Meet the Co-Author

Barbara Quick



Barbara Quick, author of the children's book *Even More / Todavía más*, is a full-time writer who graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a B.A. in English and a minor in French. Starting her career with administrative and managerial roles for various academic settings, Barbara has written for a variety of venues and organizations including the *New York Times Book Review* and *Cosmopolitan*.

Using her experience as a daughter and as a mother, Barbara teamed up with Liz McGrath to co-author *Even More / Todavía más*. In this deeply touching testament of love between a daughter and her mother, Barbara's poetic language pulls us into the circle of arms that is a parent's hug. The words and illustrations share the intimacy of dance, another of Barbara's passions.

Indeed, Barbara's many academic and professional accomplishments pale in comparison to her personal achievements and ambitions. Barbara is a samba dancer or "sambista." She has been an avid student of Brazilian dance for the past seven years. She has danced in Brazil and for San Francisco's Carnival parade. She also enjoys gardening and learning other languages.

She is working on a novel that takes place in 18th century Venice. She had to learn Italian to do a good job on the research. Her goal is to learn 11 languages before she dies. Well on her way with conversational French, German, Italian, a basic grasp of Spanish and a smattering of Hungarian, Barbara's language studies have served her well on her journeys around the world. Her sojourns include two field seasons in the Alaskan Arctic, a four month stop in Budapest, and a year living and writing in a stone cottage at the south-eastern most tip of Ireland.

Also an amateur naturalist and an out of practice bird-watcher, her first novel *Northern Edge* won the Discover: Great New Writer prize. *Northern Edge* is set in the Alaskan Arctic among a group of field biologists. Her other publications include *The Commitment Dialogues* (McGraw-Hill, 2005), and *Anna Maria Violino, Student of Maestro Vivaldi* (forthcoming HarperCollins, 2007) as well as numerous other books, essays, and articles.



Contact Barbara Quick through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.

Even More written by Barbara Quick and Liz McGrath / illustrated by Liz McGrath
Todavía más escrito por Barbara Quick and Liz McGrath / ilustrado por Liz McGrath
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Questions for the Co-Author

Barbara Quick

1. Who or what inspires you to write or draw?
Barbara wrote her first poem when she was eight. She was hooked on the emotional high of writing from then on. Both literally and figuratively, writing keeps her alive—so she doesn't have to worry about inspiration. It's a very simple choice every day of her life.



2. What is your favorite writing environment? Describe your workspace.
An opportunistic writer, Barbara likes to be ready to write whenever and wherever she may have the time and space. Whether her environment is her office, the cozy chair by the fire in her living room, a lively outdoor café, or her bed with a cup of tea on the night-table, that's her favorite place to write.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for writing?
Barbara has always written her first drafts in longhand in speckled composition books. She has boxes of them, all filled with journals and poems and books, fiction and nonfiction. Her preferred writing instrument is a Waterman fountain pen she bought in Paris. Subsequent drafts are done on computer, but she can hear the music of a piece much better if she sees the printed words. Barbara always tries to carry her notebook and paper drafts of whatever she's working on, even if she is just going to the grocery store.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
All Barbara needs is a little block of time and a bit of quiet or white noise.

5. Who are your favorite authors / illustrators? What influence have they had on your work?
She has just read a beautiful novel called *Embers* by the late Hungarian writer Sandor Marai. As far as children's books go, Barbara loves the British classics: *Wind in the Willows*, J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*, and all of Roald Dahl. Barbara also enjoys the books and illustrations by the late, great William Steig. They make her wish she could draw!



6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
Barbara doesn't think we laugh or cry enough in our society. She finds it very rewarding to be able to pry people's hearts open. She approached *Even More / Todavía más* through her relationship to her mother.

Questions for the Co-Author (continued)

Barbara Quick



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that others may be interested in?
Barbara is a samba dancer or "sambista." She has been an avid student of Brazilian dance for the past seven or so years. She has danced in Brazil and for San Francisco's Carnival parade. She also enjoys gardening and learning other languages.

8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you write it? Why did you want to illustrate it? Where did your ideas come from?
Liz McGrath came up with the concept for *Even More / Todavía más* and had already done several of the illustrations before asking Barbara to help her with the words. They had a wonderful time collaborating on the book over a period of about two years.

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
Conjuring up fond memories was the only research Barbara needed to write *Even More / Todavía más.*

10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
Barbara has had a ton of fun doing bilingual readings at schools and bookstores. She always tries to get a Spanish speaker to read the part of the daughter. Barbara would love any children's book she writes to be bilingual!



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Meet the Co-Author and Illustrator

Liz McGrath



Elizabeth (Liz) McGrath, author of *Even More / Todavía más*, was raised along the dirt and gravel drives of rural Connecticut. Liz grew up amid the noise and confusion of six children. With so little privacy, Liz turned to drawing as an escape and place of solace.

When Liz left the family home she attended Chamberlayne Jr. College in Boston, MA. On her first day of college Liz met a young man with whom she shared every class. His name was Tim McGrath. Both graduating with an Associate of the Arts degree, Liz and her new husband were eager to take life, and their careers, by the horns.

Moving to New Hampshire, Liz began working as a graphic designer for a magazine publishing company where she eventually became Associate Art Director. This was followed closely by a promotion to Art Director for Lifestyle Magazines (Seacoast Life & New Hampshire Profiles). In 1988 the first of two daughters, Caleigh, was born. In order to mother her child, Liz quit her job at the magazine and took on part-time freelance illustration. Shortly after Liz's second daughter, Maeve, was born in 1997 Tim's job relocated the family to San Francisco.

Relocating, and with Maeve and Caleigh in tow, Liz felt out of touch with the trendy illustration styles of the corporate world. She spent her most of her leisurely reading hours with the children. Deciding to illustrate what she knew best at the time, Liz started work on *Even More / Todavía más*. The story evolved out of a bedtime tradition Caleigh started when she was three or four. Every night mother and daughter would exchange their "I love you more than(s)." Liz, realizing how quickly her daughters were growing up, wanted to capture these moments. After meeting and collaborating with Barbara Quick, *Even More / Todavía más* was born.



For three and a half years, Liz and her family grew to love the Bay area. Then, Tim, having accepted a position in Providence, RI, Liz and company, took their first family road-trip. Back in New England, and now torn between the two coasts, Liz is not sure whether they will ultimately settle there or not. However, Liz is sure that she thoroughly enjoys writing and illustrating children's books, and sincerely hopes she has found her new career.

Contact Liz McGrath through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.

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Questions for the Co-Author and Illustrator

Liz McGrath



1. Who or what inspires you to write or draw?
Liz has been illustrating for as long as she can remember. Even as a little girl she would turn to her art as a means of escape into a world entirely her own. Hoping to capture the precious moments between her and her daughters, Caleigh and Maeve, Liz used their bedtime tradition of sharing their own "I love you more than(s)" as her inspiration for *Even More / Todavía más*.

2. What is your favorite writing / illustration environment? Describe your workspace.
Liz's favorite environment and her actual workspace are not the same. Ideally she'd have a spacious well lit studio isolated from the daily chaos every family experiences. In reality her "studio" is a drawing desk and table in the corner of her bedroom where she's interrupted regularly, usually by her cat seeking the sanctuary of her desk as protection from the drooling Basset hound giving chase.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for writing / illustrating?
Liz believes in using the right tools for the job, so she begins by selecting paper that is of the right weight and texture for each picture. Besides this, markers and colored pencils are a necessity, especially black and white colored pencils. She usually uses 2-3 of each per illustration.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
When Liz has finally shooed the cat from her desk and is getting ready to work she tunes the radio to an alternative radio station and sits down. With some old Stone Temple Pilots or other alternative band as background sound, she tunes out everything else and goes to work.

5. Who are your favorite authors / illustrators? What influence have they had on your work?
Liz's favorite authors and illustrators are her children. Their work is consistently refreshing and genuine. That's why she featured so much of it in *Even More / Todavía más*.



6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
The most important message she hopes to get across is that at different stages of a daughter's life a mother's love is there, unconditionally. Not only this, but Liz believes that though it's a love that can be felt from the moment a baby is born, it cannot always be explained.

Questions for the Co-Author and Illustrator (continued)

Liz McGrath



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that others may be interested in?
Liz likes to decorate her house because when she's done she can redecorate it all over again. She's even gone so far as to paint the refrigerator. Her husband and kids never know what to expect when they come home, like a pink refrigerator!

8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you write it? Why did you want to illustrate it? Where did your ideas come from?
Even More / Todavía más was a work in process for many years. As her children grew, their artwork was incorporated into the story, so it evolved just like the life cycle depicted in the book. It started as a keepsake for her older daughter, Caleigh. She started a bedtime ritual of "I love you more than" when she was 3 years old. When Caleigh became a teenager Liz decided to put the book together to capture how the "I love you more than(s)" changed and matured with her. Throughout the entire process her younger daughter, Maeve, who was not yet in school, would color by her side while she worked on it.

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
The "research" Liz did, which she actually considers more of a challenge, was illustrating the characters as they aged. Drawing faces and hands can be challenging by itself, never mind trying to render the same characters as their age progresses. Another challenge was illustrating the characters so that they would portray the loving relationship between a mother and daughter which is universal to any culture.

10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
Liz has met many people because of *Even More / Todavía más*, and she always enjoys hearing and seeing their reactions. Also, she has enjoyed the partnership and friendship with both Barbara Quick and everyone at Raven Tree Press. Without them this book may never have been produced.



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About the Book

Even More / Todavía más



Even More / Todavía más, by Barbara Quick and Liz McGrath, tells the story of the evolution of a loving child / parent relationship. Author Barbara Quick and co-author / illustrator Liz McGrath have produced the one book your child will remember, and in turn, pass on to her child. This story is written for the heart beating inside all of us.

Even More / Todavía más follows a mother and her child through alternating illustrative techniques designed to reflect the growing and ever changing bond between them. It also uses highly poetic repetition to establish both the individuality and unity of the two voices. Following them through the growth of the child into a parent herself, the story shows how the ultimate expression and understanding of love is found in one's own coming into parenthood.

The question of whether the illustrations or the story is the backbone of a children's book is normally difficult to answer. In *Even More / Todavía más* the answer is, they are inseparable. Intimately linked to the text, they are the story. From the child's first footprint through her teenage rebellion, each illustration captures the growing maturity of the mother / child bond.

Liz McGrath did not use computer assistance for her illustration techniques in *Even More / Todavía más*. She draws by freehand only, using markers for a base. She then applies colored pencil over this base for her remarkable detail and texture. The alternating illustration styles reflect the development of the bond between mother and child. To achieve this effect of an evolution of love and understanding Liz employed artwork by her children in *Even More / Todavía más*.

This story is presented as a full text translation. In a full text translation the story text is included fully in both English and in Spanish. In general, both texts are supplied on the page with an icon separating the two. Different ink colors for each text further distinguish the English from the Spanish. The book ends with a keyword vocabulary page for learning both languages.



Even More / Todavía más helps children gain an appreciation of literature, another culture/language, and the progression and growth of a nurturing relationship. It is guaranteed to quickly become one of your children's favorite stories. Pick up your copy of *Even More / Todavía más* today.

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Rave Reviews

Even More / Todavía más

"...A creative illustration pattern follows the text perfectly; when the mother speaks, readers see the child she loves so much. When the child speaks, the illustrations depict age-appropriate artwork that might have been created by the child herself...this book would make a wonderful bedtime reading choice for a child and her mother." **—Children's Literature**



"...The book's tender text and rich illustrations aim straight at the heart...Sentimental? You bet. But in its sweet tones and nostalgic images, also irresistible." **—ForeWord Magazine**

"Our society needs more books of this type which help children experience the genuine love of parents for their children and the love they give in return. The publisher, Raven Tree Press, has many books which are refreshing examples of the goodness of human nature." **—Learning Abilities Books**

"...Using this feel-good book as a conversation starter could help parents and children express their feelings for one another...lyrical, easy to read text. Liz McGrath has captured the feelings perfectly in the marvelous illustrations..." **—Beverly J. Rowe, reviewer for the New York Times Book Review**

"... This is a very well done bilingual book ...Sure to help the young reader understand how important they are to their parents. *Even More* is a highly recommended children's book." **—Midwest Book Review**

"It's beautiful and moving." **—Green Bay Press-Gazette**



"I absolutely loved this book! Exceptional writing, sweet but sentimental... Beautiful artwork creates a beautiful book...*Even More* will indeed become a classic." **—Book Review Café**

"With vibrant illustrations by Liz McGrath, *Even More / Todavía más* tells of the ages of woman, from baby to daughter to mother. Rebeccasreads recommends, *Even More / Todavía más* as a wonderful way for mothers to say, "I love you every day of my life." **—Rebeccasreads Reviews**

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Tip Sheet for Even More/ Todavía más

Even More / Todavía más
Written by Barbara Quick and Liz McGrath Illustrated by Liz McGrath
32 pg. / Hardcover / Jacketed / 1st Edition / Trade Cloth
Children's Bilingual (English/Spanish full text translations in both languages)
ISBN 0-9720192-8-6 Reading Level—2.8
Publication Date–January 2004 9 x 11
Retail Price $16.95 USD Ages 4-8 Accelerated Reader® Quiz # 77766

Description: A touching testament to the mother/child bond, illustrations and text alternate between compositions chronicling the child's birth to the mother's old age. The cycle repeats with the birth of the grandchild. Full text translations. Bilingual glossary of key words.

Selling Points:
- Perfect gift for new mothers and Mother's Day as well as for children
- Artwork is a unique blend of children's drawings and adult illustration

Selling Sentence: A touching mother/daughter bond unfolds through gentle evolving artwork. The cycle of life is embraced.

Author Bio: Barbara Quick is the author of Northern Edge: A Novel of Survival in Alaska's Arctic as well as Still Friends: Living Happily Ever After…Even If Your Marriage Falls Apart and Under Her Wing: The Mentors Who Changed Our Lives.

Illustrator Bio: Liz McGrath graduated from Boston's Chamberlayne with an Associate of Arts degree and works in an art galley and creates design work in Providence, RI.

Advertising & Promotion Plans:
- Direct marketing to booksellers, schools and libraries
- Electronic advertising to e-lists
- Introduction at local, national and international trade shows including BEA and ALA
- Catalog and galley mailings to all major book reviewers



Pre-Publication Comments and Special Sales:
- National reviews

Subrights: All subrights currently available

Market Niche: Maternity stores, OB/GYN clinics, offices and hospitals, gift shops

Raven Tree Press, LLC
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phone: 920-438-1605 fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com