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**Judy's Official Bio**

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**Photo Gallery**

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**How I Became An Author**

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**Questions for Judy**

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**Dreams.** When I was growing up, I dreamed about becoming a cowgirl, a detective, a spy, a great actress or a ballerina. Not a dentist, like my father, or a homemaker, like my mother—certainly not a writer, although I always loved to read. I didn't know anything about writers. It never occurred to me they were regular people and that I could grow up to become one, even though I loved to make up stories inside my head.

**Stories.** I made up stories while I bounced a ball against the side of our house. I made up stories playing with paper dolls. And I made them up while I practiced the piano, by pretending to give piano lessons. I even kept a notebook with the names of my pretend students and how they were doing. I always had an active imagination. But I never wrote down any of my stories. And I never told anyone about them.

**Grown Up.** When I grew up, my need for story telling didn't go away. So when my own two children started pre-school I began to write and I've been writing ever since! My characters live inside my head for a long time before I actually start to write a book about them. Then, they become so real to me I talk about them at the dinner table as if they are real. Some people consider this weird. But my family understands.

**Places.** Many of my books are set in New Jersey because that's where I was born and raised. I lived there until my kids finished elementary school. Then we moved to New Mexico, the setting for *Tiger Eyes*. I also spent two years in Connecticut, where *Just As Long As We're Together* and *Here's To You, Rachel Robinson* are set. And *Fudge-a-mania* grew out of a summer spent in Maine. I don't think I could set a book in a place without knowing it really well.

**These Days.** Now I live in Key West, Florida (the southernmost city in the US), and New York City with my husband, George Cooper. Between us we have three grown children and one grandchild. Our lives are busy, sometimes too much so, but never dull. And yes, I'm *still* writing!

