

Abbe Rolnick  
Author

abberolnick  
*teller of tales, lover of life*

# Author Press Kit

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR (Short Bio)



Abbe Rolnick grew up in Baltimore and experienced her first major cultural jolt at age 15 when her family moved to Miami Beach, Florida. History came alive with her exposure to Cuban culture. After attending Boston University, she lived in Puerto Rico, where she owned a bookstore.

River of Angels, flowing from her

experiences there, is the first novel in a series that continues with Color of Lies and Founding Stones. Her recent experiences with her husband's cancer inspired, Cocoon of Cancer: An Invitation to Love Deeply. Abbe's latest work, Tattle Tales: Essays and Stories Along the Way, showcases her writings from the last twenty years. Abbe resides with her husband Jim on twenty acres in Skagit Valley, Washington.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR (Full Bio)

Abbe Rolnick grew up in the suburbs of Baltimore, Maryland. Her first major cultural jolt occurred at age 15 when her family moved to Miami Beach, Florida. In order to find perspective, she climbed the only non-palm tree at her condo-complex, and wrote what she observed. Here history came alive with her exposure to the Cuban culture. This introduction to the Latino Culture proved fortuitous. At Boston University she met her first husband, a native of Puerto Rico. Her first novel, River of Angels, stems from her experiences during her stay in Puerto Rico.

Stateside, she capitalized on the knowledge she gained as an independent bookstore owner and worked for one of the finest bookstores, Village Books, in Bellingham, WA. More recently she opened a healthy foods cafe.

Color of Lies, her second novel, brings the reader to the Pacific Northwest where she presently resides. Here she blends stories from island life with characters in Skagit Valley.

Her short stories and travel pieces have appeared in magazines. Swinging Doors won honorary mention by Writer's Digest. Her next novel, Founding Stones, will be the third in the series, continuing the stories of characters from the two previous novels, introducing new themes that connect Skagit Valley to the larger world.

Her recent experiences with her husband's cancer inspired, Cocoon of Cancer: An Invitation To Love Deeply. Presently she resides with her husband on twenty acres in Skagit Valley, Washington.

Short stories and essays in Abbe's latest work, Tattle Tales: Essays and Stories Along the Way showcase her writings from the last twenty years. Her voice takes the form of a child, a maturing woman, and that of an older man, coming to terms with losing his memory.

## SAMPLE AUTHOR Q & A

### Do you consider yourself a novelist or a non-fiction writer?

The answer is yes to both. Recently I've been asked to teach memoir writing. I delve into the arts of non-fiction writing and the various levels from journaling onward. Every writer must be concerned with purpose and promise. The elements of a good story pertain to both types. There are "truths" in fiction writing, but the purpose is to entertain. Non-fiction writing stems from facts, the trick is how they are arranged and what they inform.

### Tell us a little about your writing process.

I write what I know or feel. Often times I'll get a whiff of an idea that tugs at my heart. Vines and how they entwine, get stronger, but also how they can strangle. That idea will stay put until a character pops into my head, then I start researching vines, and suddenly a story will evolve. I write essays about life sometimes poems that are personal. The thoughts may be used later in a larger piece. For my novels, I can't put pen to paper until I have my characters. Once I have my characters I write down everything I know about them, how they eat, what kind of a student they were. So that when I have them come alive in the novel, the dialogues and back stories flow easier.

For the novel Color of Lies, the second book in the series, I had the main character and idea for over a year. When the other four characters revealed themselves to me then I began writing. I have a notebook with dividers with all my research on place, plants, systems, history, etc. I usually know the beginning and end of the story before I begin. The characters give me the middle.

### You are working on your third novel, Founding Stones. Where did that get its start?

A road trip from Skagit County across the country, where I was focused on the geological changes in landscape, the "defining" elements of the earth. I took that idea and used its theme with my characters. Although one of my travel pieces from this trip is in Tattle Tales, the novel takes place in Skagit and Whatcom County, continuing themes from my other two novels, River of Angels and Color of Lies.

## TESTIMONIALS

### TATTLE TALES

*"In Tattle Tales, Abbe Rolnick's joie de vivre is evident. These stories and essays take you to an inner realm where Abbe, the observer, contemplates an ever-changing landscape called life. Her enthusiasm and passion thread through each thoughtful piece. Enjoy Tattle Tales."* – Mary Elizabeth Gillian, editor, Clover, A Literary Rag

### COCOON OF CANCER

*"A positive, perspective primer for cancer patients and caregivers."* – Kirkus Reviews, Magazine

*Cocoon of Cancer is a slender volume that chronicles the journey to recovery undertaken by a wife and her husband when he is diagnosed with multiple myeloma."* – Barbara McMichael, Kitsap Sun

*A poetic, poignant, and scientifically accurate memoir. . Abbe's Caregiver's Tips and insights to those who will identify with similar thoughts and feelings."* – Dr. Fred Appelbaum, Executive VP

### COLOR OF LIES

*"In Color of Lies Abbe Rolnick creates an antagonist so despicable and repellent that interest in any redemptive qualities keep the reader intrigued and involved in the novel all the way from beginning to end. Molly McCain is a villain as mean and venal as Hannibal Lecter but nowhere near as attractive or lovable as Anthony Hopkins. Power is something that Molly McCain craves and she will destroy anything standing in her way to get it: her family, her neighbors, and the environment."* – Peter G., Reviewer

*"An enjoyable read, a good mystery, a great message and lesson to be learned. Color of Lies is a story of aviation, history, and the interconnectedness of people. It's also an effective environmental "why do it" in contrast to the usual mystery "who dunnit." Rolnick succeeds in pulling all these themes together with a tight plot that keeps the action moving forward to the ultimate denouement."* – Marcus L., Reviewer

*"With great skill Rolnick deftly moves back and forth through multiple points of view."* – Jillian K., Reviewer

## MORE TESTIMONIALS

### RIVER OF ANGELS

*“River of Angels, does what the very best books do—it paints pictures of a place one has never been, people one has never met, and situations one has never encountered, and makes them real. There are no cardboard characters here and no theater-flat settings. Rolnick weaves a story of tangled relationships and intrigue on a tropical Caribbean island where everyone is struggling, sometimes within themselves, to make a life. I love the way she has seamlessly woven Spanish words and phrases into the book, making the setting even more real. This is a great debut novel, and I look forward to her next book.”* – Chuck Robinson, Co-Owner, Village Books, Bellingham WA

*“River of Angels explores. From the caring descriptions of the landscape with unusual woods and trees and exotic underground caves and rivers, this book is a journey of the senses to Puerto Rico where the author lived for seven years. The sights and smells are rich in themselves, but the characters are what make this book come to life in a unique way, with cultural nuances, facts, and stories. Some of the characters are based on the author’s relationships and all are treated with a combination of respect, curiosity, wonder, and affection that ensure they will endure. A very unique read about a neighbor worth knowing.”* – Joan Arioldi, Library Director

*“Abbe Rolnick’s novel begins at a zip along pace. It builds and blends out-of-the-ordinary characters and intrigue into an island fever of a stew. The tropical setting serves as quite a cauldron — there is mystery, politics, sex, folks of good and evil intent, greed and the wonders of nature. Rolnick very skillfully charts all these courses and has an excellent eye for the details of her character’s emotional lives. That talent for detail is also demonstrated in her portrayal of the island’s landscape, in which a massive cave system feels like a living organism and real character within the novel. Atmospheric, intricately plotted and fast paced, River of Angels is a dive into an exotic, dangerous and sultry world.”* – Shelley Ring Diamond, Author, Los Angeles CA

*“Set on an island in the sunny Caribbean, River of Angels takes its characters into the darkness and intrigue of shadowy business deals and hidden caves. A prostitute, an illegal immigrant, a healer married to an entrepreneur and a diverse cast of locals inhabit the island as they struggle to find their place in the world. Monica sells her body, but not her soul. Carmen is hiding, but what and from whom? Rosie is the healer who could use some healing herself and searches for the meaning in her marriage to Carlos the businessman – “There are problems on this island, Carlos, but you are too busy to see this. If someone disagrees too loudly, they are gone. If you weren’t my husband, I too might disappear.” So where are the disappeared to be found? Rosie knows where some are, and Carlos would like to know as well. A story with twists, turns and clearly delineated characters, River of Angels carries the reader on a journey from beach to cave to dark deals in the local cafe & ultimately into the hearts of all.”* – Frances Barbagallo, Librarian, Deming WA

## CONTACT INFO & LINKS

### Connect With Abbe

@AbbeRolnick



### REQUEST AN APPEARANCE:

If you are interested in booking Abbe Rolnick for your event please fill out the online booking form at [www.abberolnick.com/events](http://www.abberolnick.com/events)

For more information on Abbe or to schedule an interview, please send an email to [abbe@abberolnick.com](mailto:abbe@abberolnick.com)