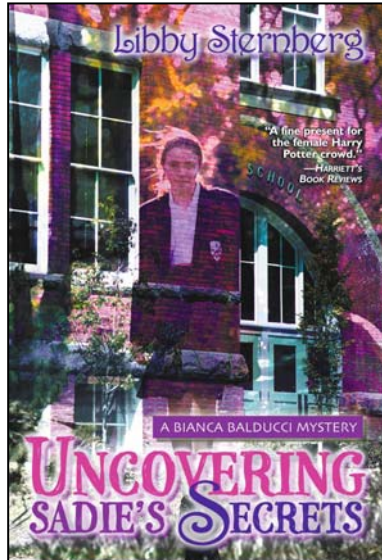




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**VERMONT AUTHOR AND BALTIMORE PUBLISHING HOUSE GARNER FINALIST
SPOT FOR THE EDGAR ALLEN POE AWARD**



(BALTIMORE, MD—) In an exciting first for the independent publishing house based in Baltimore, MD, Bancroft Press is proud to announce that the first book in Libby Sternberg's Bianca Balducci Mystery Series, *Uncovering Sadie's Secrets*, has been named one of five finalists for the prestigious Edgar Allen Poe Award for Best Mystery for Young Adults.

The Edgars are given by the Mystery Writers of America (MWA) in categories that include various divisions of fiction, non-fiction, television, and motion picture media. This year, the 2004 Edgar Awards will be presented to the winners at the MWA's 58th Gala Banquet, April 29, 2004 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York City.

Finalists were chosen from a field of nearly 50 nominees that included the well-known likes of Joyce Carol Oates and frightmaster R.L. Stine.

Bancroft Press is the only small, independent house represented among the top five nominees, which includes such large houses as Dutton and Knopf. *Uncovering Sadie's Secrets* has been called "an extra entertainment for mystery fans, one for those who want a puzzle without a ghost or a murder" by *Kirkus Reviews* and "an entertaining teen mystery-romance" by *Booklist*. It was chosen by the book wholesaler Brodart as a small press "GEM."

Says publisher Bruce Bortz, "Uncovering Sadie's Secrets offers a fun and wholesome read. The author was inspired by the light feel and charm of the old Trixie Belden mystery series, which she credits as the books that taught her that reading could be fun when she was a young adult herself."

A native Baltimorean, Sternberg now lives in Rutland, Vermont and is a freelance writer. She provides political and social commentary for Vermont Public Radio, and is involved in education reform issues.

Uncovering Sadie's Secrets features 15-year-old Bianca Balducci, a sophomore in a Baltimore parochial school and aspiring private eye. Although she's concerned with making sure her hair looks good in case she runs into her major crush Doug, she also has bigger things on her mind—like saving her new and mysterious friend Sadie from being stalked by a couple of ultra-suspicious hooligans, and maybe even being hired as a PI at her big sister's firm.



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Sadie's finale, which is exciting, funny, and touching, also contains a lesson or two for all potential do-gooder sleuths. Combining slapstick with intelligent wit, *Uncovering Sadie's Secrets* is a story that pulls, grabs, and sticks, a story whose underlying values are enduring, endearing, and desirable, and a story that will appeal to audiences hungry for tales with family values.

The nomination of *Uncovering Sadie's Secrets* for the Edgar Allen Poe is a significant step in the right direction, proving audience and industry appreciation for age- and content-appropriate young adult mysteries. Said Kirkus Reviews, "While Sternberg emphasizes mystery and action elements, she doesn't ignore deeper issues."

Bancroft Press wishes Libby Sternberg big congratulations for her nomination for the Edgar Award, and the very best of luck for her win.

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EVERYBODY LOVES "SADIE"! LIBBY STERNBERG'S YA MYSTERY SERIES GOOD CLEAN FUN FOR HARRY POTTER/NANCY DREW CROWD

"... an extra entertainment for mystery fans, one for those who want a puzzle without a ghost or a murder ..."

— *Kirkus*

"An entertaining teen mystery-romance...Nancy Drew fans and other young mystery aficionados will be pleased"

— *Booklist*

"...an engaging young teen mystery that's fun to read ..."

— *Harriet's Book Reviews*

"A great start to what looks like a continuing series...."

— *School Library Journal*

Title Information

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