

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**D. ANSING** is a writer of inspirational young adult fiction and a member of the American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW). She is passionate about children's rights and delights in corresponding with and encouraging at-risk children in Asia and Africa. She lives in California's Central Valley and plays in the High Sierras, hiking and cross-country skiing with her husband and golden doodle, Callie.

**DELLA BARRETT** has had a half dozen short stories and numerous poems published in various anthologies, as well as articles in newspapers. She also had a mini-memoir published in a 2013 anthology called *The Times They Were A-Changing*, by She Writes Press of Berkeley, California. One of Della's short stories won second place in an anthology called *Canadian Tales of the Heart*, by Red Tuque Books. Della lives in British Columbia, where she enjoys writing short stories, memoirs and poems. Della also has a novella in progress. Find Della on Facebook: Della Barrett.

**EDWARD BRANLEY** is a writer, teacher, historian, and computer nerd. He is the author of five Arcadia books on New Orleans history. Like the boys in his YA novel, *Dragon's Danger*, he grew up reading sword-and-sorcery stories and science fiction. Teaching is Branley's passion and vocation. He taught at a Catholic high school in New Orleans, then moved to computer consulting and corporate computer training. This work has enabled him to travel across the United States, as well as Asia and Europe. His first urban fantasy novel, *Hidden Talents*, was published in 2015. When he's wandering around any city, he's usually looking for places where Magical duels were held.

**FERN G. Z. CARR** is the President of Project Literacy Kelowna Society, a lawyer, and teacher. A Full Member of and former Poet-in-Residence for the League of Canadian Poets, this Pushcart Prize nominee composes and translates poetry in six languages, including Mandarin Chinese. Carr has been published extensively worldwide and has been cited as a contributor to the Prakashana Literary Movement in India. Her poetry has been recognized by the Parliamentary Poet Laureate, set to music, featured online in *The Globe and Mail*, and been taught at West Virginia University. Carr is thrilled to have one of her poems currently orbiting the planet Mars aboard NASA'S MAVEN spacecraft. [www.ferngzcarr.com](http://www.ferngzcarr.com)

**TOM COMBS'** twenty-five-year career as an award-winning emergency physician in level one trauma/acute care hospitals gives rise to his unforgettable characters and riveting plots. His emotional engagement arises from his experience with those facing illness, trauma and tragedy. Tom's debut medical thriller, *Nerve Damage*, has garnered more than 200 five-star reviews. The second book in the series (once again collaborating with Jodie Renner as editor), was released in fall 2016. Tom lives with his artist wife on a lake in his beloved home state of Minnesota. Website: [www.tom-combs.com](http://www.tom-combs.com); email: [tcombsauthor@gmail.com](mailto:tcombsauthor@gmail.com); Facebook: Tom Combs Physician-Author

**SANJAY DESHMUKH** lives in Mumbai, the commercial capital of India. Writing, he believes, is the thread of gold woven into his career of thirty-five years that began with writing computer code, moving to technical writing, and then settling on designing sales proposals, which he thinks are just another genre of fiction. While he has worked with leading companies in India and the US and traveled around the world, his first novel, currently in editing stage, is a thriller based in rural India—a story that shows how people with lesser education and limited resources can also rise to challenges. Connect with Sanjay Deshmukh on Facebook.

**E. M. EASTICK** was born and raised in the tropical part of Australia, far from her current non-tropical home in Colorado. She worked as an environmental professional in Britain, Ireland, and the United Arab Emirates before embarking on the writer's journey. Travel and science often inspire her creative efforts, most of which ignore form and genre boundaries, and some of which appear in various online and print publications, including *Skipping Stones* multicultural literary magazine, *Ember*, and *Youth Imagination* magazine. Facebook: EM Eastick

**PETER EICHSTAEDT** is an award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction. His book, *The Dangerous Divide: Peril and Promise on the US-Mexico Border*, won the 2015 International Latino Book Award. He has written about Africa's child soldiers, Somali pirates, and war in eastern Congo. He spent two years in Afghanistan with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, which resulted in the book, *Above the Din of War*, stories of war and survival told by Afghans from all corners of the country. His latest book is *Borderland*, a thriller edited by Jodie Renner and set on the border with Mexico. He lives in Denver, Colorado, and is at work on a murder mystery set in California wine country. Website: [www.petereichstaedt.com](http://www.petereichstaedt.com)

**PATRICIA ANNE ELFORD**, OCT, B.A., M.Div., is a Canadian educator, presenter, clergy person, and award-winning professional writer in a variety of genres, published in literary publications, periodicals, anthologies, newspapers, educational and devotional materials, and on line. She edits short pieces and books, one of which she also collated—the *Grandmothers' Necklace* anthology, fundraiser for the Grandmothers to Grandmothers, Stephen Lewis Foundation, which has earned over \$17,000 so far to assist African grandmothers rearing, under heartbreaking conditions, children orphaned by AIDS/HIV. Patricia's main work-in-progress: *The Cuddle of Cats: Talk to me, I'll listen; Listen to me; I'll talk* (memoir).

**LORI DUFFY FOSTER** worked more than a decade covering crime, education, Native American affairs, local government, and the military for *The Post-Standard* newspaper (Syracuse, NY). She holds a master's degree in creative writing and a bachelor's degree in interpersonal communications and English/creative writing. Ms. Foster has completed four novels, which are under submission to publishers through her agent. Her short fiction has appeared in *Aethlon* and in the 2011 *Short Story America Anthology*. She has written for several magazines, including *Healthy Living*, *Running Times*, *Literary Mama*, *Crimespree*, and *Mountain Home*. A native of New York's Adirondack Mountains, she writes in the hills of Northern Pennsylvania, where she lives with her husband and four children.

**SARAH HAUSMAN** is a Navy wife and captain of a roller derby team, currently living in the Pacific Northwest while awaiting the next adventure. She has gone from writing reports as a parole officer to occasionally writing short fiction, which is a lot more fun. She also works very part time at a wig shop, which is the best thing she has ever been paid to do. She likes cats, maybe a little too much, but has so far successfully limited herself to one. Sarah's short stories have been published in several online and print magazines, and she is a Mash Stories competition winner. She posts updates on her writing at Facebook: Sarah Hausman Writes.

**BARBARA A. HAWLEY** grew up in the Philippines as the daughter of medical missionaries. She's travelled to over twenty countries and hopes to visit many more—including those featured in this anthology. Based on her adventures, she's writing a mystery series for middle readers featuring a global teen who takes hijinks and hijacks in stride. Barbara has a degree in secondary education English. She contributes to *Among Worlds* magazine and various Christian publications and is a member of ACFW. Presently

she's growing roots in central Pennsylvania. Connect with her on Twitter @AuthorBHawley and on Facebook as Barbara A. Hawley.

**RAYNE KAA HEDBERG** was born and raised in the windy town of Malmö, Sweden, but currently lives and studies in Scotland. There he is part of the university's writing society and has previously been involved in his school's newspaper. Both human rights and animal rights are topics he feels strongly for. Rayne is determined to publish one of the many novels he's working on before graduating, and will continue fighting for people's rights. Join Rayne on Facebook: Rayne Elias Kaa Hedberg.

**STEVE HOOLEY** is a writer and a physician living in Logan County, Ohio, where he has practiced medicine for over thirty years. Steve has been published in *The Budget* (an international Amish weekly paper) and *Out of the Storm* (an anthology of winners from the 2014 "Storming the Short Story" contest). Two of his stories were finalists in the 2015 "Storming the Short Story" contest and are scheduled to be published in 2016. His first novel, *Mark of the Fire*, is due out in 2016, and he is busy working on his second.

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**EILEEN HOPKINS** retired from her post-secondary administrative career in Calgary and moved to Osoyoos, BC, to launch this new phase of her life in 2014. Eileen blogs about her own retirement experiences – from planning it to embracing it – with a growing audience of boomers from around the world and writes a monthly column for the *Osoyoos Times* called The New Old Age. She has authored several short stories and was recently published in two anthologies: *An Okanagan Tapestry* and *Voices from the Valleys*. Eileen is currently working on her first novel. You can read more at BoomersPotofGoldblogspot.ca and on her Facebook page at Boomer Pot of Gold.

**KYM MCNABNEY** resides in Illinois with her husband and children. She has contributed several stories in *Stories of Faith and Courage from Prison*, and articles in *Crusader Magazine*, *The Collie Nose*, *The Angolite Magazine*, and *Willow Creek Compassion and Justice Blog*. Kym is an active member of ACFW and treasurer of the Chicago Area Chapter. She fosters for Collie Rescue of Greater Illinois and is a leader in the prison ministry through her church, Willow Creek. You can follow her on social media. Facebook: Author Kym McNabney; Pinterest: Kym McNabney; Blog: Writing from the Soul

**JODIE RENNER** is a highly sought-after fiction editor and award-winning author of three *Editor's Guides to Writing Compelling Fiction: Captivate Your Readers, Fire up Your Fiction, and Writing a Killer Thriller*. She has also published two handy, clickable e-resources for writers, journalists, teachers, and students: *Quick Clicks: Spelling List* and *Quick Clicks: Word Usage*. In addition, she has organized and edited two anthologies for charity. Ms. Renner lives in Penticton, B.C.

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**CAROLINE SCIRIHA** lives in Malta, where she works as Head of the Department of English in a state secondary school. She writes fiction—especially fantasy—whenever her day job allows, and is currently working on a series of middle grade novels. Caroline loves writing about characters who show resilience or develop some hidden talent. Facebook: Caroline Sciriha

