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Stage Daughter
By Sheryl Sorrentino

**Bay Area Business Attorney Uncovers Anti-Islamic Bias while
Penning Book about Unplanned Pregnancy**

Sheryl Sorrentino didn't intend to write a controversial book about Muslim stereotypes. Her fourth novel, ***Stage Daughter***, started out as multicultural women's fiction exploring the difficulties single mothers face:

- The economic challenges of single-parent households;
- Dealing with adolescent rebellion, identity formation, and peer pressure;
- Whether men should automatically have the right to actively participate in rearing their illegitimate children; and
- The unique issues facing gay single parents.

Through a multicultural cast of diverse yet inextricably connected characters, ***Stage Daughter*** tells the story of a biracial, "bi-curious" woman who dreamed of someday becoming an actress, but whose plans got derailed when a hapless encounter with a Middle Eastern man landed her the lifelong role of single mother. She tries to keep her dream alive through her "stage daughter," Razia, a rebellious pre-teen enrolled in a competitive performing arts school (patterned after Oakland School for the Arts), but is losing her battle to prevent Raz from knowing her devout Muslim dad, the father of two in a traditional arranged marriage.

"In researching Muslim culture for this book—especially the prohibitions against premarital sex, unchaperoned contact between members of the opposite sex, and views on illegitimate children, I came upon a shocking wellspring of Anti-Islamic hate speech. I

was simply floored by the degree of bias and ignorance that is seemingly tolerated in today's society as a result of 9-11," Sorrentino says. "In my effort to create a realistic Muslim male character, I went into numerous Islamic chat rooms and mosque websites, and the hateful and threatening comments posted by so-called patriotic Americans were downright chilling and—I daresay—*un*American."

A practicing attorney by day and prolific author by night, Myra Mitzman (a/k/a Sheryl Sorrentino) has forged a provocative women's fiction sub-genre through culturally-inclusive stories dealing with socially-significant issues such as adolescent pregnancy, abortion, domestic abuse, racial inequality, and employment discrimination. Her latest novel, *Stage Daughter*, offers a pointed exposé of how religious intolerance can further challenge the already tough realities facing fractured families.

Sheryl Sorrentino (the literary pseudonym of Oakland business and real estate attorney Myra S. Mitzman) is the author of three previous books: *Later With Myself: The Misadventures of Millie Moskowitz*, *An Unexpected Exile*, and *The Floater*. In addition to her writing career, Sorrentino/Mitzman is a full-time transactional lawyer who grew up in New York City and lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband and daughter. To learn more about this trailblazing attorney *cum* author, visit www.sherylsorrentino.com. (*Stage Daughter* is available at through Amazon (<http://stagedaughter.com>) and select Bay Area booksellers.)

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