

Kathleen Williams Renk taught British, Irish, and Women's literature for nearly three decades in the U.S. and abroad. She writes fiction, nonfiction, and literary criticism. While earning her Ph.D. in English at the University of Iowa, Williams Renk studied fiction writing with James Alan Macpherson, who won the Pulitzer Prize. In November 2020, Cuidono Press (Brooklyn) published her debut novel, *Vindicated: A Novel of Mary Shelley*, which won Story Circle Network's 2021 May Sarton Award in Historical Fiction. *Vindicated* was also a finalist for the CIBA Goethe Award and was longlisted for the Chautauqua Literary Prize. Her second novel, *The Rossetti Diaries*, was published in November 2023 with Bedazzled Ink Publishing in California. In addition, she published *Orphan Annie's Sister*, which focuses on her mother's and her mother's twin orphan experience during the Great Depression.

Williams Renk's short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry have appeared in *Iowa City Magazine*, *Literary Yard*, *Page and Spine*, *CC & D Magazine*, and the *Scarlet Review*. Her scholarly books include *Caribbean Shadows and Victorian Ghosts: Women's Writing and Decolonization* (Univ. Press of Virginia, 1999), *Magic, Science, and Empire in Postcolonial Literature: The Alchemical Literary Imagination* (Routledge, 2012), and *Women Writing the Neo-Victorian Novel: Erotic "Victorians"* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020).

Williams Renk's works-in-progress include a prequel to *Vindicated*, entitled *NO COWARD'S SOUL HAVE I*, which focuses on Percy Shelley's idealistic and rather naïve revolutionary zeal when he and his wife Harriet traveled to Dublin to help free the Irish from British occupation and tyranny. While in Ireland, he meets the Irish heroine Anne Devlin, who was imprisoned for three years for her involvement in Robert Emmet's 1803 failed rebellion. Harriet and Percy identify with the Irish but when tested will they be as courageous as Anne Devlin? A second WIP focuses on the late nineteenth, early twentieth-century novelist Kate Chopin and is entitled *BEFORE HER AWAKENING*

Williams Renk is a member of the International Society of Scholars, and she won a teaching award at the University of Iowa.

In her spare time, Williams Renk plays violin and guitar. She also loves to hike on the Front Range in Colorado where she lives.