Northern Michigan novelist, L.E. Kimball, writes first linked story collection

“The three strong women in these generational stories pass on to one another the secrets of surviving in the rugged country of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The brutality and death that mark nature is never glossed over, but Kimball knows that however unrelenting nature can be, alienation from the land is the greatest peril of all.”
—Gloria Whelan, National Book Award winner and author of Living Together (Wayne State University Press, 2013), which received the 2014 IPPY Silver Medal Award

DETROIT, January 22, 2016—“Inscrutable, inaccessible, indefinable. Even at the end. That’s what her mother had always been to her.” In Seasonal Roads, L. E. Kimball introduces Norna, Aissa, and Jane—mother, daughter, and granddaughter—who are as fierce and complex as the northern terrain they inhabit. Following a nonlinear timeline, Kimball’s stories unravel the beautiful mess of layers that is their lives and allow the narratives to roam freely in time, thus granting the reader keen insights into the past, present, and future.

Spiraling through time and perspective, the stories converge at Norna’s two-room cabin in the woods, accessible only by “seasonal roads” that disappear under deep snow in the winter. The cabin is witness to Norna’s years of solitude spent hunting, foraging, fishing, and defending herself from intruders, Aissa’s escape from her divorce, and Jane’s stubborn vigil as a forest fire rages dangerously nearby. Through raw and ephemeral memories, we learn the darkest kept secrets of these women and the ties that bind them to each other and to the land.

Kimball’s sensual descriptions of the Upper Peninsula, combined with her hauntingly vivid characters, paint an unforgettable picture in Seasonal Roads. Readers of fiction will enjoy the surprising turns of this collection.

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About the author: L.E. Kimball has her MFA in creating writing from Northern Michigan University. She is an associate editor for Passages North literary journal. She is also the author of A Good High Place and has been published in journals such as Alaska Quarterly Review and Gray’s Sporting Journal. Most of the year she lives off the grid on a trout stream with her son, Josh, and her English shepherd, Maggie.