

## Kimberly Seilhamer

Kimberly Seilhamer was born to a single mother January 13, 1967 in Olympia, Washington. In spite of Kimberly's impoverished childhood and dysfunctional family life, she managed to realize at an early age that one thing that made her happy was writing. Poems, short stories, songs, even a novella were all part of Kimberly's collection of unpublished written works, typed out on an old pica typewriter that she bought from her journalism teacher for ten bucks.

At fifteen, Kimberly landed a job as a student "clerk" at U.S. Customs in Oroville, Washington. She moved from her mother's isolated cabin to her own apartment in town some twenty-five miles away. Kimberly worked and went to school, finally graduating early in her senior year. Once eighteen, Kimberly moved to Seattle where she soon visited a recruiter's office and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

Kimberly was trained at the Women's Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island, South Carolina. After graduating as a Private First Class, Kimberly was sent to Southern California to complete her military occupational specialty training in telecommunications. While serving on board the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Kimberly was recognized as Marine of the Month and Marine of the Quarter. She also gained the respect of her male peers as a deadly accurate expert shot with the M16A1 rifle. Ultimately, Kimberly was granted a Top Secret Special-Category clearance and was meritoriously promoted to Corporal before her honorable discharge in 1989.

After her military service, Kimberly worked with handicapped children through the school district and also apprenticed at a German Shepherd Training Kennel where she developed a love of the breed. It wasn't until 1995 that Kimberly rediscovered her love of writing after enrolling in a screenwriting class at Saddleback Community College in Orange County. She hasn't looked back since. Kimberly has over a dozen scripts and two produced feature films under her belt and is penning a much-needed non-fiction book entitled *WRITING THE GENRE FILM*. In addition to serving as a Jury Member for the prestigious Hartley Merrill International Screenwriting Prize (sponsored by RKO Pictures), Kimberly maintains her BRASS BRAD website, which offers assistance and resources to screenwriters.

Aside from spending time with her children and animals, Kimberly's greatest passion has been her BAAKARI crusade. Baakari, the Bull African Elephant, is a character she created 1999 in the hopes of making the world a better place through the power of the media, public awareness, and public opinion. Using this iconic animal as its champion, her production company, Baakari Creative, Ltd. will produce films that focus on compelling issues facing domesticated and wild animals, the environment, and humanity. In cooperation with this vision, Kimberly founded the non-profit, The Baakari Foundation, who's purpose is to effect positive change domestically and abroad.