



Diane Michaels, Author

FAQ

Who is Ellen? Ellen is an "emerging adult," a 27 year-old woman comfortable with the process of establishing her career as a harpist, but who is only beginning to come into her own as a grown-up. She has both a sense a humor and flaws that make her the punch line to jokes she doesn't mean to tell.

I remember going through the emerging adult phase. The ballast of the responsibility of being an adult barely countered the buoyancy of being young and independent. This duality made it hard for me to believe anyone would or should entrust me with the task of being an actual adult. It was easy to expect that my story would become Ellen's, but the more I developed Ellen as a character, the less of my DNA remained in her, much to my relief.

Why write a book about a harpist? The world needs more books about harpists. Haha! While writing what I know was a helpful game plan for my first novel, I also embraced pulling back the curtain on the life of a freelance musician. I hope readers unfamiliar with live music will be inspired to hire — and respect — musicians.

What was your inspiration to start (and keep) writing? The first thing I remember writing (I was eight or nine) was a parody of *The Night before Christmas*, based on Thanksgiving with my relatives. I gave a neatly printed, illustrated copy to my father's cousin Muriel, who was the host of our holiday dinner. There's nothing like a ton of praise from relatives to encourage a youngster to continue an activity.

Do you have any talents other than writing that your fans maybe don't know about? Gauging from the reaction to the release of my first novel by people who know me as a harpist, I think writing is my secret talent. Also, I can cure hiccups.

Will there be more books about Ellen? Yes! I've published a short story about the day she met her best friends, Chloe and Gwen. It is available – for free! – to all subscribers to my website. And I have written a novella, *Harpists Don't Dance* (currently available for free on wattpad), in which Ellen reflects on two influential crises she weathered as a young harp student. As far as full-length novels, I've begun writing book number two, and I have an outline for the third and final novel in the "Ellen" series.

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