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Contact: Elloise Bennett,

Phone: 619-307-9202

Email: myfathershusband@gmail.com

**Bennett's debut novel, "My Father's Husband," is a revealing telling about families, acceptance, love and relationships.**

**SAN DIEGO, CA** – Elloise Bennett, releases her debut work, "My Father's Husband: A Novel." Based on Bennett's own personal life experiences, her novel deals with issues of coming of age, family, relationships, adultery and accepting a gay parent. A former history teacher and school administrator in San Diego area, Bennett now lives in Europe. "My Father's Husband: A Novel" is available on Amazon, Kobo and iTunes.

"Families can be a tough part of our personal lives," says Bennett, "and definitely when one discovers that you have a parent who is gay. Writing has helped process what was a big shock to a fifteen-year old girl, and has helped me work towards moving beyond it. I wanted to tell the story - about how I grew towards acceptance and why."

Set in both San Diego and Amsterdam, "My Father's Husband: A Novel," is the story of Celia, a successful, strong and independent woman who is certain she has conquered her past and the discovery that her father is gay. But Celia is faced with sudden emotional turmoil in her own. In Celia's desperate bid to sort out her deteriorating marriage, she finds an unexpected relationship mentor and guide - her father's husband. While her rekindled relationship with her father and his new husband challenges her to grow, she also is faced with questions of love, acceptance and forgiveness.

"This is a novel for anyone who's struggled to maintain their sense of self and self worth in the tide of a tumultuous relationship; it is for anyone who's family is less than perfect; it is for everyone. The reader can't help but identify with Celia's struggle to sort out the past while building a future. She is a real life heroin who makes changes that should inspire us all! A great read!" writes one reader. Other readers found "My Father's Husband: A Novel" a "bitter-sweet page turner", "thought-provoking," "visceral," "emotional" and "heartfelt."

More information on Bennett and *My Father's Husband: A Novel*, can be found on <http://www.myfathershusband.com> or via email at myfathershusband@gmail.com

Copies are available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) (in both Kindle and paperback) as well as iTunes and [Kobo](http://kobo.com).

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## About the Author

Elloise Bennett is a writer, traveler, teacher.

Born in South Africa, Elloise has lived an expat existence in California, London, France, and the Netherlands. She currently is based in Amsterdam and splits her time between airports around Europe, visiting her Dad and his husband in France, and with frequent sunshine pit-stops in California.

Putting herself through college meant lots of time working in the industry where her own family roots are strong – retail, restaurants and hotels. Which is where the inspiration and knowledge for the character of ‘Celia’ also comes from. Elloise is currently a partner in a B&B in the Southwest of France, putting ‘Celia’s’ knowledge of hotels into action.



A graduate from University of San Diego and Royal Holloway, University of London, with degrees in European History and Art History, Elloise is a history teacher by training, passion and inclination, and has worked as a school administrator in some of the top San Diego-area schools. She now has her own business, (<http://aptestservice.com>), writes a travel blog (Found Travel – <http://foundtravel.wordpress.com>), and teaches and writes curriculum for professional development courses for teachers and administrators-in-training through the University of San Diego, Division of Continuing Education.

She likes to cook, drink wine, sip coffee, read, write, travel, laugh, spend time with friends, work, and take long walks in the park with her dog.

Elloise Bennett, released her first work, “My Father's Husband: A Novel,” in 2013. Based on Bennett's own personal experiences, she writes about coming of age, relationships and family.

"Writing has always been a personal dream," say Bennett. "And some events in my personal life taught me never to wait until later to accomplish a dream. So I started writing! And like they tell you in all the how-to books, I wrote about what I knew best. About my life. How much is fact and how much is fiction, well - you will need to decide for yourself!"

Visit <http://foundtravel.wordpress.com> to learn more about Elloise’s travel, expat and cooking adventures.

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## Book Facts

My Father's Husband

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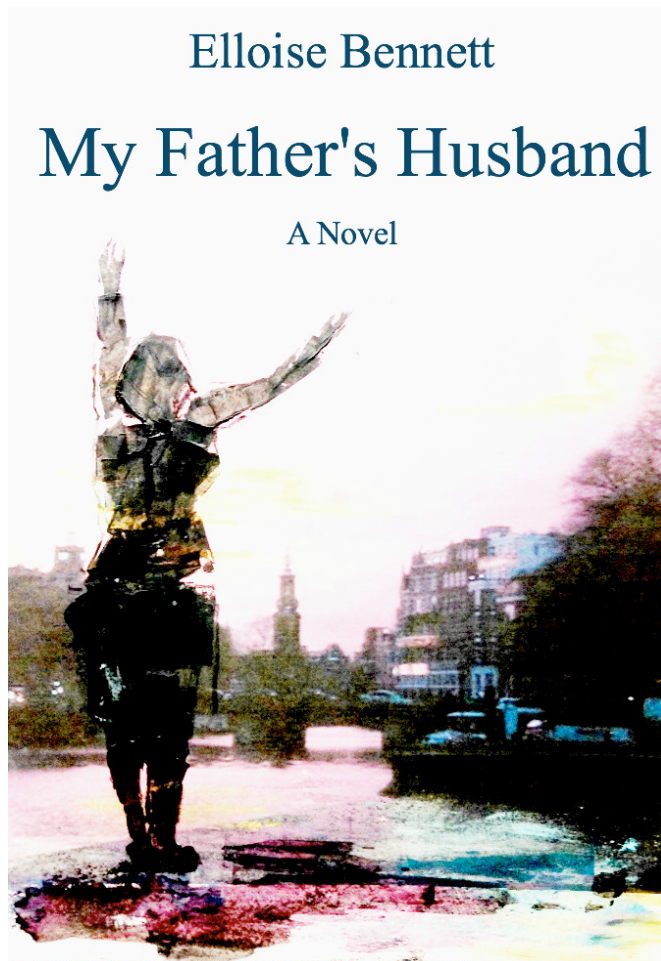
Kindle: \$5.99

Amazon: \$11.00, Softcover 220 pages, 5.25" x 8"

iBooks: \$5.99

Smashwords: \$5.99 (Available here in multiple formats)

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“My Father’s Husband”

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Phone: 619-307-9202

Email: [myfathershusband@gmail.com](mailto:myfathershusband@gmail.com)

### **Sample Interview with author Elloise Bennett**

Elloise Bennett, author of the debut novel, “My Father’s Husband,” talks about her writing.

Q: Welcome Elloise, and thank you for taking the time to sit down for this interview. Let’s jump right in. You write that this book is based on your life. Is it fiction or is it real?

EB: They say art imitates life, or something of that nature. But the truth is, sometimes life inspires art. This book is a blending of life and inspiration. Some things happened exactly as written. Others I had to simplify and fictionalize to not bore my poor reader with the minutia of life. All character names have been changed. I’d classify this as more memoirialized fiction since the story is heavily based on my own experiences. Definitely on my emotions.

Q: A large part of the novel is about your relationship with your father. Has he read the book? How did he feel about it?

EB: Yes, a big part of the novel is about rekindling my relationship with the man whom I see as my father. And yes, he did read the book. Although not until it was published. I think I was nervous to know what he would think until after it was a *fait accompli*. My understanding is that he liked it very much – although we may differ on which parts are our favorites!

Q: Is your book about gay marriage? Is this a political take?

EB: Yes and no. There is gay marriage in the book. And I do state in the book what I think and feel. But this book is about more than that. As most of life is. You cannot simply it to just one dynamic. Writing this book was a personal journey and so it’s a personal stance. It’s not political.

Q: What inspired the writing of the novel?

EB: I’ve always been a writer. All my computer archives are full of half-written stories. I always wanted to write a novel. And finally I gave myself the gift of some time to do it. I hauled up in a cabin in the Belgium Ardennes forest for a week and started writing. Before I knew it, I had five chapters done. It was a very personal writing process too – a cathartic journey. I wrote really more at the start to process something I was experiencing. And then it became more than that.

Q: There are aspects of the book that are extremely personal. How do you deal with knowing your readers are turning those specific pages?

EB: That was actually something I had to think about carefully. I was an educator, how would I feel if especially former students read some of the sections, or even all of the book. And again, not all of it is actual true to life. But at one point I realized I wanted to take my read on an emotional journey with me and for some of that journey I had to open up some pretty raw spaces of my own self. And I am glad I did, everyone's reaction has been such that it made me feel good to trust my readers. I learned on my blog also, that if I am real... and even sometimes raw with what I feel, then my readers relate and react positively.

Q: That's right. You also publish a blog. Is it about the book?

EB: Not about, but thanks to some of the events of the book. I left my career in the USA and moved to Europe, and had more time to write and travel. For the first time in my life I was doing things for myself, which was so great. So I started blogging about finding the joy of travel, but also about finding myself. Hence the title of the blog, Found Travel. And it's been a great resource also to try out writing styles, techniques, even material.

Q: We also heard that your father was involved in designing the book cover. Is that true?

EB: Actually, it's all his design. He's an incredible artist, and since his husband is involved in the title, I thought it would be fun if he is involved in the cover! So he created and designed it for me.

Q: Is there a follow up book? Your fans want to know what's next for Celia.

EB: Of course there is! It's in progress right now. Celia will for sure show up on more pages and under another title. She's got lots to learn and experience and share.

Q: Thank you for your time, Elloise. I am sure the readers appreciate it.

EB: You are welcome. And I would love to take a moment to add that they can sign up for the My Father's Husband blog and newsletter at <http://myfathershusband.com>. It's a good way to stay on the up and up about Celia, travel and also new things coming down the pipeline.

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