

AUTHOR BIO

SHORT BIO

Clarissa J. Markiewicz is a novelist who hails from Western New York. After earning her degree in English Lit and working in print media, she became a freelance literary editor of more than 200 titles. Her writing has appeared in *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Buffalo News*, and *Art Times*, and has been commended by Scholastic and *Rolling Stone*. Clarissa's debut novel, the heartwarming *Christmas In Whimsy*, was awarded the 5-star Seal by Readers' Favorite; and her second book, a mystery for gamers & geeks called *The Paramour Pawn*, begins a journey into the mystical world of Eleanor Shore: Fairy Godmother.

FULL BIO

Clarissa J. Markiewicz's writing career officially began in 1994, when at fifteen years old she won grand prize in the Scholastic, Inc./Jackson Browne "Write Lyrics" contest. This award gained local and national media attention, featuring coverage in *Rolling Stone* and publication of Clarissa's writing in *U.S. News & World Report*. She went on to earn her BA in English from The Ohio State University, where she was nominated by faculty for the prestigious Joseph V. Denney Award in English studies.

Working in marketing, administrative, and community relations capacities with companies such as Coca-Cola Enterprises, Clarissa created promotions, served as copywriter and editor, and developed web- and print-based publications. She enjoyed stints as a singer and actress, appearing at Bowery Poetry Club and as a guest vocalist on the albums *Serve with Straw* (Diane Taber and Sunspots) and *More Than One Ingredient* (Diane Taber), and even working as a karaoke host; but her heart always belonged to creative writing.

Her creative nonfiction, short fiction, and articles were published in *The Buffalo News* and *Art Times*. She continued her postgraduate education in creative writing at Harvard University, studying under Pulitzer-winning author Paul Harding. Shortly thereafter, she became a full-time freelance literary editor, ultimately working with dozens of authors on more than 200 published titles, before penning her first published novel, *Christmas In Whimsy*, and publishing her fictional blog, *Sketches from the Café Confictura*.

Clarissa is a proud member of the National Writers Union, and she volunteers as chair of the marketing committee for Rochester Women's Network. She writes about her obsession with entertaining books, movies, and TV in her blog *Pollyanna's Library*; and on any given weekend she can be found spending time with her family, discussing all things geeky with friends, or cheering on her favorite sports teams. (Go Bills, Sabres, Yankees, & Buckeyes!)

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