

## [Books In Sync Author Spotlight Interview With Sylvia Dickey Smith](#)



Author [Sylvia Dickey Smith](#) Resides In Georgetown, Texas.

**Q: Tell us what makes you proud to be a writer from your Georgetown, Texas?**

**A:** Georgetown has been named one of the best places to retire in the nation. Because of the unique population the town has attracted, it is full of active, intelligent, well-educated community advocates. Because I started my writing career after I retired, I garner lots of attention as an ‘old dog learning new tricks.’ People are proud of my accomplishments and celebrate each new book with me. I am a fifth generation Texan and have lived in the state all my life except for a 6 year jaunt on the island of

Trinidad, W.I....Texans are known to be proud of their state. It isn’t perfect, but my roots are here, and other than a couple months of heat in the summer, the weather is ideal.

**Q: What or who inspired you to become a writer?**

**A:** I don’t know if any one person inspired me. The closest to that, I suppose would be my father, who didn’t inspire me to write, but inspired me to love his storytelling. I watched him have as much or more fun telling the stories, than we had listening. I just had a fire burning inside me smoldering to get out. The written word helped me access the flames, and to manipulate and control them—to put order and sense to the feelings. Writing gave me my voice.

**Q: When did you begin writing with the intention of becoming published?**

**A:** I think when I started on my first mystery novel, which was around 2003. I had much to learn, so it took me a while to develop the skills. At first, being published was merely a dream, but the fire got hotter by the time I really got into refining the manuscript and nothing could stop me—not rejections, not agents not doing what they committed to do, not bone-weary effort. It was like each rejection letter—Negative Letters, I called them—only made my hardheaded determination grown harder.

**Q: Did your environment or upbringing play a major role in your writing and why? A:** Not to write, but I developed a love of story. My parents were basically uneducated—achieving merely a few years of schooling. But they taught me a love of books and of story. My childhood was before television was available in homes. (Yes, I really am that old, or that time period wasn’t so long ago!) We had radio programs with serial stories we listened to every week. My mother read books to us before we slept, like *The Wizard of Oz*, and *The Boxcar Children*. The older I grew, the more important stories became to me. I find story adds full-spectrum color to my life. Without story, the world, to me would look black and white.

**Q: Do you come up with your title (s) before or after you write the manuscript (s)?**

**A:** The ‘when’ varies, but I have named each one, at times with assistance from my editor. My fourth book, which is not a part of the series, but rather a women’s/historical fiction—the name for that book, *A War Of Her Own*, came before I started on the book. It’s cool when that happens. It’s almost like the title drove me to write the book.

**Q: Tell us why you write the genre (s) that you write?**

**A:** My writing style has changed since I wrote my first books. I started writing mystery because I had a story I wanted to tell—a true story—but was forced to write it as fiction due to legal issues. Once I got it finished, my agent said, “Okay, give me synopsis for two more and we’ll sell it as a series. I was off and running.



A WAR OF HER OWN set me on a new course. With it, I tapped into my true passion, and that is to write stories that not only entertain and enrich the life of women, but stories that help them find their voice. An advocate for women, my writing features those who recreate themselves into the people they want to be, strong women who take charge of their lives and get things done. (If you've met Sidra Smart or Bea Meade, you know what I mean.)

The stories dwell on the wondrous twists and turns of human behavior rooted in my background as a counselor before I became a novelist. The tales are fun, sassy, and (according to my fans) darn good reads. I hope readers like these kinds of books, too! I look forward to adding others as a fan.

A WAR OF HER OWN is not a mystery, really, although there are mysterious elements in it. What inspired me to write it was the setting, WWII, and the fabulous history of the area where it takes place, which is Orange, Texas, the same setting of the mystery series. WWII put that small town on the map with its massive shipbuilding operations. Then add to that, my own family stories from the time period that grew in my imagination over the decades.

**Q: Tell us your most rewarding experience while in the writing process?**

**A:** The most rewarding time is when I *become* the character I am writing. When I feel what they feel, hear what they hear, smell what they smell, touch what they touch and when I see the world around them through their eyes.”

**Q: Tell us your most negative experience while in the writing process?**

**A:** When I get stuck in the middle of the plot and struggle to find my way out!

**Q: Tell us your most rewarding experience in your publishing journey?**

**A:** When a neat agent called, in love with my first book, and offered me a contract.

**Q: Tell us your most negative experience in your publishing journey?**

**A:** When I learned three months later she’d closed her agency.

**Q: What one positive piece of advice would you give to other authors?**

**A:** Write because you must, not because you want to write.

**Q: Who Is Your Favorite Author?**

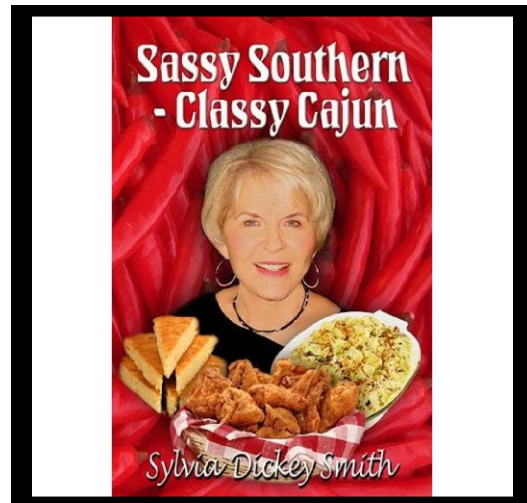
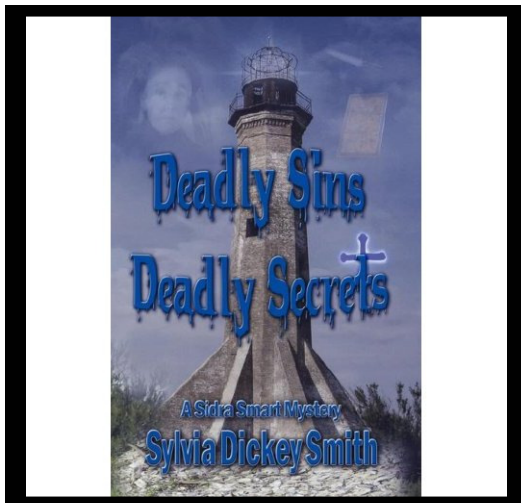
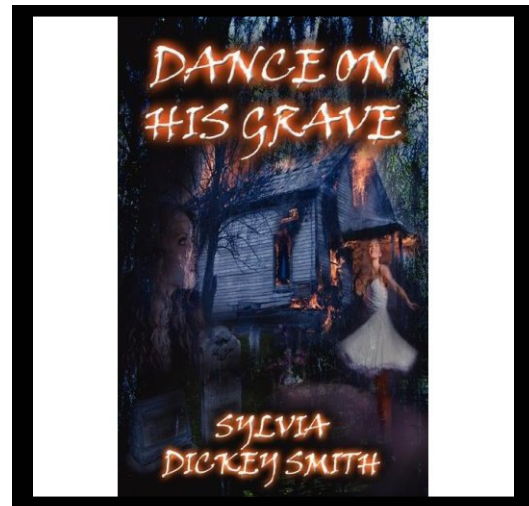
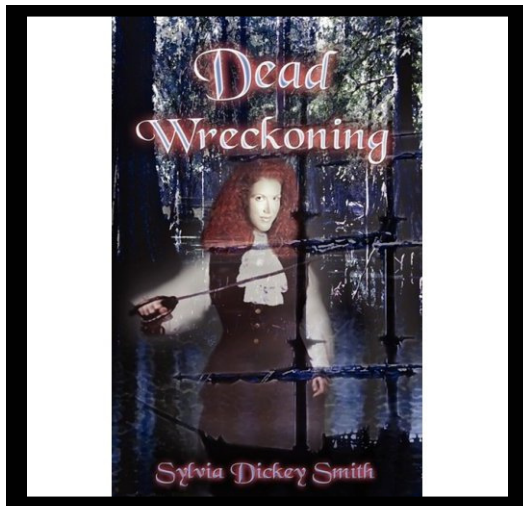
**A:** Oh, it’s hard for me to narrow it down to one.

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**Author Sylvia Dickey Smith's Titles:**

- **War Of Her Own**
- **Dance On His Grave - Book One**
- **Deadly Sins-Deadly Secrets – Book Two**
- **Dead Wreckoning – Book Three**
- **Sassy Southern Classy Cajun Cooking**

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**Q: What Format (s) are your books in: Print Only.....E-Book Only....or Both?**

**A:** My books are in trade paperback, e-books, and Kindle.

**Q: What special projects are you working on now and what books do we have to look forward to in the future?**

**A:** I am drafting The Swamp Whisperer, the story of an old woman as poor as a mouse kicked out of church. Her name is Boo Murphy, who knows the swamp as well as she knows the bulging blue veins down the backs of hands. But when an Atakapa Indian visits her dreams, he puts her on a path that leads to self-discovery. It also puts her life at risk.

**Q: Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?**

**A:** I encourage women to find their voice. One way to do that is to write.

**[Sylvia Dickey Smith's Blog](http://www.sylviadickeysmitbooks.wordpress.com/)**

**<http://www.sylviadickeysmitbooks.wordpress.com/>**

**[Sylvia Dickey Smith's Websites](http://www.sylviadickeysmit.com/)**

**<http://www.sylviadickeysmit.com/>**

**<http://www.awarofherown.com/>**

**[Books In Sync Radio With Host Sylvia Dickey Smith](http://www.booksinsync.com/booksinsyncradio.html)**

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