

SARA RAMSEY

"I tried to hide my Anglophilia in an effort to fit in," award-winning Regency romance novelist Sara Ramsey says of her growing up years in rural Iowa. "But I drank a lot of hot black tea with sugar when everyone around me was drinking Mountain Dew, and I liked to dress up." Having first obsessed over Frances Hodgson Burnett's The Secret Garden, set in England at the turn-of-the-century, Sara succumbed completely upon reading Johanna Lindsey's Regency historical novels. Now, not only had she fallen for England, she'd discovered a time period with history, manners, fashion and mores she couldn't get enough of. Sara Ramsey was home. She was thirteen.

It's not surprising that when Sara decided to write, she followed her heart back in time to Regency England. It may have been unexpected, however, when this Google marketing alumna with a degree from Stanford University in Symbolic Systems left her Silicon Valley job to do so.

Sara's first complete manuscript earned her the prestigious Golden Heart Award in the Regency category from the Romance Writers of America. The award promotes excellence in the genre by recognizing outstanding and as yet unpublished romance novels, and receives approximately 1200 submissions per year in twelve categories. Just two years later, her second novel was one of five finalists for that same award.

Such honors have been known to be a ticket to the fast lane and, indeed, Sara received numerous offers for representation, partnered with an accomplished agent, and soon the books were submitted to several publishers. Fate intervened in the form of the e-publishing revolution and, faced with traditional publishers reducing the number of new authors and titles they were acquiring, Sara changed direction and planned her first novels as e-book originals. Now with new titles, they are **HEIRESS WITHOUT A CAUSE*** and **SCOTSMEN PREFER BLONDES**, ** the first of four *Muses of Mayfair* novels she has planned.

"I feel as if I'm in a good position to experiment with self-publishing and see if it will work for me," says Sara. "It's certainly better than letting my books languish. And I would rather publish my books with passion than be a small, unnoticed debut title from a large house."

HEIRESS WITHOUT A CAUSE has just been published. Selected as a Nook First title by BarnesandNoble.com, it is being marketed exclusively on the Nook for the first month. It launches on all other major e-book platforms and via print on demand on February 24.

SCOTSMEN PREFER BLONDES will be published shortly after. It has a tentative March 2012 publication date. She is currently at work on her third *Muses of Mayfair* novel, **THE MARQUESS WHO LOVED ME**.

Sara continues to be intrigued by England. "Every time period in English history holds some interest for me, whether it's the drama of the Tudor court, the grit and noise of the Industrial Revolution, or the fierce resistance of wartime Britain," she says. Coincidentally, her family has a connection to the nation's history. She had an ancestor at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, William de Warenne, the first Earl of Surrey, who fought alongside William the Conqueror.

She admits to getting caught up in the glamour of the upper classes when she reads Regency set romance novels. "I can't resist the beautiful houses, servants, dresses and leisure." She stresses, though, that her fascination with England and the time period stems

more from "how a country that was often on the forefront of human rights and liberty still had an incredibly hierarchical society that didn't allow for advancement."

Sara and her family lived in Bila Tserkva, Ukraine for a year when she was a child. Her father had a job with an agricultural nonprofit. They were the first westerners to visit the town in seventy years. She recalls their adventure saying "it was pretty crazy, going from a tiny town where everyone knew each other to living in a Soviet-style apartment building in a large city." Following graduation from Stanford, she remained in and around San Francisco except for the six months she lived in Hyderabad, India and three months in Dublin. ("Two countries that have obviously had a very complex relationship with Britain.")

Her move to California came upon her acceptance to Stanford, the school she considered her best match, one reason being that its "laid back" community would make for a better transition from her small home town. After graduation, she worked at Google in communications and advertising for seven years before electing to write full time. "Working at Google was amazing," she says. "The only reason I left was so I could wholeheartedly pursue my writing career."

Now, with two books written and one in progress, award recognition, and terrific response from early reads, Sara hopes she's about to achieve her goal—"getting my books in the hands of the most readers at a compensation level that can fund my shoe budget."

*then titled **One Night to Scandal** **then titled **An Inconvenient Marriage**

HEIRESS WITHOUT A CAUSE, *Muses of Mayfair*

Sara Ramsey

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www.sararamsey.com

Golden Heart Award Finalist **HEIRESS WITHOUT A CAUSE** is a Nook First title available exclusively on the Nook until February 24 when it launches on all other major e-book platforms. The buy the Nook book link is <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/?usri=sara+ramsey>

Review copies available via NetGalley.

<http://www.netgalley.com/index2.php?module=catalog&page=1&genre=24&sdir=2&sflid=1&type=1&txt=Sara+Ramsey>

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