



December 2023

Can you believe it? Only a few days left in 2023, then we're on to a new year. It's a chance to set and achieve new goals and experience fresh beginnings as we enter 2024. This past year was extra special for me. I published two books, "UnMasked" and the "UnMasked Companion Journal", AND I completed my first quilt.

I've dreamed of becoming an author for years and I FINALLY achieved my goal. And last year around this time, my friend, Julie, asked if I'd take a quilting class with her in the New Year. I've always thought it would be fun to create a quilt, but before taking this class I'd NEVER used a sewing machine. I was the newbie of newbies and thanks to a wonderful instructor (thank you Diane!) and my friends, Julie and Michele, I completed my sampler quilt. Here's a picture of my three creations, my books and the quilt.



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## Current Writing

November was a great writing month! I was able to complete 50,000 words and was a NANOWRIMO winner for the November contest – which means I completed my goal of 50,000 words. Unfortunately, family illness, the holidays, etc. trumped my ability to get much writing completed during December. I'm not as far as I'd like to be for this month. Book Two in the "UnMasked" Series is currently running close to sixty-seven thousand words and I have a few more chapters to complete before the final editing begins.



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## Recent Past Events

On November 25th, I was one of twenty authors selected to take part in the Fifth Annual Rochester Hills Public Library Author Fair. I was really excited to be nominated for this honor. Last year, I visited the Author Fair and remember thinking how incredible it would be to return as an author at the Author Fair.



On Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 I was at Armada in Michigan for the 2023 Armada Holly Days Christmas Parade and had the chance to do some Christmas shopping and sign copies of “UnMasked.” It was a lot of fun, with the chance to meet and talk to many Christmas shoppers.





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## This January I'm Going to Puerto Rico

During the first week in January, I'll travel with my daughter Katie. We're leaving behind the Michigan cold for the tropics and can't wait to catch up with friends. When we return, I'll be focusing on completing Book Two in the "UnMasked" series. I'll be finalizing the last few chapters and finishing the final edits before sending off to my editor. Stay tuned to hear about future book signings and podcasts.



## Do You Make New Year's Resolutions?

A few years ago, I stopped setting forth New Year's Resolutions, instead I began to figure out goals to accomplish in the New Year. This year, in addition to my writing goals, I'd like to travel more – and will be looking for some downtime to visit Oregon. And, my husband NEEDS to visit Delaware. He's visited nearly every state, EXCEPT for Delaware, so that is on the agenda as well. And we'd love to take some vacations to some book fairs in the surrounding area/states. Stay tuned as we put the plan together!

I will complete Book Two in the "UnMasked" series along with a companion volume that will include some surprises for those that like murder mysteries.

I will be working with our current and new authors to update the "Pathway to HOPE Resource Guide for Special Needs". I will also be working with a marketing firm to help market this book for Healing Complex Kids.

As we enter into the New Year, I wish each of you a healthy and blessed New Year and the hope that you're able to set and create some wonderful goals for yourself in the coming year. I'd love to hear from you, especially if you're setting any New Year's Resolutions or goals.

Happy, Happy New Year!

Julie

P.S. Thank you to those that have reached out to tell me you received "UnMasked" for Christmas – I can't wait to hear what you think!

If you enjoyed reading "UnMasked", one of the best compliments you can give a writer is a review. You would be doing me a HUGE favor if you wrote a review on Amazon and then cut and pasted the same review into Good reads. (<https://www.goodreads.com/>) It's super easy - just a couple sentences telling future readers what you think.

"UnMasked" and the UnMasked Companion Journal are available online through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart and select Indie book stores.

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