



“Finally, a full portrait of the wise and witty woman who wrote the words that best express our love for America. Melinda Ponder’s rich narrative is a timely reminder that intellect, integrity and a rigorous respect for truth are the real pillars of patriotism.”

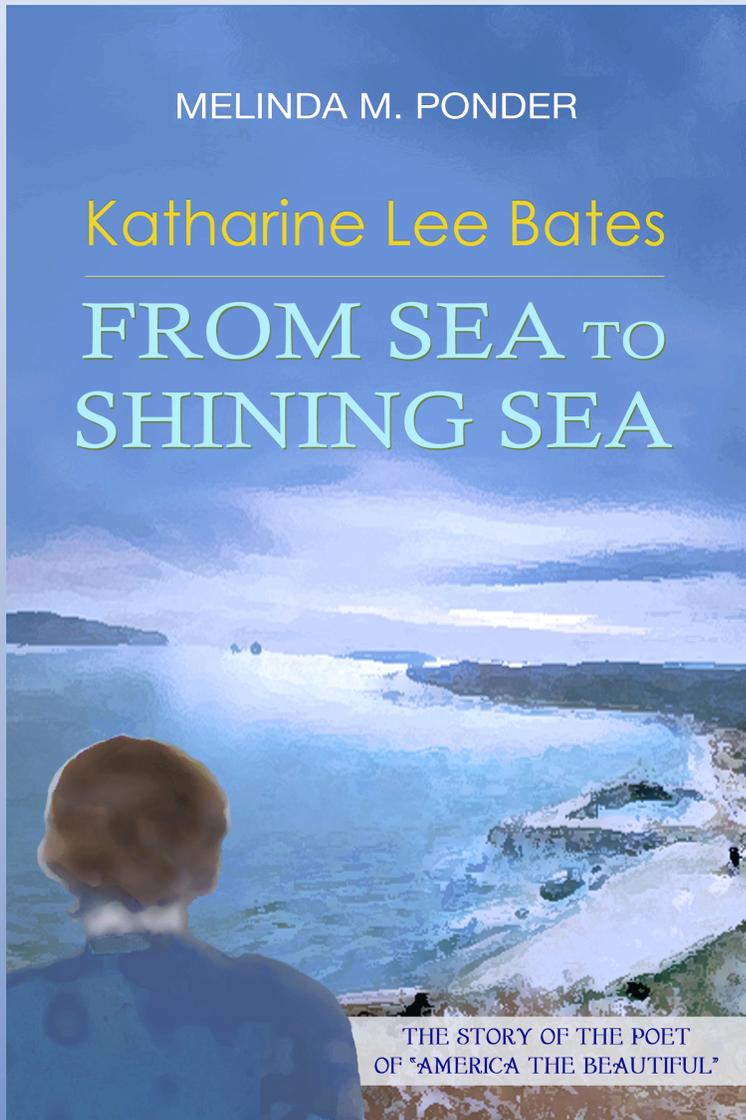


Lynn Sherr, Wellesley alum, former ABC News Correspondent and author, *America the Beautiful: The Stirring, True Story Behind America’s Favorite Song*

“Congratulations to Melinda Ponder for telling the story of a poet who was also a true American hero. We all know “America the Beautiful,” but only now do we learn the fascinating story of the woman who wrote it--along with so much more. This book is a stirring tribute to a brilliant and deeply patriotic American whose message we need to hear today.”

Stephen Kinzer, historian and author, *The True Flag: Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, And the Birth of American Empire*

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MELINDA M. PONDER

Katharine Lee Bates

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

THE STORY OF THE POET OF "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

KATHARINE LEE BATES: FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

by Melinda M. Ponder

\$17.95

352 pages Windy City Publishers, August 2017

Biography / Women’s History / American History

Trade Paperback Original ISBN# 978-1-941478-39-4

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Katharine Lee Bates’ “America the Beautiful” resonates for many people as the most patriotic and beloved American anthem. Her words remind us of why we love our country-- the beauty of our land, the historic sacrifices of our people, and our ideals of hope and brotherhood. That has never been more important than today.

Drawing on extensive research in Bates family diaries, letters, and memoirs, biographer Melinda M. Ponder brings Katharine (1859-1929) to vivid life on her journeys from Falmouth, Massachusetts, where she felt she had been “rock’d in a clamshell,” to Wellesley College, Boston, Oxford, Spain and Egypt.

Although her passion was poetry, Katharine’s three alluring suitors (two men and a woman) pulled her into major reform movements in a changing America.

Teacher, poet, community builder and patriot, she challenged Americans to make their country the best it could become in its values and literature.

This book is for those who love “America the Beautiful” and those who root for the unlikely triumph of a complicated woman “from sea to shining sea.”