Joan Merriam

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| Human Trafficking Isn’t Fiction |

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| **Nevada City, CA March 30, 2021** It’s a subject more visible now than ever before: human sex trafficking. From Florida to Michigan to Texas to Portland, legislators and civic leaders are facing the reality of trafficking in their states, their communities, their neighborhoods.  Author Joan Merriam confronts the crime head-on in her new novel, ***A Just Reckoning***. While the book may be fiction, the subject is all too real. Yet *because* the book is fiction, says the author, it allows readers to approach the difficult issue of trafficking from an emotional distance. “It’s that distance,” Merriam says, “that can help us explore a problem and ultimately, acknowledge that it actually exists.”  As the former director of a child abuse prevention organization, Merriam knows first-hand just how difficult it is to get people to concede the reality of tough topics.  This book aims to do just that with the subject of human trafficking. It follows the efforts of an investigative journalist to expose the ringleaders behind an international sex trafficking operation, and find justice for a young woman who was kidnapped as a child and forced into the global sex trade.  Joan Merriam is the author of the nonfiction book, *Little Girl Lost: A True Story of Shattered Innocence and Murder*. She has also written for national and regional magazines, and received awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, *Writer’s Digest*, and New Millennium Writers.  She is available for interviews, online conversations with bloggers and book reviewers, and once COVID loosens its grip, personal appearances and speaking engagements.  ***A Just Reckoning*** is available at independent bookstores and online sites such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble.  To learn more about the book and read an excerpt, go to [www.joanmerriam.com](http://www.joanmerriam.com). |