

MICHELLE CAMERON - BIOGRAPHY

At the age of 12, Michelle Cameron's father told her she would never become a writer. She believed him.

But Cameron kept writing anyway. When her family moved to Israel when she was 15, and she spent three weeks in a bomb shelter (it was 1973 and her boarding school was close to the Syrian border), she wrote about the fires on the hills and the ground shaking above her head.

Completing her high school education in Israel, Cameron attended Tel Aviv University, graduating with a degree in English Literature and then spent two years in the Israeli army. When she was ready to find her first job, she thought it would be temporary – just until she sold her first novel.

But in the meantime, she worked as a freelance writer. When she and her husband moved to Boston and then to New Jersey, she took several paying jobs that all contained writing at their core – for Radcliffe College, in public relations, and then – there was a family to help support now – in technical writing.

The demands of work and family made Cameron put her literary ambitions aside. As part of her technical writing career, she began working in the interactive arena, moving to companies that specialized in Internet creation. She is now Creative Director at a digital agency, working for varied past and present clients including New York City Ballet, the Juilliard School, Rutgers University, C.R. Bard, Inc., and many others.

Among the influences that brought Cameron back to writing was a six-year old muse – her son, Alex – whose early stories, poems, and cartoons made her remember why she wanted to write in the first place. She began to take her laptop with her in the car, writing in the karate dojo and in the bleachers of the ball field.

For awhile, poetry came quicker than prose and she began to submit and publish her work. The idea of writing a series of poems about William Shakespeare – whom Cameron had researched for one of her early novels – flowered into a verse novel, *In the Shadow of the Globe*, published in 2003 by Lit Pot Press. The book became the 2003-4 Winter Book Selection by the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and has been performed in many venues, including the Stella Adler Studio of Acting.

When she cast about for her next writing topic, she began exploring her family tree for a possible plot line. It was then that she discovered the truth of her mother's claim that her side of the family could trace their roots back to the 1200s. Intrigued, Cameron began to research her ancestor, Meir of Rothenberg, becoming convinced that his amazing story needed to be told. The result is *The Fruit of Her Hands*.

To complete the novel, she needed more time than she could find in the normal course of the day, as she was juggling the day job, raising her sons, and a part-time teaching position. Her solution? She sets her alarm for 4:30 AM every morning.