

THE AUTHORS SHOW – Authors of Fiction

Author: Darlien C. Breeze

My road to writing started as an only kid living on a copper and gold mine site with my grandparents. Thirty-five washboard miles from civilization. My friends were lizards, rock bees, a snake or two and Blacky my cat.

Our home consisted of a one room cabin with one window and two doors. For air conditioning, my grandfather would tack a burlap bag over the window and hope for a breeze to waft by and cool us. For entertainment, we had no TV, movies, malls or close neighbors we told fish stories. These stories could be as outrageous as the imagination allowed all you had to do was identify them as fish stories. We did have the newspaper picked up on our monthly treks to town for supplies.

I loved telling tall tales it was a time for letting my imagination soar. My plots always revolved around chasing or being chased by Indians, wild animal or other worldly beings. My favorite ghost was a girl my age who lived in a cave near the mine. While the adults worked at pulling ore from the ground, I often retreated to the cool cave and played with my imaginary friend. She was an Indian girl with long black braided hair who knew all there was to know about the animals living near us. She could talk to them and understand what they said. She also knew how to make things out of damp clay.

Grandmother usually told of boring stuff like living in a city with a washer and dryer, having hot and cold running water, a bathroom with a tub and a shower and a supermarket where she could get fresh meat and produce. Grandma was a crack shot and kept us in fresh jackrabbit, so I never saw the need. She did have two exciting jobs. Each morning she took a long stick and chased the snakes out from under the water cooler. Then she called Blacky, and he sat on her lap patiently while she pulled cactus spines from his cheeks and lips. Each night he chased rats down their holes which they lined with cactus. He never learned.

After we had left the mine, I went to school in Long Beach, California. The mine and the desert were far away but telling stories was part of my being. I wrote stories and poems. I kept a notebook of my tales. I also kept in touch with my imaginary friend.

I graduated from Long Beach State College and took a job teaching in Carson California. I loved teaching and often used my small students, I taught second grade, to test my stories. One story, Bobby's Pets told of a little boy's fantasy animals. A lion that roared, a snake that slithered about and an elephant that did a lot of damage to the house. The kids loved it but wanted more animals. I ended up with monkeys, horses, sea lions, fish, and untold numbers of imaginary creatures.

Concurrently with teaching, I also owned an import-export company a beauty salon and sold real estate. I raised three daughters and now have two granddaughters. My diverse background has been a blessing. I have been able to weave my tales around real or nearly real happenings in my life.

Code Snapdragon published by Ink and Quill features detectives Roman crane and Irv Baker. Roman and Billie marry and add Marcus, Cleopatra, and twins to their family. Irv marries Sofia, a fiery Latin girl with five children. Irv's wife has cryptic visions that Roman and Irv learn to rely on, once they interpret their meaning. Roman and Irv feature in both Seeking Revenge and Murder Man my two new novels in progress.

BILLIE MARTEN finds the body of her neighbor, a scientist, impaled on a tree in her front yard. Detective ROMAN CRANE investigates.

When all the safe houses in Las Vegas are unavailable, Crane takes Billie to his Mount Charleston home where they develop romantic feelings for each other.

The killer, believing Billie has information concerning a valuable formula invented by the dead man, tracks her down, kidnaps her, and takes her to a clinic in Iquitos Peru where the formula originated.

Roman follows and with the help of native trackers rescues Billie who is injured and weak. He brings her back to Las Vegas where she regains her health.

The clinic employee who stole the formula, had the information encrypted, placed on a microscopic chip, and implanted in his armpit by his friend, Michael Childers.

Later, the employee is arrested in Los Angeles on an unrelated charge. He bargains with authorities offering to trade the information on the chip for leniency.

The chip is removed, but the information can be deciphered only by one man, Michael Childers. Childers sells the formula to a wealthy buyer in Amsterdam and is given a down payment predicated on a successful formula.

Childers is apprehended, given an ultimatum - decipher the chip or spend the rest of his life in a Peruvian prison.

When tests on the formula fail, the buyer gives the order for Childers to be eliminated. The assassin finds his target in a Las Vegas prison and kills him.

Roman Crane and his partner, Irv Baker are aided throughout by Irv's psychic wife, Sofie. At first, Roman discounts her cryptic visions but later comes to rely on them.

This a thriller with many twists and turns starting and finishing in Las Vegas, Nevada by way of Iquitos Peru, Amsterdam, and Los Angeles California.

I'm retired now and have switched my main focus to adult mysteries. My books include Code Snapdragon, a series, A Life of Crime, Crusin' For Crime and A Twist in Crime and coming out in 2018 a co-written Science fiction novel Beware of Memories. I have also written a how-to book, Import/Export and You, a memoir for a relative Cage the Grim Reaper and a writer's helper Action Verbs and Power Words. Currently, I'm writing two novels Seeking revenge and Murder Man and working with my co-author on the second book in the memory series.