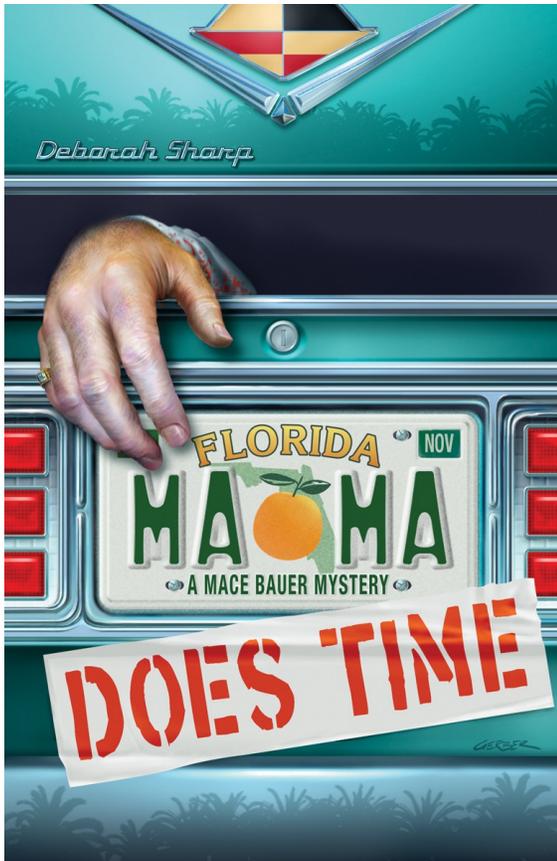




## Midnight Ink Presents

# Mama Does Time: A Mace Bauer Mystery

October 2008 Release



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Trade Paperback  
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Meet Mama: a true Southern woman with impeccable manners, sherbet-colored pantsuits, and four prior husbands, able to serve sweet tea and sidestep alligator attacks with equal aplomb. Mama's antics—especially her penchant for finding trouble—drive her daughters Mace, Maddie and Marty to distraction.

One night, while settling in to look for her ex-beaus on COPS, Mace gets a frantic call from her mother. This time, the trouble is real: Mama found a body in the trunk of her turquoise convertible and the police think she's the killer. It doesn't help that the handsome detective assigned to the case seems determined to prove Mama's guilt or that the cowboy who broke Mace's heart shows up at the local Booze 'n' Breeze in the midst of the investigation. Before their mama lands in prison—just like an embarrassing lyric from a country-western song—Mace and her sisters must find the real culprit.

**Deborah Sharp** (Florida) was a longtime reporter for *USA Today*. She's passionate about the vanishing culture, back roads and burgs of "Old Florida," in which her Mace Bauer mysteries take place.

**Forthcoming:** *Mama Rides Shotgun*, July 2009

#### PUBLICITY CONTACT:

For review copies or to arrange an interview please contact  
Courtney Kish, publicist at 1-800-843-6666, ext. 8452 or [CourtneyK@MidnightInkBooks.com](mailto:CourtneyK@MidnightInkBooks.com).



## Author Profile

### Deborah Sharp

Like the main character in her “Mace Bauer Mysteries,” her family roots were set in Florida long before Disney or *Miami Vice*. As a native and former reporter for *USA Today*, she knows the spots not found on maps: Molasses Junction. Muse, and now, Himmarshee, her own tiny slice of “Authentic Florida.”

To create Himmarshee, Deborah borrowed from the present-day ranching town of Okeechobee, and from the south Florida of her family’s past.

Not far from Ft. Lauderdale, her dad used to walk to town, leading the family cow. A generation later, Deborah rode her horse over the same citrus- and ranch-dotted terrain. Now, it’s all interstates and strip malls.

The difference between Mace’s hometown and hers: Deborah will never let Himmarshee be spoiled by sprawl.

*The News-Press* in Fort Myers gave Deborah her first job, in 1982. Her favorite assignment: getting cast as a zombie when *Day of the Dead* filmed on Sanibel Island. Her fellow extras raved about her lurching.

A *News-Press* bonus: she met TV reporter Kerry Sanders in Immokalee, both of them shivering at dawn to see whether a winter freeze would ruin the green pepper crop. They’ve been married since 1989. No kids; no pets, but had goldfish once. Turned out badly—not a good omen for higher life forms.

When they moved back to Deborah’s hometown in 1991, the occasional stories she’d been writing for *USA Today* became a flood. Miami’s loony nature gives it a lock on headlines.

And then, 9/11, and everything changed. One of her last assignments before she left the paper was profiling soldiers killed in war. Grieving parents; spouses; kids. She couldn’t absorb all that sadness anymore.

So, at age fifty, fiction-writing beckoned. She’d get to determine the endings. Punish the bad and reward the good. And, she’d throw in some romance, too.

She likes writing about Mama because the character makes her laugh. And doesn’t everyone need a smile now and then?

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# Suggested Interview Questions

## Deborah Sharp, *Mama Does Time*

1. You're a native Floridian. How do you think that influenced the plot and down-home Florida setting for *MAMA DOES TIME*, and your next book, *MAMA RIDES SHOTGUN*?
2. You were a reporter for *USA Today* for many years, covering news stories in Florida and throughout the south. How does your journalism background play out in writing mysteries?
3. The main character—feisty, tomboyish, still-single Mace Bauer—fights off an alligator to rescue Mama, but can't seem to wrestle her love life into submission. How important is it to give a strong character like Mace some flaws and weaknesses?
4. How much of your own personality went into creating Mace?
5. The relationship between the three sisters and the mama they're always bailing out of trouble seems essential to the book. Do you think women authors are better than men at writing about family ties?
6. In *MAMA DOES TIME*, Jeb Ennis, a bad-boy cowboy and the first beau to break Mace's heart, leaves rodeo to buy a cattle ranch near Wauchula. Why do you think this rodeo-and-ranches slice of Florida remains largely unknown?
7. Why is it important to you to write about this fast-vanishing part of Florida?
8. For your books, you created Himmarshee, Fla., a tiny town in the wilds north of Lake Okeechobee. Why not just use an actual community as the setting for your mystery series?
9. How do you physically write? Sitting at a desk? At the beach? In a coffee shop?
10. Where do you get the ideas for your books, and then how long does it take to write one?

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