



WENDY
SAUNDERS

Author

Who is Wendy Saunders?

I live in Hampshire, England with my husband and three children. I originally trained as a hairdresser but spent the last twelve years as a full time carer for my grandmother. I've always loved writing and have written fiction for years. When my Nana passed away earlier this year I realised I needed a fresh start, something new to focus on. The perfect solution was to finally allow myself to pursue my dream of a full time writing career.

When I first started out writing properly for my own amusement, I was about seventeen years old. I knew I wanted to write but at that age I had no idea what to write! So I started in the genre I was most familiar with which happened to be fantasy. Being an avid reader as a teen and a big fan of David Eddings I decided to try my luck at writing a big high fantasy adventure. I've always loved magic and a good vs. Evil kind of theme so away I went. When I look back now I cringe at some of the earliest stuff I wrote, seriously it needs to be burned; it should never ever be allowed to see the light of day. Bad... is a huge understatement.

My descriptions were long winded, the plot so transparent it could have been made from cling film and as for my characters you could almost see the cardboard outline. I knew it was bad when I kept forgetting which character I was writing as; several of them had exactly the same personality. Not only that, they had such weird complicated names I kept forgetting how to spell them. Needless to say after a few years of really bad writing I finally figured out, it really wasn't the genre for me. After all my character didn't want to ride a horse all the time, he was tired of all the epic sword fights what if he just wanted to shoot someone? And what happens when he wants a slice of pizza and a cold beer instead of broth and a tankard of hearty ale? Nope, definitely needed to hop forwards into the present day. Unfortunately that also ruled out historical fiction as well.

I tried romance and chick lit, but it was boring I was back to the same huge dilemma, I loved my magic I just didn't want it wearing breeches and a cloak and riding a horse. It was around this time my sister introduced me to a new author I hadn't read before and it was like a light bulb going on in my head. This author wrote in the present day but wove magic through her books so subtly you didn't question it at all. She wrote about Witches, spirits, demons, Celtic gods and goddesses and even fairy princes. A fairy prince? Really? Yeah I know I hear you, I was dubious too but I found myself immediately caught up in her books and I couldn't put them down. She wrote so effortlessly it was completely believable and I thought to myself this is what I want to write. I'm not going to label myself with one genre, to hell with it I'm going to write what makes me happy and that is stories set in the present day with

various supernatural themes. Not the obvious Vampires and werewolves, I avoid them like the plague, that's not to say I haven't enjoyed a good vampire novel, I happen to have really enjoyed Charlaine Harris and Deborah Harkness but it's been done to death. So anyway, off I went happily writing my little supernatural stories, honing my skills and learning how to make believable and engaging characters. I found I needed time to grow up, I needed the life experience to be able to write stories I was actually proud of. I needed to find my own writers voice.

Then when Nana passed away, I was just sad and lost, aside from my children she'd been every minute of every day for me and I just didn't know what to do with myself. So I sat down and escaped into one of my stories. I converted her bedroom in my house into a study and kept her chair. So I'd spend days in there writing and what came out of that room was my debut novel and a new sense of purpose. It was time to start something new. I can almost feel her standing behind me with her hand on my shoulder when I write and I know it's the right time. So here we are, from an ending to a beginning and I can't wait for the ride, I bet it's going to be a wild one.

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Sample Interview Questions

How did you find yourself writing a book? What's the story behind your career?

I've always loved writing; one of my earliest memories of writing is winning the storytelling competition in my first year of secondary school when I was just 11 years old. I've written on and off for years, knowing one day I'd actually get around to writing a book of my own.

Do you describe yourself as an author?

I do now, the first few times it felt really strange when people ask what you do and you say I'm an author. I guess it got easier when family and friends started referring to me as an author, it felt real and I started thinking of myself as a serious writer.

What do you think of the writing world? Are you happy being part of it?

I love the writing world, I've never felt so content, now I've got my foot in the door I'm never leaving.

What makes you an interesting author?

Because I like complicated long term story arc's with subtle clues and hints, I like to let the reader make up their own minds and figure stuff out for themselves rather than being too blatant about it. I don't like obvious plots, I love big plot twists and OMG! moments.

How much time do you spend writing?

Every spare minute I have, if I'm not actually sitting down writing, I'm thinking about writing or running through plots and character arcs. That's probably why I have insomnia my brain never seems to switch off.

Do you have a set writing schedule?

Not really, I try to write during the day but my brain prefers it when I write in the evenings so I just end up writing at varying times.

What has been the biggest thrill of your writing career so far?

Holding my first paperback novel in my hands, there is nothing like it.

If you could work with any author who would it be?

It would have been David Eddings without a doubt, I would have loved to do a crossover of his fantasy world and the present day but sadly he passed away a couple of years ago. I think now I'd enjoy working with Deborah Harkness but then again I'm quite stubborn I don't know how well I'd play with others, one of the things I've always loved about writing was the solitariness of it. But you know what, never say never.

What projects are you working on at present?

I'm working on my first series, which begins with my debut novel Mercy. It's a bit of a long term, labour of love kind of project as this series will be made up of five books but I'm intending there to be five series in total each series made up of five books so ultimately the story will span twenty five books. It is set in present day but full of magic, murder, romance, mystery, suspense and the supernatural.

I also have a little book which I scribble every random thought that pops into my head, so there are plenty of ideas for other stories which should keep me going for years.

In addition the Guardians series, I'm working on another smaller trilogy called The Tangled Web, which I shall release at some point and I've always loved the idea of the Three Fates from Greek mythology so I'd quite like to write a story with them set in the present day.

Highlighted reviews

Most Helpful Customer Reviews

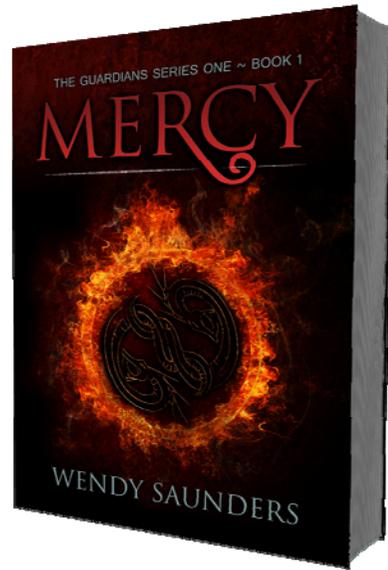
“What an amazing read this book is. From the moment I started reading I was hooked and could not put the book down and ordinarily that would be fine but I've been a walking zombie at work this week due to lack of sleep but IT WAS WORTH IT. What surprised me the most is how quickly you become immersed into the story and how the characters are so well written and believable that you feel everything they do. I can't wait for the next book!!!!!!”

“Couldn't put it down. It draws you in and keeps up the pace to the explosive finale. It also makes you care about the characters who are believable and human. This is a book you will want to read and recommend to your friends. Ideal Xmas gift and well worth the purchase”

“Fantastic read!! Starts with a cracker and keeps it rolling perfectly all the way through, you know you need to put down the book to sleep but you have to know what happens next!! Can't wait for the next instalment”

“Absolutely love this book. The story line was brilliant, great mixture of action, magic, murder and romance. The characters were very likeable, Can't wait to read the next book. Would definitely recommend it.”

Book List



Mercy (Guardians Series 1: Book 1)

Mercy is a sleepy little town in Massachusetts, founded by the survivors of the Salem witch trials according to the locals. Olivia West hasn't set foot in Mercy since the night her father murdered her mother but when she finds she has unexpectedly inherited a house by the lake she has no choice. The closer she gets to town the more she can feel a strange pull, calling to her blood...someone or something wants her to come home.

When the bodies of missing residents are discovered in the woods near her house, it becomes clear there is a killer on the loose who seems to have taken an unhealthy interest in Olivia. What is even more disturbing is that each victim is marked with some kind of supernatural brand. To make matters worse it appears that the murders are almost identical to a spate of killings twenty years earlier which mysteriously stopped after her father's arrest.

Theodore Beckett is a young witch finder from seventeenth century Salem who finds himself pulled abruptly through time by a mysterious stranger and dropped in the middle of Mercy. Suddenly thrown together into a world of murder and magic, Olivia and Theo must stop a murderer and uncover her family's oldest and darkest secret to prevent a demon from rising...and time is running out.