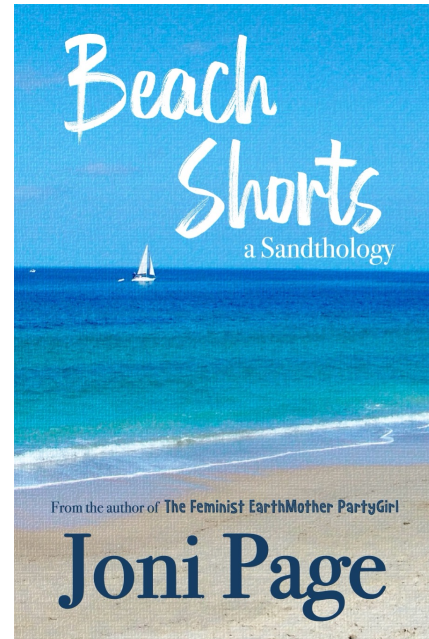


Author of **Beach Shorts - a Sandthology**
and **The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl**

Interview Topics

1. The beach is important to the author and to these stories.
2. The author's publishing company decided to donate a percentage of book profits to beach care.
3. The author is publishing a book of short stories after publishing the novel *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl*.
4. The author was involved in an award-winning anthology about miscarriage.
5. What the author is looking to achieve with these stories.
6. Other projects of the author



Suggested interview questions

You're donating part proceeds of *Beach Shorts - a Sandthology* to beach care, because of the algal bloom SA has experienced?

What is a sandthology?

Are the stories about the beach?

The book showcases some beautiful photos of the beach, including that joyous cover. How did you decide to create it?

How are the stories optimistic?

How do you know whether an idea is going to be a short story or a full novel?

Why do you think people like short stories?

Where do you get your inspiration for a short story?

You've been published in an award-winning book, is that right?

This is your second book. Was it easier to publish second time around?

What other projects are you working on?



With **Joni Page** Author of **Beach Shorts - a Sandthology**
and **The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl**

You're donating part proceeds of Beach Shorts – a Sandthology to beach care, because of the algal bloom SA has experienced?

The beach is very important to us, and we were horrified when the algal bloom hit last year. As the beach inspired the stories in this book, we decided to donate part proceeds of our sales to reef restoration.

What's a sandthology?

A collection is usually the name for short stories by a solo author and anthology is usually short stories from different authors. These stories were so diverse they were more than just “a collection”. We tossed around several names, but when we came up with sandthology, we knew it was the perfect name for keeping with the beach theme.

This is a book of short stories?

Yes, Beach Shorts – a Sandthology is a collection of amusing stories. I'm intrigued by those challenges that change the course of our lives. I wanted to capture a range of people who find themselves at a crossroads. There are love stories and career choices and family relationships and even some stories about the past and some about the future. And there are twists and turns. The one thing they have in common is their optimism.

Are the stories about the beach?

The stories were inspired by the beach, and each story has the beach in it in some way. I've always loved the beach's expanse of wild beauty, and that it can be calm and it can be ferocious. Its wide panorama and fresh air allowed me to create stories that evoke endless opportunities. I could see the stories quite vividly as I spent time at the beach, until there was a complete set.

The book showcases some beautiful photos of the beach, including that joyous cover. How did you decide to create it?

We have so many photos of the beach! The front cover is a whimsical symbol of freedom and possibility, and the colours are so happy. The inside covers are about stopping for a moment and taking in the landscape ahead, and of travelling a winding path, like in life. They fit the stories in the book perfectly.

How are the stories optimistic?

My stories are about finding your courage, searching for the truth, following your heart, making good decisions, taking the positive road. I write about people who are smart enough and brave enough to see crossroads in their life as opportunities. I hope I've done my characters justice. My aim is to make the reader feel good, whether from a funny story, a surprise turn, or a sweet resolution.

How do you know whether an idea is going to be a short story or a full novel?

Writing a novel like *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl* requires a much deeper and wider storyline. But a short story often emphasises a specific instance or theme, maybe just an hour, a day, or a few months, and there's a rapid evolution. Some of my stories focus on a single issue, which only take a few pages to explore. Others require more depth and might go for twenty or so. The nice thing about that is that there's a story for every mood.

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Joni Page
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With **Joni Page** Author of **Beach Shorts - a Sandthology**
and **The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl**

Why do you think people like short stories?

Short stories are a fantastic medium for today's world!

Firstly, we're all used to short bytes these days, so a short story suits our hectic and distracted lives.

Secondly, reading short stories mean you get a little taste of a range of situations, which can be quite refreshing. Thirdly, we often don't have the time or energy to invest in an entire novel, so short stories are a great solution. Lastly, if you're looking for a present, short stories are a good idea because there's a little of everything inside!

Where do you get your inspiration for a short story?

Life is full of little events that I can turn into a story, but I have to decide what value it is to the reader. If people are going to invest their time, it needs to be entertaining. Once I latch onto how to set the reader down into the story, I have to rush to write it down!

I have one story that runs intermittently throughout this book, about a woman resetting her life after divorce. That is such a big brave thing to do I felt her story needed more telling. In between her continuing story, there is a selection of shorter and longer stories to suit the reader's mood and time constraint.

Why did you decide to showcase that one story?

I love to show people as the hero of their life. My character in that storyline was an easy write, because her values were rock solid right from the start. I could see who she was and how she got there. Then I threw a stack of challenges at her. I wanted to demonstrate how bravely sticking to our values can lead us down another good path and another and another, no matter what.

You've been published in an award-winning book, is that right?

I was lucky enough to be part of the anthology *The Sound of Silence: Journeys Through Miscarriage*, published by *Mostly for Mothers*. It won two awards for non-fiction. I was very grateful for the opportunity to tell my story, and very humbled to be amongst other great writers who had also made their way through the challenge of miscarriage.

This is your second book. Was it easier to publish second time around?

The first book was a wild ride! Luckily, we're sticklers for documentation, so we have processes and procedures in place. This book retraced those steps instead of creating new ones, which was much easier. We also have relationships now with some wonderful bookshops and libraries.

What other projects are you working on?

I have a number of projects on the go, fiction and non-fiction. Which one is next in line, I won't know until after this one launches. I have a novel that is a follow up to the theme of *The Feminist EarthMother PartyGirl*, with a different set of characters. And I am working on a series about friendship. I also have a range of helpful little nonfiction books under construction.

It's a diverse range of opportunities, just like the characters in this book.

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