

JUDY BAGSHAW bio

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Judy Bagshaw is a retired elementary school teacher and writer in southern Ontario, Canada.

She describes herself as "a woman with a mission and a unique vision." Her mission is to write romantic stories that show plus-sized women living rich, involved lives. This mission grew out of her own personal struggles living as a large-sized person in a world in which fat is reviled.

It wasn't until her late twenties that Judy realized she had wasted a good portion of her time obsessing about her weight and her looks. At about this point, she discovered NAAFA, the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, a size acceptance organization in the United States. And she experienced an epiphany. She did not have to accept the notion that there was something wrong about her that had to be fixed. She could be acceptable as she was. And she began a journey of self-acceptance that eventually led to her writing career.

Writing has always been a part of Judy's life, but it became a serious pursuit when she reached her mid-thirties. She started taking writing classes and one summer stumbled upon an ad for a publisher seeking plus-sized romances. So she sat down and wrote one.

"I can remember a writing instructor telling me emphatically that there was no real market for romances featuring plus sized heroines," she says. "I thought then that I would really enjoy proving him wrong!"

Her first work was published in 1999.

In 2005 Judy retired after a 28-year career as an elementary school teacher to devote herself to writing fulltime. "I have so many stories I want to tell. And since finding publishers who want work that is outside the mainstream box, I know that there are people out there that want to read stories where the big girl wins the hero's heart and lives happily ever after."

Pearlson Press published Judy's short story collection, *At Long Last, Love*, in April 2007. She has four novels available from other publishers (*Lady Blue*, *Teacher's Pet*, *Love by the Pound* and *Big Fat Lies*), as well as work in two anthologies, *Love At Large* and *Leading Ladies*.



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Big girls—and women—live happily ever after in At Long Last, Love, a collection of romantic short stories by Canadian author Judy Bagshaw.

NASHVILLE, TN—Judy Bagshaw has a mission and a vision: writing romantic stories and novels in which plus-sized women live rich, involved lives. It’s a dream that grew out of her struggles living as a large woman in a world in which fat is reviled.

It wasn’t until her late twenties that Bagshaw realized she had wasted a good portion of her time obsessing about her weight and her looks. The subsequent journey of self-acceptance led to her writing career.

Her most recent work, *At Long Last, Love*, a collection of short stories featuring plus-sized (and in some cases middle-aged) heroines, was published by Pearlson Press in April 2007.

Writing had always been a part of the Canadian school teacher’s life, but it became a serious pursuit when she reached her mid-thirties. Bagshaw started taking writing classes and one summer stumbled upon an ad for a publisher seeking plus-sized romances.

“I can remember a writing instructor telling me emphatically that there was no real market for romances featuring plus-sized heroines,” she says. “I thought then that I would really enjoy proving him wrong!”

Her first work was published in 1999. In 2005 Bagshaw retired after a 28-year career as an elementary school teacher to devote herself to writing fulltime at her home in southern Ontario.

“I have so many stories I want to tell. And since finding publishers who want work that is outside the mainstream box, I know that there are people out there that want to read stories where the big girl wins the hero’s heart and lives happily ever after.”

At Long Last, Love: A Collection is available from online and offline booksellers, directly from the publisher at www.pearlsong.com, and wholesale from Ingram Book Co. and others.

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