

Spotlight: *We're pleased to present...*

BOBBI SMITH



After working as a department manager for Famous-Barr, and briefly as a clerk at a bookstore, **BOBBI SMITH** gave up on career security and began writing. She sold her first book to Zebra in 1982. Since then, BOBBI has written over 40 books and several short stories. To date, there are more than five million of her novels in print. She has been awarded the prestigious *Romantic Times* Storyteller of the Year Award and two Career Achievement Awards. Her books have appeared on numerous bestseller lists. When she's not working on her novels, she is frequently a guest speaker for writer's groups. Bobbi is mother of two sons and resides in St. Charles, Missouri with her husband and three dogs.

You can drop her a line at: bbwal10@charter.net

BOBBI SMITH's website: www.bobbismithbooks.com

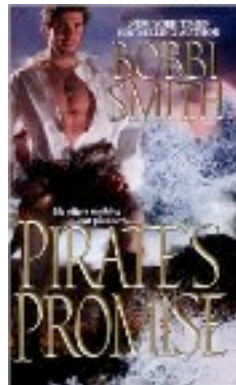
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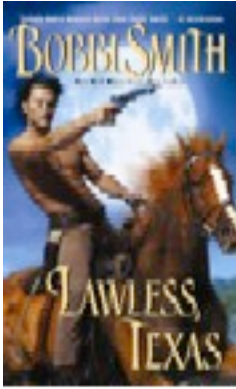
Pirate's Promise

Mass Market Paperback – Reprint

ISBN-13: 9781420100396

Pub. Date: October 2007





Lawless, Texas

Mass Market Paperback

ISBN-13: 9780843958492

Pub. Date: July 2007

Read a sample chapter of *Lawless, Texas*:

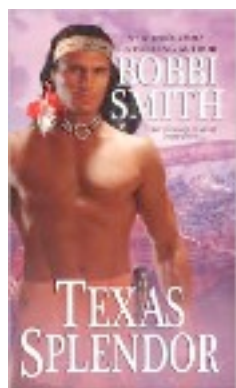
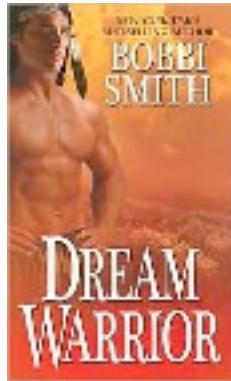
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Dream Warrior

Mass Market Paperback

ISBN-13: 9781420100402

Pub. Date: June 2007



Texas Splendor

Mass Market Paperback

ISBN-13: 9781420101805

Pub. Date: March 01, 2008

An Interview with BOBBI SMITH

SLWG: Where are you from originally?

B.S.: Old North St. Louis by the white water tower.

SLWG: How has your environment/upbringing colored your writing?

B.S.: I grew up watching westerns! John Wayne and Bonanza, Gunsmoke, Have Gun Will Travel, Lancer, Cheyenne, Rawhide, Lane, etc.! And I love St. Louis, the Mississippi and Bronco steamboats.

SLWG: When and why did you begin writing?

B.S.: I began making up stories when I was about 10.

SLWG: When did you first consider yourself a writer?

B.S.: When I was 10. I even stapled them together and put covers on them.

SLWG: Who or what inspired you to pen your first book or major work?

B.S.: I read *Flame and The Flower* by Woodiwiss and thought - I can do this.

SLWG: How long did it take you to complete this work—from idea to acceptance by a publisher?

B.S.: It took 2 ½ years to write it - long-hand and then typed on a manual typewriter. It took about another 6 months to sell it back in 81/82. It was 590 pages long.

SLWG: How long did it take for you to actually hold the published work in your hands—from acceptance by the publisher to release of the final product? Was it worth it?

B.S.: Less than a year as I remember. Was it worth it??? OH, YEAH!

SLWG: Please describe the research process that goes into the writing of your work.

B.S.: I'm a history nut, so the research is the most fun - and I get to write off trips because they're 'research trips'. When I wrote about St. Louis I spent a lot of time at the Downtown Library and at the Mo. Historical Society.

SLWG: What advice can you offer authors who have finished a first book-length manuscript and now seek to market it to a publisher?

B.S. Go to writers' conferences and network with agents and editors.

SLWG: What advice can you offer an author who has sold a first book—with respect to working with an editor or negotiating the terms of the contract?

B.S.: Re the editor : The proper response to any request is “yes, ma’am”
- if your editor is a lady and “yes, sir” if he’s a guy! Re the terms: that’s
why you need an agent. The contracts are tricky and complicated.

SLWG: Who or what has most influenced your writing style, and in what way?

B.S.: I don’t think anyone else has - except Miss Enright, my 7th and 8th
grade English teacher. All that diagramming up at the board was
humiliating! I just want to write a good story. I want my readers to pick
it up and not be able to put it down.

SLWG: Which genre are you most comfortable writing?

B.S.: I am an historical romance writer, but I’ve also written faith-based
contemporaries. I enjoyed them both.

SLWG: Have you written, or do you ever plan to write in other genres? Which ones?

B.S.: The faith-based contemporaries were interesting, because I did
them with a mainstream flavor. They’d make great movies! And so
would the westerns!

SLWG: What are your current writing projects?

B.S.: I’m under contract. I just finished my June book - *Wanted: The
HalfBreed*, and I’m starting another, shortly - *Wanted: The Texan*.

SLWG: What books or authors have most influenced your life? Did they also influence your writing style or goals?

B.S.: *Gone With The Wind*, *Forever Amber* and *The Flame and The
Flower* were the three that showed me there was market for
wonderful historicals. I don’t think any particular author has
influenced my style. Each writer has his/her own ‘voice’ as they
call it in the industry.

SLWG: What are you reading now?

B.S.: I just finished Vince Flynn’s latest. If you like political thrillers
he’s the man!

SLWG: What new author has captured your interest?

B.S.: As above, Vince Flynn. I started reading out of genre, because I was afraid of plagiarizing someone.

SLWG: Name one person that you feel supported your writing goals outside of your family members. Explain.

B.S.: I've been with my current agent, Evan Marshall, for 20 years. He's been my guardian angel.

SLWG: How do your family and/or friends feel about your writing pursuits in general?

B.S.: It was great to work at home when the kids were little. My friends and family are supportive.

SLWG: Do you regard your writing as a lifelong career?

B.S.: It has been! This is the beginning of my 26th year of being published.

SLWG: What is the one piece of advice you would give to someone who seeks to be a successful writer?

B.S. Don't have an ego! Remember Snoopy's writing career as your inspiration.

SLWG: If you had to do it all over again, would you change anything?

B.S.: No, I've been very blessed in my career.

SLWG: Tell us your latest news!

B.S.: My old publisher Kensington has started re-releasing my old titles, so in 08 I'm going to have 4 books out! Texas Splendor and Capture My Heart oldies from Kensington in March and October and my two new titles in my new "Wanted" series - "Wanted: The HalfBreed" in June and "Wanted: The Texan" in December from Dorchester. Too Cool!

SLWG: Is there anything we didn't ask that you would like to share?

B.S.: Just remember that publishing is a business. My business degree has helped me immensely in my writing career. You've got to understand what's going on in the retail market, if you're going to be successful.