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Local Author Shannon O'Neil Re-Releases Humorous Holiday Novel

Ancient City Christmas is coming back to the shelves this holiday season under the new title *I'll Be Home for Peacemas*.

St. Augustine, Fla. -- Ancient City native Shannon O'Neil is back this holiday season with an encore presentation of her debut novel, *I'll Be Home for Peacemas*, now available on Amazon and Barnesandnoble.com. In addition to the book's new title, readers will also enjoy an additional chapter, fresh cover and exclusive preview of the novel's sequel due out next summer.

"I really appreciate the support I received last year when the novel was first published," said O'Neil. "But I felt like with a little more polishing and a few extra features, readers would get so much more out of it."

I'll Be Home for Peacemas follows the hilarious holiday high jinx of fictional St. Augustine native Bailey Hamilton. The story begins on Christmas Eve with Bailey trapped in airport security, desperate to get away from her crazy family in Florida and back to her home in Boston. In order to be freed from custody, the hysterical heroine must recount the tale of holiday mishaps, family shenanigans and devastating personal tragedy that brought her to the edge of insanity.

"Though humor may seem to be the main focus of the novel, I'd like to think that the overall message is about learning to love your family for who they are," said O'Neil. "Contrary to what most people might imagine, I think it's actually easier to walk away from your family—as Bailey did for so many years—than it is to accept them and love them no matter what."

Originally published in November 2008 through Lulu.com under the title *Ancient City Christmas*, the newly re-tooled novel was released on Wednesday, Nov. 11, by Nashville, Tenn.-based printer Lightning Source, Inc. Part of O'Neil's new plan for the book also includes a distribution deal with two of the nation's leading book distributors, Baker & Taylor Books and Ingram Books.

"In addition to being available online, the book is also going to be available in some local bookstores around St. Augustine this year," said O'Neil, who graduated from Menendez High School in 2003. "This community has given me so much and it feels so good to be able to share this exciting piece of myself with everyone."

In December of 2000, O'Neil won a holiday short story contest put on by *The St. Augustine Record*. The talented author says it was that piece that first gave her the ideas that would eventually become the foundation of her debut novel.

“That was definitely the jumping-off point for *I’ll Be Home for Peacemas*,” said O’Neil. “Many of the ideas and feelings in that piece became the heart of this novel.”

That original short story, entitled *Christmas Angel*, is available on O’Neil’s official website, shannononeil.net, along with more information about the author, her novel and her upcoming appearances around St. Augustine.

As for the author’s future plans, it seems that a sequel is in the works.

“Now that I’ve gotten this first book where I want it, I’m moving my attention to the sequel due out sometime next summer,” said O’Neil. Tentatively titled *Summer of Storms*, readers can get a sneak peek at the author’s second title in the new edition of *I’ll Be Home for Peacemas*.

“I’m not done with Bailey Hamilton and her whacky family just yet,” said O’Neil. “There’s much more to come.”

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