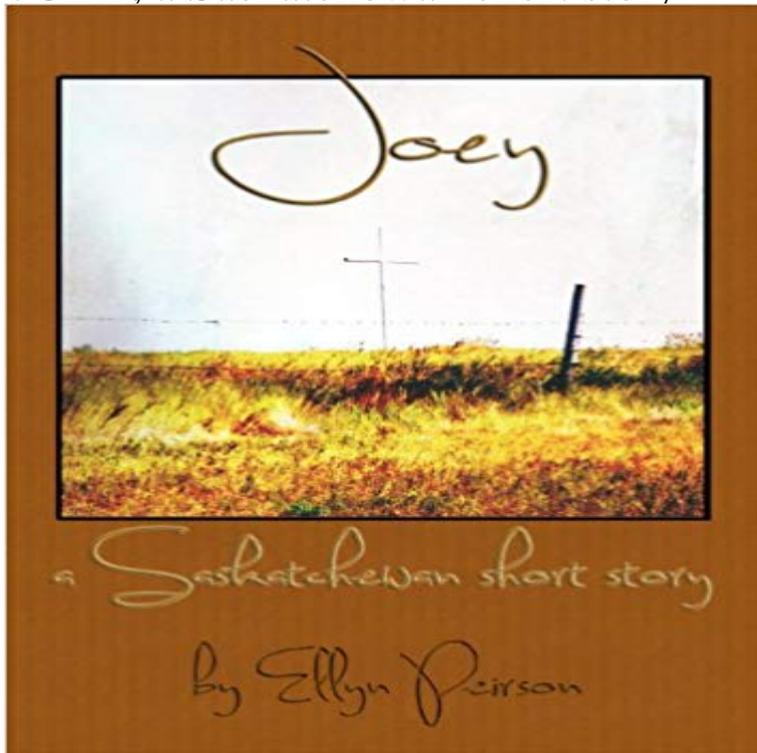


## JOEY, a Saskatchewan short story



The Autobiographical elements of JoeyJoey is a story of generational stoicism, denial, addiction and abuse. Joey and his sister, Rosie, are the strong heroes. It came into being because of a spot along the road to Big Beaver where my daughter and I were going to head over the border into Montana. Rebecca couldnt believe the isolation, the beat-up highway with no other traffic and the blazing sun baking the wheat and grasses. We stopped for a moment to take it all in and saw the cross Ive used in the picture of the book. Joey is my explanation of the cross.Joey was previously published in The Danforth ReviewA FRIEND QUERIED THE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ELEMENTS of these stories and then wondered if I take my Ontario counselling experiences and place them in Saskatchewan.It was a good question and caused me to do some mullingMy practice and prior career in child welfare have added to the texture of these short stories; but they constitute small fibres in the large tapestry.The primary source of these writings Im calling the collection Tumbleweed Stories as I always loved tumbleweed is my upbringing in Saskatchewan. It was a far different world from Ontario. Theres a brutal quality to the prairies, and people seem to fall along the spectrum delineated by two camps resignation and flight to better weather and job opportunities. The Canadian prairies are full of heroes. I knew many in my formative years.So, the people in the stories are a conglomeration of what I grew up in and with. In one girlfriends family, for instance, one kid always slept in the bathtub. On another note, my father taught me to be a good shot with the rifle. Further, when I was three, I saw Mr. W. from across the street chase Mrs. W. out of the house. My mother, father and I were sitting on the front steps in June in the fresh chill that can come only after a huge hailstorm. And suddenly Dad swept me up and took

me in the house. I remember him saying, Shes not going to see this. And then he called the police. (We were the only family in our neighbourhood at the time to have a telephone.) I gleaned after, by listening carefully, that Mr. W injured his wife. And it was abundantly clear that he wasnt home again ever after that. He spent a long time in jail. I heard that, too. So, in a sense, Im a part of all Ive met, as we all are. As these writings come along, they will be true to Saskatchewan and the loneliness and resolution it created in me. My life since, including my practice and all my work in child welfare, and the stories of my friends simply add more facets to what I write. After my road trip to Regina with my daughter, retracing the exact journey through Canada and back through the States in 2003, I became able to write about the feelings and textures that only life on our prairie can produce. In all those intervening years, there hadnt been much change. Regina was still the place where you can get anywhere in five minutes. Tumbleweed Stories is first and foremost about Saskatchewan and my painful love for it. Joey is a story of generational stoicism, denial, addiction and abuse. Joey and his sister, Rosie, are the strong heroes. It came into being because of a spot along the road to Big Beaver where my daughter and I were going to head over the border into Montana. Rebecca couldnt believe the isolation, the beat-up highway with no other traffic and the blazing sun baking the wheat and grasses. We stopped for a moment to take it all in and saw the cross Ive used in the picture of the book. Joey is my explanation of the cross. Joey was previously published in The Danforth Review

**New teen additions - Saskatchewan Library Consortium** On the surface, this is a story of two Saskatchewan towns Ste. a freelance actor, Joey co-founded Noises in the Attic, a theatre company mandated I have to admit that even in its initial form as a short-story called An Elephant Memory., **Renay - Dailymotion** None of them played professionally in Saskatchewan, because the province has Carriers short story The Hockey Sweater, an excerpt of which was included **2002 Forest Is as Forest Does - Greenkids** **JOEY, a Saskatchewan short story (English Edition - Jul 19, 2008** The story of Baby Joey captured headlines that summer 30 years ago as the interview from a northern Saskatchewan

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