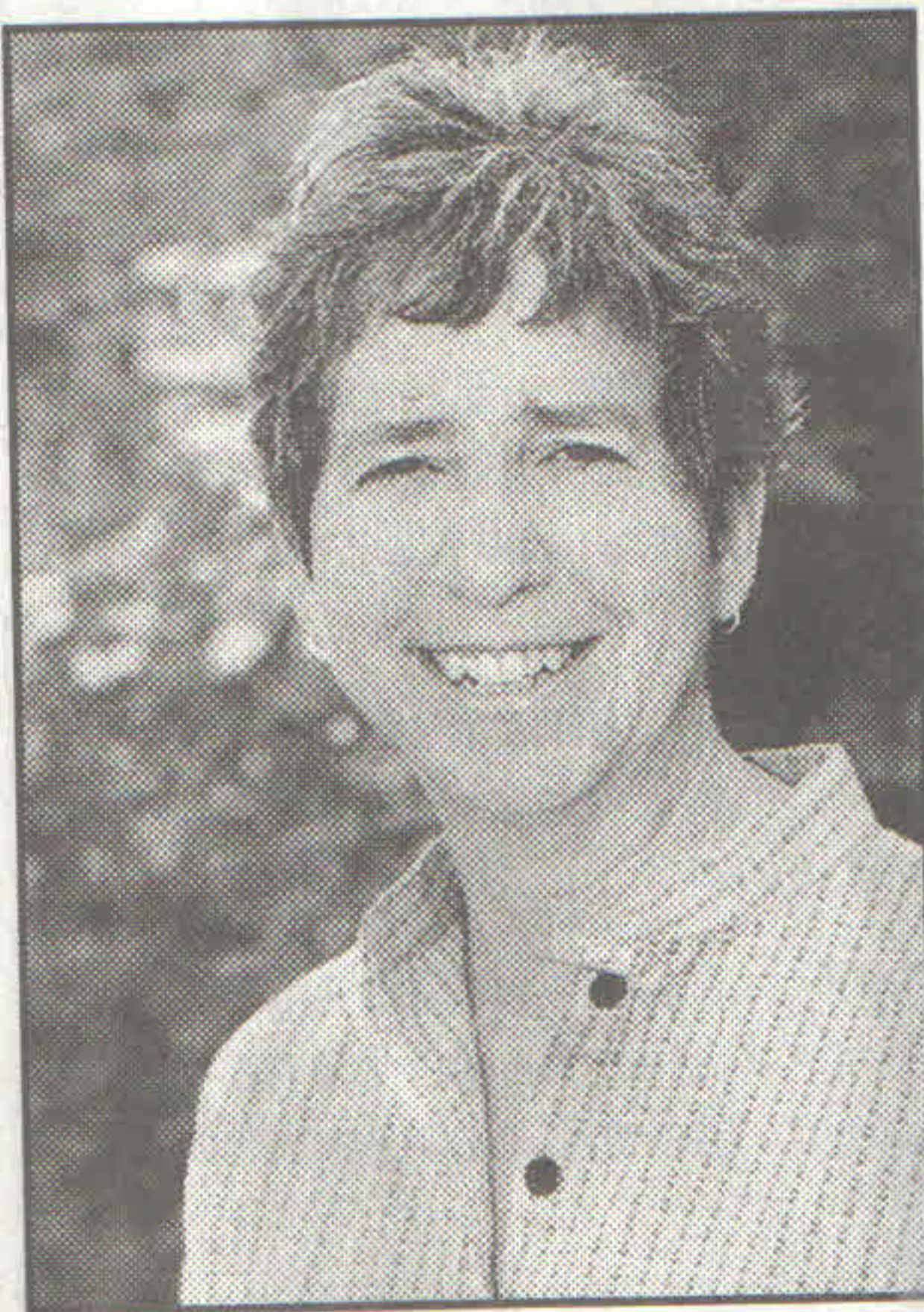
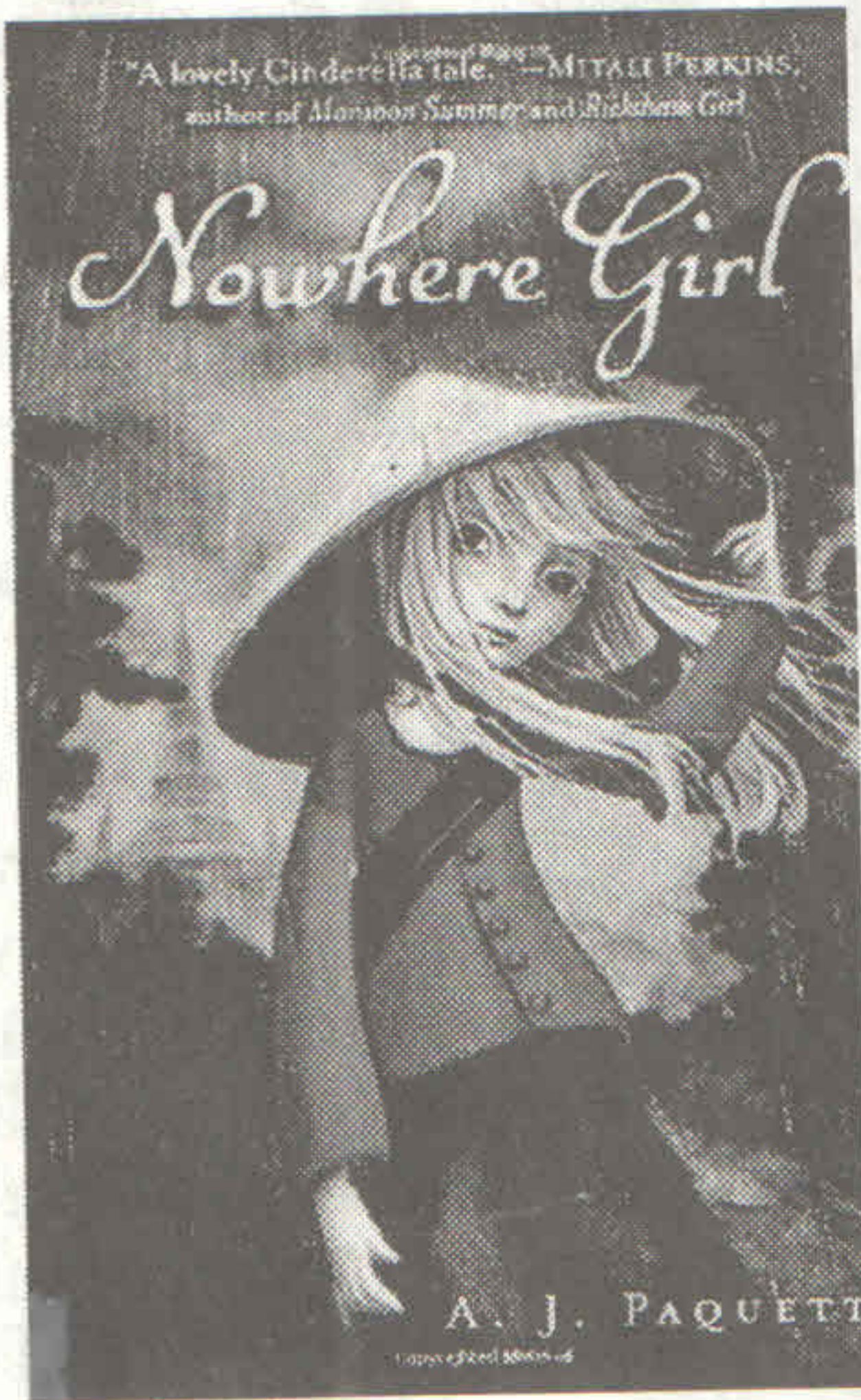




The Village School's Children's Book of the Month



Book reviewed by
Rise Richardson, Director

'Nowhere Girl' by Ammi Joan Paquette

A 13 year old girl has grown up in an isolated Thai prison with her manic depressive mother. Her mother keeps her own back story and reason for imprisonment a secret with a lot of fear and anxiety hovering around it. The girl, Luchi, is Caucasian looking, with blond hair, gray eyes and white skin. In the women's prison, she has learned a number of languages, is fluent in Thai and considers it her culture. When her mother dies, Luchi is released from the prison and with great trepidation, sets out to find out her mother's secrets, including any relatives in the U.S.

The intriguing middle part of the book is fascinating, as Luchi enters the outside world for the first time and has so many new experiences: trees, flowers, vivid colors, fresh cooked food, automobiles, big buildings, lots of people, highways and more. She blunders into danger a number of times, and finds tremendous courage (and new friends who help her) to figure out how to get to the U.S., despite being robbed of all of her money and most of her belongings.

A ship captain takes her under his wing, as she reminds him of his dead daughter. He teaches her about modern culture, including learning how to use the internet and do email. Through the internet, she unravels her mother's past and discovers some of her family.

All the suspense culminates in a satisfying ending, as all the pieces of the puzzle come together and make sense.

This story is well told in first person, as the action is unfolding. It is both a story of self discovery and a mystery. Ages 9-15 will enjoy this book, as will all adults.

You can meet Ammi Joan Paquette and buy her book, and ask for her autograph, at the Central Mass Children's Book Festival on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Mount Wachusett Community College café from 10 to 3. Over 25 authors of children's picture books, young adult books and non-fiction children's books will be at the Children's Book Festival, with books for sale and autograph. For more information, go to centralmass-childrensbookfestival.org