

# 21-year-old BC3 grad to sign books, read to kids from her middle-grade novel

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(Grove City, PA) A 21-year-old Mercer County woman who began to write a middle-grade novel while pursuing two associate degrees at Butler County Community College and earning five academic honors will read to children from her 260-page self-published paperback this month at a Slippery Rock library.

Ellaura Shoop will also sign copies of “The Meer: Perilous Ground” this month at a Grove City zoo.

Shoop, of Grove City, was named to BC3’s president’s list four times while seeking associate degrees in English and in psychology at BC3 @ LindenPointe in Hermitage. Students named to BC3’s president’s list attained a grade-point average of at least 3.75 following the completion of at least 12 credit hours during a semester.

She graduated from BC3 @ LindenPointe in December with the two degrees, a grade-point average of at least 3.75 and summa cum laude honors.

“The Meer: Perilous Ground” took two years to write, Shoop said. She completed her novel in late May, self-published her work in early June through Amazon and plans a career as an author.



Ellaura Shoop, of Grove City and a December 2020 graduate of Butler County Community College, is shown Wednesday, June 30, 2021, in Grove City with a toy meerkat and her self-published middle-grade novel, “The Meer: Perilous Ground.” Shoop earned two associate degrees from BC3 @ LindenPointe, Butler County Community College’s additional location in Hermitage, and will sign copies of her novel and read to children from her book this month.

Shoop will sign copies of “The Meer: Perilous Ground” from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 18 at Keystone Safari, Grove City; and will read from the novel at 6 p.m. July 22 at Slippery Rock Community Library.

## Zoo employee: Meerkats “cute” with “big eyes”

The middle-grade novel is intended for students ages 11-14 – “Adults may find it interesting as well,” Shoop said – and is the first in a series titled “The Meer.”

Stephanie Miller, office manager of Keystone Safari, said that she has seen meerkats, the 2-pound members of the mongoose family, in a metropolitan zoo.

“I would describe them as being cute,” Miller said. “They have big eyes and are fun to watch play.”

“The Meer: Perilous Ground” explores the adventures and tragedies of meerkat families as they are pitted against one another in a struggle for survival in a desert, Shoop said.

The novel is “perfect” for the Tails and Tales theme of the Slippery Rock Community Library’s summer reading program, said Tiffany Frampton, director of youth services.

“It goes right with everything we have been talking about this summer.”

“The Meer: Perilous Ground” is the first in a series, Shoop said. Additional novels in her anthology will be named “The Meer: Blaze,” “The Meer: Silence” and “The Meer: Splintered.”

Shoop, a 2018 graduate of Grove City High School, also served as president of BC3 @ LindenPointe’s book and business clubs, and was a member of its psychology and social work clubs.



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