

Greetings,

I'm Jill Wallace, a South African author and American transplant. Much like an African baobab's branches that are identical to its roots, I thrive best in ambiguity, proudly wearing my bicultural influences from both my home and adopted countries.

I'm excited to share my novels, *War Serenade*, and Amazon Bestseller, *Zebra*, with you and your listeners. Both stories are influenced by true events in South Africa and people I've known and loved.

My creativity began when my mom, with her expressive hands and vivid imagination, told me the love story of our family friends who'd had an unconventional love affair during WWII.

*War Serenade* is a delicious tale of forbidden love between a broken and debased Italian Prisoner of War, Pietro, who was once an opera star and finds himself in a South African POW camp, ready to die; and Iris, a fiery redhead at the camp on a day mission, who spawns Pietro's determination to find his voice so he can see her again. A dangerous dalliance that could mean a firing squad to one and prison to another.

I have a serendipitous story of how I chose the audio narrator of *War Serenade*...but that's a tale for another time...

As for *Zebra*, well, I'm a lucky, lucky woman. I not only married my perfect match, but Athol's young life provided me with supreme fodder for my second novel.

Athol/Jock is a little boy when his middle-class white parents buy a remote hotel in the mountains of South Africa during the apartheid era. Zulu teen, Papin, is put in charge of 4-year-old Jock by his all-too busy parents.

Papin teaches Jock how to survive in the hazardous surroundings. The two become best friends and share their cultures, one learning from the other. Jock's boarding school years are tough when the other students discover Jock's best friend is black, and Jock talks better Zulu than he does English.

The story follows Papin, a freedom fighter, and Jock, a reluctant soldier forced into fighting the Bush and Border wars for South Africa. It was the army's intention to use Athol/Jock's knowledge of the African culture to figure out the enemy. The long-lost friends find themselves on opposite sides of a bloody battlefield where only one can survive...

Though this story is set in a very difficult time in South Africa's history, the social struggles are all too real, even today. Ultimately *Zebra* is a coming-of-age, action adventure, that proves true friendship knows no color.

I'm very excited about my next writing endeavor—the 747 Series! These books revolve around a reunion of 5 air hostesses who flew for South African Airways in the early 80's and each experienced a serendipitous event which entirely changed her life. I'm thrilled to be spreading my wings and taking flight on this new, fun adventure!

There is much more for us to explore together. Like delving into the complex anatomy of the baobab, aka 'The Upside-Down Tree', we'll have a trunk-full of adventures to peel away.

To book me for a lovely chat so we can get into the thick of more exciting, behind-the-scenes stories, you can contact me below.

Cheers, Cheers!

**Jill**

Jill Wallace

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**Bio:**

Greetings, everyone,

I'm Jill Wallace. I was born and bred (though my mother would prefer 'brought up') in South Africa, and have lived the second half of my life in America. I often compare myself to the African baobab with roots that look like branches. Like the confused 'Upside Down Tree' I no longer know where the South African ends and the American begins. I hope it affords me some degree of complexity. A girl can always hope :o)

In South Africa, I was a contemporary dancer and a PRO for a shopping center conglomerate. I flew as an "international air hostess" for South African Airways, enjoyed 6 continents and hundreds of adventures. I married my dream man, Athol, a rugby player who makes me laugh. We moved to America with the promise of a career that never happened, and I inherited my two heart-children 24/7 in a strange, new country, where together we found compromise, laughter and love.

In the U.S., I've been a bad waitress and an excellent (but inconspicuous) movie extra for "Pretty Woman" director Garry Marshall, and a realtor for 28 years. As a screenplay, *War Serenade* (which was inspired by a true story) was twice optioned for a movie. As my first novel, *War Serenade* garnered multiple literary awards and a Rone and Reader's Choice for the audio book version.

My second novel, Amazon Bestseller *Zebra*, is inspired by Athol's life. It's a searing, soaring, heart-breaking, heart-warming coming-of-age story about an unusual friendship between a Zulu and a white boy in South Africa during apartheid.

As immigrants, we've been humbled by poverty and blessed by kindness. Proud to be an American, my heart is strongly South African, and my books will always reflect my bicultural inclinations, similar to that of the topsy turvy baobab tree.

Thank you for letting me share!

Cheers, Cheers!

Jillxx