's not haunting the woods or performing stories, Odessa spends her time volunteering for nonprofit organizations and encouraging others to embrace their superpowers.

Growing up with warnings of Wampus Cats, hearing family stories, and learning how to use the plants and animals of the area cultivated curiosity and a love of hidden things.

Adult life has been a meandering journey of finding the things in this Universe that are worth being enchanted by. Now in her 40s, she's proud to have helped produce an award winning short film, *And the Moon Sees Me*, and is eager for the released of her debut novel, *Where the Roots Tangle*, through Mercer University Press on September 1, 2026.

Odessa has been crafting performance stories for nearly 20 years, has 15 years of marketing and corporate training experience, and holds a degree in Sociology with a concentration in Organizational and Social Change. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Broadleaf Writer Association and as President of Sassafra Literary.

Short Book Description - Where the Roots Tangle

Get tangled in hardscrabble Southern living, blood feuds, nearly forgotten folkways, family legacy, and Appalachia mythology. No matter how lost she feels, Edwina has to focus on saving her sister and nephew from her powerful in-laws before the murder fueled rage and small-town power struggles consume them all in this Depression Era Southern Gothic.

Full Book Description - Where the Roots Tangle

Edwina's shaky world is rocked by the murder of a childhood friend on a sweltering Georgia day in 1929. War erupts between the fed-up poor folks of Shine Town and Edy's in-laws, the old money Jacksons of Canes Crossin. Edwina and her sister are trapped in the middle.

Growing up Shine Town trash with their single mother, Edwina and Josephine knew about hard living. Then Beauregard Jackson planted a prized baby boy in Edy's sister. Their mother was thrilled to see Jo marry up. Beau's family was livid.

The Jacksons were rumored to own everything in the valley and then some. Ruling from the family's plantations, they clung to bygone ways and enforced their will.

Until hubris made them vulnerable.

Edy spent years reconciling love for her sister and hatred of the Jacksons. Jealousy, loneliness, adoration, and defiance warred inside her. The fragile balance crumbles when her mother vanishes, she's forced to abandon Jo, and Shine Town turns on her.

She turns to the mountains for answers, but finds more confusion when Edy stumbles into the remnants of a people more ancient than memory. They offer an escape, but she can't leave her sister behind.

Tripping over prejudice, secrets, and uncertainty, can Edy get out of her own way and save the folks she cares about before Jackson greed gets them all killed?

Get tangled up in hardscrabble Southern living, small town politics, blood feuds, nearly forgotten folkways, family legacy, and a dash of Appalachia magic.

Blurbs/ Praise for Where the Roots Tangle

Review by: Ann Hite, award-winning author of GHOST ON BLACK MOUNTAIN and HAINTS ON BLACK MOUNTAIN - June 11, 2026

"WHERE THE ROOTS TANGLE is part Southern Gothic, part Appalachian folklore that will make you want to leave a nightlight on at bedtime. Beautifully written with language that turns scenes into well-crafted art."

Review by: Robert Gwaltney, award-winning author of SING DOWN THE MOON and THE CICADA TREE - June 11, 2026

"Odessa Blaine's WHERE THE ROOTS TANGLE is a haunting Southern Gothic novel steeped in Appalachian myth, class conflict, and the inescapable pull of family. Set in the summer of 1929, Blaine captures a world where old money, poverty, and folklore collide with devastating consequences. Edwina's voice is raw and compelling, carrying the weight of prejudice, loyalty, and quiet courage as she navigates small-town politics. Rich in atmosphere and grounded in folklore, this novel lingers long after the final page--an unflinching meditation on survival, sacrifice, and the terrible cost of love."

