

## Did you always want to be a writer?

No. I wanted to be an artist. Loved drawing. But I've always been a reader, and stringing words together seemed to come naturally to me. As time went by I found that I was better at writing than I was at art—so the priorities shifted. I focused on a career in advertising—as a copy writer instead of as an illustrator—which worked out quite nicely for me.

## Where do you get the ideas for your books?

The ideas for my first books, novels for middle grade kids, came mostly from places I'd written about for magazine and newspaper travel articles. For instance, I wrote about the world's tallest sandcastle for *Southern Travel*, and that became the background for *Sand Castle Summer*. The ideas for my mystery series though, seem to be based on people—both real and imagined. The idea for *Caught Dead Handed* came from a TV show called *Metaphysically Speaking™* where a real psychic answered questions from callers.

## What kind of books do you like to read?

A friend once told me that my bookshelves looked like “editorial indigestion.” My tastes in books seem to vary widely. Right now though, I'm focused on mysteries by writers I admire, like Sofie Ryan's *The Whole Cat and Caboodle*, Diane Mott Davidson's *Crunch Time* and Mickey Friedman's *Venetian Mask*.

## Did you get a lot of rejections?

Not too many on articles, but some on the books. It appears many of the big publishers require only agented submissions, so I queried several agents and got polite rejections. I saw that Kensington doesn't insist on writers having agents, so I queried them directly and Bingo! They bought *Caught Dead Handed* and asked for two more in the same series- “Witch City Mysteries.” (The latest book in the series, *See Something*, released in May, 2021. Next one is *'til Death*, releasing in 2022.)

## Do you have a special writing routine?

Not really. I write mostly late at night or very early in the morning—probably because that's the time when I'm least apt to be interrupted. Of course, if I am chasing a deadline, I write day and night, mostly ignoring the interruptions!

