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## The Authors

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### Sandra McGee

Sandra attended her first ballet performance at the age of three and began taking ballet classes that same year. She studied with Mlle. Zina Torchina, a Russian ballerina who carried the title "prima ballerina" and danced with the original Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Mlle. Torchina chose Sandra to be her protégé. At age six, Sandra made her debut at UCLA's Royce Hall in the Chopin Centennial and performed the "Waltz" and "Nocturne" from Chopin's "Les Sylphides." A reviewer wrote, "little dark-haired Alexandra Konecskova is a child destined for an artistic and creative future."



In addition to ballet, Sandra studied piano with the esteemed Bernhard Abramowitsch. She earned the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Music at the University of California, Berkeley, and later performed with local chamber music groups.

At age 25, Sandra decided a performing career on the stage was not her destiny. A chance meeting led to a job offer to refurbish a 1906 office building in San Francisco's Financial District. This, in turn, led to a ten-year career in commercial real estate. Sandra designed, leased and managed office space for both a large corporation and her own company.

Following her father's sudden death in 1983, Sandra visited a Hollywood Hills psychic who said to her, "In your later years, you will be a writer." Sandra found this hard to believe as she demonstrated no particular interest in writing up to this time.

In 1986, when Sandra married author Bill McGee, the psychic's prediction began to come true.

At first, Sandra typed her husband's manuscripts and began making careful editing suggestions.

In 1994, she was one of six co-founders of the professional State Street Ballet in Santa Barbara, California. For ten years, she acted as Company publicist. She also helped publicize events for the Women's Auxiliary of the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara.

In 2000, Bill and Sandra formed a writing collaboration that produced *The Divorce Seekers: A Photo Memoir of a Nevada Dude Wrangler; Pacific Express*; and *Learning To Cope With Sight Loss: Six Weeks at a VA Blind Rehabilitation Center*.

Sandra McGee is currently Vice President/Director of Marketing for BMC Publications. She is working on a screenplay based on *The Divorce Seekers* and a semi-biographical story of her husband's life growing up in the American West during the Great Depression. She is a member of Western Writers of America.

Ballet is still an important part of Sandra's life and she appreciates the art form as a patron in audience.