



BETWEEN

LAND

AND

SEA

JOANNE

GUIDDOCCIO

# ABOUT THE BOOK

**Publisher:** Soul Mate Publishing  
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**Genre:** Paranormal Romance  
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## Blurb

After giving up her tail for an international banker, Isabella of the Mediterranean kingdom is aged beyond recognition. The horrified banker abandons her on the fog-drenched shores of southwest England, leaving her to face a difficult human journey as a plain and practically destitute fifty-three-year-old woman.

With the help of a magic tablet and online mermaid support, Isabella evolves into the persona of Barbara Davies. Along the way, she encounters a cast of unforgettable characters, among them former mermaids, supportive and not-so-supportive women, deserving and undeserving men, and several New Agers.

## Reviews

The novel is a classic wisdom tale with a twist and is reminiscent of Jane Austen. Colleen McConnell

In *Between Land and Sea*, you'll find good pacing, relatable characters, and an intriguing plot. The lighter storyline overlays deeper themes of sacrifice and satisfaction, making it a nourishing pleasure! Dr. Christy Johnson

Very well written and inspiring story of new beginnings, roadblocks, and perseverance. Filled with inspirational passages and characters. Elisa Balabram

This is a hypnotic story about the transformation of a woman from the mythological to real world. It transports us from a world of beauty to the real world and its day to day struggles and heartache. Susan Wisnewski

*Between Land and Sea* is a wonderful twist on the old fairytales of mermaids coming ashore for true love. The author has spun a perfectly believable tale that will have you looking at your water-loving friends with a suspicious eye! Geneva Handleman

Guidoccio's writing is inspirational as Barbara faces realistic challenges and draws on her inner strength to find success in her own right! R. Finnigan

Joanne Guidoccio takes this age-old fable and spirits it into the twenty-first century. Barbara Babbage

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



In high school, Joanne Guidoccio dabbled in poetry, but it would be over three decades before she entertained the idea of writing as a career. She listened to her practical Italian side and earned degrees in mathematics and education. She experienced many fulfilling moments as she watched her students develop an appreciation (and sometimes, love) of mathematics. Later, she obtained a post-graduate diploma as a career development practitioner and put that skill set to use in the co-operative education classroom. She welcomed this opportunity to help her students experience personal growth and acquire career direction through their placements.

In 2008, she took advantage of early retirement and decided to launch a second career that would tap into her creative side and utilize her well-honed organizational skills. Slowly, a writing practice emerged. Her articles and book reviews were published in newspapers, magazines, and online. When she tried her hand at fiction, she made reinvention a recurring theme in her novels and short stories. A member of Sisters in Crime, Crime Writers of Canada, and Romance Writers of America, Joanne writes paranormal romance, cozy mysteries, and inspirational literature from her home base of Guelph, Ontario.

### Links

Website: <http://joanneguidoccio.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/joanneguidoccio>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/authorjoanneguidoccio>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joanneguidoccio>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/jguidoccio/>

Goodreads: [https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7277706.Joanne\\_Guidoccio](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7277706.Joanne_Guidoccio)

# Q & A WITH JOANNE GUIDOCCIO

## **How did you come up with the idea for *Between Land and Sea*?**

On a whim, I took a series of workshops offered by dark fantasy and horror writer Sarah Totton. At first, I focused only on the writing advice but later toyed with the idea of writing fantasy for boomer women. Not wanting to feature witches, werewolves, zombies or other dark creatures, I thought back to my childhood and recalled my favorite fairy tale, *The Little Mermaid*.

A series of “What if” questions whirled through my mind...

What if the mermaid wasn’t so young or so beautiful?

What if the man abandoned her?

What if she had to reinvent herself?

## **I love that you created a heroine that is older than the typical paranormal romance heroine. Why did you decide to make her older?**

In my late forties, I realized that I no longer enjoyed reading novels with 20something and 30something protagonists. It felt like poking into the heads and hearts of young women who could easily be former students. While searching for novels featuring an older crowd, I discovered several late-blooming authors who had launched successful second acts. I was inspired and decided to populate my essays, stories and novels with Boomer women and their older sisters.

## **Where does the story take place? Why did you choose that location?**

After Isabella is abandoned in England, she is whisked across the ocean to Carden, Ontario (a fictitious town 40 miles west of Toronto). I wanted Isabella to fully experience the contrast between the life she had been promised by the international banker—large, glittering cities across the globe—and the life she faced—a small town with limited possibilities. Only then, would she be motivated to improve her circumstances. Had I placed her in Toronto or Chicago (where she eventually ends up), she would not have experienced as much personal growth.

## **What was the most challenging aspect of writing *Between Land and Sea*?**

Having read very few books I did enjoy in the fantasy genre, I found it challenging to create one that would contain enough fantasy elements and still satisfy fans of contemporary women’s fiction. Using a tablet with online mermaid support helped solve that problem. I was careful, however, not to use too much technical jargon.

## **Why do you have two trailers?**

When I asked my brothers to compose the music for the trailer of *Between Land and Sea*, they exceeded all expectations and delivered two beautiful songs. Unable to choose between them, I decided to use both versions and hired and hired Erin Kelly to produce the trailers.

“It’s Your Time” by Ernie Guidoccio - [https://youtu.be/nfiKOOe\\_yuU](https://youtu.be/nfiKOOe_yuU)

“Father Time Blinkered” by Augy Guidoccio - <https://youtu.be/xipZ6quZDOs>

### **Tell us more about fantasy hen lit.**

After the novel was released, one friend confided: “When I heard it was a paranormal romance, I assumed you were writing about witches or werewolves. I’m so glad to hear you’re writing about mermaids.”

Hoping to find the “right” descriptor, I started reading articles about literary genres and sub-genres and came across an interview with literary agent Jenny Bent. Asked about the future of chick-lit, Ms. Bent replied, “I think if there’s any future for chick lit, it will be in paranormal chick lit or multicultural chick lit or in mom lit or hen lit.”

I dismissed the first three predictions and zeroed in on hen lit. These books focus on older female characters (aged 40 to 65) as protagonists and address such themes as giving birth after age forty, dealing with three generations living in the same house, dating after divorce or widowhood, and launching second (third or fourth) careers.

Bingo!

I had found the perfect descriptor for *Between Land and Sea*. To address the mermaid element, I added fantasy.

Now, if I could only persuade editors, publishers, Amazon, Barnes & Noble...

### **What have you found the most challenging about becoming a writer after having had a full career in a much different atmosphere?**

In my younger days, I was a poster child for left-brainers. I gravitated toward degrees in mathematics and education and found the teaching career to be a good fit. For the most part, I responded well to schedules and bells. While I was happy to leave the teaching routine, I faced several challenges during that first year after retirement. I was not too comfortable with large, unscheduled blocks of time and the tyranny of the blank page. After several months of unrest, I took stock and signed up for courses, workshops, and seminars. Slowly, a writing practice emerged.

### **What is your work schedule like when you are writing?**

While having a leisurely breakfast is one of my retirement perks, I do not linger over that second cup of coffee. If I choose to have more than one cup, I do so while checking email and social media. At nine o’clock, I start writing. My goal is 1,000 words a day. At first, I used the oven timer to keep me on task, but that annoying sound reminded me of incessant school bells, so I invested in a bird clock. Each hour, one of my feathered friends, among them the Downy Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, and Great Horned Owl, chirp and remind me to pace myself.

### **What is the most surprising thing that you discovered while writing your book?**

Halfway through writing *Between Land and Sea*, I started dreaming about Isabella and the other characters. Interestingly enough, the characters behaved very differently in my dreams. This inspired me to introduce a subplot involving Kendra Adams. Originally, I had intended to limit her involvement to a few chapters, but the psychic ex-mermaid had other ideas and started disrupting my dreams.