



# MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR

## Jan Burns

### **Fiction:**

Rope Burn, Albert Whitman & Company, 2012

Self-Published Fiction:

The Time Chamber, CreateSpace, 2010

### **Nonfiction Books:**

Shigeru Miyamoto: Nintendo Game Designer, Kidhaven Press, 2006  
Fairies, Kidhaven Press, 2007

Kidnapping - Crime Scene Investigations, Lucent, 2007

UFO's, Kidhaven, 2008

Crop Circles, Kidhaven Press, 2008  
Friendship: A How-to Guide, Enslow Publishing Inc., 2011

### **Magazines and Other:**

Dozens of articles in

Highlights for Children, Boys' Life, Boys' Quest, Christian Science Monitor, Ladies' Home Journal, the San Francisco Examiner, the Houston Chronicle, Faces, and Highways, among others.

Jan Burns has loved reading her whole life. As a child, she often took ten or more books out of the library at a time. So, although she grew up in small-town Kenosha, Wisconsin, she traveled the world, through reading books.

She especially loved books that were filled with adventure. That way, she could imagine herself as the main character, experiencing all the excitement, fun, and drama, along with that person. The books might take place by the seaside, mountains, or far away villages. The sensory details used in the descriptions made the places feel real to her.

It's not surprising, then, that she sought adventure in her own life. After she moved to attend the University of California-Berkeley, she traveled all over California. As a graduation present to herself, she traveled to London and Paris, to places she'd read about in books.

She also loves interesting and mysterious things, like myths, legends, and unsolved mysteries. So, when she got the chance to write books, she wrote about Crop Circles, Fairies, and UFOs. But, she has wide interests, and also wrote about CSI: Kidnapping, blogging, friendship, and Nintendo game designer Shigeru Miyamoto.

*"I believe that with hard work and determination, writing can change a person's life. It has changed mine."*

-JAN BURNS



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Along the way she learned that solid research helps a writer to craft a book that readers want to read. Also – that rewriting is essential to produce the best book you can write.

In her thirty-year writing career she has also sold many short stories and articles to magazines and newspapers. These markets include Highlights for Children, Boys' Life, Boys' Quest, Christian Science Monitor, Ladies' Home Journal, the San Francisco Examiner, the Houston Chronicle, Faces, and Highways, among others.

She believes that people who want to be writers should try to learn as much about the writing process as they can. Study the markets where you think you'd like to submit your work. Learn to look at your writing objectively. And – don't give up. Keep trying.

