

Laura Durham Bio

Laura Durham is the author of *Better Off Wed* and *For Better or Hearse*, the first two books in the Annabelle Archer mystery series from Avon. *Better Off Wed* was awarded the Agatha award for Best First Novel of 2005. Like her protagonist, Laura is a professional wedding planner in Washington, D.C. who has planned some of the city's most extravagant weddings and dealt with some of the world's most neurotic brides. She was inspired to write mysteries because of an overwhelming desire to kill a particularly unpleasant Mother-of-the-Bride, or MOB. Realizing that actually doing the deed would be bad for business, she settled for writing murder instead. The resulting fictionalized exposes of the Washington wedding industry have been called "a perfect marriage of murder and mirth." She has also published a non-fiction wedding planning book titled *Stop! Don't Plan A Wedding Without This Book*.

Laura attended Duke University on a full writing scholarship, graduating in 1993 with a degree in English. She is currently the owner of the D.C. based *Engaging Affairs, Inc.* and has planned well over 400 weddings since she started the company in 1996. She was voted DC's top wedding planner in 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 by *Washingtonian* magazine and has been featured in numerous wedding publications throughout the country.

Despite her busy writing and touring schedule, Laura keeps one foot in the bridal business because her real wedding experiences continue to be the inspiration for her books. True brides are always stranger than fiction! For more glimpses into the deadly world of wedding planning, visit www.lauradurham.com.