**BIOGRAPHY OF BRUCE W. BISHOP (word count: 530)**

Bruce W. Bishop was born and raised in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, which is the predominant setting for *Unconventional Daughters*. He received his post-secondary degrees from Saint Mary’s University (a.k.a. *SMU* in Halifax) and the Ontario College of Art & Design University (a.k.a. *OCAD* in Toronto) and began a freelance writing career in 1997. He lived in Toronto for a total of twenty-five years.

After finishing his schooling, went on to work as a waiter and bartender at a private women’s club; at Toronto City Hall in the Homes for the Aged Division; and then as a fundraising and special events coordinator for *OCAD*. It was during this period that his first and second travel articles were published, by a Halifax newspaper and Delta Airlines’ ***SKY*** magazine.

Bishop was more interested in becoming an independent filmmaker, and garnered enough funding to produce a 35mm demonstration film of twenty minutes that was based on a screenplay he had written, called ***Bordering on Friendship****.* The project had the support of a Canadian movie distributor, Cinephile Ltd., if the feature was produced, as well as written support from the late movie director Daniel Petrie, who was based in Hollywood at the time. Bishop remembers also receiving some wise feedback from veteran Canadian actor Gordon Pinsent.

The amount of money needed to produce a full feature film was not secured, and **Bordering on** **Friendship** was never completed, but Bishop is seriously thinking of adapting his original script into a novel.

He returned to his love of writing and travel, and achieved enough credits to be elected for two one-year terms as president of the *Travel Media Association of Canada*. After the print publishing world suffered a blow as fallout from the terrorist attacks in 2001, and international travel was at a temporary standstill, he was hired as Director of Public Relations at the InterContinental Toronto Centre. In 2003, *SARS* (severe acute respiratory syndrome) affected occupancy in all of Toronto’s major hotels to such an extent that many managers lost their jobs, including Bishop.

He returned to Nova Scotia in 2004 after the sudden death of his mother and opened a boutique public relations agency while continuing to write and edit the now defunct **The European** **Reporter** newspaper, as well as several guidebook publishers until 2008. At that time, he was hired as Director of the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives where he worked for over two years.

His articles and photos have appeared in over 100 print and online publications in Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Australia, and Brazil. His contributions to several guidebook publishers included **Fodor’s** and **DK Eyewitness Guides**, and he was principal writer for the **Michelin Green Guide to Atlantic Canada** and authored the **Marco Polo Guide to Muskoka**. He won the first *Cayman Islands Award in Caribbean Travel Writing*. In 2015, he opened a travel agency, BishopTrips.com, which closed in 2018, and he began writing *Unconventional Daughters* during the COVID-19 lockdown in early 2020.

He lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and is working on a spinoff novel featuring the character of Marc Shehab from *Unconventional Daughters*. The projected publication date is June 2021.

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