

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

Kathi Buescher



SLWG Member since 2005

KATHI BUESCHER is a self-professed “closet writer.” Few people know that she has been writing in her spare time—not even her own mother! “If my mom knew, everyone in the bi-state area would know. Until I’m published, I’d rather keep a low profile and surprise everyone. Only my husband, my daughters, and a few very close friends know what I’ve been up to, and none of my co-workers have a clue—at least, I hope they don’t.”

[Editor’s Note: “Not anymore, Kathi! Everyone who visits the SLWG website will know now.]

Kathi’s love for writing began in the fifth grade. “My mom and I both love to read and she encouraged me to write. I wrote short stories in grade school, loved Honors English in high school, and aced College Composition. In high school, I won an honorable mention in the *Speak Up For America Contest*, and in college, my comp instructor asked permission to use my papers as examples for future classes.”

She married a year after high school graduation and actually didn’t start going to college until a few years after that, earning her degree in HR Management while simultaneously working full-time, raising two daughters, volunteering as a Girl Scout leader for six years, and as a Sunday

School teacher for two years. “By day, I’m a Benefits Analyst. During my free time, I’m writing.”

A SLWG member, Peggy Haldeman, is responsible for Kathi’s return to writing. “Peggy and I used to work together and one day on the way to a meeting, we started talking about reading and various authors. Somehow we got on the subject of writing and Peggy invited me to come to a Guild meeting. It didn’t take long and I was hooked! My husband picked up my laptop the other day and was shocked to see that I’ve actually worn the letters off some of the keys; it gets a lot of use these days.”

With encouragement from Peggy, Kathi started on her first novel, which she finished a few months ago. She’s currently going through the process of finding an agent, which she feels is harder than writing a novel. “I may put that novel on a shelf for now and either rewrite it with a different premise, or start an entirely new one. Although mystery/suspense is my favorite genre, I have ideas in other genres, as well. I’ve had an idea for one set in Ireland for years and I’m finally going there in March. I already have a plot in mind and several characters and I’m hoping to find the setting for it and get a feel for the language so I can tweak my dialogue and further develop my characters. I’m looking forward to getting back to work on it. If only I had more time...”

Her favorite authors are Mary Higgins Clark, Catherine Coulter, Nora Roberts, and John Grisham. “I used to love Stephen King novels until I read *The Shining*. That one scared the bejeepers out of me. I remember reading it after school when I was home by myself and jumping every time the house creaked. I think he’s a brilliant writer, but I have way too vivid an imagination to read his stuff. He pulls me right into the story and who wants to be there?”

In addition to reading, Kathi enjoys hiking (loves the Great Smoky Mountains), bike riding, and traveling.

Kathi has been a SLWG member since May 2005. She currently keeps the Markets Forum updated on the Guild’s Discussion Board and serves as moderator for the mystery/suspense critique group. She’s also a member of the national Sisters in Crime organization.

Kathi lives in St. Charles with husband, Jerry, daughter, Rebecca, and her dog, Jack. Her daughter, Stacy, lives five minutes away and frequently stops by.

Read an excerpt from: [*Deadly Prescription*](#)

Email Kathi: kathiwrites@charter.net