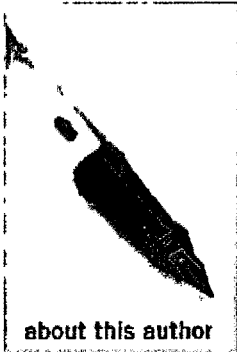

About the Author

**Full text biography:****C.E. Murphy****Birth Date :** 1973**Known As :** Murphy, Catherine E.; Dermody, Cate**Place of Birth :** United States,Alaska,Kenai**Nationality:** American**Occupation :** Novelist**Table of Contents:****Personal Information****Career****Writings****Sidelights****Related Information****Personal Information:**

Born June 1, 1973, in Kenai, AK; married. **Education:** University of Alaska at Fairbanks, B.A., 1996. **Avocational Interests:** Traveling, walking, drawing, swimming. **Addresses:** Home: Cobh, Cork, Ireland.

Career Information:

Author. During early career, worked in a cannery, in a fast food restaurant, and as a Web site designer.

Writings:**"THE WALKER PAPERS" SERIES**

- *Urban Shaman*, Luna Books (New York, NY), 2005.
- *Thunderbird Falls*, Luna Books (New York, NY), 2006.
- *Coyote Dreams*, Luna Books (New York, NY), 2007.
- *Walking Dead*, Luna Books (New York, NY), 2009.

"INHERITORS' CYCLE"

- *The Queen's Bastard*, Ballantine Books (New York, NY), 2008.
- *The Pretender's Crown*, Del Rey-Ballantine Books (New York, NY), 2009.

"NEGOTIATOR" SERIES

- *Heart of Stone*, Luna Books/Worldwide Library (New York, NY), 2007.
- *House of Cards*, Luna Books (New York, NY), 2008.
- *Hands of Flame*, Luna Books (New York, NY), 2008.

"STRONGBOX CHRONICLES" SERIES; ACTION- ROMANCE NOVELS; UNDER PSEUDONYM CATE DERMODY

- *The Cardinal Rule*, Silhouette Books (New York, NY), 2005.
- *The Firebird Deception*, Silhouette Books (New York, NY), 2006.
- *The Phoenix Law*, Silhouette Books (New York, NY), 2006.

OTHER

- (With Mercedes Lackey and Tanith Lee) *Winter Moon* (omnibus), Luna Books (New York, NY), 2005.
- *Take a Chance* (graphic novel), Dabel Brothers (Atlanta, GA), 2009.

Sidelights:

C.E. Murphy began writing full-time in 2005, after leaving a job as a Web site designer and moving with her husband from her native Alaska to Ireland. Also writing under the pen name Cate Dermody, she has written novels for such series as the "Walker Papers" and the "Strongbox Chronicles," a series of spy thrillers.

"The Walker Papers" series follows a Seattle police officer of part-American Indian, part-Irish descent, who is bestowed with the magical powers of a shaman after she witnesses a paranormal crime. Writing about *Urban Shaman*, the first in the series, Ashok K. Banker commented on the *Blogcritics* Web site that "Murphy's greatest gift is the ability to keep the action coming fast and furious, with something happening on almost every single page. Her sincerity in describing esoteric events and encounters with mythic beings and demi-gods in mundane everyday settings like an airport cafe or an expressway at night makes every unlikely scene totally believable." Online *Infinity Plus* contributor Elizabeth Barrette described *Urban Shaman* as a "fascinating book," adding that "C.E. Murphy creates a charming balance between the past and the present, between Europe and America, between wilderness and civilization." Renowned fiction writer Charles de Lint wrote in a *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* review that Murphy "has a good sense of how to blend humor and action with a healthy dollop of mysticism and folklore." De Lint reviewed the second novel in the series, *Thunderbird Falls*, writing that "Walker's first-person voice is charming, with just the right touch of self-deprecating humor, and immediately draws the reader in."

The next installment, *Coyote Dreams*, finds series protagonist, Joanne Walker, fighting off a mystical sleeping illness. The entire police force has been affected as well. Joanne, however, keeps having powerful dreams that reveal her shamanistic powers. Joanne's spirit guide, Coyote, disappears in the midst of the crisis. Joanne must then vanquish the Navajo twins Barbara and Mark Bragg, whose research on wormholes is mysteriously connected to recent events. De Lint, writing again in *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, applauded the novel, noting that "this series has always been fast-paced and entertaining--and continues to be so--and Walker makes a good viewpoint character." *Library Journal* reviewer Jackie Cassada was also impressed, commending the story for "featuring a strong female detective and memorable secondary characters."

Murphy is also the author of the "Inheritors' Cycle" series. The first two books in the series are *The Queen's Bastard* and *The Pretender's Crown*. The protagonist of both books is Belinda Primrose, assassin to the Queen, in a fantasy world that resembles Elizabethan England. As the author explained in a lengthy interview posted on the *Bitten by Books* Web site, "Belinda Primrose is one of the more awesome characters I've ever written, from a writer's point of view. She is *not* a sympathetic character--she's an assassin, for one, and isn't troubled by, you know. Killing people. Or manipulating them, or using them to achieve her goals. So what I hoped to create was not a *likeable* character, but a compelling one." Indeed, Murphy went on to note that "right from the beginning I knew she was the protagonist, but I never once imagined she was the hero, if you see the difference there. She's not the good guy. In fact, there are very few people in those books who *are* the good guys ... which, really, is probably a bit more like real life than the stories where it's clear who you should be rooting for."

Applauding *The Queen's Bastard* on the online *Eyrie*, an anonymous critic noted that "there are some fantastic moments." The critic then concluded that, "To warn, this is definitely the first book of a series. It reaches something of a climax but certainly not a conclusion, leaving Belinda to head off into the second book. And, in the sort of mixed feeling that typified the book for me, it ends on a wonderful bit of characterization and deepening of the basic tension of Belinda's life, but also on an emotional anti-climax. If that sort of thing bothers you, you may want to wait until the whole series is available before starting." A reviewer writing on the *Bitten by Books* Web site observed that "Murphy handles characterization skillfully, from major to minor players. In the case of Belinda, she creates a character one would typically perceive as an unsympathetic protagonist and makes the reader care about her, even when her actions horrify."

This achievement deserves accolades." Tammy Moore, writing on the *SF Site* Web site, observed that the novel is an "elegantly convoluted political fantasy, spiced with sorcery and dark sexuality." She added that "the plot is satisfying," and further commented that "It's C.E. Murphy's deft handling of her characters, however, that most impress." Moore declared that "*The Queen's Bastard* is a deeply enjoyable and obviously meticulously researched novel. In it, C.E. Murphy has created an immersive, convincing world populated with an intriguing cast of characters whose moral ambiguity only add to their appeal."

The Pretender's Crown was as well received as its predecessor. The plot picks up only ten days after the end of *The Queen's Bastard*, and it finds Belinda torn between conflicting loyalties to the kingdom of her birth and the kingdom to which she has pledged her allegiance. Moore, again writing for *SF Site*, lavished the second series installment with high praise. For instance, she found that "this is rapidly becoming one of my favourite fantasy series and each novel manages to both answer my questions and raise new ones. *The Pretender's Crown* neatly wraps up all the loose ends from *The Queen's Bastard* ... and picks loose new ones for us to worry at." Moore concluded that "With each new book this series gets better and more engrossing. If you read *The Queen's Bastard* then you should definitely read this. If you haven't then go read it now and come back to this one. It's worth it." *Booklist* writer Diana Tixier Herald also proffered praise, stating that the story "won't disappoint patient readers willing to dedicate time and thought to the myriad" plot lines.

Murphy once told *CA*: "I'm one of those people who has always written. I was writing poetry for a school publication by the time I was six, and by age eight I'd started my first novel. It took eleven years to get around to 'finishing' one, but I knew where I was going from a very young age.

"I read a lot of fantasy growing up (after I'd finished all the kids mystery novels and horse books in the library). The first fantasy novel I specifically remember reading was Susan Cooper's *Greenwitch*, when I was about eight. That series, Lloyd Alexander's *Prydain Chronicles*, and C.S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* are probably the greatest influences, overall, on my writing. They are all stories in which the magic, ultimately, goes away. I write stories in which the magic comes back, and I really think a lot of that is a response to those books I read when I was a child."

When asked which of her books is her favorite, she said: "My favorite book, a YA in the vein of the above-mentioned authors, hasn't yet been published. Sniff!"

When asked to describe her writing process, she said: "'Open up a vein ... ' Generally, I write like a mad thing for the first third of a book, hit a wall, go back, fix mistakes, continue writing like a mad thing for the second third, hit a wall ... The best thing about this particular and sometimes frustrating process is that by the time I reach the end I've usually got a pretty solid draft in hand and don't have to go back and do 'too' much more to it. Usually."

When asked the most surprising thing she has learned as a writer, she laughed and said: "Probably that writers are generally just like me: perfectly ordinary people whose ability to tell stories does not give them some kind of stand-out-from-the-crowd aura.

"I write to entertain. If I can take a reader out of the world for a few enjoyable hours, I'm a very happy writer indeed."

Related Information:

PERIODICALS

- *Booklist*, November 1, 2007, Diana Tixier Herald, review of *Heart of Stone*, p. 32; April 1, 2008, Diana Tixier Herald, review of *The Queen's Bastard*, p. 36; September 15, 2008, Diana Tixier Herald, review of *Hands of Flame*, p. 32; April 1, 2009, Diana Tixier Herald, review of *The Pretender's Crown*, p. 27.
- *Library Journal*, May 15, 2007, Jackie Cassada, review of *Coyote Dreams*, p. 82; October 15, 2007, Nanette Donohue, review of *Heart of Stone*, p. 60; September 15, 2008, Jackie Cassada, review of *Hands of Flame*, p. 49.
- *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, October 1, 2005, Charles de Lint, review of *Urban Shaman*, p. 49; February 1, 2007, Charles de Lint, review of *Thunderbird Falls*, p. 34; January 1, 2008, Charles De Lint, review

of *Coyote Dreams*, p. 31; August 1, 2008, review of *Heart of Stone*, p. 35; January 1, 2009, Charles de Lint, review of *Hands of Flame*, p. 44.

- *Publishers Weekly*, March 5, 2007, review of *Coyote Dreams*, p. 44; September 17, 2007, review of *Heart of Stone*, p. 42; February 25, 2008, review of *The Queen's Bastard*, p. 57; March 23, 2009, review of *The Pretender's Crown*, p. 51.

ONLINE

- *Bitten by Books*, <http://bittenbybooks.com/> (August 10, 2009), author interview and review of *The Queen's Bastard*.
- *Blogcritics*, <http://blogcritics.org/> (October 4, 2005), Ashok K. Banker, review of *Urban Shaman*.
- *C.E. Murphy Home Page*, <http://www.cemurphy.net> (August 10, 2009).
- *Eyrie*, <http://www.eyrie.org/> (August 10, 2009), review of *The Queen's Bastard*.
- *Infinity Plus*, <http://www.infinityplus.co.uk/> (October 15, 2005), Elizabeth Barrette, review of *Urban Shaman*.
- *SF Site*, <http://www.sfsite.com/> (August 10, 2009), Tammy Moore, reviews of *The Queen's Bastard* and *The Pretender's Crown*.*

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Gale Database: Contemporary Authors Online

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Official website of author CE Murphy

BLOG

CE MURPHY

CONTACT

NEW BOOKS (2018)

KITSNAPS

FEATURED

Magic & Manners

CE MURPHY

CE Murphy began writing around age six, when she submitted three poems to a school publication. The teacher producing the magazine selected (inevitably) the one she thought was by far the worst, but also told her—a six year old kid—to keep writing, which she has. She has also held the usual grab-bag of jobs usually seen in an authorial biography, including public library volunteer (at ages 9 and 10; it's clear she was doomed to a career involving books), archival assistant, cannery worker, and web designer. Writing books is better.

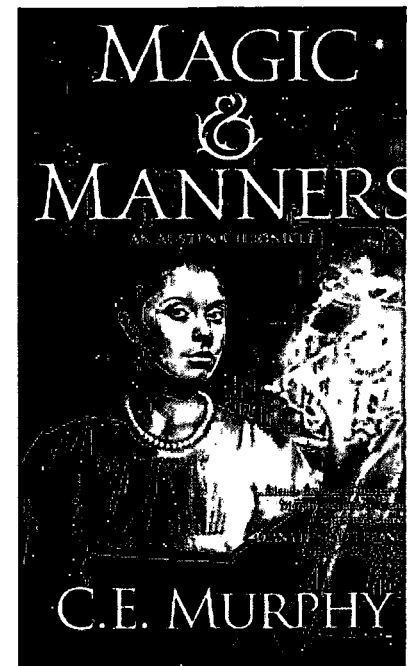


She was born and raised in Alaska, and now lives with her family in her ancestral homeland of Ireland.

Below you can find details of all her published work, grouped by series.

CE Murphy

The Walker Papers



It is a truth universally accepted that well-bred members of Society are not beleaguered with magic.

For Elisabeth Dover and her sisters, that truth means living in a perpetual state of caution, never using their sorcerous gifts in public...



BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you like best about this book?
2. What did you like least about this book?
3. What other books did this remind you of?
4. Which characters in the book did you like best?
5. Which characters did you like least?
6. If you were making a movie of this book, who would you cast?
7. Share a favorite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out?
8. What other books by this author have you read? How did they compare to this book?
9. Would you read another book by this author? Why or why not?
10. What feelings did this book evoke for you?
11. What did you think of the book's length? If it's too long, what would you cut? If too short, what would you add?
12. What songs does this book make you think of? Create a book group playlist together!
13. If you got the chance to ask the author of this book one question, what would it be?
14. Which character in the book would you most like to meet?
15. Which places in the book would you most like to visit?
16. What do you think of the book's title? How does it relate to the book's contents? What other title might you choose?
17. What do you think of the book's cover? How well does it convey what the book is about? If the book has been published with different covers, which one do you like best?
18. What do you think the author's purpose was in writing this book? What ideas was he or she trying to get across?
19. How original and unique was this book?
20. If you could hear this same story from another person's point of view, who would you choose?
21. What artist would you choose to illustrate this book? What kinds of illustrations would you include?





BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

FOR FICTION

22. Did this book seem realistic?
23. How well do you think the author built the world in the book?
24. Did the characters seem believable to you? Did they remind you of anyone?
25. Did the book's pace seem too fast/too slow/just right?
26. If you were to write fanfic about this book, what kind of story would you want to tell?

FOR NONFICTION

27. What did you already know about this book's subject before you read this book?
28. What new things did you learn?
29. What questions do you still have?
30. What else have you read on this topic, and would you recommend these books to others?
31. What do you think about the author's research? Was it easy to see where the author got his or her information? Were the sources credible?

FOR MEMOIR

32. What aspects of the author's story could you most relate to?
33. How honest do you think the author was being?
34. What gaps do you wish the author had filled in? Were there points where you thought he shared too much?
35. Think about the other people in the book besides the author. How would you feel to have been depicted in this way?
36. Why do you think the author chose to tell this story?

FOR SHORT STORIES/ESSAYS

37. Which short story/essay did you like best?
38. Which short story/essay did you like least?
39. What similarities do these stories share? How do they tie together?
40. Do you think any of the stories could be expanded into a full-length book?





Lazette Gifford
Publisher & Editor
zette@cablone.net

Interview:

A Multitude of Catie: An Interview with C.E. Murphy

By Lazette Gifford

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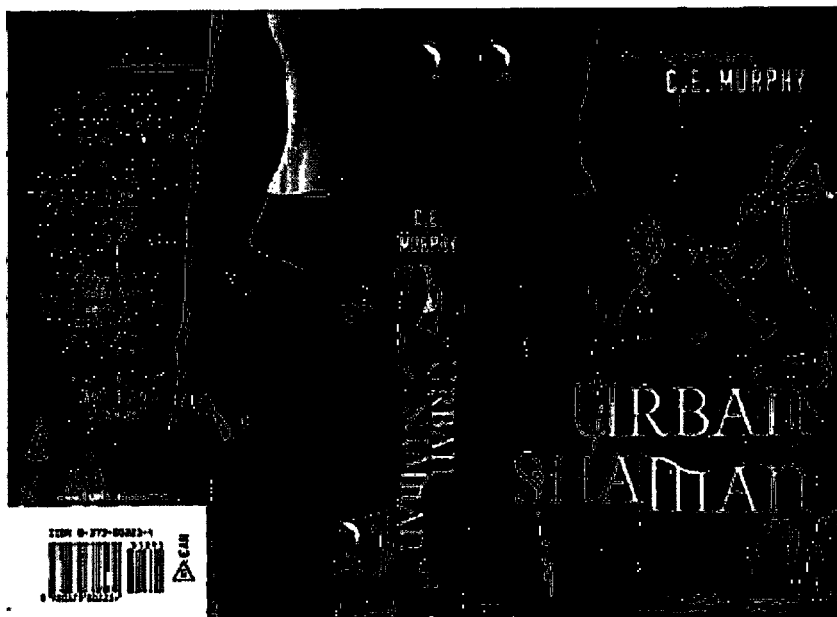


C.E. Murphy is not a name you'll have seen much of yet, but you will soon. Her first book, *Urban Shaman*, is due out in June. And you'll see her on the shelves in her other incarnation, Cate Dermody. She has leapt into publishing with the kind of avalanche of contracts that most new writers only dream of getting.

So, how did she do it and how is she handling the work? Catie took the time to answer a few questions for *Vision*. Be sure to also check out her website at: <http://cemurphy.net/>

Vision: First let's talk about your novel, *Urban Shaman*, which is due out in June. Tell us a bit about it!

Catie: Joanne Walker is a Seattle cop with no use for the mystical. When a near-death experience introduces her to the Native American trickster Coyote, he gives her a choice between a shaman's life or death. The life she chooses plants her neck-deep in a facet of the universe she's never acknowledged before. *URBAN SHAMAN* is Jo's trial by fire. With Coyote as her guide, Jo begins to learn about a shaman's responsibilities, solves a series of apparently unrelated murders in the Seattle area, and goes up against an Celtic god or two....



URBAN SHAMAN is what happens when my friend Jim Butcher says, "Write a book to bring to World Fantasy Con and I'll introduce you to people," and my husband Ted looks out an airplane window and says, "Wouldn't it be interesting if you were up here and saw somebody running down the street with something after her?" The "something" became the Wild Hunt, and the story was largely born from there.

I had some pretty clear ideas of what I wanted to do, when I wrote URBAN SHAMAN. Urban fantasy, like the Anita Blake books and Jim's Dresden File series were really coming into their own when I wrote the first draft of URBAN SHAMAN, and I looked at those books and thought, "Ok, we have characters here who are already at home in this world of Other, where things go bump in the night." What I wanted was to have a character who didn't know about the things that went bump, and who in fact actively resisted the very idea that those things might exist. I wanted someone who was brand-new to this world, so that the reader got to be there with her from the very first moment of, "What the...?" It was a fantastic way for me to get into Jo's world, and I certainly hope it'll be as much fun for the readers.

Vision: What were the steps you took to make your first sale? What do you think helped or hindered you?

Catie: As far as my first sale is concerned, I sort of look like one of those overnight success stories, although like most of those stories, it was about a dozen years in the making. I wrote and submitted my first novel when I was nineteen, then spent the next many years writing, writing some more, and then writing some more after that, in all sorts of forums and genres.

I wrote the original draft for URBAN SHAMAN in 2000. It was my third solo manuscript (I wrote one with a friend), and I knew at the time that it was saleable, but I didn't really do very much with it beyond a couple of rewrites that strengthened the story. Then in 2002 I went to the Rocky

Mountain Fiction Writers' Colorado Gold Conference because I'd finaled in their contest with a different manuscript, and that conference honestly made all the difference to me. It really lit a fire under me: if I was going to be a professional writer, I needed to get my act in gear and *pursue* that.

So I went away from it with the goal to get a book contract in 3 years, and before the next month was out I had a request for the full manuscript from a small press publisher that was just getting started. It was fourteen months (almost to the day) after the RMFW conference that I sold the first three books in the Walker Papers series. URBAN SHAMAN will hit the shelves four months before my three-year "get a contract" deadline is up. :)

Aside from that conference being *enormously* helpful to me, another thing that I really think made a difference was that, within the bounds of reasonability, I didn't pay too much attention to what publishers were specifically looking for. LUNA was looking for traditional fantasy with a strong female protagonist and a romantic subplot. Well, I sent them an urban fantasy with a strong female protagonist and nothing more than the vaguest hint at a romantic subplot, and they loved it. So being a little daring really helped there.

But let me re-emphasize: I worked within the bounds of reasonability. If a house is looking for suspense or horror and you send romantic fluffy bunnies, you're working outside a reasonable extrapolation of what the house might publish, and that's not going to do anyone any good.

Vision: You've made an incredible number of sales in a short time. Tell us about them and how you managed it.

Catie: Whew. Okay.

Harlequin contacted me about buying URBAN SHAMAN in November of 2003. They offered a three-book deal; URBAN SHAMAN and two sequels. I was floored and thrilled to bits.

In March or so of 2004, I emailed my editor with a very brief idea for a book for Harlequin's new Bombshell line, which was debuting in July 2004.

She liked the basic idea but asked if I could make it not have a Happily Ever After ending so that it could become a potential series.

For me as a writer, this was like manna from heaven. I spent a few months working out a proposal for not just the first book, but for an entire series, and submitted that to my agent in about August 2004.