
Judy Duarte

Writing Heartwarming Fiction a Walk in the Park



Photo by Robin Gourd

Judy Duarte

*"If there is only one book that you read this year, MULBERRY PARK by Judy Duarte must be that book." —
SingleTitles.com*

Judy Duarte wrote her first single-title novel, *MULBERRY PARK* (Kensington Trade Paperback, April 2008), not knowing it would be on the cutting edge of a trend toward uplifting entertainment. She was

simply doing what she does best . . . writing from the heart.

Judy learned to trust her heart and instincts 20 years ago after life threw her a curveball, in the form of an unexpected divorce. Pulling herself and her four children together, she became determined to survive and succeed and started pursuing her dreams. One of those dreams was a college degree. So, just as her oldest kids hit their teen years, Judy returned to school and ultimately graduated from University of California Irvine.

Another dream presented itself by way of a new, perfect mate. Life was good again, but one dream still nagged at her.

"I always knew there was a book inside me," Judy said, "but putting that book on paper presented a significant challenge. Frankly I had no confidence I could actually become an author. I never liked English in school, and I interpreted that to mean I wasn't good at it."

Still, Judy was a born storyteller. All her life she had been spinning stories—telling tales to her kids as they grew up, plotting and creating characters to fill the time during carpool days and all those commutes back to college.

Committed to learning the author's craft, Judy joined Romance Writers of America (RWA), which helped her fine-tune her writing and her self confidence. As her determination to break into publishing grew, she decided to write the kind of stories that touched her heart—poignant stories about families, second chances, and true love.

“Since I love books and movies in which people must overcome insurmountable odds to win and earn their happily-ever-after, those are the kinds of tales I wanted to create,” Judy said.

Even before she sold her first book, her tales from the heart struck a chord with readers. Her stories won not only the coveted Emily (West Houston RWA Chapter) and Orange Rose (Orange County CA RWA Chapter) awards, but also earned her the status of a double finalist in RWA’s 2001 national Golden Heart competition for unpublished authors.

Judy finally realized her dream when she got *the* call . . .

“I was working as a secretary at my father’s office that Tuesday in May of 2001. It was early afternoon, and I was the only one there to answer phones. A call came in, and Margaret Marbury, now an executive editor with Harlequin, introduced herself. Needless to say, I was floored. She told me she wanted to buy my book, and I had to hold back a gasp and a scream.

“After the call ended, I was afraid that I might have dreamed it all! Other than when my kids were born, that was truly one of the happiest days of my life.”

In March 2002, Silhouette Special Edition released her first book, COWBOY COURAGE. And in July 2005 Judy reached another milestone when she won the

prestigious National Readers’ Choice Award for THE RICH MAN’S SON.

Since then, Judy has written 24 Silhouette Special Edition novels. MULBERRY PARK is her single-title debut for Kensington Books, and a novella, “A *Mulberry Park Christmas*,” will appear in SILVER BELLS (Kensington, November 2008), a Christmas anthology also featuring stories by Fern Michaels and JoAnn Ross. Judy’s second single-title inspirational novel will be published in early 2009.

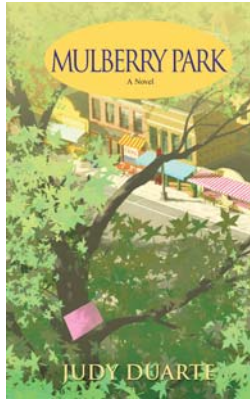
As the emphasis on feel-good stories spreads, more media outlets are gearing their formats toward inspirational content. The new TV programming darling is “Eli Stone.” On the Internet, www.VirtueRadioNetwork.com, launched the “Words of Faith” show with an interview of Judy and *New York Times* bestselling author, Debbie Macomber.

With her four oldest children grown and on their own, Judy makes her home near the beach in southern California with her husband, their youngest son, and a cat named Tina, whom Judy swears has flying squirrel in her bloodlines.

To arrange an interview with Judy Duarte, contact Nancy Berland,
Nancy Berland Public Relations, 800-308-3169, nancy@nancyberland.com
Visit www.JudyDuarte.com to learn more about the author.

Judy Duarte Booklist

Single Titles



MULBERRY PARK

Kensington Books

April 2008

ISBN 978-0-7582-2015-8

\$12.95

A child's letter to God sets off a chain of events that will change the lives of seven strangers in this inspirational single-title debut.

Each day after work, Claire Harper jogs in Mulberry Park, hoping to find a respite from the grief that has haunted her since her young son's death. It's a futile effort—until the day she finds a letter to God written by a seven-year-old girl named Analisa.

On impulse, Claire writes back, and Analisa's letters gradually draw Claire into the companionship of other Mulberry Park regulars—all, in their own way, in need of comfort. And as friendships grow, sorrows lift, and lives and hearts connect, each will discover just how far and how high one simple letter can reach.

Coming Soon from Judy Duarte



SILVER BELLS

"A Mulberry Park Christmas"

By Fern Michaels, JoAnn Ross, Mary Burton, Judy Duarte

Zebra Books

November 2008

ISBN 978-1-4201-0363-2

\$7.99

Following a bitter divorce, Alyssa's Ridgeway's heart just isn't into the Christmas spirit this year. So when she moves into an old Victorian home on Sugar Plum Lane, she soon finds herself at odds with one of her neighbors, an elderly widower who claims her son stole the angel from his nativity scene. Alyssa finds very little to celebrate, until she runs into her first love, James "Mac" MacGregor, who fills her heart with memories of the tender kiss they once shared . . .

Entertaining Angels*

Kensington Books

March 2009

*Tentative Title

With his dreams of a professional baseball career shattered, new associate pastor Craig Houston lands his first position at the Parkside Community Church in Fairmont. But Craig harbors an unsettling concern. He questions whether he ever received “the call” to the ministry and fears he will fail his congregation. As he is drawn into the community, he meets other dreamless souls, such as a harried waitress who gave up her college aspiration to care for her fatherless son and her invalid grandmother, a bride whose princess-perfect life holds a guilty secret, a pregnant teenager who is looking for work and temporarily living in a treehouse that overlooks Mulberry Park and a middle-age couple who run a community soup kitchen.

Guided by the wisdom of a homeless man named Jesse, Pastor Craig and the others begin to realize that things aren't really what they seem in Fairmont. And that dreams, like dandelion seeds scattered in the wind, can take flight and blossom in unexpected ways.

Judy Duarte Booklist

Contemporary Romance

IN LOVE WITH THE BRONC RIDER	Silhouette Special Edition June 2008
ONCE UPON A PREGNANCY	Silhouette Special Edition April 2008
ROMANCING THE COWBOY	Silhouette Special Edition March 2008
THE COWBOY'S LULLABY	Silhouette Special Edition June 2007
DADDY ON CALL	Silhouette Special Edition April 2007
ROCK-A-BYE RANCHER	Silhouette Special Edition October 2006
THE PERFECT WIFE	Silhouette Special Edition August 2006
CALL ME COWBOY	Silhouette Special Edition March 2006
HIS MOTHER'S WEDDING	Silhouette Special Edition January 2006
A BRIDE FOR A BLUE-RIBBON COWBOY Blossom County Fair Book 1	Silhouette Special Edition July 2005
THE MATCHMAKERS' DADDY Bayside Bachelors Book 4	Silhouette Special Edition June 2005
WORTH FIGHTING FOR Bayside Bachelors Book 3	Silhouette Special Edition May 2005
THEIR UNEXPECTED FAMILY Montana Mavericks: Gold Rush Grooms, Book 4	Silhouette Special Edition April 2005

THEIR SECRET SON
Bayside Bachelors Book 2

Silhouette Special Edition
February 2005

HAILEY'S HERO
Bayside Bachelors Book 1

Silhouette Special Edition
January 2005

THE RICH MAN'S SON
The Parks Empire Series Book 3

Silhouette Special Edition
September 2004

BLUEGRASS BABY
Merlyn County Midwives Book 3

Silhouette Special Edition
March 2004

THE VIRGIN'S MAKEOVER
Logan's Legacy Prequel Book 1

Silhouette Special Edition
February 2004

BIG SKY BABY

Silhouette Special Edition
September 2003

DOUBLE DESTINY
with Crystal Green

Silhouette 2-in-1
July 2003

ALMOST PERFECT

Silhouette Special Edition
May 2003

FAMILY PRACTICE

Silhouette Special Edition
December 2002

COWBOY COURAGE

Silhouette Special Edition
March 2002

Judy Duarte Reviews

MULBERRY PARK

“When six year old Analisa starts writing letters to God, the Almighty takes a very hands-on approach to the trials and troubles of the folks who visit Mulberry Park. The result is a testament to the power of love, forgiveness and generosity. Such a happy book . . . I didn't want it to end.” — Druscilla Campbell, author of *Blood Orange*

“*Mulberry Park* is tender and touching...this novel will stay with you long after you have read the last page.” — Dorothy Garlock, *New York Times* bestselling author

“Judy Duarte brings together a cast of lost and lonely characters and deftly weaves their lives into a story that hooked me from a little girl’s aching honest *Dear God* request until the very last page. A wonderful, heartwarming read!” — Jill Marie Landis, author of *Destination Marriage*

“Inspirational, thought provoking, and heartwarming. *Mulberry Park* is a narrative of epic proportions that is best served up and digested in as few sittings as possible. If readers are anything like me they will not be able to put this one down, and will be intently reading until the very last word on the very last page. A truly moving read, if ever there was one.” — *SimplyRomanceReviews.com*

“An uplifting story about one little girl’s unflinching faith and how she extends an open and loving hand to the broken people around her, bringing them close to each other and back into God’s gentle embrace.” — Cathy Lamb, author of *Julia’s Chocolates*

“In this touching story, Judy Duarte weaves together an amazing cast of characters. Any single story line would have been formulaic, but she seamlessly switches from one perspective to another in such a way that I was never sorry to go, nor to return.”
— *ArmchairInterviews.com*

“Ms. Duarte captured my attention with her persuasive writing and smooth flowing story-line which effectively draws to a most satisfying conclusion, leaving me smiling through my tears. If there is only one book that you read this year, MULBERRY PARK by Judy Duarte must be that book.” — *SingleTitles.com*

“MULBERRY PARK will renew your belief in other people . . .” — *FreshFiction.com*

“The secondary characters hold a special place in my heart because of their poignant tales. Ms. Duarte does a wonderful job grouping an eclectic mix of people into this touching tale. MULBERRY PARK will leave your heart fulfilled with love and hope.”

— *RomanceJunkies.com*

“This narrative is truly the feel-good story of the year and an awakening of spirituality. Judy Duarte of Silhouette Books fame really hits it out of the park with this one. Each story line connects and comes full circle before drawing together neatly at the end. For those who have faith, this strengthens it. For those who question faith, this renews it. And for those without, this may give you a new outlook. Either way, this book proves the notion that it really is a small world after all.” — *CurledUp.com*

“. . . Readers will appreciate this strong character study that affirms people need people.” — Harriet Klausner, Independent Reviewer