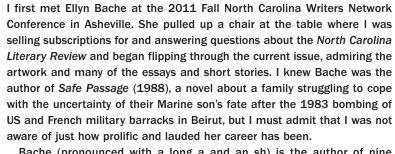
A "PASSIONATE NEED TO WRITE":

An Interview with Ellyn Bache by Christy Alexander Hallberg



Bache (pronounced with a long a and an sh) is the author of nine novels, a short story collection (which won the Willa Cather Fiction Prize), a nonfiction book, and several books for young adults. Her most recent novel, *The Art of Saying Goodbye* (2011), was selected as an "Okra Pick" by the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA) and is a 2012 SIBA Book of the Year Award nominee.

Originally from Washington, DC, Bache received a BA in English from the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill and an MA in English from the University of Maryland. In 1985, she and her husband and their four young children moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, where Bache finished writing her first novel, Safe Passage, which became a Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club Selection. In 1994, Safe Passage was made into a feature film starring Susan Sarandon and Sam Shepard.¹

Following the death of her husband in 2001, Bache eventually settled in Greenville, South Carolina, where she currently resides with her elderly Border Collie mix, Chief. On a balmy December 2011 afternoon, Bache and I sat together at another table, this one in her airy kitchen. While Chief slept at her feet, Bache sipped a cup of tea and ruminated on her Safe Passage film experience and her life as a stay-at-home mom who dreamed of becoming a writer – and then became one.



BOOKS BY ELLYN BACHE

Culture Clash (nonfiction). Boston: Intercultural Books, 1982. Safe Passage. New York: Crown, 1988.

Festival in Fire Season. Little Rock: August House Publishers, 1992.
The Value of Kindness. Kansas City, MO: Helicon Nine Editions, 1993.

The Activist's Daughter. Duluth, MN: Spinsters Ink, 1997.

Holiday Miracles: A Christmas/Hanukkah Story. Wilmington, NC: Banks Channel Books, 2001. Daddy and the Pink Flash. Wilmington, NC: Banks Channel Books, 2003.

Daughters of the Sea. Don Mills, Ontario: Harlequin, 2005.

Riggs Park. Don Mills, Ontario: Harlequin, 2005.

Over 50's Singles Night. Don Mills, Ontario: Harlequin, 2006.

Raspberry Sherbet Kisses. Don Mills, Ontario: Harlequin, 2007.

The Art of Saying Goodbye. New York: Morrow, 2011.

Takedown, written under the pen name E.M.J. Benjamin, with her husband, Terry Bache. Wilmington, NC: Banks Channel Books, 1999.

Safe Passage, adapt. of novel by Ellyn Bache, Dir. Robert Allan Ackerman. Perf. Susan Sarandon, Sam Shepard, and Nick Stahl (New Line Cinema, 1994).

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