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## Stefanie Worth - Author Bio

At varying times in her life, Stefanie Worth wanted to be a priest, a model, a dancer, a cop and a lawyer. Oh, yes, and a writer. Fortunately, life's been kind enough to let her sample most of her heart's desires – except for the seminary. She began studying ballet at age six and branched into other forms of dance during middle school, winning the Miss Black Teenage World of Missouri title at 17 and landing a coveted spot on the University of Missouri-Columbia Golden Girls squad as a college sophomore.



Along the way, she started her first diary (lined note cards constrained by tin-foil covered cardboard), began writing “Letters to the People” that allowed her to privately editorialize on life, developed a penchant for poetry and decided that being a writer meant pursuing a career as a reporter.

The thing she remembers most about Journalism School at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is that students spent more time learning about life than they did learning how to write. A surprise then, but perfectly logical more than twenty years later, Worth understands that “writing what you know” means experiencing the world for yourself.

She started predictably, following the prescribed career course dictated by the J-School: anchoring Morning and Evening Edition segments for National Public Radio affiliate KBIA and morning news cut-ins for KOMU-TV. Worth moved to Detroit and joined WJLB radio in Detroit where she soon found herself doing on-air news. From there, her roads diverged and she choose to pursue print journalism, working for the Michigan Chronicle and penning briefs for the *Metro Times* and articles for *Class*, *Black Excellence* and *Upscale* magazines. Yet, those other youthful “want-to-do’s” kept calling and so she obliged.

Unlike some adventurous writers, she did not sign up for modeling school and narrate Detroit area fashion shows as background for a future Chick Lit novel. Likewise, her temporary aspirations to join the Detroit Police Department weren't intended to prepare her mind for a true crime caper. (Yes, she took the written police recruitment exam, but had to admit to herself that she wanted to start as a detective and not have to work her way up.) And time spent in paralegal classes was not meant to fuel her inner John Grisham. No, in fact, she viewed it simply as a substitute for law school and a quick career back up option. Thus, the pursuit was short-lived.

Nonetheless, each experience was duly documented in her journals-of-the-moment and filed away under “lived and learned.” Throughout her career dabbling, the writing remained constant, morphing from one arena to the next – media, government, education and nonprofit jobs – until she found herself back where she started at ten years old: still wanting to be a writer, now specifically, an author. The publication of her first novel, *Where Souls Collide* (Leisure, August 2007), brings that dream to fruition.

Worth's first book tells the story of Navena, a reporter forced to reconcile her family's psychic gift, the reappearance of a former lover and the survival of her newspaper with clues from a nightmare predicting murder. The contemporary romance draws on selected areas of expertise as its foundation, but leaves many other realms of experience untapped for use in future novels.

Her pre-fiction work has met with starter-style successes: *Inkling* (now *Where Souls Collide*) placed as a finalist in Coeur de Louisiane's 2005 Romancing the Tome Contest; her poem “Romance” won first place in the 1993 Paul Laurence Dunbar poetry contest sponsored by the Detroit Writers Guild; her poem “Milagro” was featured in the *Metro Times* 1992 annual Summer Fiction Issue; and her work at the Michigan Chronicle was recognized by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

Worth hopes her past honors predict a bright future. She feels fortunate to be able to lend a unique adult perspective to all her childhood dreams; one that will let her fondest wishes come true through her writing.

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