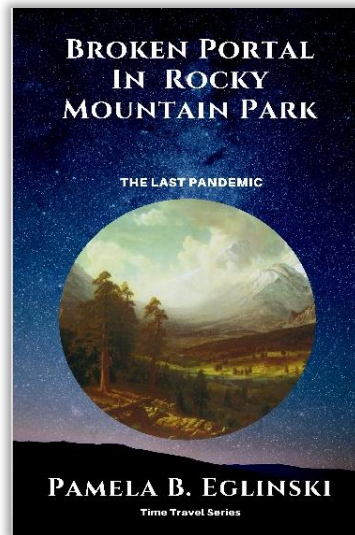


On Writing  
**BROKEN PORTAL IN ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN PARK**

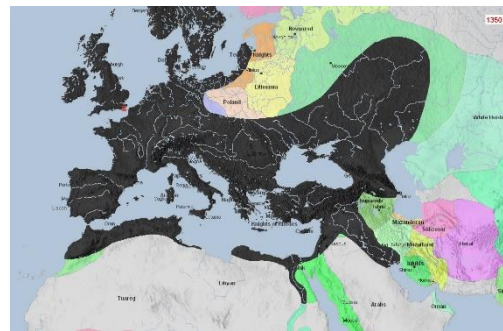
Pamela B. Eglinski



Time Travel Series

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I believe the destruction of the world will be determined by an infectious disease, one that ignites a world-wide pandemic. If that statement doesn't frighten you, reach back in time to the Black Death when a plague ravished the Medieval world, taking nearly 100 million lives. It took two centuries for Europe to recover. There are many potential catastrophes that can bring life, as we know it, to an



end: a nuclear holocaust, a global conventional war, climate change, over population. Only a nuclear holocaust, in my mind, can hold a candle to a global pandemic.

Imagine this: a bacteria unknown until 2017, is unintentionally unleashed on the world. The disease is an altered version of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. It mutates hourly.

In *Broken Portal*, the bacteria is sealed for one-hundred and forty years in Albert Bierstadt's painting *Estes Park, Long's Peak*. It mutates there—changing into something far more deadly than the original disease. When a conservationist at the Denver Art Museum cuts into it in 2017 the bacteria is unleashed. It's highly contagious. The Center for Disease Control is called into Denver. Within two weeks they calculate the death rate at eighty percent of those exposed. It's the world's worst nightmare, and possibly the last pandemic.

Today, you don't have to look hard to find movies that depict Armageddon. Is it just a matter of time before an unknown disease takes us over the proverbial cliff? Maybe. Maybe not. Remember, among all this gloom, hope remains.

**The broken portal in Rocky Mountain National Park.  
Photographed by James Disney, artist and mountaineer.**



*Broken Portal in Rocky Mountain Park* is the fictional story of a deadly bacteria and a young woman who dares to destroy it. Sophie Anderson gambles with her life to travel back in time through a broken stone portal in Rocky Mountain National Park. She passes through the portal and arrives in Estes Park circa 1876, with a mission to remove the encapsulated virus from the Bierstadt painting *before* it can mutate.

As a reader, you might ask why I choose Albert Bierstadt’s painting as the



breeding ground for the bacteria. If I’d kept a list of the ideas that flowed through my mind, I could tell you. But I didn’t. All I can say is that once I saw the painting, thoughts multiplied as fast as the mutating bacteria. One idea after another

bounced around in my head—some “stuck” and others didn’t. What I do know is that the years I spent living, hiking, and skiing in the Rockies contributed enormously to my respect and awe of the mountains. That, combined with the beautiful luminist painting by Albert Bierstadt, inspired me to set my story in Rocky Mountain National Park. One thing is certain, I look to the mountains for inspiration and so do my characters.

Sophie Anderson’s challenge is to destroy the bacteria—remove it from the painting (in the past) so it will not unleash the pandemic in the future.



**A detail of Bierstadt’s painting**

Sophie Anderson and Katniss Everdeen (*Hunger Games*) challenge what seems at first glance to be impossible. They are our heroes.

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Researching *Broken Portal* took me to many cities and sites within Colorado. I visited Denver, Estes Park, and cities that line Colorado's eastern slope. I read dozens of books and reread some that had long ago become a staple of my personal library. I found characters that I wanted Sophie to meet and team-up with to complete her mission. I took the liberty of altering history to bring Sophie in contact with some of the more colorful characters of Colorado's history.

Sophie meets Isabella Bird, a British writer and adventurer—three years after Isabella was recorded to have traveled to Colorado. One-Eyed Rocky Mountain Jim, a trapper and mountaineer, dies three years later than historically recorded. The Earl of Dunraven, a wealthy Welsh-Irishman and patron of artists, arrives in Estes Park along with Albert Bierstadt in 1876/77. Those dates are accurate.

Coincidence also played a significant role in structuring my book. When searching for a good portal to the past I contacted my long-time friend, James Disney, a Colorado artist and mountaineer. He immediately suggested the broken portal, just above Alberta Falls. It is a large granite stone with a cleft in it—one where someone could enter another world. Jim later shared that many artists and fans compare his style of painting to that of Albert Bierstadt. And if that isn't enough of a coincidence, I heard a Park ranger call him Rocky Mountain Jim. I'm not making this stuff up, but it is certainly riddled with "ah-ha" moments that made my novel all the better. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing.

## Connect with Pamela B. Eglinski on Social Media

I hope you enjoyed a peek into my mind as I formulated the plot and the characters featured in *Broken Portal in Rocky Mountain Park*. When you read the novel, please review it on Amazon. Thoughtful reviews are an author's reward for hard work.

- If you'd like to "look inside," or purchase *Broken Portal*, please tap: \_\_\_[yet to be posted on CS and Kindle]
- If interested in other novels written by Pamela, please tap:  
[www.amazon.com/Pamela-Boles-Eglinski/e/B007GORNJ4](http://www.amazon.com/Pamela-Boles-Eglinski/e/B007GORNJ4)
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The following are some of the photos I took while researching *Broken Portal*.

Dunraven Cottage, originally owned and constructed for the Earl of Dunraven, is now owned and maintained by Chris and Susan Jane Peterson. It is a B&B, and is open in the summer months. The final chapters of *Broken Portal* take place in the cottage.

Inside and outside the Cottage. The old potbellied stove, remnants of a carriage, the porch from which Albert Bierstadt sketched, and the bed where I imagine he slept.



**Backstory: An Exhibition of Western Art, sponsored by History Colorado Center, Fall 2017. See Bierstadt's painting, *Estes Park, Long's Peak*, and a wonderful quote by Wallace Stegner.**



One cannot be pessimistic about the West. This is the native home of hope.  
—Wallace Stegner

**Rocky Mountain National Park, Bierstadt Lake, and Loveland Colorado Museum. 2017**  
**Photos taken by author, Pamela B. Eglinski, in search of a good story.**



**One-eyed Rocky Mountain Jim's cabin? Perhaps a little too tidy. Still, typical of the times.**

