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LOCAL TUCSON AREA AUTHOR LAUNCHES DEBUT CALIFORNIA-ARIZONA HISTORICAL NOVEL  
“Powerful and exquisitely researched, exuding the culture of the people...”

Tucson, AZ, October 22, 2014—Local Greater Tucson area author Mary Schultz has published *The Last Skywatchers*, a Novel of Early California, as an e-book for immediate distribution and download.

*The Last Skywatchers* steals into the lost world of early California where the Skywatcher, the Keeper of the Calendar, holds the power of life and death, health and disease, plenty and want. Three generations of Skywatchers, each in their own way, meet the sweeping challenges of the late 18th century and early 19th century West.

In *The Last Skywatchers*, the known world unravels as the Spanish mission sphere expands across Southern California to the Colorado River from 1769 to 1854. People of one village after another pit themselves against invading settler-evangelists and their escorting soldiers, and a fierce resistance movement arises. Only the secret knowledge of Skywatchers—astronomer-healers—can ensure the preservation of a people and their culture.

“Powerful and exquisitely researched, exuding the culture of the people...” notes Spur award winning author Richard Wheeler in a letter to the author about an early draft of *The Last Skywatchers*. Wheeler also comments that chapters “move swiftly and resolutely, the conflict within them driving the story forward with real power,” and that the novel is “a bit of history new to me, though it was achingly familiar, echoing the conflicts and confrontations across North America over two or three centuries.”

“These characters invaded my imagination and insisted on being given a voice. Learning more about their lives, about the celestial component of human belief systems, took me on a research vision quest across decades and continents,” says Mary Schultz. “I explored from California to mainland Chile and Easter Island to understand the visual astronomy of Skywatchers.”

A traveler by nature, together with her husband, Schultz has lived and sailed aboard a 41 ft. ketch, and camped from Alaska to the Panama Canal. Her personal essays have been anthologized, short fiction and humor have appeared in regional and national magazines. Anyone familiar with products from Autodesk and Apple to Total Gym has likely read Mary’s award-winning advertising & marketing writing.

The e-book *The Last Skywatchers*, 158,160 words, is available for download via several popular retail sources. One is Amazon for Kindle (Amazon number ASIN: B00OU0QBVA). It can also be located with the International Standard Book Number ISBN: 9781310946851, from Smashwords, Barnes and Noble, Apple iBooks, Kobo and other retailers. Available formats include epub; mobi (Kindle); Lrf (for older Sony readers); pdb (for older Palm devices); txt (archival, contains no formatting); Online Reader.

Schultz provides a Media Kit in her author website: <http://maryaschultz.com/media/>. Please notify the author of reviews published. Contact: [info@maryaschultz.com](mailto:info@maryaschultz.com).