

AUTHOR · COMPOSER · KNITWEAR DESIGNER



Talena Winters

www.talenawinters.com

MEDIA KIT



SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Loves, Hopes and Silver Linings

Talena Winters grew up on the prairies of central Alberta, Canada, in the small town of Sylvan Lake. She loves travel, music, whole food, sewing, knitting, reading, and chocolate. She is addicted to tea and silver linings.

Her first novel, *The Friday Night Date Dress*, was released just two weeks after the sudden and traumatic death of her three-year-old son in 2015. This experience dramatically changed her outlook on life, love, death, and faith. She wrote her second novel, *Finding Heaven* (released in November of 2017), as an expression of that newfound understanding.

Besides fiction, she also writes a blog, knitting patterns, freelance articles, and musical theatre (among other genres of music). She is a regular contributor to regional magazine *Move Up*.

She currently resides on an acreage in the Peace Country of northern Alberta, Canada, with her husband, three surviving boys, a Golden Retriever named Sunshine, and an assortment of farm cats and chickens.

She would love to be a mermaid when she grows up.



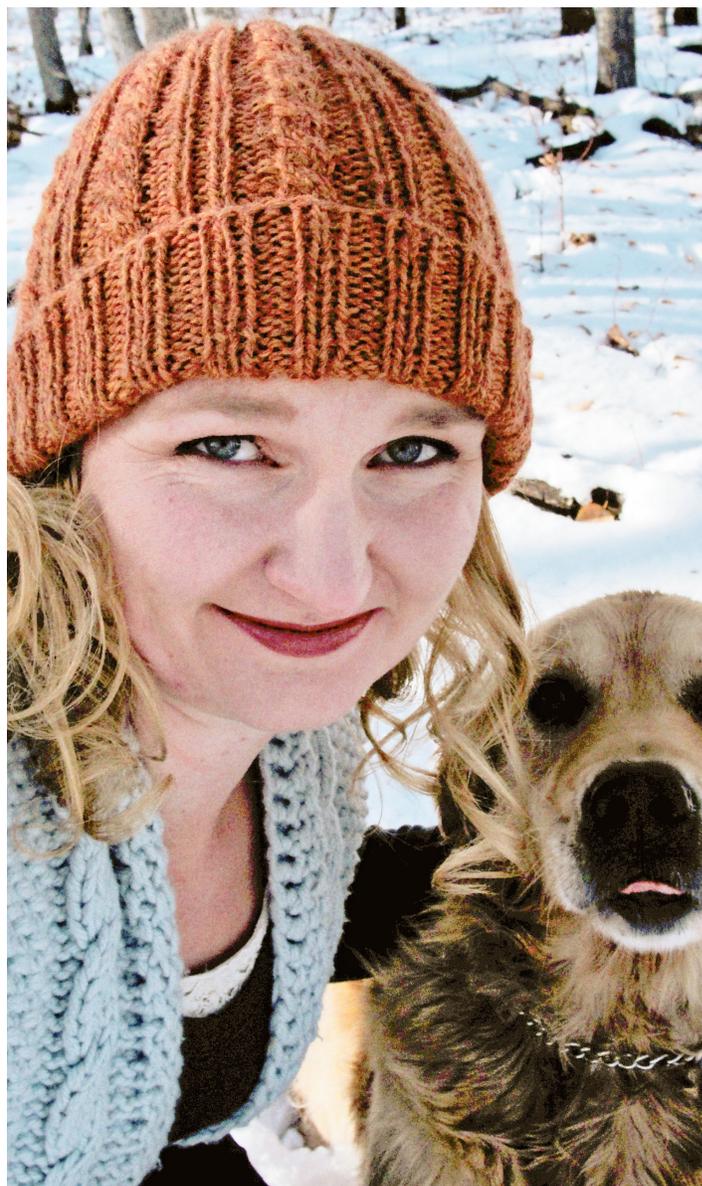


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Highlights:

- Author of *Finding Heaven* and *The Friday Night Date Dress*
- Composer of several award-winning songs
- Mother of four boys—three natural children and one adopted in 2013 at age one and lost in 2015 at age three
- Writes in multiple genres, including inspirational, romance, women's fiction, fantasy, and young adult
- Regular contributor to Peace Region magazine *Move Up*
- Blogger since 2006
- Designs knitwear patterns under the label My Secret Wish by Talena
- Raised in Sylvan Lake, Alberta, Canada, and currently resides in Peace River, Alberta
- Addicted to tea and silver linings

Talena Winters inspires with words, yarn, and food. Addicted to tea, chocolate, books, knitting, and silver linings. She is the author of *Finding Heaven* and *The Friday Night Date Dress*, has written several award-winning songs, and is a regular contributor to *Move Up* magazine. She currently resides on an acreage in the Peace Country of northern Alberta, Canada, with her husband, three surviving boys, a Golden Retriever named Sunshine, and an assortment of farm cats and chickens. She would love to be a mermaid when she grows up.





RECENT PRAISE

“One of the most beautifully written books I have read.”

- Kristin Dyck, editor of *Mile Zero News*

“It’s about unearthing the real you after being under the mudslide for so long. It still tugs at my heartstrings.”

- Corrie-Ann, Goodreads reviewer

“A moving and beautiful story of accepting who you are, overcoming the past, and embracing the future.”

- Kamber Ferriss, reader

“Masterful.”

- Marcia Anderson, reader

“I couldn’t put it down, and read it in one sitting.”

- Melodie MacLean, reader

Finding Heaven
has an average
4.8 star rating on
Goodreads and
Amazon!



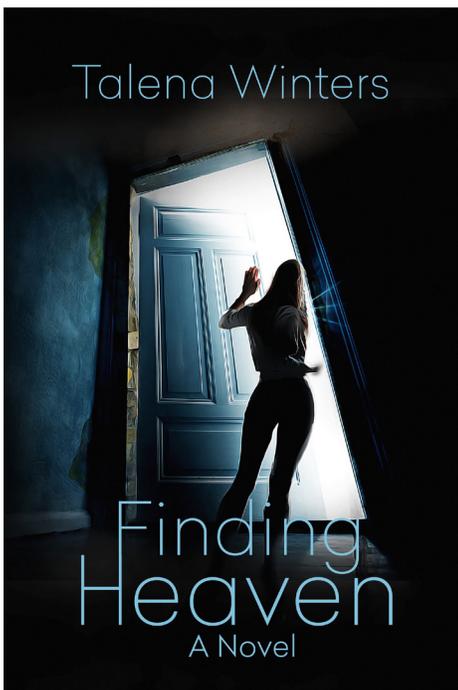
Featured On:

The Restory Show podcast by author
Mary DeMuth
<http://www.marydemuth.com/4-17/>

Author Melissa Keaster’s blog,
[https://www.melissakeaster.com/
blog/2017/11/29/me-too-part-six](https://www.melissakeaster.com/blog/2017/11/29/me-too-part-six)

What do you do when you realize that everything you are is a lie?

FINDING HEAVEN: A NOVEL



Categories: Gritty women's fiction, romantic suspense, domestic noir

Released: November 14, 2017

Format: 15.2 x 3.3 x 22.9 cm Trade Paperback (Also available in hardcover and ebook.)

Pages: 580

ISBN: 978-0-9947364-2-0

Sarah Daniels seems to have the perfect life—a successful career as an erotica author, a successful lawyer husband, thousands of adoring fans, and the freedom to do whatever she wants. Or does she?

Behind the façade, her marriage is in a shambles, she hates what she writes and the people who read it, and she feels trapped behind the masks of her own making. A cancer diagnosis has just dealt the final blow to the shaky foundations of her life.

A chance encounter with Steve McGuire—a man who gave up the rat race to help Mumbai's prostitutes, and who finds joy in every little thing—makes her question her priorities and wonder if it's time for a change. His example and friendship inspires her to start a journey to find God, healing, and her authentic self.

Can Sarah rediscover her passion for life with a death sentence hanging over her head? Can she conquer her personal demons and break free from her abusive past so that she can truly live?

Will Sarah ever know what real love is?

Finding Heaven is a gritty inspirational novel about healing from the hurts of abuse.

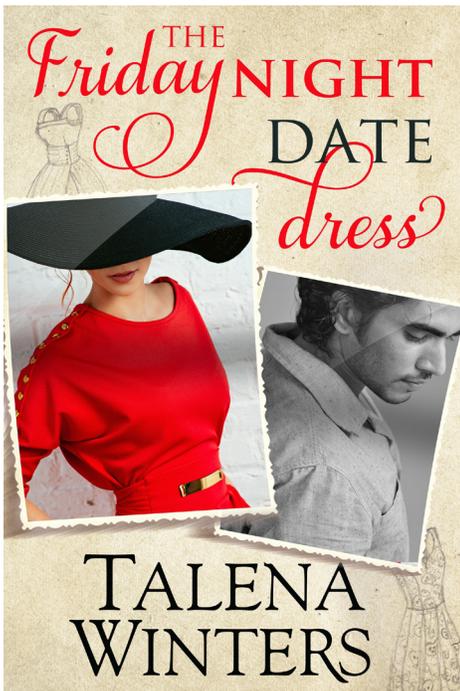
“A riveting, true-to-life tale of love’s power to heal and redeem.”

- Melissa Keaster,
author of
Eleora

*She sews runway masterpieces . . .
but who will mend her damaged heart?*



THE FRIDAY NIGHT DATE DRESS



Tragic loss has made Melinda Myers invisible. She hides as a nondescript waitress at an average diner during the day. But each night, she sews runway masterpieces that she wears only once before putting them into a box forever.

Peter Surati, an aspiring Asian Indian photographer, can't help but notice beautiful, sad Melinda. He makes it his mission to help her find her smile again. But can he find a way to mend her damaged heart?

The Friday Night Date Dress is an inspirational novella about hope, healing, and love.

Categories: Inspirational romance, sweet romance, clean romance

Released: June 26, 2015

Format: 11.1 x 0.7 x 17.8 cm, paperback (Also available in ebook.)

Pages: 124

ISBN: 978-0-9947364-2-0

**“Thank you for writing such
an easy and captivating read - I
TRULY enjoyed it!”**

- Annette Rosendahl, reader



BIOGRAPHY



Talena Winters, currently of Peace River, Alberta, Canada has been obsessed with stories for her whole life. She showed promise as a composer and a writer from a young age, winning several poetry awards in elementary school. Schoolmates knew her as a bookworm, and she could rarely be caught without a book in hand. At age nine, she saw *The Sound of Music* while stuck in the hospital with a broken arm over Christmas and has been hooked on musical theatre ever since. She sees it as the perfect marriage between stories and music.

She holds a diploma in Jazz Piano and Composition from Red Deer College. It was in college that she met Candace Marshall, who would become a lifelong friend and co-writer. The two of them are currently working on a musical called *Queen of Persia*, based on the biblical story of Esther.

While her children were young, Talena set aside most of her creative pursuits to focus on being a mom. It was at that time that she began blogging (to “preserve her sanity,” as she says), rediscovering her love of creative writing. Over the years, several readers told her she should write a book, and for some reason, her brain always heard “novel”. She shunned the idea, not feeling equipped to take on that shiny—and rather massive—goal. She did, however, begin publishing her knitwear designs under the label My Secret Wish by Talena, and won several writing awards.

In 2010, she got the idea for a mermaid story that she wanted to read—but knew she would also have to write. She took a course on novel writing from Holly Lisle and wrote her first book, *The Friday Night Date Dress*, as practice while taking that course. Not long after that, Talena and her husband adopted their fourth son (after three natural children) and writing pursuits were relegated to the back burner. However, at her mother’s constant prompting, she eventually decided to try self-publishing the story, also for

practice.

The morning after uploading that story to her distributor for publication in June 2015, her youngest son was killed in a tragic vehicle accident. This had a profound impact on her views of life, faith, and love. Although she had intended to write her mermaid story next, it seemed too frivolous at the time—she knew she needed to write something deeper as she processed her grief. God gave her the final piece for a book idea that had been brewing since she took Holly’s class, and *Finding Heaven*—the story of a woman healing from an abusive past—was published in 2017.

It was in January of 2016 that Talena knew she wanted to become a writer full-time. She got a job freelancing for regional magazine *Move Up* in June of that year and sold her online retail equine tack business in October, taking a leap of faith to pursue her passion. She hasn’t looked back.

In everything Talena creates, whether it be clothing designs, music, or stories, her goal is to inspire her audience to be better, reach higher, and realize their full potential



Press Release for "Finding Heaven"

On November 14, 2017, Peace River, Alberta author Talena Winters released her second novel, *Finding Heaven*, a story about a woman healing from an abusive past. The book successfully walks the fine line between gritty and delicate, dark and hopeful, as it exposes the realities of the trauma abuse victims must overcome, while optimistically pointing out the way to healing.

Sarah Daniels, the main character, seems to have a fairy-tale existence. But look behind the curtain and we very quickly see that Sarah's life is falling apart—her husband abuses her, her mother manipulates her, and her brother bullies her.

Sarah's story, while sad, is believable because she is so *normal* in a completely dysfunctional way. Fortunately, Sarah is offered a way out. A career humanitarian named Steve McGuire—whose life work is helping sex trafficking victims and their children in Mumbai, India—offers her a chance to change her life for the better, and is her greatest supporter in helping her do so.

Winters wrote the book as she grieved the sudden, tragic loss of her youngest son. She believes that writing about Sarah's journey was a key part of her own healing process.

"My hope is that people who read this book will see that recovering from a difficult past is possible, and also have more compassion for those who have come from backgrounds like Sarah's," said Winters.

More information about the book and places to buy can be found at www.talenawinters.com/finding-heaven.

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This media kit, including high-resolution downloadable images, book sell sheets, book excerpts, quotes, and much more, can be found online at:

www.talenawinters.com/media-kit

Seek beauty,
spread sunshine!