

Author Biographies

Melanie Garrett



Let me introduce myself. After a rewarding, 20 year career in the field of education, God lead me to pursue a new direction. I am thoroughly loving my new career as a full time speaker and author! On the home front, I am married to my best friend of 28 years, Dustin Garrett. We have two wonderful children who are attending college in our great state of Texas! We live in Arlington, Texas, with our menagerie of pets: 3 dogs and 4 cats. When I'm not writing or speaking, I enjoy throwing Frisbee with Levi, photography, reading, listening to music, going to the movies and of course anything to do with football!

LaTonya G. Green



LaTonya G. Green has been licensed and ordained as an Elder. She is an astute teacher and preacher of the Word of God. She lives her life by example, walking out the knowledge, wisdom and application that she teaches. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resources Management and Business Management and an Associate's degree in Christian Education and Biblical Studies.

She has previously taught Bible Study through a Prison Outreach ministry for several years and has directed youth ministries. She is an active missionary. LaTonya travels domestically and internationally to minister the gospel and help build up communities. She has ministered as close as her next door neighbor and as far as Uganda, Africa.

LaTonya got started in ministry after turning her life over to God. She had spent many years being angry, bitter and hurt. She often blamed others for the outcome of her life. This caused her to hurt many people in her path. When she accepted the love of Christ, she took a different outlook on life. Accepting responsibility for her own actions and thoughts, caused her to mature mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Her main passion is motivating and encouraging women and teen girls to understand their full value and worth. She tries to use every opportunity she can to encourage others to pursue their dreams and live life on purpose instead of just living life.

She has appeared as a guest speaker on the Ester Davis show and on the radio with Chaplain E. Jean Jones in Dallas, TX.

LaTonya lives near Dallas, TX with her husband Mark and their children.

Sharon Diane



Sharon Diane was born and raised in Gastonia, North Carolina. After receiving her BS in Business Administration and graduated summa cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Sharon was inspired to write a book for women that would shine a light on God's unchanging love for them. She currently lives in Irving Texas and is a member of gateway Church in South Lake Texas. In her spare time Sharon Diane enjoys singing and studying different languages and cultures. She is the daughter of Howard and Martha McLeod and the sister of Dr. Mariam McLeod.

Bethany Erin

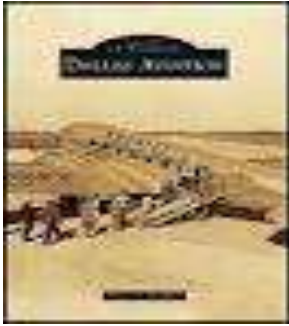


I decided at an early age I wanted to one day become an author. And as most seven year old girls do, I too, eventually grew up. Well, mostly. The clarity of childhood became darkened by the reality of adulthood. I realized my fairy godmother was not going to arrive and make my publishing dream magically appear in front of me.

This could only mean one thing. It meant I was going to have to do something to make it happen. Fortunately for me, I am surrounded by amazing family and friends who believe I am capable of doing anything I set my mind to. I would undoubtedly still be saying "someday," without their support.

I grew up surrounded by books and these stories naturally became a part of who I am. I love words and write all the time, even while waiting at stoplights or a drive-thru. I will write on anything, such as napkins, receipts, and my own skin when need be. Even as you read this, there are many ideas being jotted down, some almost completed and even a few waiting for proper endings. I look forward to my first published work coming to life in your hands.

Bruce A. Bleakley



Bruce Bleakley earned his Private Pilot Certificate the summer after high school graduation in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He graduated from the University of Tulsa with Bachelor's degrees in both Education and Aerospace Studies, and earned a Commission as a Second Lieutenant through Air Force ROTC.

During a twenty-year Air Force career, Lt Col Bleakley served as an aircraft commander, maintenance test pilot and instructor pilot in assignments throughout North America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific. He also served a tour of duty as a Titan II missile launch crew commander, and his last Air Force assignment was as a Group Commander at the United States Air Force Academy. His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

Lt Col Bleakley holds a civilian Airline Transport Pilot Certificate and earned a Master's Degree in Aviation Technology from Arizona State University in 1984. He has accumulated over 5,000 hours of flying time in a variety of aircraft from supersonic jets to four-engine transports. From July 1993 to May 2005 he was employed by the San Diego Aerospace Museum, eventually becoming its Executive Director. Since October 2006 he has been the Museum Director at the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field Airport in Dallas, Texas. His first book, Dallas Aviation, was released in April 2011.

Rosanne Givens-Scott



Rosanne Givens-Scott is a licensed professional counselor and former public school teacher and counselor with twenty-eight years of experience as an educator. She lives in Friendswood, Texas, with her husband and son. This is her first novel.

Sonya J. Bowser



Sonya J. Bowser was born in Santa Fe, NM and grew up in Little Rock, AR and Austin, TX. After graduating high school she moved to Atlanta, GA to pursue a degree in Mass Communications at Morris Brown College. Later, she took her first freelance job as a writer and editor for 12 year old Kenya James's, "Blackgirl Magazine". She continued writing for several other publications and discovered a true passion for writing.

Five years later, Ms. Bowser left Atlanta to come to be closer to home in Dallas, Texas. She developed a passion for writing after moving back home for writing children's books and released her first book in 2006, Learning to Love Me: Self Esteem for Children.

She has participated and spoken at Brunches, Town Rallies and Community Centers, and Bookstores throughout America.

Her newest book is called "The Adventures of Zolie "Miss Chit Chat" Zi and she is excited about sharing Zolie's adventures with the children of the world.

She currently lives in Dallas, Texas.

Sabrina Depina Graham



Sabrina DePina Graham has performed in several off-Broadway productions such as A Long Time Since Yesterday starring Loretta Devine from Dreamgirls, Denise Nicholas, and Starletta Dupois. She also played in Black Girl starring Leslie Uggams. Both plays were performed at the New Federal Theatre in New York City. She has also made guest appearances in different shows and commercials. She has a master's degree in elementary education. She is married to Dr. Andre Graham, and they have four children.

Judy Serrano



Judy Serrano graduated from Texas A&M University, Commerce with a BA in English. She is a member of The Romance Writers of America, The Writer's Guild of Texas and the Dallas Area Romance Authors. Although originally from New York, she currently resides in Texas with her husband, four children (all boys) and five dogs. She is also a singer/songwriter in her spare time.

Her first release was "Easter's Lilly," which is the first book in the Easter's Lilly Series. "Brother Number Three," book two, was released last June and "Relatively Close," book three has a scheduled release date of January 2012. "Memoirs of a Mobster," and "The Lost Years," coming soon!

Jason Williams



I write poetry for therapeutic healing. I write poetry to help others release their emotions. I write poetry to entertain and discuss social values. I write poetry to emotionally move the reader. I have a true and sincere desire to share. I won't be satisfied until I've shared my poetry to the whole world. I want to leave my mark on the whole world. I want to encourage the sharing of thoughts and emotions. I have a talent from which others can benefit. I enjoy the satisfaction of unleashing my poetic voice. I started writing poetry in 2001. This was my last year of college. I was 23 years old. When I start writing poetry, I just wrote for motivation. When I felt like quitting or giving up, I wrote a poem to help encourage myself to keep trying. I write poetry for relief. Because there are a lot of intense emotions and thoughts inside of me. This is my way of releasing these feelings and thoughts. This is how I express myself. This is how I communicate. I believe that my poetry can relate to a lot of people. My poetry is rhythmic (rhymes). My poetry is easy to understand and follow.

Sandra K. Wilkerson



Sandra K. Wilkerson, the third youngest of twelve children, married the love of her life and moved to Dallas, Texas where they raised their seven children. The grandmother of four currently enjoys working in her garden with her husband Joe in DeSoto, Texas.

Bibiana Camacho



Mexican author Camacho's first novel follows Etél on a quest for something she has forgotten. She has the sensation of having misplaced something, of having something on the tip of her tongue, something important that stays just beyond her reach. Her journey takes her through nightmares when she sleeps and into frightening *barrios* and situations in Mexico City when she's awake. Her world is falling apart: she has grown apart from her boyfriend, her mother is a terrifying termagant, and her stepfather is a spineless, ineffective ally.

Narrated in the first person, the novel is a good character study and maintains the reader's interest, although the ending fails to satisfy. Camacho is effective at evoking a dreamlike, menacing urban landscape, and her protagonist is sympathetic in her youthful angst and despair. There are some sexually explicit scenes. This novel will hold special appeal to youth and readers interested in new fiction.

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Duncan Tonatiuh



I was born in Mexico City and grew up in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. I received my BFA from Parsons School of Design and my BA from Eugene Lang College, both of them divisions of the New School University in New York City.

My first picture book "Dear Primo, a letter to my cousin" is published by H N Abrams and will be in stores March 1st, 2010. My illustrations of the AH1N1 in Mexico were selected to be a part of CONACULTA's catalog of Mexican illustrators for children and young adults. They also appeared in the BBC when the pandemic broke out. My short graphic novel Journey of a Mixteco was awarded the prize for the best thesis in the Integrated Design Curriculum department at Parsons. It appeared serially in the webcomix site topshelfcomix 2.0 I'm currently working on two new picture books.

Raymond Villareal



Ray Villareal, a native of Dallas, Texas, and one of nine children, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Southern Methodist University in 1981. Ten years later he completed his Masters of Liberal Arts degree from the same university. He has taught in the Dallas Independent School District for twenty-six years and currently works as an instructional reading coach.