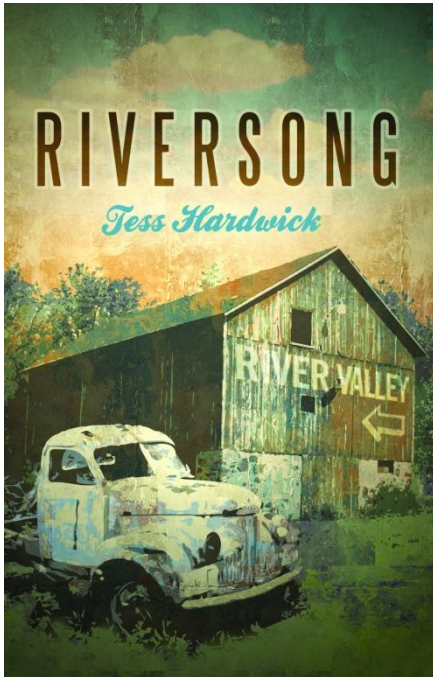


Riversong: Media Kit



ABOUT RIVERSONG

Author Tess Hardwick assembles a colorful cast of endearing small-town characters and takes you on a journey that will make you believe in the possibilities of life – even in the face of overwhelming adversity and unimaginable grief. Lee Tucker is the kind of woman you find yourself rooting for long after the last page is read.

When Lee's husband commits suicide, he leaves her pregnant and one million dollars in debt to a loan shark. Out of options, she escapes to her deceased mother's dilapidated house located in a small Oregon town that, like her, is financially ruined, heartbroken and in desperate need of a fresh start. Lee's resilience leads to a plan for a destination restaurant named Riversong, to new chances for passion and love, and to danger from her dead husband's debt as her business blooms.

A surprising mix of romance, humor, friendship, intrigue and gourmet food – Riversong entertains while reminding you of life's greatest gifts.

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NEWS RELEASE

Recession Can't Keep Seattle Author Down

During today's era of uncertain financial times, would you quit your job to follow a dream?

Tess Hardwick dreamed of being a writer from the time she could articulate the idea. Sometimes real life gets in the way of dreams - she fell into a career in human resources instead. Her love of writing never subsided, however, and the dream of one day seeing her words on the printed page would not die. While most of the nation scaled back by necessity during the recession, Tess and her husband rearranged their lives so she could focus on her true dream of becoming a published author. They didn't merely cancel the luxuries in life but sold their home and downsized, sold a car, and took on extra part time jobs. Big changes to say the least, but big dreams require such changes.

When asked what made her decide to finally take the leap, Tess had this to say: "I felt like working in the corporate world was killing me. The closer I got to 40 the more I wondered if I was wasting this 'one life'. When I really started looking at writing as a job, it changed my perspective. I had to give myself permission to take it seriously".

After much perseverance, and two years of hard work, the dream became a reality in April with the launch of Tess' novel, RIVERSONG, published by Seattle start-up Booktrope. With book in-hand, it's now time to get the word out and let readers experience this lifelong passion of hers for themselves. Today's virtually connected world makes that possible.

"The old lady in Twitter-ville, that's me" she comments. "Selling books in today's world has, unfortunately, very little to do with bookstores, and everything to do with technology. As a consumer, I miss bookstores. But the ability to reach people who want to read my book is better online. I hope it will be in bookstores, I would love for it to be in libraries - it is already available on Amazon and BarnesandNoble.com. Booktrope gives me guidance and help, but I am the author, so it is up to me to connect directly to my readers. I use my blog www.tesshardwick.com as a jumping off point. I write often, frankly and openly, about a variety of topics. Other tools like Goodreads, Facebook and Twitter allow me to interact directly with readers. In many ways I find the technology aspect very fulfilling."

Books have benefitted from a resurgence in popularity lately, largely due to the eBook phenomenon. As a result, some would say now is a better time than ever to be an author, while others will argue it is merely more complicated. "With today's new digital book world, and our unique model which leverages it, we can afford to offer chances to debut novelists that may not have been able to get through the layers of the traditional publishing machine" says Booktrope Publisher, Ken Shear. "We embrace the changes in readership models, rather than fighting them. We hope to have many more great books such as Riversong to show for our efforts."



ABOUT TESS HARDWICK

Tess Hardwick is a novelist and playwright. She has a BFA in Drama from the University of Southern California. In 2000 she wrote her first full-length play, *My Lady's Hand* which subsequently won the 2001 first place prize for new work at the Burien Theatre. This is her first novel.

Like her main character in *Riversong*, Tess is from a small town in Southern Oregon. She currently lives in Snoqualmie, Washington with her husband, two small daughters and a teenage stepson. She is inspired daily by the view of the Cascade Mountains from her home office window.

ABOUT BOOKTROPE

Booktrope is a new type of publishing company, founded in 2009 in Seattle, WA. We are pioneering a new type of book development process called team publishing. We are committed to the creation of quality books and to our unique marketing methods, which include offering all of our books online to read for free.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Paperback price: \$9.95

eBook price: \$2.99

Paperback: 278 pages

Publisher: Booktrope Editions

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ISBN-13: 978-1935961147

- Available on Amazon.com in Kindle and paperback versions
- Available on BarnesandNoble.com in Nook and paperback versions
- *Riversong* is available internationally – please contact us directly if you do not see it on your preferred book purchase website
- Remember - you can always read for free on www.booktrope.com
- Discounts or customized editions may be available for educational and other groups based on bulk purchase. For further information please contact info@booktrope.com

BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Lee was happy before Dan's suicide?
2. What is her first reaction to being pregnant?
3. How and why does that viewpoint evolve?
4. Who is Ellen to Lee?
5. When Lee first returns to River Valley, what does she feel?
6. How does that change?
7. What do you think the river represents for Lee?
8. Why does she learn to swim?
9. How does Lee keeping the truth from Tommy affect her?
10. How does it affect Tommy?
11. Why doesn't Lee realize what her friends mean to her?
12. Why do you think it was so hard for her to see the value in those friendships?

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Did you always want to become a writer?
2. Was the publishing process difficult?
3. What made you go with a newer publisher, one that has some controversial aspects about them?
4. What role does your family play in your writing?
5. Have they been supportive of your new career?
6. What made you take the plunge and quit your conventional career for writing?
7. What would you say to other aspiring writers thinking of doing the same thing?
8. You grew up in Southern Oregon, is *Riversong* autobiographical at all?
9. What about Oregon made it the best place to set *Riversong*?
10. What about where you live now inspires you?
11. Where do you do your best writing?
12. Do you have a writing routine or process?
13. What is your favorite book or author?
14. What sort of books did you enjoy reading during your childhood?
15. Do you think the books that you read during your early years influenced your writing?



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