Books



Under the name Feike Feikema:

The Golden Bowl, 1944. Boy Almighty, 1945. This is the Year, 1947. The Chokecherry Tree, 1948. The Primitive



(1st in "World's Wanderer" trilogy), 1950.

The Brother (2nd in "World's Wanderer" trilogy), 1950. The Giant (3rd in "World's Wanderer" trilogy), 1951.

Under the name Frederick Manfred:

Lord Grizzly, 1954. Morning Red: A Romance, 1956. Riders of Judgment, 1957. Conquering Horse, 1959. Arrow of Love, 1961. Wanderlust, 1962.



Scarlet Plume, 1964. The Man Who Looked Like the Prince of Wales, 1965.

King of Spades, 1966.

Winter Count: Poems, 1934-1965, 1966.

Eden Prairie, 1968.

Apples of Paradise, and Other Stories, 1968. Lord Grizzly: The Legend of Hugh Glass, 1972. Writing in the West. 1974.

(Editor) Conversations with Frederick Manfred, 1974. The Manly Hearted Woman, 1976.

Milk of Wolves, 1976.

Green Earth, 1977.

The Wind Blows Free: A Reminiscence, 1979.

Sons of Adam, 1980.

Buckskin Man Tales, 1980.

Dinkytown, 1984.

Prime Fathers: Portraits, 1987.

Winter Count II: Poems, 1987.

 $Selected\ Letters\ of\ Frederick\ Manfred,\ 1989.$

Flowers of Desire: A Novel, 1989. No Fun on Sunday: A Novel, 1990.

The Golden Bowl, 1992.

Of Lizards and Angels: A Saga of Siouxland, 1992 Duke's Mixture, 1994.

The Frederick Manfred Reader, 1996.



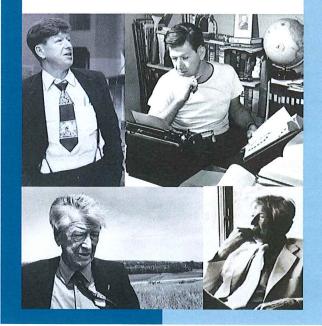
Frederick Manfred: American Grizzly, St. Paul: The CIE, 1983.

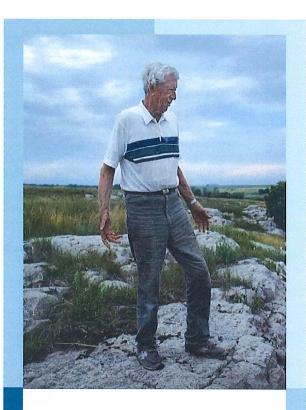


WHAT ABOUT YOU, BOY?

What about you, boy? Is your work coming along? Are you still making candles Against darkness and wrong? The whole thing is to blast. Blast and blast again. To fill the Black With songs, poems, temples, paintings, Anything at all. Attack. Attack. Open up and let go. Even if it's only blowing. But blast. And I say this loving my God. Because we are all He has at last. So what about it, boy? Is your work going well? Are you still lighting lamps Against darkness and Hell?

- WINTER COUNT "The Old Black Silence" Part VI





The Life and Legacy of Frederick Manfred

1912-1994

Frederick Feikema Manfred—A Biography

Frederick Manfred was born Frederick Feikema on January 6, 1912, and grew up on a farm near Doon in northwestern Iowa. At six feet nine inches Manfred was the eldest and tallest of six brothers, all over six feet. A future literary career seemed unlikely for Manfred. His father was illiterate, and there was so much farm work that Manfred had to hide some of the books he wanted to read. Manfred attended the Christian Reformed Church high school, Western Academy, in Hull, Iowa. While in school he excelled as a baseball player and dreamed of becoming a professional. Two years after graduating from high school, Manfred attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, continuing his special interest in baseball, history and literature.



At Calvin College seventeen of Manfred's poems and short stories were published in the yearbook and in the college newspaper, *The Calvin College Chimes*. After earning a B.A. and his teaching certificate in 1934 Manfred hitchhiked for two years across America. He traveled east spending eight months in New Jersey working for U.S. Rubber and becoming involved in local politics. He then headed west, staying in Sioux Falls and visiting Yellowstone Park. These travels and his childhood provided inspiration for Manfred's realistic novels and for his "rumes," a term he invented for novels that are strongly autobiographical.



At the end of his travels in 1937 Manfred worked as a sports reporter for *The Minneapolis Journal*. He was fired a couple years later, possibly due to his involvement in union organization. Shortly after this Manfred developed tuberculosis and entered Glen Lake Sanatorium in Minnetonka, Minnesota, in April of 1940. It was there that he met his future wife, Maryanna Shorba. They married in 1942 and had three children: Freya, Marya, and Frederick Junior. Manfred then worked on the staff of *Modern Medicine* and as assistant campaign manager for Hubert Humphrey, who was a candidate for mayor of Minneapolis. In 1943 Manfred decided to devote all of his time to writing. This risky move worked when Manfred was given a University of Minnesota writing fellowship in 1944, and his first novel, *The Golden Bowl*, was published later that year. Over the following fifty years he wrote 35 books, three of which are unpublished. In

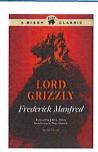
1945 after being awarded a grant-in-aid from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and having his University of Minnesota writing fellowship renewed, Manfred's rume, Boy Almighty, inspired by his stay in the Minnesota sanatorium, was published. Manfred's third novel, This Is the Year, was published in 1947 and appeared on the best-seller lists of The New York Times and the New York Herald Tribune.

The Primitive, the first novel in his World's Wanderer trilogy, was published in 1949. It was poorly received, and the next two books in the trilogy, The Brother (1950) and The Giant (1951), met with mixed reviews. In 1952 Manfred decided to change his name from Frederick Feikema to Frederick Feikema Manfred, and Frederick Manfred became his publishing name. Lord Grizzly, the first of "The Buckskin Man Tales," was published under his new name. It was a best seller and one of the finalists for the National Book Award in 1954. The "Buckskin Man Tales" are comprised of Lord Grizzly, Conquering Horse, Scarlet Plume, King of Spades, and Riders of Judgment. Manfred's novels are very much connected to his native region. His stories involve the American Midlands, and the prairies of the West, which he named "Siouxland".

In 1960, after the success of *Lord Grizzly*, Manfred began building his dream house on the Blue Mound Ridge north of Luverne, where his children spent their childhood. Freya, like her father, became a poet and writer. Marya became a musician, artist and counselor-advocate. Fred Junior received a degree in journalism and became a national representative for kidney dialysis patients. The home was embedded in the rock and included floor-to-ceiling windows and exposed Sioux quartzite. In 1975, Manfred sold the house to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to become part of Blue Mounds State Park. He built another earth house on a ridge on the east side of Luverne. Frederick Manfred died of a brain tumor on September 7, 1994, nearly finished with his last (unpublished) novel, *Black Earth*.



After mixed reviews from his trilogy and other early novels, Frederick Feikema decided to shake things up. He changed his last name to Manfred and began research on the legend of Hugh Glass. In 1823, Glass was traveling with a fur trading company



in the upper Missouri. After surprising a female grizzly and her cubs, Glass was mauled to the brink of death. His company assumed him dead and abandoned him after scavenging his supplies. Despite this, he crawled 200 miles with a broken leg and shredded torso to track down those who abandoned him. To capture the most authentic story possible, Manfred explored the local landscapes of Glass's life. He also bound a board to his leg and crawled around to simulate Glass's journey during the crawl. Published in 1954, Lord Grizzly received critical praise and was named a finalist for the National Book Award. It has now sold over a million copies in many countries. This great success set him on the path to subsequent novels about the settlement of the West. Many of these were based within Manfred's "Siouxland," the area where Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota meet. He continued writing until six weeks before he died, and his passion turned out great titles, many of which are still in print today.



The Manfred House on Blue Mound Ridge