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DEBUT NOVEL BRINGS THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF 1968 CALIFORNIA TO LIFE

Spokane, Washington – June 1st, 2014 /- Arielle Hunter's fiction debut, ***A Far Strange Country: Banquet of Choices*** is set against the backdrop of social unrest, the rise of the drug culture, upheaval and assassinations. Like postcards from the past, cinematic description and crisp dialog bring elements of 1968 California to life in this tightly-written, fast-paced novel. The smoke clears with a story that is absent of the platitudes normally associated with the era.

"It's much like the movie, *On Golden Pond* meeting *Psych-Out*" Ms. Hunter said when asked to describe ***A Far Strange Country***. "But I was adamant that the novel not be filled with hippie clichés and cheap shots about a time and place of monumental significance that changed our nation forever. I did, however, want to include California lore, and nostalgic bits and pieces that were once familiar, but now almost forgotten."

Thrown into the mix are Buck and Pauline Harper, a staid couple who are riding out the upheaval tucked away on their ranch in the Sierra Nevada foothills when they receive a telegram. Their estranged son, Steven, a Viet Nam veteran, has been hospitalized in San Francisco from a drug overdose. At the same time, Donatello Dragghi a notorious Italian actor and film director has been sent to live with his uncle in California to avoid a Mafia hit. He is waiting in his suite at the Beverly Hills Hotel for a phone call. The call sets in motion a series of events that take him in a direction he never dreamed possible. And then there's Parker, the pop-culture guru, suspected of murdering a follower to acquire a property in Big Sur.

The two-book series takes place in San Francisco, Berkeley, Napa, Los Angeles, Big Sur and the Sierra Nevada foothills of California. Hippies, ranchers and film stars illustrate the central theme: actions have consequences.

Arielle Hunter lives in the Inland Northwest on several acres with her husband and a dogmatic cat. Gifted in painting and sculpture, she followed that path for many years, before the idea for her first novel, ***A Far Strange Country***, grabbed her and wouldn't let go. She began a serious study of English and writing, and felt compelled to pursue writing as a career. She has completed several short stories, edited several books, and ghost-written others while working on the manuscript. Arielle is currently editing the second book of this series.

Excerpts from ***A Far Strange Country: Banquet of Choices*** can be found at River3.com/ariellehunter along with photos of the author, sell sheet, press release and the book cover. Release date for this novel is October 2014 and can be purchased at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Apple and other retail and online book stores. For updates go to: afarstrangecountry.com

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