

### ROLYNN ANDERSON'S BIO:

Scandinavian, Army Brat, Wife, English Teacher, High School Principal, Golfer, Boater, World Traveler, Author. Now add a competitive nature and a love for 'makeovers.' As a principal, Rolynn Anderson and the staff she hired, opened a cutting-edge high school; as co-captain with her husband on INTREPID, she cruised from Washington State to Alaska and back. As a writer, she delights in creating imperfect characters faced with extraordinary, transforming challenges. Her hope: You'll devour her 'makeover' suspense novels in the wee hours of the morning, because her stories, settings and characters, capture your imagination *and* your heart.

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### Anderson

#### Questions from readers and colleagues:

**Your genre?** I write suspense/mystery, spiked with romance...in stunning settings. On a heat spectrum of 1-5, I'd say I am a 2. I have a three-book Funeral Planner Sleuths series: FADEOUT, SWOON and FAINT; my stand-alones are: LAST RESORT, LIE CATCHERS, FEAR LAND, BAD LIES, CÉZANNE'S GHOST, and FIRE IS NICE. My newest three-book series: Woman at the Helm Series: WHEN MOUNTAINS FALL, WHEN OCEANS RAGE, WHEN WINDS HOWL.

#### How did you select your genre? What about it intrigues you and readers?

I am more skilled at creating twists and turns in mystery/suspense plots than I am with describing the intricacies of relationships, so instead of writing straight-up contemporary romance, I write mystery/suspense spiked with romance. I get to deal equally with confounding events (caused by villains) as well as chaotic/mysterious relationships. A two-fer!

#### What themes run through your books?

Oh, what I put my characters through! These are flawed women and men teetering on precipices, suddenly challenged to fight for themselves and the people they love. Likely, one person's dead and others are threatened. Mysteries have to be solved and criminals collared, but in my small communities, it falls on regular folk to do the sleuthing. And because the situation demands intense collaboration, love and danger intensify. Naturally, because my characters have weaknesses and are new to detective work, they make mistakes. Still, by working together, strengthened by their love for each other, they persevere...and are transformed.

### How would you describe your writing process?

I do not use a linear process, in fact, I don't outline or plan very much of the story ahead of time. I'm called a 'pantser,' or a 'seat of the pants' writer. Not a linear process, for sure. I like to be surprised every morning when I get up to write. I never know where my writing will take me each day...and I love that feeling!

As I develop the plot that challenges my hero/heroine, I grab new characters off the 'shelf,' adding to the complexity of the plot. I like to surprise the reader and challenge myself as a writer with "out of the box" tactics. In LIE CATCHERS, for instance, I found out that Petersburg, Alaska, was burdened with a 1932 unsolved homicide. What's more, the man murdered was an important Chinese man...in a Norwegian town. That caught my interest. I wondered if I could solve an old crime and a new one, comparing the way crimes were handled in 1932 to how we work them today...and somehow tie in both crimes. The challenge was too delicious to pass up!

I may not know how my book is going to end before I'm 85% into the book. I like surprise endings, so I tend to work to the denouement and surprise myself with a turnabout climax. One thing I do know about the ending of a stand-alone novel...the hero/heroine are stretched, learn and grow, finding that together, their skills, love, and verve are unbeatable.

### What are your best marketing tips? What didn't work out for you?

Never sit down at a book sale. Engage readers with an intriguing giveaway. Choose locations for your book sale that match the subject matter for your book. Example: I had my sale for BAD LIES (about a late-bloomer pro golfer) at a local golf pro shop! I haven't had much success at offering my books for free; instead, the cost to the reader is \$2.99- \$4.99. Amazing professionally-done covers that fit your genre are essential.

### If you could have a supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Simple. I would possess one or two tactics guaranteed to get my books in the hands of LOTS of readers. Then I suppose I'd make millions by writing a book about those two tactics 😊

**Short Answers:**

Item on my bucket list: Play Pebble Beach Golf Course

Indulgence: Pedicure and manicure

Favorite movie: Last of the Mohicans

Favorite Authors in my genre: Suzanne Brockmann, Linda Howard

Favorite accessory- matching jewelry