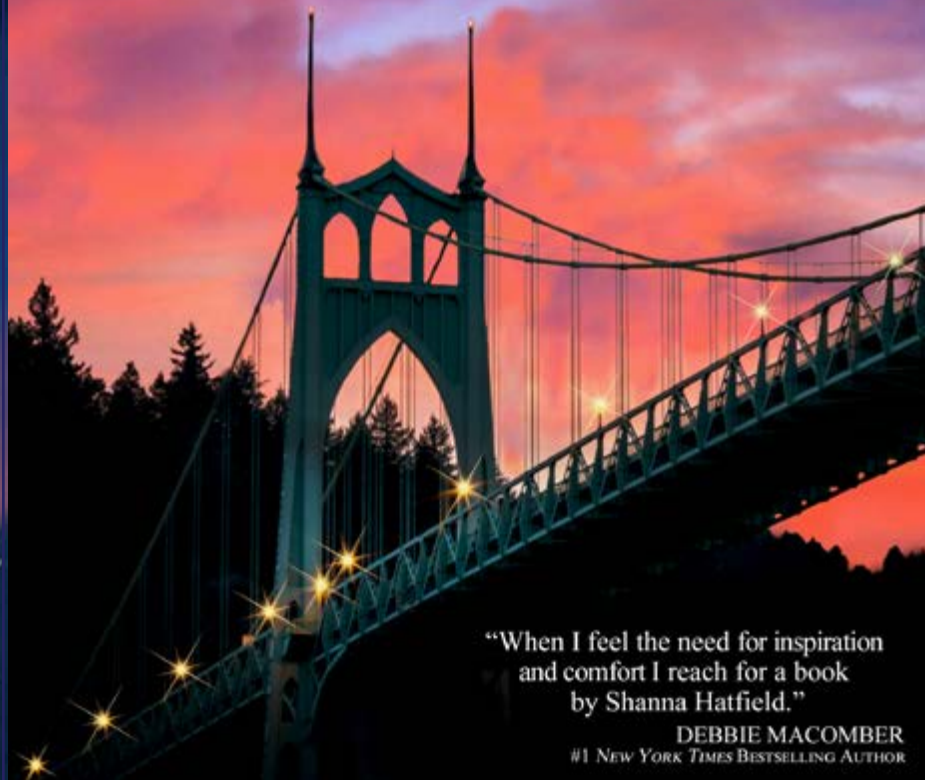


Book Club Kit

USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR
SHANNA HATFIELD

THE BRIDGE

AN ARCHER RAINES NOVEL



"When I feel the need for inspiration
and comfort I reach for a book
by Shanna Hatfield."

DEBBIE MACOMBER
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

From the Author

Dear Reader,

The idea for this story started a few years ago when my husband, Captain Cavedweller, and I were traveling from Seattle to Portland. We were supposed to arrive at my cousin's house in time for dinner and thought we had plenty of time to make the trip.

About an hour out of Portland, the traffic on the freeway suddenly came to a standstill. Was it a wreck? Road construction? What was happening?

Of course, I began searching for news on my phone and finally found the cause of traffic coming to a halt. An armed man had carjacked multiple vehicles. When he attempted another carjacking on one of the main bridges crossing the Columbia River into Portland, deadly force was deployed by police. Traffic both ways was blocked, resulting in the delays.

After creeping along at a top speed of about fifteen miles an hour for close to two hours, we finally made it to an alternate bridge and to my cousin's home.

The whole time we were in that snarl of vehicles and irate drivers who just wanted to get to their destination, I kept thinking how one man's choice—one bad choice—rippled out to affect thousands of people that day.

My imagination kicked into high gear with “what-ifs,” wondering what if there had been a woman who went into labor while she was stuck in traffic, or someone on their way to their dream job interview, or even just travelers eager to spend time with loved ones they hadn't seen for a while.

By the time we returned home, I knew I had to write this story.

I hope you'll enjoy meeting the characters. May the themes of courage, compassion, and hope fill your heart with warmth and joy.

With my very best wishes,

Shanna



The Place

In the northwest area of the Portland region, you'll find the [St. Johns Bridge](#), one of the most recognized in Oregon because of its beautiful design and historical significance.

Bridge engineer David Steinman, famous in the 20th century for his innovative work, specialized in designing suspension bridges. He and fellow engineer Holton D. Robinson turned their talents to creating the iconic green Gothic suspension bridge that spans the Willamette River between North Portland and the Linnton and Northwest industrial neighborhoods of Northwest Portland.

Construction began on the bridge in 1929, right before the stock market crash. When it was dedicated in 1931 during the annual June Rose Festival, it held the longest span of any suspension bridge west of Detroit. The concrete piers of the bridge are unusual for the period in which they were built because they contain solid steel frame reinforcement rather than rebar, which was common during this period.

The bridge carries US Route 30 bypass over the river on four lanes of traffic. There are sidewalks the length of the bridge for pedestrians to use for a great view of the river. The bridge, and neighborhood in the area, is named after pioneer James John.

Beneath the bridge on the St. Johns neighborhood side is Cathedral Park, named after the 408-foot-tall cathedral-like bridge towers. The park was constructed in the 1960s and is the site of many weddings and celebrations.

St. Johns Bridge has been featured in television series including *The Librarians* and *Grimm*, and even included in the 1943 comic book *Captain Marvel Adventures* #23.

When I was searching for a bridge to serve as the setting for this story, I knew I'd find just the right one when I saw St. Johns Bridge. As the story progresses, the bridge takes on a character of its own.



The Characters

I'm a very visual person, so I create Pinterest Boards for every book I write. It helps me get into the story along with the heads of the characters. You can explore the board for *The Bridge* here:

<https://www.pinterest.com/shannahatfield/books-contemporary-romances/books-the-bridge/>

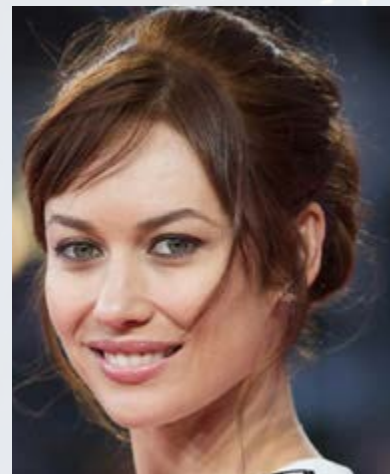
Here are the visual inspirations behind my main characters:



Matt Coehen as Archer



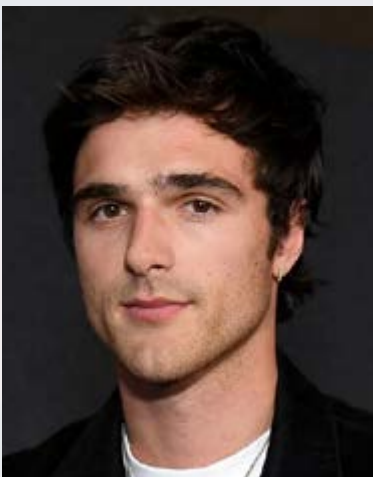
Bethany Joy Lenz as Rosalee



Olga Kurylenko as Nova



Matthew G. Taylor as Carter



Jacob Elordi as Ian



Charlotte Best as Kate



Kevin Rankin as Leon

Playlist

When I write, I always listen to a song on a loop. It helps keep me focused on the story. The fun thing is, long after the book has been published, whenever I hear the song on the radio, it makes me think of the story and characters and gives me a smile.

For *The Bridge*, the song I chose was “[Good Day](#)” by Brett Eldredge.

Other songs mentioned in the book or fit the story well include:

Jingle Bells by Frank Sinatra

Run, Run Rudolph by Chuck Berry

White Christmas by Clyde McPhatter & The Drifters

Silent Night by Michael Bublé

Take Me Home for Christmas by Dan + Shay

You Make My Dreams Come True by Hall & Oates

BOOK CLUB

Discussion Guide

Title: THE BRIDGE Author: Shanna Hatfield
Genre: _____ Fiction: ☒ Nonfiction: ☐
Started: _____ Finished: _____ Pages: _____

Overall Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆ Plot: ☆☆☆☆☆ Characters: ☆☆☆☆☆
Writing style: ☆☆☆☆☆ Setting: ☆☆☆☆☆ Ending: ☆☆☆☆☆

Characters:
Favorite Character: _____
Least Favorite Character: _____
Did any Character Surprise You? _____
Which Character I Relate To: _____

Messages & Takeaways:
Key messages? _____
Big takeaways? _____
Real-life connections? _____
Questions left by the book? _____

BOOK CLUB

Discussion Guide

Plot:
Memorable Part: _____
Confusing Part: _____
Ending: _____

Symbols & Motifs:
Key symbols? _____
Meanings behind them? _____
How they shaped the story? _____

General:
Would I recommend this book? _____
How did this book make me feel? _____
What did I learn from this book? _____
Who would enjoy this book? _____

Thoughts: _____

BOOK CLUB

Discussion Guide

World-Building:	Writing Style:
Setting Impact: <div></div>	Style/Voice: <div></div>
World-Building Details: <div></div>	Dialogue: <div></div>
Favorite Scene: <div></div>	Pacing: <div></div>
Atmosphere: <div></div>	Overall Flow: <div></div>

BOOK CLUB

Discussion Guide

Author:	The End:
Author's Life & Influence on Book: <div></div>	Memorable Scenes: <div></div>
Compare to Author's Other Works: <div></div>	Favorite Quote/Passage: <div></div>
Interesting Author Facts: <div></div>	Main Message/Impact: <div></div>
What to Read Next by Author: <div></div>	Similar Book Recommendations: <div></div>

BOOK CLUB

Discussion Notes



Slow Cooker Hot Chocolate

Make slow cooker hot chocolate to go along with your book club meeting and sip and savor as you discuss your favorite books!

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ½ cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 6 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups of milk chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS:

Stir together the whipping cream, milk, vanilla, and chocolate chips in a 5-quart slow cooker (if doubling, use a 6-7 quart slow cooker).

Cover and cook on low for two hours, stirring occasionally with whisk, until mixture is hot and chocolate chips are melted.

Once it is heated through and chocolate is melted, switch the slow cooker to the warm setting. Stir again before serving. (If you have trouble getting the chocolate to melt, turn to high temporarily).

Garnish individual cups of hot chocolate with whipped cream or marshmallows.

Sugar Cookies



Ian enjoyed these in the story. I hope you will too! They go so wonderfully well with hot chocolate.
I make this recipe every year for the holidays and have since I was seventeen.

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup butter
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup powdered sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
dash of lemon juice
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
2 1/2 cups flour
Frosting

DIRECTIONS:

Cream together butter and sugars. Add in eggs, vanilla and lemon juice. Mix dry ingredients together and gradually add into creamed mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for an hour (or overnight).

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Generously flour a flat surface and your rolling pin. Scoop out half the dough and roll until about 1/4 inch thick. You want to work fairly quickly at this point because the warmer the dough gets the stickier it becomes and you don't want to add more flour. Cut into shapes and bake about 6-8 minutes or until cookies are just set. You do not want them to get brown at all. Cool in pan for one minutes. Remove to wire rack to cool completely. Frost and decorate, then watch them disappear.

You can use a royal icing if you are of a mind to stir up a batch or whip out a can of premade vanilla frosting and frost away. Sprinkles should be applied liberally and with abandon!

Author Bio



USA Today bestselling author Shanna Hatfield grew up on a farm where hay fever and life lessons were always in season. Today, she blends her rural roots with a love for storytelling, crafting sweet, wholesome romances filled with hope, humor, quirky characters, and realistic heroes paired with strong, inspiring heroines. When she's not writing or baking new recipes, you'll find her cherishing quiet moments at home in the Pacific Northwest with her husband—affectionately known as Captain Cavedweller.

For more information about Shanna, connect online:

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[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AuthorShannaHatfield): <https://www.facebook.com/AuthorShannaHatfield>

[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/shannahatfield/): <https://www.instagram.com/shannahatfield/>

THE BRIDGE

Snow falls, traffic stalls, and the lives of five people
entwine on a bridge on Christmas Eve.

What begins as chaos
turns into an unforgettable journey
of courage, compassion, and second chances—
proving miracles happen when we least expect them.

