



“...early days in San Francisco brought to life...young Sarah O'Malley makes her living on stage and confronts danger on nearly a daily basis—including the dashing Richard Moresby who isn't what he seems.”

—Marilyn Meredith, author of the Deputy Tempe Crabtree mysteries.

English aristocrat, Richard Moresby, travels to the California gold fields hoping to make a fortune to reclaim his ancestral estate. But when he meets spirited Sarah O'Malley, an actress at the Jenny Lind Theater, his thoughts of England begin to fade.

Accustomed to rebuffing male attentions in 1850s San Francisco, Sarah is surprised to find Richard intrigues and excites her, but she knows Moresby's rakish reputation and fears damaging hers, so she rebuffs him.

Moresby persists, and continues to pursue her, but before they can declare their love, they must deal with prejudice, a murder trial, a lynching party, a fire at the Jenny Lind and a terrible secret from Sarah's past.

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SHIRLEY SKUFCA HICKMAN was brought up in a Colorado coal mining town and wrote about those early years in her first book.



She graduated with a B.A. from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado and later earned two Master of Arts degrees. Her love of language led her to a career teaching English and to leadership roles on the state, regional and local levels. She received numerous awards including Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

She founded the Porterville Writer's Workshop which has flourished for many years. She is also a published poet and her nonfiction has won awards. Her short story won an honorable mention in the Writer's Digest Short Story Contest. She has also written a column for the local newspaper

about educational issues.

Currently she operates a private tutoring business.