

Sheri McGuinn

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Fiction Writing Achievements

- 2016 Short story in *Best Short Stories from Saturday Evening Post's Great American Fiction Contest 2016: "Maria Angelica's Baby"*
- 2015-2017 Screenplay produced by Nasser Entertainment and Run Run Media: *Running Away*
- 2015 E-book accepted for Indie Arizona module of BiblioBoard Library: *Running Away*
- 2011 Screenplay Finalist in Sacramento International Film Festival: *Michael Dolan McCarthy*
- 2009 Novel Quarter-Finalist in Amazon Breakout Novel Awards: *Michael Dolan McCarthy*
- 2008 Honorable Mention Writer's Digest International Self-Published Book Awards: *Running Away*
- 2008 Short story published in *The Maverick: "The Development"*
- 2007 Short story published in *The Maverick: "A Single Christmas Tale"*
- 2007 Honorable Mention Writers Digest Short Story Writing Competition: "Bad Mommy!"
- 2007 Creative Consultant credit on DVD for early script work: *Eye of the Dolphin*

Pitching Today

Peg's Story: One woman's journey in search of self

In *Running Away* the mother drops everything and goes to find her daughter because she herself had run away as a teen – and her parents thought she was dead for ten years. Readers have asked for her story. That's the adult novel I'm pitching today.

An innocent girl loses her sense of self through a rapid series of traumatic events ending in being trafficked. She escapes and the story follows her through disastrous detours and lives built on lies, until she finally stops suppressing her past and rebuilds herself as a whole.

While it reads like a memoir, this protagonist is not based on any one woman, but every woman who has gone through victimization and the search for self that follows.

Peg's Story: One Woman's Journey in Search of Self

Looking Back

At fourteen my biggest fear was that my life would always be boring. I never would have believed there would come a time when I worked at making my life predictable, when I would cling to rules and routine.

I never told my girls what my life had been before they were born. They assumed they knew me, just as I assumed I knew my parents when I was young. It was only when Maggie ran away and grabbed my first journal that pieces of the truth came out. I'm writing this for them. While we discussed the most embarrassing parts while Maggie and I went through counseling, it seems important to put it all in context.

Do not be fooled by the beginning – this book is for adults. The only teens who should read it are those who have already been exposed to the darker sides of life. They might gain some hope or avoid some destructive detours. But to understand my journey, you need to know where I began.

So the story starts the Christmas I was a freshman in high school.

In 1971, telephones were all land lines with long distance charges, no one had a personal computer, there was no world wide web, and married people on television had twin beds. It was easy to be innocent – or naïve – so I missed the little signs that things were about to change. By the next spring, my life had gone a direction I could never have imagined.

There was little co-ordination among police of various states and missing children couldn't even be put into the FBI's database.

It was easy for me to disappear for ten years.