

Single Mum signs five book deal and is on track to literary stardom

Submitted by: Authentic Media (Carlisle)

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Out of regular work, a single parent and still living with her parents, 30 year old Claire Connor cannot believe how the last year has changed her life. International publishers, Authentic Media, have signed her to a prestigious five book deal and film companies are interested in the rights to her first book, 'Rosie - Note to Self'.

Claire wrote her first novel aged 8. Her great grandfather's amusement nearly also rendered it her last. Fortunately, much like her heroines, she persevered. Raised in Scarborough, Claire is second-born of five in a family, full of teachers. Relishing the anonymity that having many siblings afforded her, she spent years lost in books, peopled with attractive but sensible heroines - useful in a crisis and in possession of a fine head of curly hair. She dreamed of being Enid Blyton, not least so that she could make herself the heroine, whatever the straightness of her hair...

However, in families full of teachers people simply don't become authors so she consigned her writing to an annoying itch to be scratched periodically, and got on with other things, developing a strong flair for the trombone and a distinctly un-sensible obsession with high-heeled shoes.

Following education, Claire worked for a Birmingham charity in the basement of an Irish Presbytery. Despite providing some great anecdotal material involving disasters with shopping trolleys, this was still nowhere near her childhood dream of Blyton-dom, or rather now, Austen-dom. Her next move, to Lay Chaplain for King's Medical School in London, appears similarly unrelated.

However, this exposed her to some new experiences and introduced some urban grit into her previously bucolic existence. It also taught her the prudence of keeping gin on hand.

On discovering her pregnancy and envisaging Underground/buggy catastrophes, Claire moved back to Scarborough, setting up home at the top of her parents' high house to raise her daughter alone.

With her writing dream still as nebulous as the clouds outside her window and a very real need for money, Claire retrained as a holistic therapist, writing the odd short story from time to time and never getting published.

After a chance meeting, she was encouraged to go for an admin job for New York Times Best Selling author, GP Taylor. Claire plucked up the courage to ask GP to look at some stories she was submitting to a Chic Lit competition. He happened to be in want of a co-author as well as a P.A., loved her stories and gave Claire both jobs. Their co-authorship has resulted in 'The Lipstick Confessions', a series of five contemporary stories of romance and intrigue set in London, New York, Northumbria and Oxford.

The first in this saga – 'Rosie Note to Self' is due for release in September 2009. Claire still lives in the garret with her five-year-old daughter. (Mr Darcy, they are sure, is coming to complete the happy ending. With kiddie saddle too, obviously.)

More generally, Claire loves canal boats, coconut rum, theatre and live music (but only when you can sit

down). She has a pathological fear of balloons, and is always hopelessly late. At the last count her shoe collection numbered 43 – only three pairs of which are flat - and she still plays trombone.

Ends

Editor's Notes:

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