

Pittsburgh Native Pens *Upside Down Kingdom*

For immediate release

ROCHESTER, Minnesota. March 26, 2012—Pittsburgh native Jody Brown released her debut novel *Upside Down Kingdom* to the public in February this year.

Set in Washington, D.C., *Upside Down Kingdom* centers around a wry-humored young professional named Amy, who is working her first job out of college and moonlighting at a trendy restaurant. With Washington, D.C.'s pulsing backdrop of chaotic and tragic events between the years 2000–2002, Amy's orderly world is turned upside down.

The author attributes her main character's disposition to the people of Pittsburgh. "Amy is a hard worker," Brown says. "She's able to laugh at herself through the good and the bad. She's strong."

Originally from Creighton, Brown's family moved to Saxonburg when she was 10 years old. After graduating from Knoch High School, she attended the University of Pittsburgh, graduating with a B.A. in Poetry Writing in 1998. After college, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she edited trade publications for lobbyists in an office near the White House. After five years in D.C., she made the leap, moving to Rochester, Minnesota, where she lives currently.

"I guess it seemed crazy at the time," says Brown about the move to Minnesota. "But I have friends from the University of Pittsburgh who work for IBM up there," says Brown. "So when I was thinking about leaving D.C. to write the book, it occurred to me that Minnesota might be the right place. I already had friends there, and I figured it would snow enough that I'd actually get the book done. I was right."

Brown wrote the novel largely from her own experiences. Everywhere she's lived, she's made it a point to work in a restaurant. "It's a great way to get to know people. And, as any aspiring writer will tell you, the money doesn't hurt, either."

Brown wrote the novel in about nine months, then edited and re-wrote it over a period of years before shelving it. In November 2011, she attended a seminar on Print-on-Demand publishing that inspired her to edit *Upside Down Kingdom* one last time and submit it for publication. Her book was published in February 2012.

"Deciding to do Print-on-Demand changed everything," says Brown. "It meant I was no longer trying to get an agent to believe in my book who could *maybe* get a publisher to believe in it. Instead, I was making decisions about the interior layout and helping to design the book's cover. It's as if I stopped waiting at the door for someone to come and open it for me. I opened it and walked in."

Brown travels back to Pittsburgh numerous times each year to spend time with her family, and is planning some book signing events in the Pittsburgh area this summer. "I love arriving in Pittsburgh. I see the city and smile to myself and think 'I'm home!' I instantly feel rejuvenated." she says. "I dread the moment when I have to leave. But Pittsburgh is the kind of place that no matter where you go, you carry it with you."

Upside Down Kingdom, both hard copy and e-book format, can be ordered through BarnesandNoble.com and on [Amazon](http://Amazon.com).

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