

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Stanton, author of
Angel's Advocate

Mary Stanton has been writing professionally most of her adult life. Born in Florida, Mary grew up in Japan and Hawaii, and came to the continental U.S. to attend undergraduate school. She attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota and received a B.A. in philosophy and literature from the University of Minnesota. She dropped out of law school and a master's program in rehab therapies.

Before starting to write full-time, Mary held a number of jobs, including a nightclub singer as part of Sheik's Singing Sextette, a medical examiner for Social Security, an insurance claims adjuster, and a copy writer. In 1985, Mary founded a marketing communications firm which was sold to Hutchins, Young & Rubicam. She left the business in 1994 to write full time.

Mary's career as a fiction writer began with the publication of her first novel, *The Heavenly Horse from the Outermost West*, in 1984. A beast fable similar in tone and theme to *Watership Down*, *The Heavenly Horse from the Outermost West* was published in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan. The sequel to that novel, *Piper at the Gates*, appeared in 1989.

Mary sold her first mystery to The Berkley Publishing Group in 1994, and has since published three series with them under the *nom de plume* Claudia Bishop. In all, Mary has written twenty mystery novels, two adult fantasy novels, eleven novels for middle-grade readers, including the successful series, *The Unicorns of Balinor*. In addition, Mary has written three scripts for a television cartoon series, *Princess Gwenevere and the Jewel Riders*, and edited three short story anthologies.

A member of Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and the International Association of Crime Writers, Mary is married to Robert J. Stanton, and has three stepchildren: John Robert Stanton, Harry Cole Stanton, and Julie Stanton Schwartz.

Mary Stanton divides her time between an 850-head goat farm in upstate New York and West Palm Beach, Florida.

Angel's Advocate, the second release in Mary's Beaufort & Company mystery series, is her thirty-fourth novel.