

## BELVA PLAIN, 1915-2010

Belva Plain was an American author of mainstream women's fiction – not necessarily romance fiction, though her books featured plenty of passion. But the content of her fiction was not traditional romance, and often focused on social issues.

Belva Plain (nee Offenberg) was a third-generation Jewish American, who was born and raised in New York City. After graduating from Barnard College in 1939, with a degree in history, she married Irving Plain, and settled in Millburn, New Jersey for the rest of her life. Plain made her first short story sale at age 25 (1940) to *Cosmopolitan*, then dedicated much of the next 3 decades to raising her children, with only occasional short stories appearing.

In 1978, when Plain was 63, her first novel, Evergreen, was a smash success, staying on the New York Times bestseller list for 41 weeks. It was later turned into a star-studded television miniseries in 1985, starring Armand Assante. Plain was equally adept at writing both historical and contemporary fiction, and fans enjoyed both varieties. Many of her novels featured elements of her Jewish heritage, and most featured plucky, feisty red-headed heroines at their heart.

From 1978 through 2004, she published 22 novels, 20 of which appeared on the NYT bestsellers list. Her novels have appeared in 22 different languages, and over 30 million copies of her works have been printed. All the more remarkable as Plain used neither a computer nor a typewriter...instead writing all of her novels by hand.

Her publisher maintains a Belva Plain website at: <http://www.randomhouse.com/features/belvaplain/>

### Belva Plain's novels:

Evergreen [1978] (Werner Family Saga – Volume 1)  
Random Winds [1980]  
Eden Burning [1982]  
Crescent City [1984]  
Golden Cup [1986] (Werner Family Saga – Volume 2)  
Tapestry [1988] (Werner Family Saga – Volume 3)  
Blessings [1989]  
Harvest [1990] (Werner Family Saga – Volume 4)  
Treasures [1992]  
Whispers [1993]  
Daybreak [1994]  
The Carousel [1995]  
Promises [1996]

Secrecy [1997]  
Homecoming [1997]  
Legacy of Silence [1998]  
Fortune's Hand [1999]  
After the Fire [2000]  
Looking Back [2001]  
Her Father's House [2002]  
The Sight of the Stars [2004]  
Crossroads [2008]  
Heartwood [forthcoming in 2011]

