

Attention: Librarians and YA book buyers

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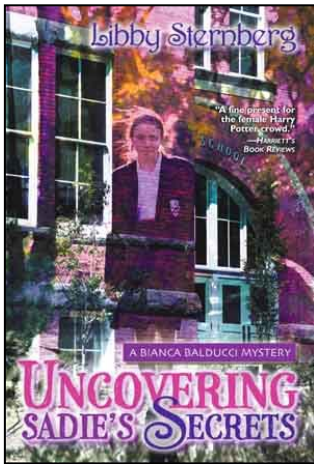


**Britney Spears Half-Naked on the Cover of Three Magazines? Getting Married in Vegas and Annulled the Next Day? Kissing Madonna??  
Isn't it Time Adolescent Girls Had a Role Model Worth Modeling?**

*"Nancy Drew fans and other young mystery aficionados will be pleased."*

—**BOOKLIST**

**LET'S FACE IT.** It's hard to be a teenage girl. Every woman knows it. Every parent with an adolescent daughter



knows it. Author Libby Sternberg knows it well, and demonstrates it in *Uncovering Sadie's Secrets* with a lighthearted,

but dead-on poignancy through her lead character, Bianca Balducci.

"Bianca's relationships with friends and family are point-blank in their raw emotions and typify the rebellious nature of the teenager who also vies to be a hero to those she cares about. A great start to what looks like a continuing series."

-- **SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL**

But what makes it even harder for girls growing up in America today is the lack of positive role models for them to look up to. Television continues to objectify women and make boys the heroes;

magazines sell copies based on how little clothing their cover model is wearing; and popular music has plain and simply become all about sex and violence.

"Libby Sternberg's Balducci tale would make a fine present for the female Potter crowd especially, not to mention us geriatrics who grew up with the hardy Nancy Drew novels."

-- **HARRIET KLAUSNER, HARRIET'S BOOK REVIEWS**

Thankfully, there's still a place a girl can find someone she can identify with in a positive way—books. But even the best-selling young adult book this generation has seen features a male lead. What's a girl to read?

*Uncovering Sadie's Secrets* features 15-year-old

Bianca Balducci, a sophomore in a Baltimore parochial school and aspiring

private eye. Sure, she's concerned with making sure her hair looks good in case she runs into her major crush Doug, but



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.

“Readers will laugh appreciatively at Bianca’s bumbling attempts to court Doug while playing private eye. This light and enjoyable mystery will be especially appreciated by female readers.” -- **VOYA**

*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.

**ALREADY CALLED** the Nancy Drew for this generation by several reviewers, Bianca Balducci would probably tell you she’s way cooler than that. But rest assured, she’s a terrific (and fun!) role model for teen girls who need a character they can identify with and look up to. And with a planned series of mysterious adventures, there will be no shortage of action for her fans!

### More Praise for Bianca Balducci in *Uncovering Sadie’s Secrets*

“While Sternberg emphasizes mystery and action elements, she doesn’t ignore deeper issues. She portrays Bianca as someone who genuinely cares about Sadie, the school’s new girl, even while digging into Sadie’s past, rationalizing her actions with the idea she’s really helping the girl. It’s an extra entertainment for mystery fans, one for those who want a puzzle without a ghost or a murder...”-- **KIRKUS REVIEWS**

“You may want to get locked-in somewhere yourself to read *Uncovering Sadie’s Secrets* because you won’t want to stop reading once you start.”-- **JANICE MOORE, LIBRARIAN, ROLAND PARK COUNTRY SCHOOL (BALTIMORE, MD)**

“I connected with the narrator’s voice, and liked the story a great deal. I’ll definitely want to read the sequel.” – **SARAH ZIMMERMAN, AGED 14, BALTIMORE, MD**

"With a witty, smart, and engaging story, modest-yet-lovable characters, and a mystery that you'll want to solve, *Uncovering Sadie’s Secrets* has something for everyone! Plus, I’ve got to say it: Bianca, Kerrie, and Sadie are authentic, interesting characters – and they’re awfully hard to find on the bookshelves these days!"-- **SARAH MYER, AGED 15, WHITE HALL, MD**

“Although I’m a 12-year-old boy, and clearly not the target audience, I still enjoyed *Uncovering Sadie’s Secrets*. I’d recommend it for girls my age, and even give it to them as a birthday gift – if I got invited to their parties.”-- **JEREMY LEHMAN, 12**

Purchase orders for *Uncovering Sadie’s Secrets* or any Bancroft Press book may be faxed to 410-764-1967. Scroll down for more info.

Be sure to visit [www.bancroftpress.com](http://www.bancroftpress.com) to view our entire catalogue, which includes an array of award-winning books for young adults.

## About the Author

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## Author Libby Sternberg Available for Your Speaking Engagements and Author Events



### HER BOOKS

**CROSS** a diverse range of genres, including YA and mainstream fiction, romance, historical fiction, chicklit, medical nonfiction, and more. Her political

commentary airs regularly on Vermont Public Radio. Her articles have appeared in numerous publications across the country, including *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Indianapolis Star*, *Insight*, and *The Weekly Standard*. Libby Sternberg obviously has a lot to say, and a lot to talk about. She is available to speak on a variety of topics for your varied audience of customers.

**LIKE SO MANY OTHER PARENTS** of teenage girls, Libby is concerned about the lack of positive female role models for young women in America. She would love to talk to parents in your area about developing strong role models for children and teenagers. The prolific writer has already proven to be a strong role model for her own daughter, Hannah, who, at 15, is an award-winning playwright, and has completed a 90-minute teleplay for the pilot of a Bianca Balducci television series.

**AS A FORMER OPERA SINGER** who transitioned into freelance and fiction writing for a “steadier” career, Libby can speak to aspiring writers about moving into the “writing life.” She can share the details and difficulties of working in so many different genres, and how challenging it can be to write young adult stories that ring authentic and remain entertaining, without bogging them down with heavy issues.

Born in Baltimore, Libby Sternberg currently lives in Rutland, Vermont with her husband and their three children. *Uncovering Sadie's Secrets* is her first published novel. The next installment of her Bianca Balducci Mystery Series, *Hector's Hidden Talents*, is due out in April 2004.

**TO BOOK LIBBY STERNBERG** for a speaking engagement or book signing, please contact:

TO SCHEDULE AN EVENT, OR  
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## Title and Ordering Information

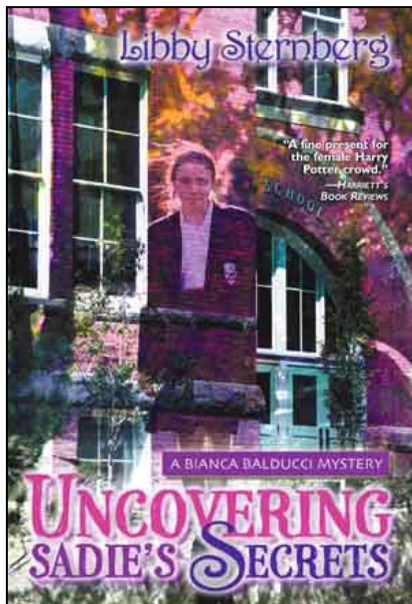
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"I read *Uncovering Sadie's Secrets* all the way through in a single sitting, just loved it, and ordered two copies for the store. It was intelligently done and well put together with a well-paced, perfectly satisfying ending."

-- **BONNIE SCHERR, OWNER, PAGES BOOKSTORE, PIKESVILLE, MD**



**Featured as a July 2003  
Brodart Gem**

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Vermont

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"Lively! Sternberg's first novel is a lightweight, entertaining teen mystery-romance. The subtitle suggests that this is the first in a new series: Nancy Drew fans and other young mystery aficionados will be pleased."

-- **BOOKLIST**

"I was delighted to read this light mystery and follow the path of Bianca in trying to learn Sadie's secrets. The story is one that you won't want to put down until the last page, and then you will want more. It is a delight in its descriptions, teenage expressions, and language. What a pleasure to read a novel without having to 'put up with' undesirable language. I truly look forward to the sequel."

-- **SISTER SHIRLEY DAVIS, SSJ, CATHOLIC EDUCATOR (BURLINGTON, VT)**

"I consider myself a 'mom expert' on kid lit, and I liked that *Sadie* didn't need melodramatic teens or sex and drugs to hold reader interest, yet had enough reality to create intrigue. This is one book where I don't have to worry about what my daughter is reading."

-- **PAM O'REILLY, MD MOTHER OF TWO**