



Colleen M. Story

Imaginative fiction inspiring you to believe.

Colleen M. Story is a northwestern writer of imaginative fiction as well as a freelance writer and editor. Her novels, while still in progress, were recognized in a number of national literary contests, including first place novel in the 2011 Arizona Authors Literary Contest.

Her short stories and poems have been published in *Chicken Soup for the Expectant Mother's Soul*, *Country Extra*, *Nostalgia*, and more, but she has focused mostly on novels, with 2014 being her breakout year.

Colleen has over 15 years experience as a freelance writer, specializing in health and wellness, preventative care, and alternative treatments. She researches, writes, and edits books, ebooks, magazine articles, research papers and more for clients like Gerber Baby Products, Kellogg's, Healthline, and Renegade Health. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education and has over twenty-five years experience as a private music teacher, as well as over 15 years experience playing French horn in two community symphony orchestras.

After graduating from college and moving from Colorado to Idaho, Colleen spent time as a preschool and kindergarten teacher and an activities director for the Alzheimer's unit of a nursing home before taking a full-time corporate position as a copywriter. After three years, she was promoted to managing editor, but wanted more flexibility for her own writing, so she struck out on her own as a freelance writer. Running her own business meant long hours at the computer, but she continued to make time to attend writer's conferences, study other authors, read writing books, and work to perfect her storytelling skills.

Colleen writes speculative and literary fiction. Her fantasy novel, *Rise of the Sidenah* (under the pen name C. Shay Ryander), is forthcoming in early 2015 from Jupiter Gardens Press. Her literary novel, *Loreena's Gift*, has been recognized in three national literary contests, and is forthcoming in Spring 2016 from Dzanc Books.

Colleen maintains a robust informational blog on all things Writing and Wellness (www.writingandwellness.com), covering topics like staying healthy while writing, finding your own voice, developing the imagination, and the value of persistence when the going gets tough. The blog regularly features other authors talking about how they meet both the physical and emotional challenges of the writer's life.

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