



Writer's Block

A CINDY BAUER BOOKS NEWSLETTER



Cindy Bauer
Author/Speaker/Reviewer
www.cindybauerbooks.com
 email me:
cindybauerbooks@yahoo.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2

Donetta Garman

Page 3

Big Bertha Evans

Pages 4-5-6

Shar MacLaren

Page 7

**Book Reviews
 Coming Up**

Pages 8-9-13-14
Jayne Dough*

Page 11

Author Resources

Page 12 & 15
Book Reviews!

Page 14
Recipes!

April 2008 In Review

I must admit, time was getting away from me and I was beginning to panic as to whether or not I would get this month's issue done on time. And that's funny actually, since I set my own deadline. I don't *have* to have it done then, but I try to.

Wow, and what an issue it is this month! There's 2 showcase spotlights, 2 interview spotlights, 2 book reviews, some recipes, upcoming reviews and of course, some resources for you to follow up on. I sure hope those help. Always glad to learn about any new ones I can, so if you know of any and would like to share them with us, let me know and I'll be glad to put it in the next month's issue and give you credit for "enlightening" all of us to it!

Last month, I forgot to tell you that Delia Latham is now guestblogging on my blog site. Delia is such a wonderful, warm and loving person and she's got some great stories and tips to share with us. So if you have time, please stop by my blog site and check it out! Don't forget to leave a comment so we know you've been by.

<http://www.cindybauer.blogspot.com>

Also this month, you'll note that one of my showcase spotlights is Donetta Garman. What you will not know though, is that I actually know

Donetta. She's the wife of Gar Garman, who has since retired but... was our sports editor at the newspaper where I work.

Donetta is such a nice person with a warm personality, much like hubby, Gar. Gar also helps out the Chaplain at our local hospital and is one of the most kindest and sensitive people I've ever been lucky enough to work with. I do miss that!

I'll be reviewing it in next month's issue, plus interviewing Donetta. The release date on her book is actually June.

I've already peeked a little :) So, if you have time, please stop by and visit her site!

<http://www.growingupugly.com>

You may not remember, but this is the month you'll find my interview of author Jayne Dough, who wanted to remain anonymous. She's no longer anonymous folks! Check out the interesting interview beginning on page 8 and see what I mean! I will be reviewing her book later also!

Blessings!
Cindy

AUTHOR SHOWCASE SPOTLIGHT



Donetta Garman

www.growingupugly.com
donetta@growingupugly.com

About the author:

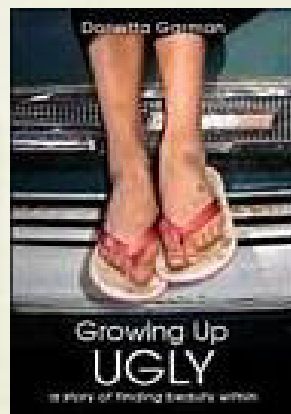
As a child Ms. Garman grew up in a small town in Colorado. Later, her family moved to a small ranch outside of town. This was a big change for Donetta as she was, as you will read in her book, afraid of everything. That included farm animals!

Ms. Garman has lived in Colorado, Texas and Missouri. Jobs have included waiting tables, doing dishes, babysitting, working in a feed lot, cooking, stuffing brochures, selling real estate and working in an office for a division of Forbes Magazine, illustrating for other authors, free lance writing, newspaper reporting, newspa-

per ad layout and modelling. Most recently she owned several retail businesses and a tea room. Now she has turned her attention to helping others establish businesses, managing a small antique shop, writing, church activities and internet sales.

Donetta has been published in Kansas City Magazine, The Missouri Otter, The Osage Chigger, The Clinton Daily Democrat, Sedalia Magazine, Catch On to Clinton Magazine and The St. Clair County Courier. She wrote several chapters that were included in the book Red Necht Livin and she wrote the biography for the back of a book written by her husband, Proud to be Red Necht. She also authored several promotional articles to promote the small town she lives in now, Osceola, Missouri.

She resides in Osceola, Missouri, with her husband of twenty years, Gar Garman on an idyllic spot in the Ozark foothills. She has a son, Jeremy and his wife Crystal in the Boston, Massachusetts area and a daughter, Sheridan, in Arizona. She also has two stepchildren, Jacquie Boisen of Grain Valley, Missouri and Gary Garman of the Denver, Colorado area.



A Story of Finding Beauty Within

“I fantasized about people loving me and standing in line to be my friend. I waited to become a swan. Growing Up Ugly is a moving memoir about coming of age and realizing the beauty in this life we are all searching for is within our grasp. Join author Donetta Garman as she drifts in and out of consciousness after suffering a stroke and recalls some of the events in her unusual but loving childhood. After a traumatic birth, Donetta was left homely, clumsy, and awkward. Growing up, she learned to cope with being “ugly” by laughing at herself and trying to help hold the family together. While her family climate was dysfunctional, the cohesiveness of it was undeniable, and Garman’s story is infused with the intense love and resilience of a peculiar but fiercely devoted family. With the help of her family, children, husband, friends, and God, Donetta finds that beauty really is only skin deep and there is a “swan” just waiting to escape in all of us.”

This book releases in June and will be available at all major bookstores!

Writer's Block - A Cindy Bauer Books Newsletter

AUTHOR SHOWCASE SPOTLIGHT



Brian and “Big Bertha”

About the author:

Everything you can imagine bad has happened to me as a little girl. God has covered me with his protective hand my whole life! Now he has brought two broken people together as one! My Autistic husband Brian is the subject of my first book.

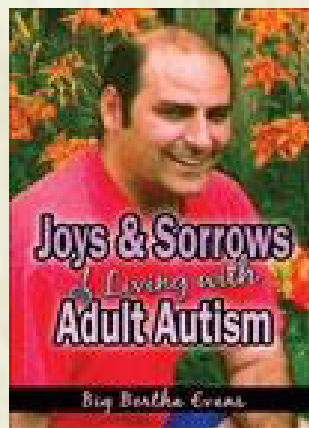
About the book:

Everything bad you can imagine had happened to me as a little girl, so when Brian asked me to marry him after four days of dating...I said yes! After all I had been through, life could only get better. It is truly a miracle how God brought two broken people together to make us one.

Joys and Sorrows of Living with Adult Autism tells you from my point of view what it is like to deal with all of the joys and sorrows I have gone through in our first six years of marriage.

My life has never been boring. Brian keeps me going all the time. I have to watch out for him just like you do a child. He is like a two-year-old stuck in a man's body.

Our marriage has been quite an exciting journey! Put on your seat belt. You're in for a ride! I love you most! But God loves you more!



Joys and Sorrows of Living with Adult Autism, written by Big Bertha Evans, is a must read true story that all health care workers need to read. It is a rare insightful book that tells very plainly and honestly, the experiences her husband, an adult autistic, and she has had dealing with the medical, hospital, and health care community. Big Bertha wants everyone, especially nurses, to read her book because she thinks it will help them to provide more compassionate care to adults, like her husband, with autism.

As a 31 year veteran nurse with Master's Degree in Community Health, I agree. But I will go one step further. This book will help everyone – nurses, doctors, therapists, medical assistants, and other para-professionals – understand how to provide better care for not only autistic individuals but for anyone entrusted to their practice.

Big Bertha is sensitive and forthright in

telling this story. She does not hold back on the difficulties and negative attitudes she and husband Brian faced almost daily in society as well as in dealing with the medical community. However, it is when Brian became physically ill that his fears and anxieties worsened symptoms of his autism. Big Bertha tactfully but bluntly confronts the nurses, doctors, and other health care workers on their impatience, condescension, and often times, outright rudeness when providing care to her husband.

Wake up, health care workers. Read this book.

There is no excuse for any health care giver – regardless of their degree of education or lack thereof of it – to treat a patient with rudeness or impatience. It is our job to provide respectful care to our patients. It is our responsibility to assist them in maintaining their dignity. And it is our ethical duty to first do no harm.

Medical care in our world today is a business. The practice of medicine and nursing are no longer the only professions that take care of individuals with medical and psychiatric problems and disorders. In an illness situation, a sick person may come in contact with scores of health care workers. Hospitals, doctor's offices, outpatient clinics, and diagnostic centers need to be diligent in teaching their employees – regardless of their job – the importance of using good interpersonal skills when dealing with patients and their families.

In The Joys and Sorrows of Living with Adult Autism, Big Bertha Evans has penned an entertaining yet amazing lesson plan for and about individuals with disabilities. The book will give hope as well as enlightenment to others needing to know more about living with autism. It will help adult autistics, their family members, medical and health care workers of all disciplines and experiential levels, as well as individuals in community organizations come to grips with a diagnosis that is increasing in incidence.

This short, very easy to read book is a highly recommended reading assignment for health care students in any field.

Loretta A. Murphy, MSN, CSN, RN

www.freewebs.com/bigberthaevans/

If you would like a copy, send **\$14.95 plus \$3.50 shipping** and handling per copy to Big Bertha Evans, 106 McCloud Street, Berryville, Arkansas 72616 or visit the link to her site below to learn more! Also available at Barnes & Noble online store!

Writer's Block - A Cindy Bauer Books Newsletter

AUTHOR INTERVIEW SPOTLIGHT

Cindy Bauer Interviews Author Sharlene MacLaren



Sharlene MacLaren

www.sharlenemaclaren.com

Born and raised in west Michigan, Sharlene MacLaren attended Spring Arbor University. Upon graduating with an education degree way back in 1971, she traveled internationally for a year with a small singing ensemble, then came home and married one of her childhood friends. Together they raised two lovely daughters, both of which are happily married. Recently retired after teaching elementary school for 31 years, 'Shar' enjoys reading, writing, singing in the church choir and worship teams, traveling, and spending time with her family, which now includes her very wonderful, adorable, precious grandson, and in 2008 — two additional grandchildren.

A Christian for over forty years, and a lover of the English language, Shar has always enjoyed dabbling in writing—poetry, fiction, various essays, and freelancing for periodicals and newspapers. Her favored genre, however, has always

(continued on page six)

CB: You were an elementary school teacher for 31 years. Do you feel that inspired the books you have written, in any way?

SM: Excellent question! I do believe my teaching inspires my writing. To date, every book I've written includes children. I think spending so many years with 2nd and 4th graders gave me a good handle on what they think about and how they feel about things.

CB: How do you come up with the story plots?

SM: Pray a lot! (grins) Truly, the Lord is my main inspiration, and I say that without triteness. Sometimes I dream plots while sleeping, sometimes while daydreaming, sometimes while watching TV or walking the dog. It can be any number of things. But I'm always careful to give God the credit. After all, He's the one who called me into this ministry.

CB: Do you outline everything first before beginning to write the book, or do you write "by the seat of your pants", as one author described herself to me once?

SM: I am most definitely a seat-of-the-pantser! I don't do outlines. I never learned them in high school or college, and I don't intend to start. Haha. Seriously, I often don't know myself what's going to happen from one page to the next. Before I start writing my books, though, I do have a clear begin-

ning, middle, and end in my head, and then I decide on who my characters will be. I usually develop a folder for this, listing characters by name and deciding on their personality traits, quirks, and physical appearances. If possible, I look for actual photos that closely resemble who I think they look like and paste them into the folder. I often refer back to this so I can keep my characters straight.

CB: What brought about your writing series of books, rather than singles and why?

SM: Well, I actually write stand-alones and series both, and I would have to say each of my series books could be considered stand-alones. Yes, the same characters come and go in each series book, but one doesn't depend on the other while you're reading them. It may help to read them in order, but it's not by any means essential.

CB: Does God inspire your story plots? And how?

SM: I think I touched on this in the above question, but, yes, He definitely is my main source of inspiration. I pray hard and diligently about every book I write. Mostly, I pray that the stories He gives me will touch hearts and give my readers a desire to dig into God's Word. I enjoy weaving scripture throughout my books—but just a sprinkling here and there. I don't want my books to be

(continued on page five)

(continued from page four)

“preachy”, but I DO want them to show the love and forgiveness Christ has for each of us.

CB: What do you hope your readers take away with them when they finish one of your books?

SM: My heartfelt, deepest prayer is that Christ will shine through my “feeble” words, that my readers will come to know Christ in a personal way. It’s a humbling thought that Christ would choose to use me in this way, but it’s my longing and desire.

CB: Your first book was published by a POD publisher. What brought about your seeking another publisher and why?

SM: I don’t recommend a POD publisher unless a writer has a platform, a large audience, and a sure-fire way to market his/her books. Otherwise, you sell very few, and usually it’s up to YOU, the author, to sell them. And I’d say most POD books are set at extravagant prices just so the publisher can recoup his money. Often, they rely on the author to purchase the books and resell them to friends and family.

CB: Do you attribute any of your newfound success to your joining the ACFW?

SM: American Christian Fiction Writers is a fabulous organization. They provide a wonderful outlet for topical discussion, offer writing classes, host an incredible annual writers’ convention, and help get the word out there about an

author’s available books. The seasoned writers are always so helpful and supportive, too. It’s great.

CB: You write historical fiction. Have you ever considered writing in any other genres?

SM: Actually, I write in both genres—contemporary and historical. My first book with Whitaker House, *Through Every Storm*, is a contemporary romance about a young couple’s loss of a child, their very real struggles, and how they came to terms with their grief and pulled themselves out of a rocky marriage when they recommitted their lives to Christ and discovered His healing power.

CB: Give us a brief description of the books you have written:

SM: My Little Hickman Creek series has an 1895-96 Kentucky setting. Each book centers on a different woman. The first, *Loving Liza Jane*, is about a young woman who comes to Little Hickman Creek to assume the job as the town’s schoolteacher. Along the way she finds love. Second in the series, *Sarah, My Beloved* is about a woman who comes into town as a mail-order bride only to discover her “betrothed” has fallen in love with another woman. She in turn marries a farmer desperate for help in raising his niece and nephew. It will be a marriage in name only, of course—until love takes them both by surprise. The third book, *Courting Emma*, is about a boardinghouse proprietor. She’s a tough

(continued on page six)

Courting Emma by Sharlene MacLaren



978-1603740203

**Available
at
AMAZON!**

Twenty-eight-year old Emma Browning has experienced a good deal of life in her young age. Sole owner and operator of Emma’s Boardinghouse, she is “mother” to an array of beefy, unkempt, often rowdy characters. Though many men would like to get to know the steely, hard-edged, yet surprisingly lovely, proprietress, none has ever succeeded. That is, not until the town’s new pastor, Jonathan Atkins, takes up residence in the boardinghouse, affecting not only her with his devout faith and strong convictions, but her clientele as well. Emma clings desperately to her stubborn ways, refusing to acknowledge God’s love—until all of Little Hickman witnesses a miracle—the conversion of her abusive and alcoholic father, Ezra Browning! Only then will Emma begin to experience God’s transforming power at work.

See my review on page 12!

(continued from page five)

nut to crack, but somehow the town's minister manages! (grins)

In September of this year I'll be releasing another contemporary romance titled Long Journey Home. This is about a young pastor whose wife and daughter die in an auto accident. Bitterness ensues and he deserts his congregation in favor of a career in construction. Along the way, he meets a recent divorcee. Both characters struggle, but there's a contrast in the way they handle their pain. One turns to the Father, and the other away, something we all do when faced with hard times.

CB: What books are in the works for you now?

SM: Currently, I'm working on another three-book historical series titled The Daughters of Jacob Kane. It has a 1904-06 West Michigan setting. These books will begin releasing in January '09.

CB: You were a traveling "singer" before settling down, getting married and raising a family. Tell us about that period in your life and why you decided to change direction?

SM: Music plays a very big part in my life. Yes, back in my 20s and before I married, I traveled for a year with a singing ensemble. We traveled the US and parts of Canada singing in churches, high schools, and for various conventions. It was a wonderful time of my life, full of rich experiences. I'm still singing for my church worship team and in choir, etc., but I

don't travel from church-to-church anymore as I once did singing solos and performing at various functions. Don't have the time, and let's face it—I'm getting old. Haha!

CB: Of all the books you have written so far, which has been your favorite and why?

SM: Truthfully, the book that's releasing this September, Long Journey Home, holds a very warm place in my heart because it was the first story the Lord gave me after He laid this passion for writing on my heart back in the summer of 2000. Since that time, I've rewritten, revised, and edited it countless times, but the core story remains the same. I'm so, so excited my publisher chose to print it.

CB: Do you have an agent and if so, in what way has the agent been able to help you achieve your goal of publishing and what are your specific goals in publishing your books?

SM: My agent and I parted ways very mutually several months ago. Since I'm not pursuing another publisher at this time, and since my publisher provides me with a wonderful publicist/manager, I don't require an agent.

CB: In closing, what would you like to say to authors still struggling along, looking for their "niche" in the publishing world?

SM: Never allow those rejection letters to discourage you to the point of quitting. Okay, you can quit for a day or so, but then jump right back into it. If

you have a strong urge to write, and you believe in your heart God gave you a passion for it, then chances are good you'll publish someday. The trick is to keep plugging away. Honing your skill takes hours of hard work and study, not to mention attending conferences, reading in your genre, joining critique groups, and learning the industry. Pray, pray, pray. If God wants you published, it will happen, but bear in mind, it's all about Him and His perfect timing.

✓ **Interview with Shar.....**
(continued from page four)

been romance. She remembers well the short stories she wrote in high school and watching them circulate from girl to girl during government and civics classes. "Psst," someone would whisper from two rows over, and always with the teacher's back to the class, "Pass me the next page."

Shar is an occasional speaker for her local MOPS organization, is involved in KIDS' HOPE USA, a mentoring program for at-risk children, counsels young women in the Apples of Gold program, and is active in two weekly Bible studies. She and her husband, Cecil, live in Spring Lake, Michigan with their lovable collie, Dakota, and Mocha, their lazy, fat cat.

Email Shar:

smac@chartermi.net

Shar's other books - p. 10

Courting Emma Review - p. 12

AUTHOR INTERVIEW SPOTLIGHT

Cindy Bauer Interviews Author Chianti "Serena" Camara (Jayne Dough)



**Chianti "Serena" Camara
(Jayne Dough)**

www.authorjaynedough.com

CB: *The Making of #A0210208* is fictional, yet based on fact. What parts of the book are fictional, if a Memoir about your own life?

CC: The book is based on the factual events of my life prior to becoming incarcerated. Because I did not keep journals or diaries throughout my life, it is fictional only in the sense that I reconstructed dialogue I couldn't precisely remember and compressed timelines for events to move the narrative along.

CB: What inspired you most to write a book about your life?

CC: People have always told me I needed to write about my life because my story could help other women like myself who have gone through similar issues. I believe each of our voices

is important and each of our stories are worth telling.

CB: It's my understanding you are planning on a 3 book series. Which time periods in your life will the three individual books cover?

CC: The first book, *The Making of #A0210208*, is about the events that occurred in my life leading to my incarceration. The second book, *The Revelation of #A0210208*, is about my incarceration, my eventual and repetitive re-incarceration and my experiences within the criminal justice system. The third book, *The Redemption of #A0210208* is about my post-incarceration experience and my recovery from that lifestyle.

CB: You wrote *The Making of #A0210208* under the name of Jayne Dough. But your real name is Chianti "Serena" Camara. Why did you at first, wish to remain anonymous and then reveal your real identity?

CC: When I first wrote the book, it was never my intention to reveal my identity. I wrote the book for my inner circle, so-to-speak. I wrote it to cleanse myself of my past and for the women who have followed in my footsteps. It was never intended to be a best-seller or to have a wide audience. I wished to remain anonymous for three reasons.

First, my family; my two eldest daughters are in my book and there is a lot of pain around the truth of their conception, infancy and childhood. As for the rest of my family, they were only aware of general details about my lifestyle and choices. They knew I struggled with substances and that I went to prison, but they did not know all the explicit details. I live on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, which is a very small place; everyone knows everyone and I did not want to shame my family anymore than I already had.

Second, I didn't think the messenger was important, just the message itself.

Third, everyone who read the book has pushed me to get it out there. They have urged me to take it further because they feel it is compelling and well written. They feel I have provided new insight and an outlet for the silenced voices of many other women like me.

Eventually, I realized it was necessary, and that it would be next to impossible to promote my book without revealing my identity; no book signings, no TV interviews, no press coverage. When confronted with these obstacles, I spoke with my family members and got their encour-

(continued on page nine)

(continued from page eight)

agement and support before I decided to go public.

CB: Now you actually work at the very institution where you were once a prisoner. That fact alone is quite fascinating! How did this transition take place?

CC: Believe me that it was no small feat! The resistance from the administration of the institution was overwhelmingly oppressive. They were by no means happy to have an ex-offender within their ranks, functioning as a peer. They did everything imaginable to discourage me. Of course, I have dealt with their oppression before and it was not so difficult to face it and overcome it this time.

CB: Do you feel you've made a difference in these women's lives and if so, is there anyone in particular that stands out?

CC: Yes, I believe I have. I liken myself to be a "translator". What I mean by that, is that my experience and my history have given me the articulation to provide the same old rehabilitation information in such a way that these women can understand and relate to because my story is their story. As a result, they can retain and utilize the information in their own lives. It's all about the restoration of these women's resilience and empowerment.

There was one woman I worked with that I remember in particular. She was in her late fifties, and was incarcerated when I first met

her and began working with her. When our journey together ended and it was time to part ways, she said to me, 'I never knew an old dog could learn new tricks and that those tricks could come from a young pup, must be a wise old soul in that pup.' She was amazing! Her willingness to look at a lifetime of doing things in a way that wasn't working for her was awesome. Her open-mindedness to ways of doing it differently was inspiring and hopeful.

CB: Have you since reunited with your family and how did they accept your book?

CC: It's an interesting question because of the word "reunited". My family has always been supportive of me; it was really I who isolated me from them because of the events that evolved in my life and because of the choices that I made as a result of those events. Eventually, I came back to them and their arms were still open, even if their trust in me had been impaired. That part took some time to repair and rebuild. They have wholeheartedly accepted my book, even my two daughters who have both read it. We talked a lot about the details and I believe we healed some wounds in the process.

CB: After your trilogy series, do you plan to continue writing and if so, what genre?

CC: No. I do not plan on a writing career. I just wanted this to be out there and then over. It's

kind of like literally closing those chapters of my life once and for all.

CB: You are truly to be commended for coming forward with your story and for sharing it with others, especially current inmates at the prison. What do you hope to accomplish by your book and your work at the prison?

CC: I haven't thought of the outcome, the end result. I have totally committed to the journey, the planting of the seeds. I have no idea what will become of the harvest. I leave that in the capable hands of the universe. It is yet to be revealed.

CB: Have you been offered any movie deals? I ask this because your story is truly amazing.

CC: No. I have been told that it is an amazing story. It won the 2007 Allbooks Review Editor's Choice award for my genre. The problem, as with all POD and self-published books, is lack of exposure. Enough people have not read it yet for it to gain the momentum it would have if it were available the way traditionally published books are available. This does not discourage me though because I believe in my soul that it will eventually get the exposure it deserves which will get it into as many hands as it is destined to reach. It is a compelling and unique perspective that is enlightening and insightful. I have been blessed to be the author of my own life.

(continued on page 13)

Shar's Other Books



Available at Amazon



and CBD



Get your copy today!



Sarah, My Beloved (2nd in the Little Hickman Creek Series)

Sarah Woodward has come to Kentucky as a mail-order bride, only to learn upon her arrival that “her groom” is betrothed to another! Does God have a back-up plan? She feels certain He led her for a reason, so with her usual stubborn determination, resolves to stay put until she discovers that reason.

Rocky Callahan, an embittered widower has recently been saddled with the responsibility of his young niece and nephew and is desperate for help. Upon meeting the fiery Sarah Woodward, he proposes the answer to both their problems—a marriage in name only. Can Rocky let go of the pain of his past and trust God with his future? As for the marriage “in name only”—will it hold up, or does God have other ideas?

Loving Liza Jane (1st in the Little Hickman Creek Series)

When Liza Jane Merriwether rides into the town of Little Hickman Creek, Kentucky, her first thought is, “Oh, Lord, what have I done?” Kentucky is much different from her native Boston. But the town’s new schoolteacher isn’t easily discouraged, so she determines to roll up her sleeves and dig in with all her might. Soon she is beloved by all, including Benjamin Broughton, the handsome English widower with two young children, one of which is Liza’s student. Despite the growing attraction between them, though, Liza shies away. After all, her contract clearly states that any contact with the opposite gender will result in immediate termination of her position. What’s a girl to do? Will she soon discover that with God, all things are possible?

Through Every Storm

Struggling through the tragic loss of their child, Maddie and Jeff Bowman experience the immense pain and grief caused by a broken heart and a marriage so severely strained that divorce seems imminent. Will life ever be normal again? Enter Timmy, Maddie’s seven-year-old cousin. His innocent spirit and precocious nature helps to rekindle a flame in both their hearts, leading them on a path back to God and challenging them to look at their marriage through different eyes—God’s eyes. And in the looking, they will discover healing they never thought possible.

Spring’s Promise

Elation turns to despair when Jake Evans’ twin brother is killed in a tragic ski accident. What will happen to his brother’s widow? Can Jake help Raychel overcome her loss despite the history between them?

Writer's Block - A Cindy Bauer Books Newsletter



The Making of #A0210208 is a compelling story based on the factual events of a young woman's life. Expect to experience a diverse range of emotions as you take this intense journey with her while her life spins wildly in and out of control.

The innocence and adventures of her childhood will make you laugh out loud. The hopelessness she faces as she copes with unplanned teen pregnancy, rape, domestic violence and eventual drug addiction will wrench your heart. The decisions she makes in the face of psychological dilemmas will leave you cheering her on or exasperated. The courage she rallies in the midst of the soul's darkest fears will leave you contemplating your own. Each disturbing event leads to the next until, ultimately, she finds herself at a crossroad that will either change her life...or end it.

The Making of #A0210208
A Non-Fiction Memoir

Available now at *Barnes & Noble!*

AUTHOR RESOURCES

www.ntrwa.org/

Chapter #33, Region 5 of the **Romance Writers of America®** was organized in March 1983 and offers educational programs, an informative monthly newsletter, a friendly atmosphere for networking, and access to the latest information on agents, editors and publishers of romantic fiction. NTRWA's mission is to educate, support, and mentor published and unpublished members in the profession of romance writing. Our membership includes writers, published and unpublished, representing a wide variety of fiction genres, including traditional romance, women's fiction, suspense, and young adult fiction—as well as published authors of non-fiction (books, newspaper, and magazine articles).

WRITING HELP SITES via the ntrwa.org site:

Ask a Librarian - www.loc.gov/rr/askalib

Digital Librarian - www.digital-librarian.com

Encyclopedia Britannica - www.britannica.com

Free Translation - www.freetranslation.com

Grammar Slammer - www.englishplus.com/grammar

The Internet Public Library - www.ipl.org

Library Spot - www.libraryspot.com

Merriam-Webster Word Central - www.wordcentral.com

Ref Desk.com - www.refdesk.com

Sharp Writer - <http://sharpwriter.com/>

Word Origins - www.wordorigins.org/

Writers Digest: www.writersdigest.com

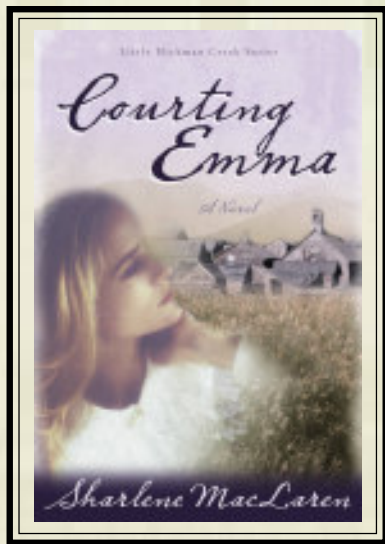
I'm still looking for well-published authors to contribute tips and articles to help new authors accomplish their goals. If you would like to participate, please contact me! You can email me at: cindybauerbooks@yahoo.com

Writer's Block - A Cindy Bauer Books Newsletter

Blessings!
Cindy

REVIEW

Courting Emma by Sharlene MacLaren



Courting Emma is set in the late 1800's with two main characters, Emma Browning and Pastor Jonathan Atkins. Emma Browning runs the local boarding house with some pretty gruff and rowdy men, though they respect her rules.

Emma's father, Ezra, is the town drunk. Every town back then had one. Unfortunately for Emma, her father was their town's drunk. And Emma was abused as a child, which in turn, made her very stubborn and defiant as an adult.

Emma grew up with Jon Atkins. When he came back, all religious-like, she had no use for his so-called 'God'. He had never done anything for her. She had to work hard for what she had.

Then Jon does something the whole town thinks is strange. He sells his home to build a new church. But now, he needs somewhere to live and he wants to move into Emma's boarding house. Emma tries to avoid this, but eventually she gives in and allows the preacher to live there. His money was just as good as anyone else's.

Jon tries to ignore his growing 'attachment' to Miss Emma Browning, but of course, our hearts have a mind of their own.

Then Emma begins to receive mysterious letters from a woman in Chicago who seems to know all about Ezra and Emma. Who is this woman? And what does she want from Emma?

MacLaren has a real talent for making her characters realistic, her settings so real, you almost feel like you are there. You can picture it all in your mind as you're reading. The engaging conversation is lively and the slang is perfect for the time period she is writing about. You can hear the accent. You can envision the characters. You'll fall in love with the little town of Little Hickman Creek.

Having never read a historical romance before, I was amazingly surprised at how I much I really enjoyed *Courting Emma* by Sharlene MacLaren. Not being a history buff myself, though I do enjoy movies that take place in the 19th century, I found I was hooked almost right away. And that says a lot in itself. A most enjoyable read and I wish now, I could've read the first two books in this series first. I intend to now.

An excellent read
Bookpleasures.com
Reviewed by: Cindy Bauer

Available at **Amazon** and **CBD!**

ps... Shar is featured this month at www.acfw.com!

Writer's Block - A Cindy Bauer Books Newsletter

(continued from page eight)

CB: Were you ever an avid reader or did you ever wish to become a writer while growing up? Or at any other time?

CC: Avid reader...yes, eventually. Being incarcerated redefines reading to pass time! I never wished to become a writer, and as I said earlier, I will not be writing anymore after the trilogy. I have written poetry and short stories over my lifetime but more for therapeutic purposes than anything else. I do believe that avid reading enhances your writing style and competence.

CB: When you say, "...sometimes drug addiction is deliberate", what did you mean by that?

CC: Some people believe that addiction is a disease or an affliction; that people use drugs in gradual stages beginning with experimentation and become addicts without conscious awareness. Some people believe addicts use drugs to numb themselves, to escape, to die.

That was not the case for me, nor have I found that to be the case for many other women who have reported similar "pathway" experiences. Survivors of Domestic Violence often use drugs to live, to feel, to become free. Of course the addiction eventually overpowers our conscious decisions. But initially, the use of drugs can be a deliberate act. A singular event. A conscious choice. An informed decision with full knowledge of the inevitable outcome. The difference is

that some people cannot fathom a person choosing something so harmful. For people who have survived even more deadly things, the drug can be, and often is, a saving grace. The lesser of two evils, if you will.

CB: Do you feel that God has intervened in your life to save you and if so, why do you think that?

CC: I think that each person's relationship with God is unique to his or her own experiences and understanding. I don't often discuss this with other people. My relationship with God is very personal and private. In a nutshell: God will either lighten the load or strengthen your back!

CB: What are your future goals in life, as in, where do you want to go in life from here and why?

CC: My goal is to move to Texas to the property I bought two years ago. I plan to raise horses and my two precious grandchildren. I want to live a simple country life like the one of my childhood.

Over the last twenty years, I have lived my life trying to overcome all odds and I did. I have come full circle in that respect, and now it is time to move on and give back to my family and myself.

CB: What advice would you like to give women in an abusive relationship?

CC: Figure out what part you have in the dynamic and set

about changing it. It is the only thing you can change. You can never change him. Find out who you are and why you are, and then realize he will only compound that; he will never heal it for you. Let it go.

He is not the nice guy you met, he never was. What he pretended to be in the beginning of the relationship was a façade. He did that to get a commitment. The problem is that you cannot pretend to be someone other than who you are for very long. He hasn't changed. He resurrected.

CB: In parting, tell us briefly about your other 2 books planned in this series and what are your plans in publishing them. Will you be using the same publisher or submitting to others, possibly agents?

CC: I have written most of the second and third manuscripts. I will finish them when I get to Texas in June. I do not want to use a POD or self-publishing agency in the future. Instead, I will look into traditional publishing, which is why the books are not out yet.

CB: Where can we buy your book and do you have a website we can visit?

CC: You can visit my website at www.authorjaynedough.com where you will find several options for purchasing the book. You can also find the prologue, the synopsis, the reviews and the (continued on page fourteen)

(continued from page nine)
press releases/articles for the book to get a better idea of its content.

CB: You have a book trailer as well. Did you create it yourself and where can we view it?

CC: I created it through a website - ontruemedia.com - where they take you through a step-by-step process to create the trailer. You can view it on my homepage of my website.

CB: And finally, I have to ask this, do you think that God put you on the path you are on now, as far as writing and teaching about your experiences with life thus far and if so, do you think it was for your own healing as well as helping others, or do you believe He just wanted you to minister to others to try to help save them?

CC: I believe that our lives are written before we are born and that nothing happens by mistake. I believe that we are all compelled to a journey that is purposeful and intentional. I believe no interaction is neutral. I believe we are bound one to another with purpose. All you have to do is open your heart, your eyes, your ears, your mind, your soul, in a way you have never considered before and the objective will be revealed.

**Check out “Serena’s”
compelling memoir
on page eleven!**

RECIPES



Spanish Casserole

- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 can undiluted cream of chicken soup
- 1 can undiluted cream of mushroom soup
- 1 jar taco sauce (hot, medium or mild - your choice)
- 1 can enchilada sauce (hot, medium or mild - your choice)
- 4 cups cheddar cheese (or cheese of your choice)
- 1 small can diced green chilies
- 1 bag tortilla chips

Brown hamburger and drain. In a large bowl, mix the remaining ingredients and add to hamburger. Simmer for a few minutes. Then refrigerate overnight to allow to marinate.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Crush tortilla chips into bottom of a large casserole baking dish, pour hamburger mixture on top of chips, then cover with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 60 minutes.

Serve with cornbread. This also freezes well for warming up later.

Submitted by Karen Petty of Winter Park, FL

5 Cup Salad

- 1/2 cup chunk pineapple
- 1/2 cup Mandarin oranges
- 1/2 cup mini-marshmallows
- 1/2 cup coconut
- 1/2 cup sour cream

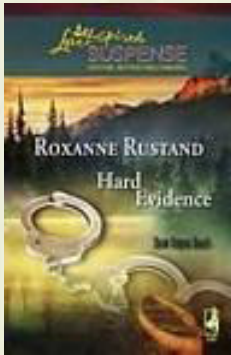
Combine all the ingredients except the oranges and stir. Gently fold in the oranges. Chill and serve on lettuce cups.

For more great recipes, visit:

www.cindybauerbooks.com/recipes.htm

REVIEW

Hard Evidence by Roxanne Rustand



Steeple Hill-Love Inspired Suspense

ISBN# 373-44271-3

December 2007

Janna, a single mother, is trying to restore Snow Canyon Resort, but trouble seems to find her at every turn. She hasn't been there for a very long time, but is determined to make this work, despite the conflicts with her mother and the pressures of being a single mom in addition to all the problems of getting the cabins ready for guests. Stubborn as a mule, she is stressed to the max. Or so I thought. Then, as if it weren't enough, a body was found on her land!

Michael, a deputy sheriff and guest at the lodge, is the hero in this perfectly woven suspense novel, who tries to help Janna by investigating into it to try to figure out who is behind everything happening at the resort. And he has problems of his own with a troubled son. And to top it all off, hard as he tries, he's extremely attracted to Janna.

First in the Snow Canyon Ranch Series, I found I was hooked as soon as I opened the book with Roxanne Rustand's well-crafted story and characters. Janna is a loving and dedicated woman, whose problems many could relate to in one way or another.

With engaging conversation and believable characters, *Hard Evidence* is a page-turner that will have you saying "...just one more chapter and then I'll call it a night". You won't be able to put it down. You have to know what happens!

Rustand has a talent for hooking the reader and keeping their attention with her fast-paced mystery uniquely laced with romance and even some inspiration. I can't wait to read the rest of this series!

I give it 5 Stars! - Reviewed by Cindy Bauer - Available at [Amazon](#) and [CBD](#)!

Visit Roxanne's website at: www.roxannerustand.com



**"Special"
Book Give-a-Way!!!!
Enter to win a copy of
Shar's newest release:
Courting Emma!
just visit
cindybauerbooks.com
& click on contest!**



& watch for other "special" book give-a-ways!

Writer's Block - A Cindy Bauer Books Newsletter