

## ELIZABETH ZELVIN

Author of *Death Will Get You Sober*

Elizabeth Zelvin's first mystery, *Death Will Get You Sober*, is the latest turn in a lifelong path as a writer. Her early role models included Jo in *Little Women*, Anne Frank, and Emily of New Moon, created by the author of *Anne of Green Gables*. She earned honors in English at Brandeis University, graduating magna cum laude. After a brief stint in advertising, she joined the Peace Corps. She spent two years in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, where she taught English to French-speaking students.

On her return, Liz found a job in publishing and began writing poetry. Her work appeared in numerous journals and eventually was published in two books, *I Am the Daughter* and *Gifts and Secrets: Poems of the Therapeutic Relationship*. In 1983 she received a CAPS award in poetry from the New York State Council on the Arts.

Liz returned to school for a master's degree in social work from Columbia University and a credential in alcoholism counseling. Her first clinical internship took her down to the Bowery, where her mystery *Death Will Get You Sober* begins. After working at alcoholism treatment programs in the Bronx, East Harlem, Nassau County, and Coney Island, she went back to the Bowery to develop and run an outpatient program for homeless alcoholics and drug addicts at Project Renewal.

During this period, she taught and trained social workers and addiction professionals in a variety of settings from academic post-graduate programs to inservice trainings for the staff of inner city detoxes and rehabs. Her writings on addictions, codependency, adult children of alcoholics, and women's issues have been published in professional journals and as book chapters. Her coedited book, *Gender and Addictions: Men and Women in Treatment*, was a main selection of the Psychotherapy Book Club in 1997.

In 2000, Liz launched an online therapy website, [www.LZcybershrink.com](http://www.LZcybershrink.com). Working from her computer left time to write *Death Will Get You Sober*. Living in both New York City and cyberspace proved a great advantage. From fellow writers in Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America and on e-lists such as DorothyL and Murder Must Advertise, she learned both the craft and the business of writing mysteries.

By the time St. Martin's accepted *Death Will Get You Sober*, she had completed two more in the series, *Death Will Improve Your Relationship* and *Death Will Help You Leave Him*, as well as a short story, "Death Will Clean Your Closet," which appears in *Murder New York Style*, an anthology by members of Sisters in Crime. Her protagonist Bruce evolves from a world-weary alcoholic hitting bottom on the Bowery to the determined sleuth in a lethal group house in the Hamptons in *Death Will Extend Your Vacation*.

For more information about Elizabeth Zelvin, visit her website at [www.elizabethzelvin.com](http://www.elizabethzelvin.com). Liz blogs on Poe's Deadly Daughters at [www.poesdeadlydaughters.blogspot.com](http://www.poesdeadlydaughters.blogspot.com).