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**Former resident writes novel set in Grand Junction, Colorado  
Story shines light into dark corners of *The House on Seventh Street***

An old mansion on Seventh Street in Grand Junction is the setting for a former resident's second novel.

Karen Vorbeck Williams wanted to write a mystery and set it in the town where she was born and grew up. In her new book she opens up the lives of the three generations of one family connected to that house. Following their father's death one sister inherits the house and the entire family fortune and the other is disinherited. Before long the favored sister has good reason to be afraid for her life.

Some family stories were part of the inspiration, but as Williams developed the book they became highly fictionalized. "For instance," she wrote in a recent blog post, "my grandmother actually inherited her Aunt Carrie's mansion and everything in it. Hidden away in old drawers and trunks she found valuable stocks and bonds, jewelry, bolts of silk from the Orient, laces from Spain. In a closet she found all of the clothes Aunt Carrie had saved from her childhood—dresses with bustles, gowns she wore on crises in the 19-teens, and 20s frocks. There was a collection of gorgeous fans, and remarkable antiques and art—even a Della Robbia embedded into the one of the fireplaces. This seemed so fantastic to me at the time—still does. I was in sixth grade when Aunt Carrie died.

"The house was in Vinton, Iowa, and my grandmother had to travel there. She stayed for months sorting through and readying the

house for sale, doing exactly what Winna—my leading character—does. There were break-ins too—things went missing—and in an effort to get their share of the loot, her cousins filed a law suit she had to defend.

“When my grandmother arrived back at home, she came bearing gifts. For me a diamond ring, a grass skirt from Tahiti, and an Indian cobra basket full of Aunt Carrie’s post cards. So many post cards. Aunt Carrie had gone around the world any number of times—four, I think.”

Other stories from her childhood were incorporated into *The House on Seventh Street*. “I embellished them lavishly with exaggerations and outright lies,” she said. “That’s the fun of writing fiction.”

*The House on Seventh Street* is published by Booktrope Editions and will be released on Sept. 1. Williams is also the author of *My Enemy’s Tears: The Witch of Northampton*. For more information visit <http://www.KarenVorbeckWilliams.com>.