

# 18Q The Eighteen Questions

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## Brette McWhorter Sember

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### URL

[www.BretteSember.com](http://www.BretteSember.com)  
[www.YourPlusSizePregnancy.com](http://www.YourPlusSizePregnancy.com)

### Brette's 18Q

#### 1. Did you choose the writing profession or did it choose you?

It chose me. I should have known though since really it was what I always wanted to do, but I never had the guts to do it.

#### 2. What is your background? (education, work, etc.)

I have a BA in English and a JD. I was a practicing attorney and left on maternity leave and never went back.

#### 3. When did you 'know' you were a writer?

I think that's something I've always known. I used to make books when I was a kid. Writing has always been how I think best and communicate best.

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#### **4. How would you describe your style of writing?**

I'm very good at explaining things, offering practical suggestions, and taking things apart so that they are more understandable. So, in that sense, I am a self-help writer. But I also have a humorous, playful streak, so I like to do essays and humor pieces.

#### **5. What is your writing process?**

Put my butt in the chair and do it. Really, as far as I'm considered there's no process - it's just about doing it.

#### **6. What was your path to publication?**

I responded to an ad in the state bar journal about a publisher looking for lawyers to write books. 2 years later I was home with a baby and got a call from that publisher and that was my start. Around the same time I also sold an essay to a magazine.

#### **7. What is your favorite self-marketing idea?**

I have a book that I KNOW would sell like hotcakes in hospital gift shops. I haven't found a publisher yet, but still toy around with the idea of self-publishing it.

#### **8. What are the biggest surprises you've encountered as a writer?**

Probably that so much of it is not about writing. It's about running a business, building a platform, making the right connections, and above all else, doing publicity.

#### **9. How do you inspire yourself?**

What are your sources of creativity? I don't really think of it as inspring myself, but more as recharging myself. I can't sit in front of the computer all day, so spending time with my husband and kids, reading, cooking, and traveling are the things that make me feel like a person.

#### **10. What is your proudest writer moment?**

There's nothing like holding that first published book in your hands. I was also really proud to sell my book *Your Plus-Size Pregnancy*, which I knew there was a market for but it took years to get anyone to believe me

#### **11. What's the best advice you were given about writing?**

I love Anne Lamott's advice about taking things bird by bird. I use that analogy all the time with my kids with their school projects!

#### **12. What is your most embarrassing writer moment?**

Probably when I was doing publicity for *The Complete Gay Divorce* and my publicist mistakenly booked me on a morning shock jock radio show where they had 2 people pretending to be gay asking me obscene and outrageous questions. I hung up and refused to finish the interview.

#### **13. What business challenges have you faced as a writer?**

The biggest challenge is cash flow. When you primarily write books, you only see money when you get royalty statements or when you get an advance. That's why I think it is important to supplement with magazine and corporate work.

**14. What is your writer life philosophy?**

Stop stressing about it and just do it.

**15. When you're not writing what do you do for fun?**

Read, read, read. Play with my kids. Travel, cook, walk, decorate.

**16. Who do you like to read?**

Lately I've been on a chick lit binge reading anything I can get my hands on. When it comes to favorite authors though I'm drawn to mysteries - Robert Parker, Diane Mott Davidson, Sue Grafton, Marcia Muller.

**17. What's your advice for new writers?**

Diversify. Get your hand in as many pots as possible. If you limit yourself, you won't have a lot of options.

**18. What are you currently working on?**

I'm just finishing up The Essential Supervisor's Handbook and am about to start a new book for which I don't have a contract yet, so I don't want to put it out there quite yet. I'm also doing a magazine article on infertility and preparing for a seminar I am giving at a writer's conference. Any day I should have page proofs for the second edition of my book Seniors' Rights.



