

EVENINGPOSTBOOKS

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Swallow Savannah

A novel by Ken Burger

Bluff County, S.C. 1950

While Frank Finklea and his muckmates were sloughing trees out of the primal ooze, engineers in silver safety helmets stood off to the side drawing imaginary lines in the air. There was talk they were building the world's biggest bomb factory. That's why there was so much secrecy surrounding the project. The feds had bought up 300 square miles of rural South Carolina so it would have plenty of buffer if anything went wrong.

And there was plenty that could go wrong.

Finklea's survival instincts drew him out of the swampland to become one of the most powerful men in the state. As he ruthlessly built his empire, Finklea cared little for those he left in his wake: his trusting father-in-law, his beautiful, brutalized wife, his troubled mistress, and his gentle son. He gave no thought to the poor blacks he exploited or the neighbors he humiliated. Yet as time and the Savannah River flow through Bluff County, Finklea's sins were carried out of the swamps and into the open. In a single, violent day, decades of racial conflict and government corruption explode in South Carolina.

Swallow Savannah is the story of a rural southern community caught between one man's all-consuming ambition and the dawning reality of civil rights.

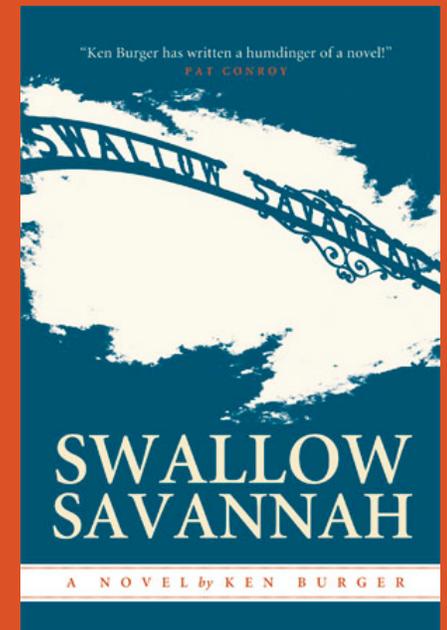
"Clean prose. Deep slime. Ooze and ahs for Ken Burger's riveting tale hewed from the backwoods and back rooms of a South Carolina he knows down deep."

—GARY SMITH, senior writer at *Sports Illustrated* and author of *Going Deep*

"Well done and a genuine page turner. I recommend it for anyone, especially those who remember the bomb plant being built and the high fences surrounding it. ... Kudos to Mr. Burger for creating a winner."

—WILLIAM D. HILTON, Charleston *Post and Courier* editorial

"Ken Burger has long been my favorite sports columnist and now has written a humdinger of a novel! It's got politics, treachery, rotten politicians and a swift moving plot. I think Mr. Burger is the first South Carolina novelist to explore the Savannah River country around Allendale and the bomb plant and he does it exceedingly well!"



Swallow Savannah

By Ken Burger

Fiction

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Ken Burger is a columnist for The Post and Courier newspaper in Charleston, S.C. His journalism career spans four decades and includes stints covering sports, business, and politics, including two years as the paper's Washington, D.C., correspondent. His previous books include *Life Through The Earholes Of Our Youth*, a compilation of sports columns; and *Swallow Savannah*, his first novel, which was published in 2009. Born and raised in Allendale, S.C., Burger graduated dead last in his class at the University of Georgia, has been married five times, is a gratefully recovering alcoholic, a cancer survivor, and a happy man.