



PHOTO: The #1 New York Times bestselling author brings us her most ambitious and provocative work yet—a searing and timely novel that explores the most volatile issue of our time—domestic violence—and the sustaining power of women's friendships.

# A Journey of Love, Family, and Fiction

## SUSAN WIGGS

#1 New York Times Best Seller Author

*Susan Wiggs, the celebrated and #1 New York Times Best Seller author, draws inspiration from her Puget Sound island home, crafting novels that celebrate love, family, and human nature. With millions of copies of her books in print worldwide, she's known for her honest emotion and unforgettable storytelling. Her literary journey reflects her lifelong love for reading and diverse influences, making her a beacon in the literary world.*

By Anna Harlowe

Susan Wiggs, #1 New York Times Best Seller Author is a name that resonates with lovers of contemporary fiction. Her life, like her novels, is a tapestry of family, friends, and a deep connection to the world around her. In this article, we delve into the life and literary journey of Susan Wiggs, a renowned international best-selling author who has touched the hearts of readers all over the world.

### A Life by the Water

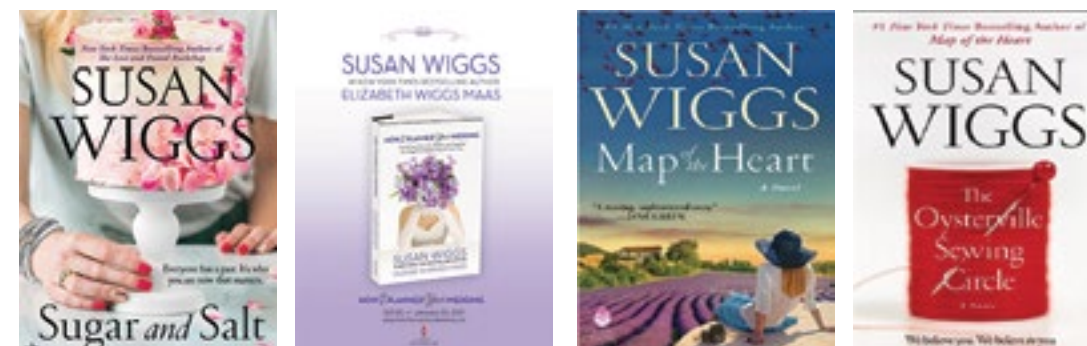
Susan Wiggs's life is intimately tied to the natural beauty of Puget Sound. She resides on an island in this picturesque part of the world, where the ebb and flow of the water serve as both inspiration and solace. It's

no wonder that her storytelling often draws from the landscapes that surround her. In fair weather, she even commutes to her writers' group in a 21-foot motorboat, underlining her deep connection to the sea.

The serene setting of her home is not just a place to rest her head; it's a muse that infuses her novels with a sense of place and authenticity. Wiggs's writing beautifully captures the essence of the Pacific Northwest, a place where everyday people navigate extraordinary circumstances, and where the bonds of love and family hold an enduring power.

### A Literary Journey

Wiggs's literary journey began with a focus on the everyday dramas of ordinary people. Her



25 million copies in print. Published in 30 countries. Translated into over 20 languages. To say that #1 NYT bestselling author Susan Wiggs is an accomplished writer would be nothing short of an understatement. A Harvard graduate and former math teacher, Susan's passion for writing dates back to grade school when she penned her first book, titled *A Book About Some Bad Kids*.

novels are a celebration of the profound impact of love, the enduring strength of familial ties, and the complex intricacies of human nature. Her ability to portray these elements with honesty and depth has garnered her a dedicated readership.

Her books have been published in numerous countries and translated into various languages, making her a truly international author. With millions of copies of her books in print, her impact on the world of fiction is undeniable. Publishers Weekly commends her for writing with "refreshingly honest emotion," and the Salem Statesman Journal notes that she is "one of our best observers of stories of the heart," capturing emotion on every page of every book. Booklist characterizes her novels as "real and true and unforgettable."

### A Life Beyond Writing

Susan Wiggs is not just a talented writer; she is a woman of diverse interests and talents. She has a background in education and is a Harvard graduate, demonstrating her commitment to intellectual pursuits. Her love for the outdoors is evident in her

passion for hiking and amateur photography. While she may be a self-proclaimed terrible golfer, she's an avid skier and, most importantly, an ardent reader.

Wiggs's favourite form of exercise is not found in physical activity but in the solace of a good book. Her love for literature is evident in her writing, where she weaves intricate stories that captivate the hearts and minds of her readers.

### Inspirations and Influences

Every writer is shaped by the books they read, and Susan Wiggs is no exception. She draws inspiration from a wide range of authors and texts that have influenced her writing journey. When asked about the last great book she read, she mentions "The Heart's Invisible Furies" by John Boyne, a coming-of-age story that covers a man's life, describing it as both heart-breaking and uplifting.

She also has a fondness for "Avalon" by Anya Seton, which may not be widely recognized but is a treasure among those who appreciate Seton's work. This particular book offers Seton's interpretation of the Arthurian legends.

Her favourite fictional hero or heroine is Celie from Alice Walker's "The Colour Purple." Celie embodies resilience and strength, qualities that resonate with Wiggs and are often reflected in her own characters.

As for the books and authors that have impacted her writing career, Wiggs cites several influential titles. "Techniques of the Selling Writer" by Dwight Swain, "The Writer's Journey" by Christopher Vogler, "Writing the Breakout Novel" by Donald Maass, and "Writing Fiction" by Janet Burroway have all played a significant role in shaping her craft.

### The Young Reader

Susan Wiggs's lifelong love for reading had its roots in her childhood. She was a voracious reader, devouring everything she could get her hands on. Her reading repertoire included a full set of encyclopaedias, and she even set herself the ambitious task of reading a biography for each letter of the alphabet during one summer.

As a middle child, Susan Wiggs had a penchant for mischief, but her other defining trait was her insatiable appetite for books.

She read series books, classic novels, and virtually anything she could find. Her childhood as a reader laid the foundation for her future as a writer, as her early experiences with literature allowed her to explore diverse worlds and characters.

### A Beacon in the Literary World

Susan Wiggs has created a literary legacy that continues to grow and captivate readers worldwide. Her ability to craft stories that touch the heart and illuminate the everyday struggles of ordinary people is a testament to her talent. With a deep appreciation for the power of love, family, and the intricate workings of the human soul, she has cemented her place as an international best-selling author.

As her readers immerse themselves in her novels, they embark on journeys filled with emotion, authenticity, and unforgettable storytelling. Whether you're navigating the intricate waters of Puget Sound or curling up with one of Susan Wiggs's books, you're sure to find a sense of connection and a deep appreciation for the beauty of love and life's everyday dramas.