

# Don't Chew on the Sharp End of the Pencil

Our writers are:



## Aleisha Coote

Aleisha Coote graduated from Auckland University of Technology, in New Zealand, with a B.A in Public Relations. Fascinated by human behaviour and the power of building successful relationships to achieve desired outcomes, she later furthered her studies to complete a Diploma in Coaching and Training Development and her Master Practitioner training in Neuro-Linguistic Programming. Aleisha now combines her communications background with her knowledge of human behaviour to provide education on building successful relationships in both a personal and professional capacity - and she's putting pen to paper! Aleisha and her husband are avid travellers and are currently based in Edmonton, Alberta. She is a member of the International Coaching Federation and the New

Zealand Society of Authors.



## Natasha Deen

Award-winning author Natasha Deen has written everything from chick lit to fantasy to creative non-fiction, and loves coming up with comedic situations, cool gadgets, and twisted science for her True Grime series. The 2013 Regional Writer in Residence for the Metro Edmonton Library Federation, she enjoys meeting with writers, talking about stories, and laughing at grammar jokes. When not working on her manuscripts, she inhales disgusting amounts of chocolate in her ongoing attempt to convince her body that candyâ€™s a food group and wrestles her furry children for possession of the warm spot on the couch. Visit her at [www.natashadeen.com](http://www.natashadeen.com).



## Christina Friesen

Christina has been president and editor of a romance writing group, a few of her short stories and poems have been published. Her solid goal is to finish her fantasy trilogy, a contemporary, two children's stories, and seek publication for all of them. She is primarily working on the contemporary. It is slow going, as she works on them in between juggling work, children, family, disabilities, (not her own), while often feeling older than she actually is. Writing is in many days a refuge, an outlet and an inexpensive therapy. In 1440 minutes in a day, she usually writes in multiple three-minute intervals. 1440 minutes can be a short amount of time, yet she has found that small moments are usually the ones with the most meaning.



## Hal Friesen

Hal J. Friesen is a scientist, engineer, pilot, writer, breakdancer and underwater hockey player. He wants to put a "Have Space Suit: Will Travel" ad on Kijiji, but until the suit's ready he busies himself with imaginative writing. After growing up in Prince George, Hal tried to resist the pressure to specialize and received a Bachelor of Science with a Joint Major in Chemistry and Physics. He went on to shoot tiny targets with massive lasers and snagged-or was snagged by-a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering.

Now working as an R&D Engineer, Hal spends his working hours making and breaking new concepts and ideas, before going home to unleash his unfettered imagination in the world of creative writing.

He lives in Edmonton with a cello and a gnome painted like Super Mario. You can access his website at [halfriesen.com/](http://halfriesen.com/)



## Stephen H. Garrity

Stephen H Garrity's passion has always been story telling. Having studied film production at Montreal's Concordia University, the approach Steve takes is that every story must make a good film as well as a novel. In essence, every novel he writes is adapted from a mental screenplay. Steve began writing novels in earnest in the 1980s, most notably, completing a three volume time travel epic; *The Wizard Blew His Horn*. After a decade long writing hiatus, Steve rediscovered his passion for writing in the late 1990s.

In 2004, Steve simultaneously wrote two new novels; an action adventure; *The Vanilla Queen* and a romantic whodunit; *Sweet Obsession* which won the Grand Prize winner in the Mount Arrowsmith Novel Writing Contest.

In 2008, Steve decided to do a radical rewrite of the *Wizard Blew His Horn*, including giving it a new name: *A Violation of Causality*. Book I, *A Clash of Ages*, was completed in September 2009. Always working on more than one book, Steve began a science fiction adventure, the *Survivors of Flight 186*, in January 2009. Steve and his Wife moved to Edmonton in 2012. Steve is currently writing Book 3 of the *Violation of Causality* series. Visit Steve's website at: [www.shgarrity.com](http://www.shgarrity.com)



## Howard Gibbins

Howard has been writing relatively consistently since 2000 or so, and has completed the National Novel Writing Month challenge in both 2011 & 2012. His main genres of focus to date have been science fiction & mystery (usually combined), but he has recently begun working on a novel set in today's world. In his non-literary life he works for the University of Alberta, where he also obtained two degrees a BA in Anthropology, and a BEd in Secondary Education. While not working or writing he volunteers in the University of Alberta Palaeontology Lab cleaning dinosaur fossils. You can read his blog at [northern-rambler.blogspot.ca/](http://northern-rambler.blogspot.ca/)



## **Laini Giles**

Laini grew up the daughter of bookworms in the hippie mecca of Austin, Texas during the 1970s. Her mother had a collection of Nancy Drew books. When Laini discovered those, it was all-Nancy-all-the-time until she'd ploughed her way through all of them. This inspired her first book, a Nancy Drew rip-off with hand-drawn illustrations, completed when she was nine. She became a technical writer for her day job, married a Canadian fella, and they moved to Edmonton so she could experience maple-flavoured goodies, serious winters and real beer. She writes sepia-toned historical fiction-- mostly fictionalized biographies that provide a taste of old Hollywood. Visit her at [www.lainigiles.com](http://www.lainigiles.com)



## **Kimberley Grabas**

Kimberley Grabas has written hundreds of humorous short stories about children since 2003. Many relate the ridiculous antics of her own three boys. High praise for her hilarious depictions of the goo and gore of parenting - and her own inner diva - gave Kimberley the confidence to leave behind her responsible position as a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative, and embark on a new career in the lucrative and non-competitive field of "Children's Book Writer".

Kimberley chronicles her effortless journey as a children's book author at [www.KimberleyGrabas.com](http://www.KimberleyGrabas.com) and is the creator and writer at [www.YourWriterPlatform.com](http://www.YourWriterPlatform.com), where she provides fellow writers with the resources, tools and inspiration they need to build their platform and engage their fans. She holds University degrees in both Marketing and Psychology and is a member of the Edmonton Writer's Group.

Kimberley lives in Edmonton, Alberta with her three boys and their new pup, Pax Yoshi. Inspiration for her literary endeavours are endless. When she is not developing articles or working on her latest children's book, Kimberley can be found reading, savouring a cup of tea, or obsessing over the fact that Lego sets should not have left over pieces.



## **Chelsea McKay Hazewinkel**

Chelsea is a writer and lawyer living in Edmonton, Alberta. She's moved far and wide but returned to her roots having missed the glorious sunshine, her family and found little return on investment for her snow shovel while living in Britain and Vancouver. She is passionate about travel, has explored 32 countries at last count and currently enjoys witnessing the power of awe through her infant son's eyes as he encounters ordinary things for the first time. She is head over heels in love with her husband, Mr. Wonderful, before whom she always struggled with writing a captivating "leading man". Chelsea most enjoys reading and writing chick lit as it is a delightful fantasy world where shoes grow on trees and chocolate is calorie

free. She also enjoys blogging about the hysterical turn of events that new motherhood presents. Visit Chelsea at: her blog [SunnySideMommy](http://SunnySideMommy)



### **Lea Kulmatycki**

M.L. Preest has been in love with writing for as long as she can remember. And it doesn't matter what she writes, as long as she's writing. Her work is varied, spanning academic writing to poetry to a senior's advice column in a local newspaper. Currently, M. L. is focused on producing teaching materials for elementary school students. She is also completing her first children's chapter book. Her passion for writing is motivated by the delight of writing for that one special person - the reader.



### **Melodie LeClerc**

Melodie Leclerc was born and raised in Langruth, MB. She graduated from the U of A with a BA in English before teaching English in South Korea for two years. Her life got fuller when she met her husband and had two children - her son passed away but her daughter continues to bring joy into her life. She currently lives in Edmonton, AB writing whenever she gets a chance. You can catch up with her on her [livejournal®](#) or on [facebook®](#)



### **Simon MacKintosh**

Simon MacKintosh was born near Scotland in 1951. He graduated from Edinburgh University in 1974 and started on a career trying to bend computer software to his will. He came to Canada in 1982 and now lives in Edmonton with his wife and three children. He joined the Edmonton Writers Group in 2010 and is currently working on a science fiction novel. His speculations can be read at [simonm.blogspot.ca](http://simonm.blogspot.ca)



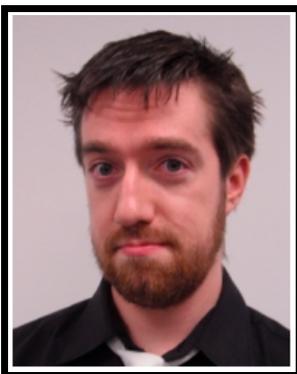
### **Maura Mulcair**

Ever since she was a little girl, Maura has been daydreaming about dramatically saving other people's lives. Ever since 2012, she's decided to write about it. Maura once got 92% nerd on an online nerd, geek or dork test, which surprised absolutely no one. She can often be found teaching science to children at the Telus World of Science Edmonton. She's brand new to the writing world, but with a NaNoWriMo win under her belt, she can't wait to see what comes next. You can find some of her daily musings at [www.mauramulcair.com](http://www.mauramulcair.com)



### **Barb O'Brien**

Barb has been writing for many years but recently found "Freedom 55" after years working in the health care field. She doesn't think of herself as having retired but "redirected" into more of the activities that she enjoys, such as writing. Her writing activities currently involve membership in the Edmonton Writer's Group and Writers Guild Of Alberta, and volunteering at Edmonton's Lit Festival. She has had articles published in Gilbert's Royal Digest, Synchronicity Magazine, and Today's Parent and is currently working on a travel article about Boston/Cape Cod.



### **Brad Oates**

Brad OH Inc. is a thought conglomerate consisting primarily of Brad OH, who is based out of Edmonton, AB. Brad OH has a background in psychology, with a philosophy minor. Brad OH Inc. writes with the intention of entertaining, while drawing attention to a variety of social and interpersonal quandaries. The Brad OH Inc. blog can be found here (<http://bradohinc.wordpress.com/>), and includes both posts and short stories, and will ultimately be used for sneak peeks of chapters of the Brad OH Inc. debut novel, "Man Wakes Up". You can read his blog at [bradohinc.wordpress.com](http://bradohinc.wordpress.com)



## **Karen Probert**

A snapshot catches but a momentary glimpse into the life of its subject even though time moves on. 'Fragments of Lives', by Karen Probert, compiles a collection of written snapshots allowing you to share a jagged moment of time with nineteen fictional characters. This lively read takes us through various situations while we experience lives and choices and outcomes. To order 'Fragments of Lives' visit [www.dreamwritepublishing.ca](http://www.dreamwritepublishing.ca) - the author will provide a signed copy on request. Karen has been writing for many years and has been published in magazines and journals on topics ranging from antiques to her grandfather's mountain climbing adventures to occasional poetry but mostly short, fictional stories. 'Fragments of Lives' is her first published book but she is

working on a second.



## **Marie Reed**

Marie grew up on a farm near Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, and has to admit was always a bit of a dreamer.

She had all of these creative ideas rattling around in her head, longing to be heard. But, as a child, she was painfully shy. If you knew her today, you would laugh at this statement, because she has since grown out of the shy little farm girl who once occupied the same body.

It all began when she was inspired by her grade four teacher. The teacher had posted a story and poem of her's on two large, yellow stars in the classroom. With this, she earned the honourable status of "Star for the Week". Marie beamed with pride! It sounded a bit strange, but this gesture

ignited her passion to write.

In 1990, Marie obtained a Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Alberta and has spent the better part of twenty years teaching in the classroom. As an emerging author, she is thrilled to fulfill the second part of a little farm girl's dream and will release her first novel in 2013.



## **C-Anne Roberts**

C-Anne Robertson's writing has focused on family, education and community. Her work conveys gleanings from experience as a daughter, mother, educator, businesswoman and that elusive occupation of finding out who you really are while wearing all the other hats.



## **Alicia Robinson**

Alicia Merlyn is a long-term closet writer and an out of the closet mother to three teenagers. She has a degree in microbiology and lives in a menagerie of cats, dogs, fish, amphibians and reptiles thanks to her entire animal-mad family. She believes that life is a mixture of the practical, the faithful and the whimsical and that good stories have a life of their own.