

SHEILA ANN HODGES AUTHOR INTERVIEW

My website: <https://sheilaannhodes.org/>

Let us introduce you to everyone, shall we? Tell us your name. What is your age?

My name is Sheila Ann hodes. I write under the name “Sheila Hodges.” I am seventy-four.

Where are you from?

I was born in Chicago, Illinois and migrated to Miami, Florida (West Perrine) as an adult.

A little about yourself (i.e., your education, family life, other).

REVEREND SHEILA A. HODGES

Sheila Hodges is a retired Elementary School teacher with twenty-one years of service. She is the President and Bible Teacher for the Teaching Ministry; God is Greater Ministry and Homeless Outreach. She holds a master’s degree in theological studies and Post Graduate Certificate in Educational Technology and Online Instruction. She is the Pastor of God is Greater Homeless Outreach Ministry in Miami, Florida. Also, she is the author of “Against All Odds” Life is like a puzzle and Revelation: Everything Made New Study Guide & Workbook, and Beauty for Ashes: Isaiah 61:3. Reverend Hodges and Mr. Hodges are married, they have five adult sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Tell us your latest news.

I am the Christian author of Against All Odds, Revelation: Everything Made New Study Guide & Workbook, and Beauty for Ashes: Isaiah 61:3. They are nonfiction and inspirational books. On February 26, 2026, “Beauty for Ashes: Isaiah 61:3 Deliverance from Aquaphobia by Faith” was published. Beauty for Ashes is my new book released. I am extremely excited about it.

Beauty for Ashes is about my swim journey to overcome aquaphobia in spite of the many challenges I had to face. However, I accomplished it by faith, determination, and perseverance.

When and why did you begin writing?

Starting at an incredibly early age I always wrote in journals and on loose papers. But after my encounter with the cab driver while leaving Chicago, I told my son about what happened that day and he encouraged me to actually write the first book.

When did you first consider yourself a writer?

I considered myself a writer after my first book was published.

What inspired you to write your first book?

In 1983, I was on my way to the airport while leaving Chicago. I moved to Miami, Florida. The cab driver said, “You should write a book about how you overcame poverty because some people never get out.” That inspired me to write my first book.

How did you produce the title?

Well, my first book entitled “Against All Odds: Life is like a puzzle. You put the pieces together to get the whole picture. I produced this title because Wanda faced and overcame each obstacle to reach her full potential in life.

Do you have a specific writing style?

My writing style is personal narrative.

Is there anything about your style or genre that you find particularly challenging?

My style is more narrative writing. I am a Christian author. My books feature certain obstacles in life that could hinder a person from reaching their full potential but with faith, determination, and perseverance it is possible.

How much of the book is realistic and are experiences based on someone you know, or events in your own life?

My book is very realistic. I have lived a life that has been challenging at times.

To craft your work, do you have to travel? Before or during the process?

Only in depths of my mind.

Is there a message in your novel that you want readers to grasp?

Life can be challenging but with faith, determination, and perseverance it is possible.

My message is “Your Past Is Not Your Future!” Never give up on you! Persevere to be successful. Stay focused on your goal.

Are there any new authors that have grasped your interest? Who is your favorite writer, and what is it about their work that really strikes you?

My favorite writer is Woodrow Kroll. What really strikes me about his work is how he keeps his writing style simple so that a reader can stay tuned and smoothly turn the pages.

Outside of family members, name one entity that supported your commitment to becoming a published author.

Yes. My best friend. She is supportive and provides good suggestions.

Do you see writing as a career?

Yes. Most definitely. Writing is not only my career, but it is my purpose in life.

If you had to do it all over again, would you change anything in your latest book?

Yes. I would add a couple more chapters.

Did you learn anything during the writing of your recent book?

Yes. That I am a perfectionist as much as possible.

If your book were made into a film, who would you like to play the lead?

Viola Davis

Any advice for other writers?

Keep writing! Eventually your words will make their way between the pages of someone's favorite book.

Anything specific you want to tell your readers?

I believe this book will encourage adult-onset swimmers with aquaphobia & mobility limitations or people, ages eighteen and older, who are struggling with life challenges and may just decide to give up on life in despair. I truly hope they enjoy my books: *Against All Odds*, *Revelation: Everything Made New Study Guide & Workbook*, and *Beauty for Ashes: Isaiah 61:3*. I am looking forward to communicating with them all.

What book are you reading now?

The Holy Bible

Is there one person, past or present, you would love to meet? Why?

It would be Michael Phelps. The reason is because he suffered from aquaphobia as a child. He overcame that obstacle to one day becoming the most decorated Olympian of all time. He is a positive influence and hope for fearful swimmers, including myself that have found a positive purpose in life.

Do you have any hobbies?

Exercising. Writing and reading. Listening to gospel music.

What TV shows/films do you enjoy watching?

Empire, Star, Greenleaf, Saint Elsewhere, Will Trent, Chicago PD, Law and Order, and the list goes on.

Favorite foods, colors, music?

Favorite food (pizza and pancakes) favorite color (red) favorite songs(gospel songs)

Imagine a future where you no longer write. What would you do?

Become a successful Real Estate owner of multiple properties.

What do you want written on your headstone?

“Lived a life of purpose: Faith, Love, Determine, and Perseverance.”

Do you have a blog or website readers can visit for updates, events, and special offers?

Website: [AGAINST ALL ODDS](#)

Author Central <https://www.amazon.com/author/sheilaahodges>