

Sandra D. Bricker
*Award-Winning Author of Laugh-Out-Loud
Inspirational Fiction
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SPECIAL GUEST STAR



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DESCRIBE THE FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU FIND A BOOK YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO CONTRACT:

This generally happens when I reach the end of the three sample chapters with a feeling of disappointment—because I want to keep reading!

I used to tell my English students that it was a good thing to make their teacher laugh. Writers should try to elicit a visceral response, especially in something so short and punchy as a story proposal. It instantly hooks the reader, connects her to the story. So a proposal that makes me laugh or smile or raise my eyebrows or feel sad is likely to make me want to contract it. If I finish a proposal and think, “Hmm, that was nice,” but don’t think about it again, it’s not likely to be offered a contract.

HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE AT SUMMERSIDE HAVE TO WANT THE BOOK, TOO?

There are a handful of folks whose opinions I value, including two other editors, but there are really just three of us (our president, VP, and me) who make the decision.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE THAT YOU'RE HOPING FOR?

We've thought of several types of stories we haven't published yet. A contemporary set in a popular vacation hotspot. A true Western historical romance. An Amish story that is totally different from anything else out there.

WHAT CHANGES DO YOU SEE HAPPENING WITH THE *LOVE FINDS YOU* FICTION LINE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

Our model is so flexible that I doubt we'll make any *major* changes in five years. We have so much variety naturally built into the series that we can be flexible to adjust slightly as industry trends and reader tastes evolve. We publish both historicals and contemporaries, so we can add more or fewer of either to our lineup as needed. We can include traditional romance, stories with suspense or humor, Amish stories—whatever buyers are buying and readers are reading. We can choose to feature towns across a variety of regions. And we're still passionate about including books by both industry veterans and up-and-coming writers. All that to say, I can see us making a tweak here and there, but I don't see our publishing model for the Love Finds You series changing fundamentally within the next few years. Of course, our plan is to publish at least one title in each of the fifty states, so we'll continue to work toward that goal!

Speaking of fiction in general, there should be *lots* of changes, as Summerside will be launching several new fiction lines. My colleague Susan Downs is working on acquiring for a new suspense series to launch in 2010, and we've got ideas for several additional fiction series brewing.

WHAT MAKES *LOVE FINDS YOU* BOOKS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER INSPIRATIONAL PUBLISHERS' LINES?

That's easy! This series is set in *real* towns and cities across the United States—places that appeal to readers. It draws on the charm, character, beauty, or history of so many great locales—whether they're places you've never heard about or places you've always wanted to visit. So it really combines two elements that every reader wants—romance and travel.

Also, we give our authors the freedom to develop stories they're passionate about. We don't adhere to a strict formula or place all sorts of parameters around them—and we believe the stories are better as a result. We've got some very different types of stories in the lineup, which means there's truly something for everyone.

WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT SUMMERSIDE PRESS?

We've gotten really great response from the industry since we published our first two titles in 2008. We want to continue to be known as a publisher that spoils its authors. We strive to honor the Lord and to be kind, gracious, and pleasant to work with. We don't just go searching after the biggest names and the top dollar. It's our passion to publish excellent stories with the purpose of enriching the lives of those who read them.

***(Since it's my Web site!)* WHAT ATTRACTS YOU ABOUT MY WRITING?**

You make me laugh! It's been said that it's almost more difficult to make readers laugh than it is to make them cry. Your stories are genuinely funny, and yet your characters aren't caricatures—they're very real, multi-dimensional people that I can relate to.

Rachel's Preferences

CONTEMPORARY OR HISTORICAL: I really love both, but since I focused on Victorian literature in grad school, I will probably say historical. I love history.

THRILLER OR ROMANCE: Don't make me pick! I'll take the easy way out and say I love stories that combine both. I really love mysteries that include elements of romance (Agatha Christie was great at doing this, and she's one of my favorite authors).

NEWSPAPER, ONLINE HEADLINES, OR CABLE TV NEWS: My undergraduate major was in journalism, and my first job was as a reporter. Yet sadly, I never read the newspaper! I watch CNN Headline News every morning and read online headlines (I love the "Oddly Enough" news stories that focus on odd headlines) throughout the day.

FLORAL, STRIPES OR PLAID: Stripes.

WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND RIGHT NOW? A stack of books, a magazine, a glass of water, a lamp, and an ipod speaker dock.

3 THINGS ON YOUR OFFICE DESK: I don't have an office desk. I work in my living room! But if I had one, it would probably contain only my trusty MacBook and my printer.

FAVORITE JAMMIES: Yoga pants (my husband calls them "rich lady sweatpants") and a tank top.

COFFEE, TEA OR SODA: Coffee. And lots of it!

MORNING PERSON OR NIGHT OWL: I'll say morning person, since that's when I'm most productive (after I've had my coffee).

VINTAGE OR CONTEMPORARY: Both, really. I tend to decorate in an eclectic mix of modern, traditional, and vintage. But if I had to pick, I'd probably say vintage.

SUNNY DAY OR RAINY AFTERNOON: Rainy, for sure.

MOMMY MOMENTS



AT HOME OR AT THE PARK: I like playing at home; my husband does the park.

PLAYING OR NAPPING: I love playing with him, but I get all my work done during his naptime! Both are crucial.

SINGING OR LAUGHING: Singing. We sing all day long and at bedtime.

TRUCKS OR GAMES: Games. And believe it or not, books. He loves "reading."

THE WIGGLES OR SESAME STREET: Most definitely NOT the Wiggles. We're Disney Playhouse (Little Einsteins and Winnie-the-Pooh) types of folks.

PUZZLES OR STUFFED ANIMALS: Stuffed animals. He loves them.

3 WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOUR SON

- 1.** Happy
- 2.** Easy-going
- 3.** Active

Sandie's Preferences

CONTEMPORARY OR HISTORICAL: Oh, definitely contemporary!

THRILLER OR ROMANCE: Like Rachel, I can't possibly choose.

NEWSPAPER, ONLINE HEADLINES, OR CABLE TV NEWS: Online headlines

FLORAL, STRIPES OR PLAID: Floral.

WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND RIGHT NOW? A bottle of water, a box of Kleenex, the silk lilacs that used to be on my mom's desk, and a vanilla candle.

3 THINGS ON YOUR OFFICE DESK: Framed photos of Sophie, Olivia, and some of my friends; the framed certificate of my first readers' choice award; a Weight Watchers lemon cake snack still in the wrapper (miraculous!).

FAVORITE JAMMIES: A blue sleepshirt with fluffy clouds on the front. It's new.

COFFEE, TEA OR SODA: Coke Zero.

MORNING PERSON OR NIGHT OWL: Absolutely morning.

VINTAGE OR CONTEMPORARY: Vintage.

SUNNY DAY OR RAINY AFTERNOON: Rainy, no doubt. Love, love, love the rain!