

# The Thousandth Telling

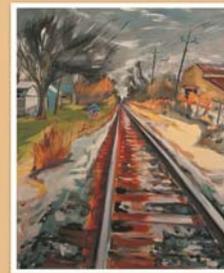
BY NANCY VANARSDALL

Spanning nearly a century, *The Thousandth Telling* is the story of three generations of women each of whom must navigate the prevailing social norms as she strives to live an authentic life. The story begins with Anna who seeks to balance mothering her six children while supporting her demanding husband in a deteriorating marriage. Desiring a better future for her four daughters, she dedicates herself to women's suffrage. Ruth, Anna's youngest and willful daughter, returns home after a year's banishment to South Carolina to find her town in the throes of the Ku Klux Klan. Initially captivated by the drama of the Klan, she joins the WKKK until the increasing reign of terror becomes personal. Against a backdrop of speakeasies, big bands, the Great Depression, and into the Post World War II boom, Ruth seeks to heal from her shameful past. While marriage promises to help her regain her respectability, the trust and stability for which she yearns is elusive.

Dianna, who introduces each woman's story, marries her college sweetheart. When their life is suddenly and tragically derailed by the unimaginable, Dianna is challenged to regain her equilibrium. The tumultuous 60's provide the impetus to "raising her consciousness." Inspired by her grandmother, Anna, Dianna is drawn into another struggle for equal rights for women.

Each of the three women must face the inevitable dilemma: Has she paid too high a price?

## The Thousandth TELLING



NANCY VANARSDALL

*The Thousandth Telling* is an intricately woven tale of women and family. It is the story of three generations of women whose lives hold the complexity of family and the uniqueness of individuals. To live the quality of a woman while also sharing intimate observations of the strength and tenacity of each woman. As each generation goes on to the next, we are given the opportunity to glimpse the emotions of three remarkable women who, each in her own way, create her family's future.

—Jana River, Author of *Children's Books and the Advancement of the Women's Theological Institute*

*The Thousandth Telling* is both timeless and timely. This historical fiction is the story of three generations of women each of whom valiantly meets the challenge of her era. Their stories are, often counterintuitively, both personal and political. Nancy Vanarsdall's prose is authentic and compelling. She uses her childhood home of Irvington, Indiana, as the backdrop for the lives of three remarkable women, through the lens of the Women in the Klan film, to the struggle for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

—Kim Dickson Ph.D., author of *The Wheel of the Year or a Spiritual Psychology for Women*

Spanning nearly a century, *The Thousandth Telling* is the story of three generations of women, each of whom must navigate the prevailing social norms as she strives to live an authentic life. Anna seeks to balance mothering her six children while supporting her demanding husband in a deteriorating marriage. Desiring a better future for her four daughters, she dedicates herself to women's suffrage.

Ruth is Anna's youngest and most willful daughter. After a year's banishment to South Carolina, she returns home to find her town in the throes of the Ku Klux Klan. Initially captivated by the drama of the Klan, she joins the WKKK until the increasing reign of terror becomes personal. Against a backdrop of speakeasies, big bands, and the Great Depression, Ruth seeks to heal from her shameful past.

Dianna is Anna's granddaughter. She marries her college sweetheart, but when their life is suddenly and tragically derailed, Dianna is challenged to regain her equilibrium. The tumultuous 60's provide the impetus to "raise her consciousness" as she is drawn into the struggle for equal rights for women. Living in different eras, all three women must face the inevitable dilemma: how high a price are they each willing to pay to reach the social standard?



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Published in 2018 by LuLu
- Expansive story of three generations of women
- Examines almost 100 years of feminist history
- Historical novel set in the Midwest, with interesting detail about early 20th century life in Irvington, a suburb of Indianapolis
- Read more about the book on Nancy's website, [nancyvanarsdall.com](https://nancyvanarsdall.com)
- Available for purchase from Amazon, GoodReads, Barnes & Noble, and the author