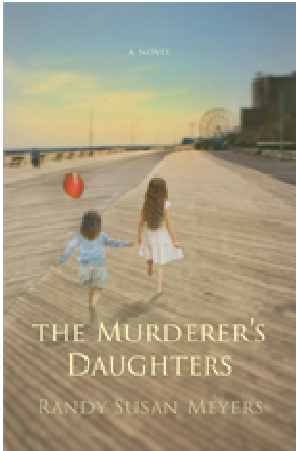


## The 7 Question Interview with Randy Susan Meyers



The dark drama of Randy Susan Meyers' debut novel is informed by her years of work with batterers, domestic violence victims, and at-risk youth impacted by family violence. Randy Susan Meyers' short stories have been published in the Fog City Review, Perigee: Publication for the Arts, and the Grub Street Free Press. In Brooklyn, where Randy was born and raised, her local library was close enough to visit daily and she walked there from the time she figured out the route. In many ways, she was raised by books, each adding to her sense of who she could be in this world. Some marked her for horror. Reading *In Cold Blood* at too tender an age assured that she'd never stay alone in a country house. Others, like *Heidi* by Johanna Spyri, made her worship her grandfather even more. Some taught her faith in the future. *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn* by Betty Smith was the only bible Randy ever owned, her personal talisman of hopefulness. Each time she read it, she was struck anew by how this author knew so much and dared to write it.

Her official website can be accessed here: <http://www.randysusanmeyers.com>

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### The WritingRaw.com 7 Question Interview

Please let us know who you are and how we might know you:

St. Martin's Press will publish my debut novel, *The Murderer's Daughters*, on January 19, 2010. I've published short stories in the Fog City Review, Perigee: Publication for the Arts, and the Grub Street Free Press. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and now live with my husband in Boston, where I teach writing seminars at the Grub Street Writers' Center.

Any news you would like to share concerning upcoming projects:

My excitement at the release of *The Murderer's Daughters* knows no bounds! My early trade reviews have been positive, but none have excited me as much as have those from the Amazon Vines Early Readers. I wrote a book that broke my own heart, and I soared upon reading that my characters, sisters Lulu and Merry Zachariah, had touched others.



Thoughts concerning the current state of the literary world:

Some might say, “these are the best of times, these are the worst of times.” Many are bemoaning the current state of publishing: lower advances, less publicity for authors, etc, but the positive side is the ways in which authors themselves can bring their work to the world.

With this one interview, I can reach more potential readers than I might while reading in ten bookstores, right? With my blog, I can talk to people all over the world. For those who want to get their books out without using the traditional publishing route, there are scads of ways to accomplish this. For those who want to use an agent and editor, reaching them through queries and conferences is far easier than it’s ever been. I think we are in the midst of a trade-off, and certainly, things are changing, but I believe people will always want to read a good story.

Who is your favorite author and why?

Choosing a favorite author is like asking me who my favorite child is! I have so many, but I suppose my top two are Rosellen Brown for how skillfully she weaves together domestic drama and spectacular writing, and Betty Smith, author of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, for feeling like my best friend in childhood.

Have you written a book you love that you have not been able to publish?

Like all authors, I have a book or two in the bottom drawer. One can’t learn to write without writing a few practice books. I love one in particular, because it’s funny and I had a blast writing it, but I think it’s too mono-plotted (just made that word up and I think I like it!) to publish as is. Perhaps I’ll return to it someday.

Do you have anything specific that you want to say to your readers?

Yes, more than anything, I hope *The Murderer’s Daughters* provides a page turning and thoughtful read. I hope the “what ifs” in the story engage readers. I believe that I have a covenant with them, to provide a story that is honestly and deeply written and which is meant to touch, and to entertain, and inform them.



How do you feel about what WritingRaw.com and other literary sharing sites are attempting to do for new writers?

I am grateful for sites like writingraw.com. Book review sections have thinned out considerably, and one has to work hard to get one's book out. What is provided here, for both published authors and those on their way, is priceless. In addition, there are fascinating pieces to read on the site.

WritingRaw.com would like to thank Randy Susan Meyers for taking the time out of her busy schedule for this interview.