

Sandra D. Bricker

*Award-Winning Author of Laugh-Out-Loud
Inspirational Fiction*

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SPECIAL GUEST STAR



Barbara Scott

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DESCRIBE THE FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU FIND A BOOK YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO CONTRACT:

Since I'm an extroverted, enthusiastic person, it's like making a gold strike or discovering a new planet. I'm also given to hyperbole. It makes me want to show it to everyone in the office.

HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE AT ABINGDON HAVE TO WANT THE BOOK, TOO?

Initially, I present the project to six other people who need to be convinced of its merits. Sitting on the fiction team are colleagues from editorial, marketing, finance,

sales, and retail. Once they're sold on the author and idea, a business plan is formulated, and then the project is presented to our executive steering team.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YET THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

I have more than 150 proposals waiting for me to read next month, so after I read those, I'll let you know.

WHAT CHANGES DO YOU SEE HAPPENING WITH THE FICTION LINE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

Onward and upward! Abingdon Press will launch its first fiction line this Fall, and for the first two or three years we'll continue to build a list of eighteen to twenty titles per year. Later, our success will allow us to take calculated risks in new genres perhaps.

WHAT MAKES THE NEW FICTION LINE DIFFERENT THAN OTHER INSPIRATIONAL PUBLISHERS' LINES?

One distinctive of our fiction is that our authors explore the gray areas of life—those situations that all of us may face...situations that may have no clear-cut solutions. There is more to our faith walk than our initial conversion experience. Rather than evangelize the reader, we want to engage their hearts and minds in a dialogue about an authentic faith in Jesus Christ, without preaching at them or pounding them over the head with doctrine or trying to convert them by the end of the book. Our novels illuminate the human condition and the expression of God's love and grace.

WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT THE FICTION LINE?

That we've acquired some fabulous new Christian voices who have great stories to tell. When you finish an Abingdon Press novel, we want you to feel inspired and uplifted.

***(Since it's my Web site!)* WHAT ATTRACTS YOU ABOUT MY WRITING?**

Sandie, you make me laugh, and that's a good thing. You have a breezy, humorous style that makes me identify and fall in love with your characters and sweeps me up in their predicaments.

Barbara's Preferences

- **CONTEMPORARY OR HISTORICAL:** Contemporary
- **ROCK OR COUNTRY:** Rock
- **DARK CHOCOLATE OR MILK CHOCOLATE:** Dark chocolate
- **WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND?** My study Bible, a journal, and about eight novels I'm reading or have read or I'm going to read, my hand lotion, a lamp, and a couple of pens.
- **3 THINGS ON YOUR OFFICE DESK:** Fiction pipelines, weekly and monthly "to do" lists, proposals.
- **FAVORITE JAMMIES:** The blue flannel ones with happy, dancing penguins.
- **FAVORITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:** Jeans
- **MORNING PERSON OR NIGHT OWL:** Morning person
- **DOG OR CAT:** **Both.** We love our 5-pound rescue Chihuahua, Riley, but we also had two cats (George and Gracie), who finally passed on after 15 and 17 years, respectively.
- **4-STAR HOTEL OR CAMPING UNDER THE STARS:** Definitely a 4-star hotel. Motel 6 is as close to camping as I want to get.
- **CHINESE OR ITALIAN:** Italian.
- **SUNNY DAY OR RAINY AFTERNOON:** Sunny, sunny, sunny day.
- **SOAPS OR GAME SHOWS:** Neither!
- **SITCOM OR REALITY SHOW:** Sitcom
- **CLOONEY OR PITT:** They're both a little young for me. Can I say Harrison Ford?
- **TRAINS OR PLANES:** Planes.
- **PLAIN CHEESE OR THE WORKS:** The works.
- **MERLOT OR CHARDONNAY:** Chardonnay.

Sandie's Preferences

- **CONTEMPORARY OR HISTORICAL:** What's historical?
- **ROCK OR COUNTRY:** Rock, mostly.
- **DARK CHOCOLATE OR MILK CHOCOLATE:** Milk chocolate. Ghiradelli.
- **WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND?** The silk lilacs that used to be on my mom's nightstand; a box of tissues; my favorite candle; a glass of Crystal Light fruit punch
- **3 THINGS ON YOUR OFFICE DESK:** Photos of Olivia; photos of my friends; 2 pieces of Ghiradelli chocolate; 4 cool pens; an empty Coke Zero can.
- **FAVORITE JAMMIES:** I'm glad Barbara gave an answer like "happy dancing penguins" because mine has happy dancing duckies!

- **FAVORITE PIECE OF CLOTHING:** My big brown sweater. But I live in Florida, so I think I've worn it twice in three years. :-)
- **MORNING PERSON OR NIGHT OWL:** Morning person, no question. I fall asleep as soon as the sun goes down!
- **DOG OR CAT:** What do you think?



Sophie Matilda, Age 4

- **4-STAR HOTEL OR CAMPING UNDER THE STARS:** Why not a 5-Star??
- **CHINESE OR ITALIAN:** Italian. Wait! Chinese. No, wait. Italian.
- **SUNNY DAY OR RAINY AFTERNOON:** Rainy afternoon!!
- **SOAPS OR GAME SHOWS:** Soaps. Hey, I spent 15+ years in the soaps. How could I say anything else?
- **SITCOM OR REALITY SHOW:** Sitcom
- **CLOONEY OR PITT:** Clooney. Definitely Clooney.
- **TRAINS OR PLANES:** Trains. Can't do the planes.
- **PLAIN CHEESE OR THE WORKS:** The works.
- **MERLOT OR CHARDONNAY:** Pinot Grigio, actually.