

WRITER BRENDA HAAS

DEBUT AUTHOR

FINDING SUTTON'S CHOICE (FICTION)



FREELANCE WRITER/ CONTENT EDITOR

PERSONAL ESSAYS, ARTICLES,
PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTENT

SPEAKER

AUTHOR PRESENTATIONS,
WRITING WORKSHOPS, BOOK
CLUB DISCUSSIONS

PHOTOGRAPHER

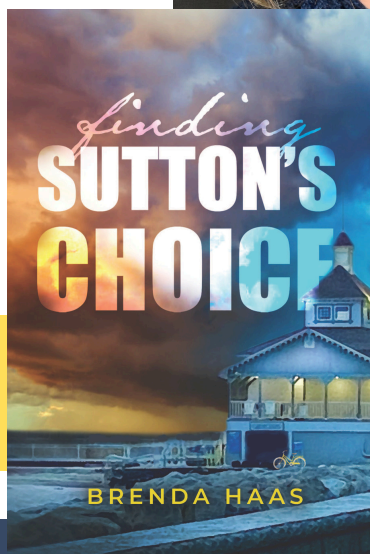
REGIONAL PHOTOS, FESTIVAL VENDOR

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————— Author, Writer/Editor, Speaker, Photographer —————

About
Brenda

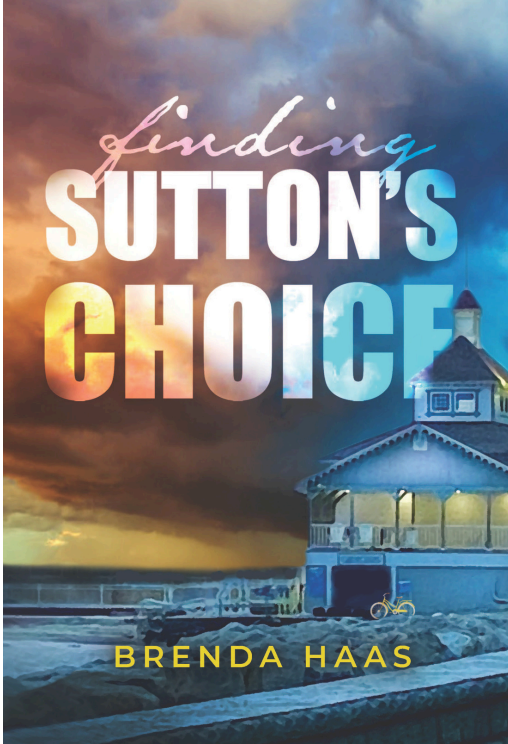
Brenda Haas—author, writer/editor, speaker, and regional photographer—spent many years as a reporter and columnist for Penn Franklin News Publishing Company, a Pittsburgh press. Her writing has appeared in *Leisure Living Magazine*, *The Beacon*, *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and *My Outer Banks Home* magazine, among other publications.

Brenda lives in Lakeside, Ohio, the setting for her debut novel—*Finding Sutton's Choice*. A circa-1870s Chautauqua resort community, Lakeside attracts generations of annual vacationers, artists, and educators. For info, visit lakesideohio.com.

BRENDAHAAS.COM

DEBUT LAKE ERIE NOVEL

A troubling message pulls Charlotte back to the Lake Erie home she escaped.



Finding Sutton's Choice
explores complicated parent-child relationships, failing mental health, and the domino effect family choices have on who we become. It is set in Lakeside, Ohio, on Lake Erie.

Ten|16
PRESS

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It's been ten, long years since her abrupt departure, and, with a cryptic voicemail, 28-year-old Pittsburgh writer Charlotte Sutton finds herself back in her hometown of Lakeside, Ohio. Only this time, her estranged father doesn't recognize her, and a surprise half-sibling has taken her place.

Chuck Sutton—newspaper editor, retired baseball player, and the town's most beloved celebrity—is thought to have Alzheimer's disease. The community newspaper is also on the verge of closure, and a childhood friend holds a decade-long grudge. Despite all this, there is Lakeside. The quaint waterfront community, flush with ivy-covered cottages and vintage charm, hasn't changed even as everything else in Charlotte's life has shifted. She intends to stay only long enough to get her father's affairs in order.

But, to reconcile her past and unearth family secrets, Charlotte must reconnect with Chuck through his Alzheimer's diagnosis and reevaluate her own misconceptions about growing up in the small Ohio town that still holds her heart.

Retail price: \$16.99

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About the Book



Speakers Topics

WRITER
BRENDA HAAS

Brenda Haas has presented on both fiction and nonfiction topics at libraries, schools, social clubs, and other venues. She is available for online or in-person author/writer presentations, workshops, book club discussions, and book signings. Presentations may be customized to meet your needs.

Careful, or you'll end up in my novel: a debut author's reflections

Every person, place, and experience we come in contact with leaves an impression. Brenda reflects on creatively documenting her past by putting memories on the page via writing nonfiction personal essays and incorporating aspects of real-life and its "characters" into fiction plots.

Getting published in today's market: a writer's journey

Brenda discusses her winding path from journalist and public relations consultant to debut novelist (finally). Presentation touches on the basics of querying and the differences between traditional publishing, hybrid publishing, and self-publishing.

Memories on the page: writing the personal essay

Everyone has a story to tell. This interactive presentation explores writing slice-of-life moments in personal essay format. Discussion will cover essay structure, themes, and preparation for possible publication submission.

Novel Writing Month: take the challenge

Creatives strive to write 50K words in one month. This presentation outlines how to prepare for writing a first draft OR for editing a drafted project. Customize for any time of the year and as a 1-day/3-day/week/month-long session.

Spread the word: publicity for nonprofits

Learn best practices for making a good public impression (without a lot of \$\$\$). Presentation includes basics of writing effective press releases, posting on social media, drafting newsletters, etc.

Stages of editing: improving a writer's craft

Elevate a novel or other writing project. This session, for anyone with a work-in-progress or first draft, will dive deep into developmental editing, line editing, copy editing, and proofreading.

Agents, query letters, rejections... oh, my!
Presentation will include the nuts and bolts of submitting your work for publication, with a specific focus on literary agents and the querying process.

Surrounded by characters

Get to know the many "characters" in your life. Put pen to paper while creating character sketches of someone from your imagination, someone from your past, or even someone influencing you each and every day.

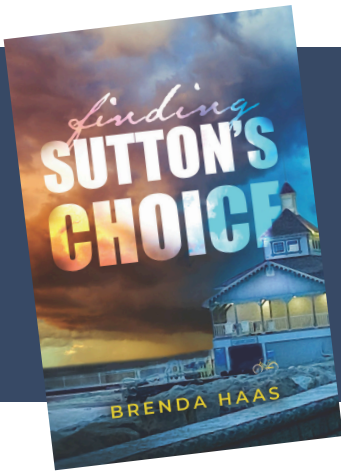
Writing the Lake Erie story

Lake Erie provides the setting for stories of community, adventure, family tradition, and even romance. Writers will learn how to creatively document and structure lake stories for historical record or to pass on to the next generation.

For information:
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Book Club Discussion

1. Charlotte left her small-town home right after graduation, with the intent of stepping out of her father's larger-than-life shadow. How did her independence help her grow? How did it not quite meet her social and/or career expectations?
2. Charlotte did not allow herself to get emotionally close to anyone after leaving Lakeside, including Elliot, her on-again, off-again boyfriend. Why do you think this is?
3. Charlotte said she returned to Lakeside simply to do her duty as Chuck's daughter. Franco asked Charlotte what she *really* wanted to accomplish by returning. Discuss.
4. When Charlotte first came in contact with her half-brother, she was visibly upset. We saw little of Adam's reaction. What do you think he was feeling in that moment?
5. Why was "big city" Charlotte so reluctant to see the good in "small town" Lakeside, Ohio? What are some misperceptions she had about her small-town upbringing?
6. Children do not come with directions. What are some different choices Chuck might/should have made while raising Charlotte? What are some unreasonable expectations or perceptions Charlotte had of her parents, either individually or as a married couple?
7. Alzheimer's disease greatly impacts patients and caregivers. Discuss. In *Finding Sutton's Choice*, what does the diagnosis do to change Charlotte's relationship with Chuck?
8. What are some aspects of the after-story that surprised you most?
9. What do you see in the unwritten future for Charlotte? For Adam?
10. Discuss how the characters of Lakeside made you feel. Who were you rooting for? Who did you feel most connected to? Who did you recognize in yourself?

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