

## About Our Authors

**Debra Barry:** is a native Iowan and has been an educator for 21 years. She received her BA in Elementary Education from the University of Iowa and her MA from Coe College. Debra resides in Marion, Iowa, with her family and miniature dachshund, Lucy. In addition to writing books, she has a healthy addiction to peppermint mochas and shoe shopping. Debra has written nine children's books, including *Aly-oop*, an 2011 International Picture Book Award Finalist.

**Roger Hileman** works in a research department at ACT in Iowa City, where he lives with his wife, Lu. He also performs with several area jazz groups. He began his writing career as a playwright, but eventually turned to prose, co-authoring a novel and a short story collection. Roger loves history, especially the family kind, so his ancestors frequently become fodder for his fiction.

**Dave Hoing** has worked at the UNI Library since the Cretaceous Period. He lives in Waterloo with his wife Joni, their dog Doodle, and cat Itzy. He enjoys traveling, collecting antiquarian books, and winning money in the Iowa lottery, the latter accounting for the former. He has authored or co-authored three novels, two short story collections, and numerous individual stories.

**Mary Howard** is the author of two suspense novels, *A Girl with Wings* and *Discovering the Body*, as well as a number of short stories published in literary magazines and Ms. As the winner of the 2016 Midwest Writer's Retreat contest, she was able to work on her newest novel *The Man in the Bed* for six days in September without distractions! She has a M.A. in English/Creative Writing from Iowa State, where for seventeen years she was the Academic Advisor in the Art and Design Department. She lives in Ames, Iowa.

**Remi Hunter:** Remi Hunter grew up in Chicago, an 'inner city' kid from the blue collar neighborhood of Bridgeport. Currently, Remi still lives in Chicago with her husband, children and two dogs. Always a story teller, Remi's debut novel, "Windy City Heat", was an inevitable result of her other life as a tenured police officer.

**Mary Jedlicka Humeston:** Iowa City author, poet, and speaker Mary Jedlicka Humston, a former high school teacher, graduated from UNI with

a BA in English education. She is the coauthor with Mary Potter Kenyon of *Mary & Me: A Lasting Link Through Ink* (Familius, Sept. 2015). Her poems, essays, and reviews have been widely published in a variety of magazines, newspapers, exhibits, blogs, books, and other venues. She has presented almost 50 workshops, readings, signings, and speeches on a variety of subjects, including Little Free Libraries, dealing with chronic illness, being a writer, cancer, prayer, letter writing, friendship, and her book *Mary & Me*. Her poem *pirouette* was selected for display on the *Wall of Poems* in 2014 as part of the Krakow UNESCO City of Literature. Other poems have won national awards in a variety of contests.

**John LaBella's** eclectic and impressive resume of career experience includes photography and videography, information technology, teaching and culinary arts. Born in the U.K. and Canadian by choice, John resides in Davenport with his author wife, Teresa, and their three rescued Husky fur kids.

**Teresa LaBella** published her first contemporary romance novel "Reservations" in 2013. The big city story continued in "Heartland" set in small town Iowa. "Belonging," the final novel in the New Life in Love trilogy, moved the McKenna family saga to the west coast of Scotland. A freelance writer and consultant, Teresa resides in Davenport with her husband John and three fur kids.

**Dylan Moonfire** is the remarkable intersection of a computer nerd and a scientist. He inherited a desire for learning, endless curiosity, and a talent for being a polymath from both of his parents. Instead of focusing on a single genre, he writes stories and novels in many different settings ranging from fantasy to science fiction. He also throws in the occasional romance or forensics murder mystery to mix things up.

**Karen Musser Nortman**, a former secondary teacher and test developer for ACT, lives in West Liberty and writes a series of cozy mysteries about a group of retirees who camp together. Besides the Frannie Shoemaker Campground Mysteries, she has also published a light science fiction novel, *The Time Travel Trailer*, named first-in-category in the 2015 Chanticleer Paranormal contest, and this year, the sequel, *Trailer on the Fly*.

**Elaine L. Orr's** Jolie Gentil cozy mystery series, set at the Jersey shore, has ten books and a prequel. *Behind the Walls* was a finalist for the 2014 Chanticleer

Mystery and Mayhem Awards. The River's Edge mystery series, set in Iowa, features *From Newsprint to Footprints* and *Demise of a Devious Neighbor*, and the first Logland Mystery is *Tip a Hat to Murder*. Elaine writes plays and novellas (including *Falling Into Place*) and presents courses via Teachable.

**Jodie Toohey** is the author of two poetry collections - *Crush and Other Love Poems for Girls* and *Other Side of Crazy* - as well as three novels, *Missing Emily: Croatian Life Letters*, *Melody Madson – May It Please the Court?*, and *Taming the Twisted*. When she is not writing, Jodie helps authors from pre-idea to reader through her Wordsy Woman Author Services company.

**Misty Urban:** Misty Urban is the author of the short-story collection *A Lesson in Manners* and is this year's recipient of the Great River Writer's Retreat (copying Mary Howard). She co-edited a collection of academic essays coming out in November and has authored various pieces of medieval scholarship. Along with short fiction just out or forthcoming in various online and print journals and anthologies, she has a prize-winning sonnet in the 2017 *Lyrical Iowa*. She teaches writing at Muscatine Community College and runs [femmeliterate.net](http://femmeliterate.net) on the side.