



Biography for Kathleen H. Wheeler

Kathleen H. Wheeler met her true love in 1971 at the age of five.

She was introduced to the universal language of sound, silence, pitch, rhythm and dynamics by her music teacher Mrs. Kinsey in kindergarten. Progressing from “Chopsticks” to scales to Beethoven to contemporary tunes on the keyboards, she was delighted when lyrics were added to the musical equation.

Her infatuation with words sparked an obsession to read, and before long she shunned friends in favor of Nancy Drew mysteries and the *Little House on the Prairie* series. If she wasn’t playing percussion in the middle school band or copying “Hopelessly Devoted to You” lyrics with curlicue script in her diary, she escaped to happily-ever-after endings in books while her family shattered during the 1970s divorce boom.

She was hooked on the emotional pull of words and music.

In high school during the early eighties, Wheeler pumped up the volume on her Police records and blazed through bestsellers like *Flowers in the Attic*. Penning pathetic pop songs and poetry, she dreamed of becoming the next Pat Benatar and cut her hair in adoration. The short hairstyle proved as unflattering as her singing voice, and Wheeler was forced to seek a more suitable creative outlet and grow out her layers. She attended the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign to pursue a career in communications with hopes of writing for a living.

In 1988 Wheeler discovered that coveted copywriter positions were out of reach for college grads lacking real-world experience. She took off instead on the media track after acing a mandatory math test and mastered gross rating points, reach, and frequency as a broadcast buyer for a national media placement firm headquartered in St. Louis.

Moving back to her hometown of Springfield, Illinois in the early nineties, she expanded her marketing skill set as a media director and corporate communicator over the next twenty years. Traveling a path from small advertising agencies to large marketing departments, she improved her craft along the way with each and every writing project: taglines, print ads, TV and radio scripts, news releases, brochures, blog articles, social media status updates, website content, case studies, and more.

Wheeler’s work has been featured in *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, newspaper, trade, and academic publications. After two decades wordsmithing for business, Wheeler tackled the ultimate writing challenge with a story about the importance of family and forgiveness inspired by her mother and her favorite songwriter. Seven years



and four drafts later, her debut novel *Brought To Our Senses* was the result of her passion and perseverance. The book was named a 2017 finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards for First Novel.

Faithful to her first love, award-winning author Wheeler writes stories that sing because she cannot. She is a music enthusiast and lifelong fan of a British musician known by a one-syllable nickname. Along with her husband and two children, she calls the Land of Lincoln home. Learn more and subscribe to her mailing list for updates at AuthorKathleenHWheeler.com/subscribe.

Five Fun Facts You Didn't Know About Me:

1. My belly laugh sounds like the Wicked Witch of the East.
2. Colleagues insist I bear a striking resemblance to Little Debbie of snack cake fame.
3. While music brings me the utmost joy, my singing brings others the utmost agony.
4. Despite being in an accident on the Screamin' Eagle as a child, I love the thrill of roller coaster rides.
5. Every year to celebrate my birthday I either read or watch *Pride and Prejudice*.