

June 14, 2018 Spinner Publications proudly introduces its first novel

Blue Collars

written by Catherine McLaughlin

An American mill city

An imperfect weave of family love, betrayal and forgiveness

NEW BEDFORD, MA—Spinner Publications proudly presents *Blue Collars*, a debut novel written by New Bedford native Catherine McLaughlin and the publishing house's first book of fiction. *Blue Collars* is slated for release June 14, 2018.

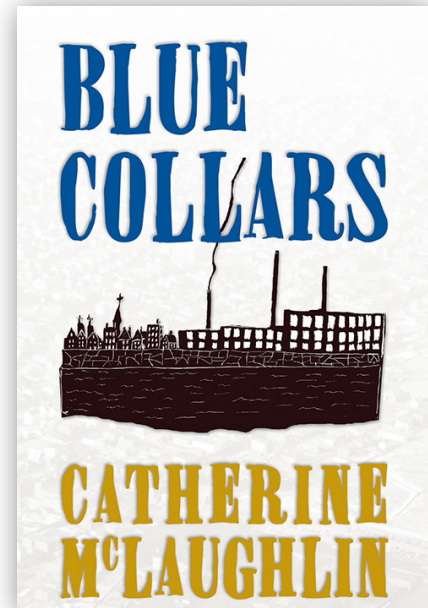
A compelling story about growing up during the late 1950s and 1960s in a New Bedford working-class family, *Blue Collars* details the triumphs and tragedies of the close-knit Kilroy family. Told through the eyes of young Fiona "Finn" Kilroy, her story unfolds in the city's South End, a neighborhood where Portuguese, Irish, French, and Cape Verdean immigrant families lived side-by-side in mostly three-decker tenement houses typical of many New England cities. Finn's father worked long hours as a loomfixer at the Berkshire Hathaway textile mill along the city's waterfront and her mother struggled to keep the children healthy, well fed and well dressed.

Surrounded by the love of a caring, extended family, Finn's life seems from the outside to be carefree and idyllic. But a terrible secret haunts her childhood. This is the story of a young girl's endurance in the face of betrayal and her brave efforts to overcome the shocks that rock her world. Finn's efforts to present a normal face breaks the reader's heart. Her story infuriates – even as her determination to stay strong and survive will inspire every reader.

From Finn's tumultuous childhood to her coming of age, we deeply experience her family's life of love, abuse, and heartache amidst a backdrop of historical events such as textile strikes and economic and political upheaval that shaped America and this industrial city.

Catherine McLaughlin grew up in New Bedford and now lives nearby in Padanaram. She received her undergraduate degree from UMass Dartmouth, formerly Southeastern Massachusetts University, and her graduate degrees from the University College Dublin and Bowling Green State University. A published poet and an accomplished artist, McLaughlin has taught English and writing for 40 years and is a professor emerita of Framingham State University.

Spinner Publications, is a non-profit publishing house in New Bedford whose mission is to record and promote the history, stories and culture of the cities and towns of southeastern New England.



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