

Sara Stamey

Biography

Sara Stamey's journeys include treasure hunting and teaching scuba in the Caribbean; backpacking Greece, New Zealand, and Andean countries; operating a nuclear reactor; and owning a farm in Southern Chile. Now returned to her native Pacific Northwest, she taught creative writing at Western Washington University. A lifelong outdoors enthusiast and ardent supporter of environmental causes, Sara enjoys hiking and snowshoeing in the nearby Cascades mountains, swimming and snorkeling, cycling, and gardening. She shares her creekside land with wild creatures – including a resident barred owl she named “Owlivia” -- and her cat, dog, and paleontologist husband Thor Hansen. She is eternally grateful to Thor for helping with science research and for being her hero-husband and “muscle” on their travels. They look forward to an upcoming return trip to Greece and many more travels as they collect “life” and research for her novels.

Sara confesses that she used to drive her family crazy on long car trips by making up stories or recounting endless details of her vivid dreams. She wrote her first fantasy story – illustrated – at age 7, and when she played the card game “Authors” with her grandma Sara, she decided that she would be an author, too. She published her first novel in her twenties, *WILD CARD RUN*, which she wrote while finishing her bachelor's degree at Western Washington University. She would later receive her M.A. from WWU, and after many more travels and overseas sojourns, she taught at WWU for 15 years.

Sara's science fiction novels with Berkley/Ace made the Locus Best New Novelists list, and Publishers Weekly wrote, “Stamey puts feeling into this tale of the prodigal daughter.” The Statesman Journal calls her award-winning *ISLANDS* “a superior mystery and suspense novel... a stomping, vivid ride.” Her near-future Greek islands thriller *THE ARIADNE CONNECTION* received the Cygnus Award for speculative fiction and the Chanticleer Global Thriller Grand Prize: “A rocket-paced thrill ride that delivers complex, engaging characters in a laser-sharp plot.”

Her novel *PAUSE* won First Place for Women's Fiction in the Somerset Awards. “Stamey's lovely, inspiring, often funny novel... will touch the hearts of readers... Stamey's achievement is the realistic, down-to-earth, eminently relatable Lindsey and all she offers contemporary readers.” Publishers Weekly Booklife Review

Sara wrote an early draft of ISLANDS when she was living in the Caribbean, working as a scuba instructor and guide. Her main character Susan Dunne, a fish-out-of-water archaeologist from the Pacific Northwest, drew from Sara's own culture shock, moving from a cool, laid-back clime to the hot, revved-up pace of a St. Thomas tourist island. The novel sprang from her experiences in the Virgin Islands and research in colonial archives there, and also involved petroglyph treks in the Pacific Northwest and Caribbean.

She originally wrote ISLANDS as a stand-alone novel. "Susan" and other characters insist there is more to tell, so Sara has started a sequel set in Belize and Guatemala, where she has also spent time.

THE ARIADNE CONNECTION inspiration goes way back to her childhood fascination and reading of Greek mythology, when she determined to go there some day. In her twenties, Sara went on a 4-month backpacking journey around the Greek mainland and islands, and was viscerally drawn to the rugged south coast of Crete. Camping on the site of an ancient Minoan seaside settlement, she had a vision of the labyrinth and vanished people. The seed for the novel was planted then, a near-future tale drawing on Minoan culture, beliefs, and history in contrast with a high-tech world. She's now in progress on the sequel, THE ARIADNE DISCONNECT.

Sara's latest novel, PAUSE, takes a turn into Women's Fiction, returning in its setting to her native Pacific Northwest. "Stamey's lovely, inspiring, often funny novel... will touch the hearts of readers." (Publishers Weekly Booklife Reviews)"

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