

# MAIN COURSE BOOKS



with a side of art



**AUTHOR/ARTIST**  
**KARLA CLARK**



Rockford, IL 61103



815.979.7874



karla.clark@comcast.net



fb.com/karlajclark



@karlaclark



@karlaclark123



www.karlaclarkauthor.com



# Interview Questions

**Tell us about yourself...**

I am a lifelong resident of Rockford, Illinois, where I live with my husband and adult son who has autism. Our older son lives in Madison, Wisconsin. I received my journalism degree from Northern Illinois University and worked as a pharmaceutical rep for most of my career. I retired in 2020 to write and do art full time. When I was young I wanted to be either an author or an artist and I am so blessed to be both!

**Tell us about your books...**

I self-published three novels and a short story collection before finally landing a literary agent in 2018. My agent has sold five children's picture books to two of the "Big 5" publishers: Macmillan and Penguin. I have a series of four books with the Macmillan imprint Feiwel & Friends called *You Be Mommy, You Be Daddy, You Be Grandma, and You Be Grandpa*. Rise x Penguin published *Three Ways to Be Brave: A Trio of Stories*.

**What's the most rewarding part of being an author?**

It's always about engaging with the reader. The writing process is a solo endeavor; the publishing process is collaborative; but when the finished product is out and readers actually read your books and love them, well, that's the thrill! I love to visit with women's book clubs, speak to groups, and interact with children at schools, libraries, and bookstores. It is so rewarding to discover that readers love your made-up characters as much as you do!

**Do you prefer writing for adults or for children?**

I couldn't pick! The journey is so different: with a novel, it's like baking an elaborate layer cake, and with a children's story, it's more like a chocolate chip cookie. Of course the novel is more involved, but that doesn't mean that writing a children's story is easy. It's harder in some ways because of the limits of length and vocabulary. But a picture book is magic. But then, so is a novel! Like I said, I can't choose!



# Interview Questions

Readers are always curious about where ideas come from?

When I was a kid, I was a worrywart. I “what-if’ed” everything! It was my dad who advised me to turn my worries into stories—to transfer my fears to fictional characters and then to help your characters solve the problems. That’s basically what I do. I take things that happen in my life and then twist the events with what-if questions. The ideas are everywhere. Even in your own backyard. Literally. I wrote a short story about a garbage man after my son befriended ours. *What if the garbage man was actually valedictorian of his high school class but gave up his education to care for his younger brother?*

My children’s stories were inspired by my own sons. It’s a funny thing about story-telling, the more specific you are the more universal your message, but you can’t be so specific that your story doesn’t resonate with readers.

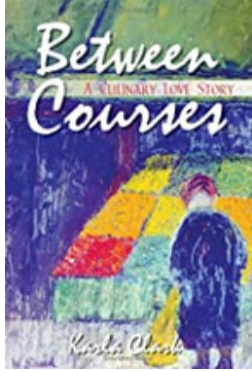
What advice would you give an aspiring author?

If you want to write books for children, the first thing I would advise is to join the SCBWI—the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. It’s the premier group for children’s books and provides education, resources, and support. Secondly, I would say do your homework. Hang out with kids! Sit in a library or bookstore and read the children’s books that are being published. Follow the format—picture books are usually 32 pages and about 500-700 words. If you decide to rhyme, study rhythm, rhyme, and meter. And know that if you publish with a traditional publisher, they choose the illustrator. If you self-publish, don’t skimp on an illustrator and make sure you get professional editing.

If you want to write novels, decide if you are a “plotter” or a “pantser.” Plotters outline and layout the manuscript before writing; Pantser go with the flow...by the seat of their pants. Know your genre, find your voice. Read, read, read. When you think your manuscript is done, put it away for 3 months, then take it out, and revise it again. Find a beta reader who will give you honest feedback. Join writers groups on Facebook—it’s amazing how generous writers and aspiring writers are with their time and advice. When you submit to agents, know that the “query” letter is critically important in landing an agent.

Follow your dream, but be realistic. Few people write books full time!

# Backlist



## Product details

- Publisher : 1st Book Library (October 1, 2003)
- Language : English
- Hardcover : 484 pages
- ISBN-10 : 1410759687
- ISBN-13 : 978-1410759689
- Item Weight : 1.9 pounds
- Dimensions : 5.98 x 1.25 x 9.02 inches

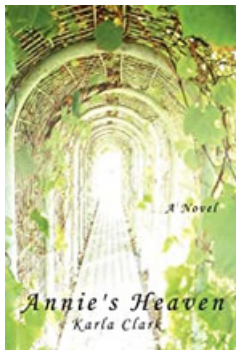
Sabina Giovanotti discovers that life exists between appetizers and dessert in this Italian-flavored novel that includes a cookbook!



## Product details

- Publisher : AuthorHouse (January 4, 2005)
- Language : English
- Paperback : 252 pages
- ISBN-10 : 1418492973
- ISBN-13 : 978-1418492977
- Item Weight : 9.8 ounces
- Dimensions : 5 x 0.57 x 7.99 inches

The thirteen stories in this collection feature characters adrift . . . pearls of people facing knotty situations.



## Product details

- Publisher : AuthorHouse (October 17, 2008)
- Language : English
- Hardcover : 420 pages
- ISBN-10 : 1438905661
- ISBN-13 : 978-1438905662
- Item Weight : 1.7 pounds
- Dimensions : 5.98 x 1.06 x 9.02 inches

Have you ever wondered if your lost loved ones can look down on you from Heaven? Annie Langdon can.



## Product details

- Publisher : AuthorHouse (February 10, 2017)
- Language : English
- Paperback : 324 pages
- ISBN-10 : 152465888X
- ISBN-13 : 978-1524658885
- Item Weight : 1.05 pounds
- Dimensions : 6 x 0.81 x 9 inches

When her father dies, May Dearborne and her three older brothers all ask the same question: who is going to take care of Kipp? Kipp being their forty-five-year-old autistic brother.