



## About Ilene Withers

### Introduction

Every child is a writer. The words may not be written, but the images of settings are there. Plots of wild adventures are spinning through their heads. Their lips are forming memorable dialogue. In good weather, my stories unfolded on gravel landscapes and in grass palaces. During winter, toothpick characters lived out lives atop butcher paper cities.

I didn't begin to write in earnest for several more years. Then, in my teens I was offered my first paid journalistic gig—I wrote the South Ashby news column for the Grant County, Nebraska paper. This consisted of a weekly reporting of who went where and did what. My writing after this took several twists and turns, from editing college papers to writing a weekly column on mental health in the *South Platte Sentinel* in northeast Colorado.

### Experience

I worked various jobs, largely as an administrative assistant, until I landed in a position in higher education in 1998. Starting in a community college, I transferred to customer service in the Office of the Registrar at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. I worked for the next 19 years answering phones and emails, and helping students navigate their degree plan and other obstacles.

### Education

In 2008 I chose to return to college to finish my barely started degree. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Front Range Community in Fort Collins, Colorado with an Associate of Arts two years later. After transferring to the University of Colorado Denver, I earned my B.A. with Distinction in English Professional Writing in 2012. Finally, in 2019 I was accepted into the English Professional Writing program at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. I am on track to be awarded my M.A. in Spring 2022.

### Publishing

*The Blackmailed Beauty*, my first historical romantic suspense, was published by Clean Reads press in October 2013. After receiving rave reviews, I wrote its sequel *To Release an Earl* and published it with the same publisher in 2015. The following year Clean Reads published my companion novel, *Injured Sensibilities*. In 2018, I self-published *The Family Plan*, my first contemporary romance. In April 2021, my contemporary romantic suspense, *Dangerous Revelations* written under my pen name Jacki Ring, is being published by The Wild Rose Press.