

THE AUTHORS SHOW – Authors of Fiction

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Janet's Journey

I have often thought about the men and women who write. What inspires them? It could be personal causes, a love of history, life experiences, or just their imagination. It seems there are many subjects to choose and expand upon. Writing poems and telling stories was a childhood enjoyment for me. My inspiration to put words to paper began in Amarillo, Texas. As a high school senior the creative writing class was an extra credit. The teacher was known to all who had sat through English with her. She was a respected woman who inspired all of us to be the best we could be and follow our dreams. The class was filled with students who invoked laughter, and tears, challenging one another through the written word. The time I spent in this class created a love for writing. Is it possible I might be a writer? Could I make a living as an author? I wish I had listened to her words so many years ago and walked down that road, but I chose another path. This opportunity would later lead me to becoming an author.

While studying to become a registered nurse, life situations directed me briefly toward law enforcement. I accomplished my goal and finished my degree in nursing, and graduated from Amarillo College of Nursing in 1983. Years later, after a divorce and the death of my parents, I became a travel nurse. What does this have to do with becoming an author?

A travel nurse is a registered nurse who travels from city to city, state to state and works where we are needed most for a contracted period of time. We fill needs of hospitals that have staffing shortages, and work in times of disasters. The opportunity to travel and see other places began to touch my soul. As I walked the battlefields at Manassas and Gettysburg listening to the stories of death and destruction on the land, an idea began towards another path formed to create another journey in life. There were women that traveled with the troops during the Civil War. They were mothers, wives, and sisters, who cooked, fought and tended to the wounded. I knew of the women that went to war leaving their homes and families in WWII. I spoke to veterans who told stories through choked words and tear filled eyes of the bravery of

their comrades and the nurses that cared for the wounded on the battlefields. On 9/11 I stood with others waiting for the wounded to arrive and praying that I would be able to help, but there were none. Was it possible for me to put into words the situations nurses experience and their feelings in a time of war?

My journey as an author began in 2009. It seemed I was able to put the words on paper, but I was a novice on the process of publishing my book. My naivety left me open for problems I had not expected. The difficulties I endured might have discouraged some but I was determined. I discovered with the right Indie publisher and a “testy” proof reading twin sister, it was possible to succeed.

My Indie publisher sent information to me about book contests. If I were to place or win, it would increase added publicity of my work. The news that my first book had placed and won a medal was an accomplishment. This acknowledgement inspired me to continue with the second book. I knew that as an Indie author I must work hard to sell and present my books. I called, sent emails and set up book signings in book stores, coffees shops and a local winery. I am passionate about my professions as an author and nurse. My love of what I do shines bright when I tell people about my books. I have published five novels since 2011 knowing my work ethic must not change if I am to succeed. Challenging yourself to do what seems impossible allows you to know what you can achieve.

The Look for Me series covers the lives of three families over 150 years. The main character in each book is a travel nurse who leaves her home to travel to the location she is needed. From the beginning of book one, two, and three my women take the strong roles to leads and prepare others for the tasks ahead. Leaving your home is never an easy thing to do, but these travel nurses heeded the call to go and serve.

My three book series has accumulated over thirty awards in multiple categories from historical fiction, romance, action adventure, cover design and military fiction. Look for Me was recognized by the Historical Novel Society in 2015. My newest release Archidamus gives my readers something different to enjoy in the form of a Paranormal Thriller and Mystery. This

book has a lot of action, mystery and interesting characters. Archidamus is already an award winning book in thriller, mystery and finalist for best cover design.

I do have an amusing side. If you need a good laugh *You Just Can't* is available as an E- book. The story of a divorced middle- aged woman reminiscing with others of the perils and disappointments of dating the wrong person.

My journey has been filled with wonderful places from coast to coast. I have sat watching a full moon rise above the mesa on the Navajo reservation. Gazed upon the Grand Tetons and took a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon. It's not just the grandeur of the places but the people that have crossed my path. Each person has a story and I was fortunate to be able to share a glass of wine and hear theirs.

What's the plans for my future? I have five books started that I need to finish for my readers to enjoy. Archidamus has been honored to have a wine named after the book. Archidamus, Caydon's Choice will be released by Brushy Creek Winery, Alvord, Texas.

There is much left to experience in life and I hope to do it with open arms and mind. I intend to reach out, grab on and be prepared to have the ride of my life.