

Sandra Cook Jerome - Sandi Jerome

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Screenwriter and Middle Grade/Young Adult author featuring Cherokee heroes

Sandi is a retired magazine editor, writer, and PAL author of non-fiction for the technology and accounting industry. To make the transition to creative work, she completed the Advanced Screenwriter program at UCLA and has written a dozen screenplays; many of them have been finalists in various contests. Her focus since retiring has been to better understand her family's Cherokee heritage and create Cherokee superheroes for all children to learn about Indigenous voices.

Her first Middle-Grade novel, completed in 2022 ***Sleep Warrior***, has been requested by agents and editors and is #3 on the Coverfly list for animation. Sleep Warrior is about a pre-teen, Aya Mankiller (named after Wilma Mankiller,) who starts sleepwalking, but in reality, her Cherokee ancestor, Clarissa, takes over her body at night to perform superhero feats. Think of Pocahontas or Moana meets the terror of a new middle school. The flying horse and talking bears are fictional, but Clarissa is my actual Cherokee ancestor. The time is right for this type of book. On page 28 of Anadisgoi, the official publication of the Cherokee Nation, there is an article about the Marvel Voices Heritage - Indigenous Voices that will have a Cherokee character in a future series.

Her 2nd novel, a Young Adult fiction, ***Murder at the Magic Kingdom***, is about Wilma (again, named after Wilma Mankiller) Wallaby, who is an aspiring "kick-ass" girl detective about to start middle school. She has learned Krav Maga and Judo to protect herself from an abusive older brother and recently got certified by the Institute of Internet Investigations. After her brother and his friend ditch her at the Magic Kingdom, she overhears a real murder being planned next to the park at Disney's Grand Floridian and is "hot on the case." One problem; she is not supposed to leave the park alone, and if she does, she cannot get back in without her brother. But that is minor compared to trying to foil a murder plot while being kidnapped and trapped in a hotel closet. Wilma is half Cherokee, but this book has a more commercial setting and wide appeal.

Sandi hopes to write more Cherokee set fiction; her current Cherokee project is another Young Adult - ***Moon Sleep/She Wolf***. It is a Twilight meets Jungle Book type of teen fantasy romance. The Dakota character from Sleep Warrior is attacked by a young female wolf cub, and they fall in love. Sandi's family is part of the Wolf Clan, and she likes to feature them in her writing.

Sandi is a graduate of UCLA's Advanced Screenwriting program and an award-winning screenwriter - here is a list of her scripts and awards. She has not written any Cherokee-based scripts yet but hopes to circle back to that in 2023. She was a Semi-finalist in the Chesterfield Writer's Film Project and had two scripts as quarterfinalists in the Nicholl Fellowship.

Last Hand- Drama - Madison is the best blackjack dealer and card counter in Las Vegas but is she good enough to win a million dollars? **Quarterfinalist in Nicholl Fellowship 2003, Top 10 Finalist in 2004 Writemovies.com, Second-round finalist 2003 Austin Film Festival. Quarterfinalist 2005 Scriptalooza. 3rd Place Kay Snow – Willamette Writers, 2006**

First Man - A romantic comedy. Jake expected a lot of unusual things to happen during his career as a major league baseball player, but marrying the President wasn't one of them. Are we ready for a male "first lady?" **Quarterfinalist 2004 Scriptalooza, Semifinalist in 2000 FilmMakers.com's New Millennium Celebrations, Screenplay Contest. Semi-Finalist in the Chesterfield Writer's Film Project. Quarterfinalist in Nicholl Fellowship 2003. Second-round 2003 Austin Film Festival.**

Backup - A medical thriller. When a dying doctor develops a procedure to "backup" his mind to a computer, a young single mother suspects her son has become the next step in the experiment. **Top 10 finalist in 2000 FilmMakers.com's New Millennium Celebrations, Screenplay Contest. Honorable Mention – 2003 Willamette Screenwriting Contest.**

Aloha Princess – Drama - Kalani can't wait to get off the islands and start film school at USC – but she doesn't have the tuition money and reluctantly enters a hula contest. When she needs the help of her estranged Hawaiian relatives to win the prize money, she gets caught up in their struggle for Hawaiian sovereignty and her own royal destiny to be the next Queen of Hawaii. **Semi-finalist in the 2003 Writemovies.com screenwriting contest. Second-round 2003 Austin Film Festival.**

Use of Deadly Force – Female action/adventure about the takeover of a nuclear power plant. Teresa Ramirez is a fearless member of an elite security force at a nuclear power plant. When terrorists take over the plant, Teresa must struggle to protect her family, the public, and most of all - her honor. **First Place Winner of Writemovies.com A/Exposure Contest.**

Time for Lily – A comedy about time. Lily sits in "God's waiting room" at a rest home with too much time on her hands. As a single parent trying to start her own business, Megan never has enough time. When their lives become switched, they must learn to survive in someone else's moment in time. **First-Round Finalist in Script Magazine Open Door Contest.**

Princess Quest – Children/Animation - Kira, the fearless Princess of the mythical kingdom of Latavia, had trained her whole life to rule until her father remarried and a male heir was born. When the child is kidnapped, Kira must lead a quest through forbidden lands to save her kingdom, prove her loyalty, and discover her heart. (Also a children's chapter book for 7-10 year olds.) **Quarter Finalist in 2000 Scriptalooza Competition. Semi-Finalist in the Chesterfield Writer's Film Project**

Heavenly Things - a romantic comedy. When a minister poses as a car salesman he finds not only that he has a talent for selling cars, but for attracting the opposite sex. **Semi-finalist in 2000 FilmMakers.com's New Millennium Celebrations, Screenplay Contest.**

Just Shy of Perfect - A romantic comedy. What if two people met in an overcoming shyness seminar? Better yet, what if neither one of them belonged there?

Last Woman – A thriller. Raped and hung as a college student, Tanya is terrified of being alone. When the security company where she works develops the ultimate personal security device -- she must choose; either relive her worst nightmare or spend the rest of her life alone. **Sixth Sense meets Cast Away.**

Delta Pi – A comedy in the *Legally Blonde* style about the first girl to pledge a fraternity. After a name mix up and a cruel trick gets Jordan an invitation to join a prestigious law fraternity – she finds that the only room left in town might be the only place where she belongs. **Quarterfinalist 2004 Scriptalooza, Semi-finalist in the 2003 Writemovies.com screenwriting contest, First Round Finalist 2004 Open Door/Benderspink, Second-round 2003 Austin Film Festival, Top 100 in 2004 Scriptshark.**