

Biography of Barbara Colley

Barbara Colley is an award-winning, best-selling author whose books have been published in over seventeen foreign languages.

A native of Louisiana, Barbara has lived there all of her life. She was born in the town of Ringgold and grew up in Minden where she worked on her high school newspaper staff, and later, on the staff of the *Minden Press and Herald*. At that time though, she never really dreamed of becoming a writer. In fact, she attended Louisiana Tech University and Nicholls State University as a music education major. Her dream then was to become a band director. Instead, she fell in love, married, and moved with her husband, David, to a small suburb of New Orleans. Over thirty years later, three children, and six precious grandchildren, Barbara and her husband still live there.

"I truly love living near New Orleans," Barbara says. "With its Creole French and Spanish influence, it's such a unique and interesting city. Strolling through the historical French Quarter or through the lush Garden District is one of my favorite things to do. The city is well over 200 years old, but each time that I visit, I find something new and fascinating."

So how did Barbara get started writing? "A lot of people ask me that question," she says. "And the answer is both simple and complex. Simply, I was trying to be a good, conscientious mother. More complex, I've always loved to read, and according to my mother, I've always possessed a healthy dose of imagination as well as the belief that I could do anything I wanted to do if I set my mind to it. When my oldest daughter was a young teenager, Harlequin Presents began arriving through the mail. Without my knowledge, my daughter had subscribed to the Harlequin Book Club. I decided I should read a few to make sure they were suitable for someone her age. I deemed that they were suitable, but a funny thing happened. The more I read, the more I wanted to read. Then I came to a point when I began to believe that I could write one of those."

Barbara says that, "Believing I could write a book was half the battle. Actually writing one and getting published was the other half. Well, I did write one, then I wrote another one, then another, and I'm still writing over twenty years later.

I've worked at many jobs over the years, including being a line dispatcher in an Army ammunition facility, editing the classified section for a newspaper, and serving as the secretary for a country club. The

best job I've ever had though, is being able to share my stories, whether they're romances or mysteries, with thousands of wonderful readers all over the world as a published author."

As a published author, Barbara has won several writing awards. For *Maid for Murder*, her first Charlotte LaRue mystery, she was nominated by *Romantic Times BookClub Magazine* for the 2003 Reviewer's Choice Award for Best First Mystery. She won 2nd Place for her unpublished novel, *Beginnings*, in the Mainstream Category for the 2000 PASIC Book of Your Heart Contest. She also received the 1996 Distinguished Artist Award (in honor of outstanding contributions to the literary arts in Louisiana). Writing under her pseudonym Anne Logan, her romantic suspense, *Gulf Breezes*, won the 1992 Oklahoma Romance Writers of America National Reader's Choice Award. *Gulf Breezes* also garnered the 1992 Romance Writers of America Published Author Network ARTemis Award for its outstanding cover art.

Barbara's most recent novels are her sixth Charlotte LaRue mystery, *SCRUB-A-DUB DEAD*, available in hardcover in January 2007, and *RACHEL'S WAR*, a sweeping saga of three generations of women bound by secrets, from Harlequin Reader's Choice, also available in January 2007.