

***About Mary Ellen Taylor (Full Bio-515 words) – [Download text](#) – [Download PDF](#)***

Novelist Mary Ellen Taylor has lived most of her life in her birthplace, Richmond, Virginia, but during her brief time in Alexandria, fell in love with that city, its history and its famed “Old Town” section. Of course, she didn’t know then that they would inspire her contemporary novels, **The View from Prince Street**, the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Spring 2015 Okra Pick **At the Corner of King Street**, **Sweet Expectations** and **The Union Street Bakery**. It surprises no one aware of her love of history that each of these Alexandria set stories includes threads tying the present to what has come before, including people and events from the city’s founding through Civil War heroism.

Mary Ellen grew up in a southern family that embraced stories of all kinds, from a well-told anecdote to a good yarn or a tall tale. “I realized early on the tremendous power stories have to inspire laughter, love, sorrow and even fear. It didn’t matter if they were found in the pages of a book, spoken in hushed tones around a campfire, or shared at an old-fashioned family reunion. Stories create connections and I knew that’s what I wanted to do,” says Mary Ellen.

In addition to writing, cooking and baking are important creative outlets for Mary Ellen and she’s been known to name recipes in honor of her characters. She recently earned her Baking and Pastry Arts Certificate at the University of Richmond’s Culinary Arts Program. “In some ways, I liken baking to my efforts as a writer. You need to learn the basic tools of the trade of both cooking and writing before you can push the envelope and create a distinctive sweet desert or a savory novel. Her two passions—writing and baking—merged for the first time in **The Union Street Bakery** and, though her Alexandria novels **At the Corner of King Street** and **The View from Prince Street** are not set in her Old Town Union Street Bakery, the culinarian in Mary Ellen can’t resist slipping in references to favorite recipes.

Adoption issues are another of Mary Ellen’s interests that are reflected in her Alexandria-set novels. Adoption is actually a main plot point in **The Union Street Bakery** and to a lesser degree in her other three books. Her daughter and grandmother were both adopted and, in recent years, Mary Ellen’s been active in bringing attention to challenges inherent in adoption, including concerns faced by adult adoptees. She spoke at Coordinators2inc’s adoption symposium “Opening Adoption: Realities, Possibilities and Challenges” held at the University of Richmond and is past president of the central Virginia chapter of Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption.

Today, she’s known not only for her Alexandria set contemporary stories, but also for her romantic suspense novels and novellas written as Mary Burton. Her work has appeared on *The New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller lists. Her latest suspense book, *Vulnerable*, will be published in March 2016.

Mary Ellen and her husband spend time alternately enjoying and lamenting their newly empty nest and spoiling their miniature dachshunds, Buddy, Bella and Tiki.

***About Mary Ellen in Brief (424 words) – [Download text](#) – [Download PDF](#)***

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When not digging for mysteries in Alexandria’s history or arranging murders, Mary Ellen is involved with Coordinators2inc, a lifetime adoption resource organization. In fact, Mary Ellen explores issues of adoption and family in all four books, an interest which stems from her own family. Her grandmother was adopted as was her daughter.

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***About Mary Ellen in Brief (184 words) – [Download text](#) – [Download PDF](#)***

Novelist Mary Ellen Taylor has lived most of her life in her birthplace, Richmond, Virginia, but during her brief time in Alexandria, fell in love with that city, its history and its famed “Old Town” section. The city was to become the setting for her novels **The View from Prince Street**, the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Spring 2015 Okra Pick **At the Corner of King Street**, **Sweet Expectations** and **The Union Street Bakery**.

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***About Mary Ellen in Brief (107 words) – [Download text](#) – [Download PDF](#)***

Novelist Mary Ellen Taylor is a long time Richmond, Virginia native and resident who spent five years living in and falling in love with Alexandria and its famed “Old Town” section, the future setting for her four novels, **[The View from Prince Street](#)**, the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Spring 2015 Okra Pick **[At the Corner of King Street](#)**, **[Sweet Expectations](#)** and **[The Union Street Bakery](#)**.

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***About Mary Ellen in Brief (62 words) – [Download text](#) – [Download PDF](#)***

Richmond native Mary Ellen Taylor spent five years living in and falling in love with Alexandria and its famed “Old Town” section, the future setting for her highly praised works of contemporary fiction, **[The View from Prince Street](#)**, **[At the Corner of King Street](#)**, **[Sweet Expectations](#)** and **[The Union Street Bakery](#)**. She is currently at work on research for her next novel.