

Bios for Prissy Elrod

2-line bio:

Prissy Elrod is an artist and author of 'Far Outside the Ordinary.' She makes her home in Tallahassee, Florida where she lives with her husband. Elrod is currently working on her second book.

Short Bio:

Prissy Elrod is a writer and artist and makes her home in Tallahassee, Florida, where she lives with her husband. She is a member of the Tallahassee Writers Association, has attended numerous writing conferences, and worked with a Pushcart Prize winner on her debut memoir, 'Far Outside the Ordinary.' For more information visit www.PrissyElrod.com or contact her directly at prissy@elrod.com

Medium Bio:

An artist at heart, new novelist, Prissy Elrod lives in Tallahassee, Florida with her husband while her treasured family lives within four miles of her. Writing her first novel, 'Far Out of the Ordinary' was an exercise of courage. It took four years to write, three computers, two espresso machines, 48 how-to writing books, a Florida State University memoir-writing class, 24 blog subscriptions, a half-dozen periodical journals and 14 revised drafts. Elrod kept the manuscript to herself, not allowing anyone to read it for the first three years of writing her story and finally, in 2013, she sent the draft to a Pushcart Prize-winning writer in Texas, engaging him to read the manuscript and provide feedback. Elrod is currently working on her second book. To contact visit www.PrissyElrod.com or prissy@elrod.com

Long Bio:

Prissy Elrod was born and raised in Lake City, a charming little town nestled in northern Florida. It is known as the gateway to the South, an important piece of trivia everyone should know. She learned this when she was only seventeen years old, and it was not from Google or Wikipedia. Nope. She was a beauty pageant finalist, standing on a brightly lit stage in Jacksonville, Florida, where she wobbled in high heels and wore a fire-red bathing suit. She was a whole foot shorter than the two contestants on either side of her, despite her spiky beehive arduously teased and crowned high atop her head.

"Now, Miss Prissy Landrum, here is your question," said the squirmy little man with bad breath. "Can you tell us why Lake City, Florida, is called the gateway to the South?" She could hear the *Jeopardy!* music playing in her head as she concealed panic. "Um----I

think, um----is it because we have the Lake City Junior College and Forest Ranger School?" she stuttered.

He burst out laughing, along with everyone else in the auditorium. She didn't win. She came in third, last, since there were only three contestants left standing. But she *never* forgot where she came from or what Lake City was known for. It is the gateway to the South because two major interstates meet there: I-10 and I-75. Who knew? More important, who cared?

Elrod is a free spirit, an artsy person. She has a small studio in her home, divided between two things: painting and writing. The painting came first. Her canvases are filled with children, landscapes, Florida, water, barns, and pets. She had never painted or had a lesson until she moved to Indianapolis in the year 2000. The painting came to her by chance, or maybe, by choice. No, actually, it was the parking.

Dale, her husband, worked a sixty-hour week. She was newly married and *friendless* in a big city. She couldn't get a real job because she flew back and forth between Tallahassee and Indianapolis every two weeks. She decided to make friends taking either art or writing classes: Indiana University had creative writing but horrible parking. The Indiana Art Institute had great parking. No brainer. She enrolled at the Indiana Art Institute for her first art class because of the parking. Crazy.

Watercolor, acrylic, and oil- she's done them all. Turned out, she had a tiny bit of talent. She started calling herself an artist, even dressed like one.

Writing came after painting. She awoke one morning with this yearning, a feeling surfaced from deep within. She had a story to tell. There is simply no other way to describe it. The date was April 20, her birthday. Her writing journey began that very day. Elrod never thought of herself as a writer, most certainly *never* an author. Like many things in life, writing evolved during the process of living.

Elrod knew enough to know she didn't know anything about writing. Dangling modifiers were as scary to her as standing on a stage in her bathing suit at another beauty pageant. Her major in college was speech pathology and audiology from Florida State University. She knew it was too science oriented to help when it came to writing. Heck, it didn't even help when her two daughters talked to each other in tongue. She had to *pay* a speech therapist.

So, if she wanted to be a writer, or call herself one, she knew she'd better learn the craft. Elrod registered in the school of self-taught learning. It would take four years

before she finished her first book, after reading over forty-eight books on the craft of writing.

It has been an extraordinary journey. Elrod may never know where her urge to write came from, or really why. She is simply grateful it did.

5 Fun Facts You Didn't Know About Me:

1. I am very friendly and want to know everything about people I just met, and even find myself asking them strange questions.
2. I love medical shows that deal with a diagnosis of any kind and wish I had gone to medical school.
3. I stay up late at night, very late, and worry about things I cannot change but want to.
4. I truly believe you are what you eat and worry I have become a preacher and no one will want to eat with my anymore.
5. I thank God every night for my beautiful daughters, grand peeps, and perfect husband and wonder how can I be this lucky?

Contact Information for Prissy Elrod

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Google+
www.google.com/+PrissyElrodFOTO

LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com/in/prissyelrod

Twitter
[@prissyelrod](https://twitter.com/prissyelrod)

Facebook
www.facebook.com/prissy.elrod

Pinterest
www.pinterest.com/prissyelrod

Interview Questions for Prissy Elrod

1. What inspired you to write your first book *Far Outside the Ordinary*?
2. What was the single hardest thing about writing this book? Anything in particular you feared?
3. When writing your memoir, what surprised you the most?
4. What is your favorite scene in the book?
5. Do you have any advice for other writers?
6. What book are you currently reading?
7. What do you hope readers will take away from your book?
8. Where can we buy the book?

Synopsis for Far Outside the Ordinary

2-line Summary:

Far Outside the Ordinary is a poignant love story chronicling, in southern-style, the period in Prissy's life when, on an ordinary day, her young husband was given less than a year to live. It is also a story of happily-ever-after, a fairytale, and how it can come disguised and when least expected.

Short Synopsis:

If anybody had told Prissy, a Southern housewife, she would one day be driving with a stoned, drunk black man named Willie in her backseat while she begged him into her house for the night, she would've told them they were nuts. But it happened.

An emotionally honest account *Far Outside the Ordinary* chronicles the period in Prissy's life when her young husband is given less than a year to live. Southern black caregivers move into her home and work around the clock to aide her. Prissy finds herself a spectator in her own home, observing events far outside the boundaries of her once ordinary life. When her high school boyfriend reappears in her life, Prissy learns love has no expiration date. Sometimes a second chance at love can come disguised, and when least expected.

Medium Synopsis:

If anybody had told Prissy, a Southern housewife, she would one day be driving with a stoned, drunk black man in her backseat while she begged him into her house for the night, she would've told them they were nuts. But it happened.

An emotionally honest account *Far Outside the Ordinary* chronicles a period when Prissy's young husband is given less than a year to live. Southern black caregivers move into her home to aide her. Prissy finds herself a spectator in her own home, observing events far outside the boundaries of her once ordinary life. She also learns that sometimes a second chance at love can come disguised, and when least expected.

Long Synopsis:

As a conservative Southern housewife, if anybody had told Prissy she would one day be driving around town with a drunk, stoned black man named Willie sitting in her back seat while she begged-----no, ordered him into her house for the night, she would have told them they were nuts. But it happened.

Set in Tallahassee, Florida, *Far Outside the Ordinary* is a poignant love story chronicling, in southern-style, the period in Prissy's life when, on an ordinary day, her young husband was given less than a year to live during a routine physical where it was discovered he had brain cancer. She exhausted Western and Eastern life-saving treatments to save him, from medicine men to an FDA indicted doctor seen on Dateline. Both tragic and comic, the story is told from two sides of the same house: The back room where Boone, her beloved husband is dying, and the front room where his black caregivers, Cornelius Duhart, and Sallie Madison, are working around the clock to save their family. She stands in the middle, a spectator observing events far outside the boundaries of her once ordinary life.

This is a story of people from two cultures, black and white, and how love and respect for each other's differences grew from the work of supporting a man at the end of his life. The seriousness is tempered with humor, the pulling together of her community of friends and of strangers. The dire situations give permission for the crossing of class lines and help one realize we all have more similarities than differences.

Far Outside the Ordinary is also a story of happily-ever-after, a fairytale, and how it can come disguised and when least expected. When her high-school boyfriend reappeared in her life, she learned old love has no expiration date. There are second chances with a first love.

You may need to remind yourself that this is indeed a memoir while reading about angels of death, high fashion, world travel, shady medical clinics, political high-society, miracle treatments, and long-lost loves.

Reviews:

"I can't remember when I've read a book that captured both my heart and mind more than this one. Prissy Elrod's ability to weave a lifetime of living that embraced both the passion of love and the despair of loss with humility, humor, grace and raw honesty made me feel as though I was a member of her inner circle of family and friends. This book is about true love...twice found in the most unexpected and imaginative ways."

—Steve Evans (IBM Retired Senior Executive Officer, Tallahassee, FL)

"The author's candor, as well as her often-quirky sense of humor, engages the reader as Ms. Elrod spins a tale of a sometimes desperate woman willing to try methods, far outside the ordinary, to fight her husband's disease. Laughter and tears are part and parcel of this memoir which is one of those books this reader did not want to put down until she had savored every last word."

—Varner Jo Holmes (Atlanta, Georgia)

5 Points of Interest about the Book's Content or Story:

1. A portion of the proceeds from the book have been donated to *Fresh New Start* which advocates refreshing and renewing young widows who have lost their husbands to cancer. For more information visit www.freshnewstart.org
2. Prissy Elrod is currently working on her second book.

Book Details and Purchase Information

Book Title: Far Outside the Ordinary

By: Prissy Elrod

Published by: Leather Leaf Publishing

Available for Sale at: Amazon (all versions), Barnes and Noble Nook, iBooks, author website, and many independent book stores.

Retail Price for Print: \$24.99

Retail Price for eBook: \$9.99

Hardcover Print ISBN: 978-0-9912420-0-9

Softcover Print ISBN: 978-0-9912420-1-6

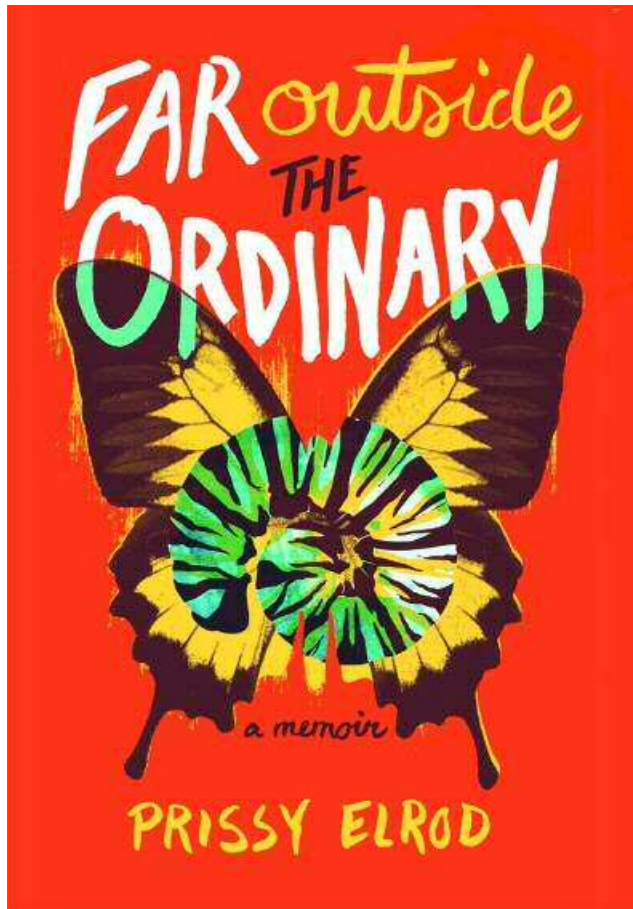
eBook ISBN: 978-0-9912420-2-3

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Author Facebook: www.facebook.com/prissy.elrod

Author Google+: www.google.com/+PrissyElrodFOTO



Far Outside the Ordinary

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Retail Price for Hardback Print: \$24.99

Hardback ISBN: 978-0-9912420-0-9

Retail Price for Paperback Print: \$14.99

Paperback ISBN: 978-0-9912420-1-6

Retail Price for Kindle Edition: \$9.99

Kindle Edition ISBN: 978-0-9912420-2-3

Retail Price for Audible Edition: \$19.95

Audible ISBN: 978-0-9912420-3-0

Retail Price for Audio CD Edition: \$24.95

Audible ISBN: 978-0-9912420-5-4

Author Website: www.prissyelrod.com

Praise for Far Outside the Ordinary

"I can't remember when I've read a book that captured both my heart and mind more than this one. Prissy Elrod's ability to weave a lifetime of living that embraced both the passion of love and the despair of loss with humility, humor, grace and raw honesty made me feel as though I was a member of her inner circle of family and friends. This book is about true love...twice found in the most unexpected and imaginative ways."

✍ Steve Evans (IBM Retired Senior Executive Officer, Tallahassee, FL)

"Prissy Elrod is a talented writer far outside the ordinary. Her prose is unique, it sets her apart, defines her as a writer of immense talent. She will not go away. Her story will take you on a journey of tears, heartache, frustration, determination, and ultimately, triumph. This story needed to be told, she owed that to the world, at least that's the way I see it. Her characters are not only real, but vivid and compelling. Her family and friends became mine, her tears my tears, and her personal victory a shouting fest."

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✎ Varner Jo Holmes (Atlanta, Georgia)

“Although it is not typically the type of book most “guys” would read, I can tell you that I will recommend to every one of my buddies. Life is such a precious gift and we often times forget how it can all change so quickly. As husbands we sometimes forget to take time to appreciate how lucky we are to have such amazing wives and beautiful children.

✎ Jose Gonzalez (Director of State Affairs, Tallahassee, FL)

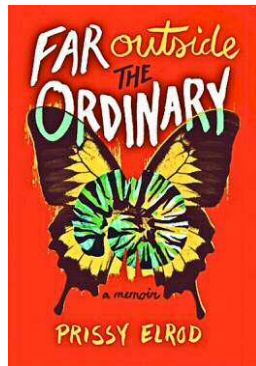
“The book's first half contrasted with its second is all-together a roller-coaster of emotion. The treacherous lows juxtaposed with glorious highs makes for a thrilling ride that kept this reader wanting more.”

✎ Nichole Healy (Writer, Clarkesville, GA)

Sample Chapter

Far Outside the Ordinary

By Prissy Elrod



Prologue:

The distinguished man of color standing on my front porch was a sight to behold. Debonair and slim, he was a conspicuous presence. He wore a fitted silk suit. A point of pink handkerchief peaked from his jacket pocket, matching the bright pink socks that crested above his black, pointed shoes. This gentleman was the very model of cultivated elegance and charm, looking as if he had been created in Hollywood.

Somehow my tragicomedy of a story had drifted from my little panhandle town in Florida all the way west to the coast of California, where he lived. Mary Barley, my friend and personal trainer, told a friend, and that friend told *this* man, who now wanted to meet me. He wanted to hear the firsthand version directly from me.

Mary came along with him, and after formal introductions, we all sat on my pink chintz couches. I was distracted by his socks, which matched the color of my couches perfectly.

"I write for a television series called *Dawson's Creek*," he told me. "Perhaps you've seen it."

I hadn't and told him. Television hadn't been on my radar for some time.

He continued. "My position, as one of their creative writers, is to create stories and story lines. Your story intrigued me. I'd sure like to hear more about it."

It was difficult to summarize the dramatic, unimaginable, and often unbelievable events that swirled around my attempt to save my dying husband after I moved two colorful, compassionate, black caregivers into my home. There had been a constant competition between tragedy and comedy, but I found myself relaxing as I spoke to this writer. It felt good, and I was astonished to discover I could tell someone—a stranger, no less—about those dark days.

As I began to wind down my narrative, I could sense what was coming next.

"Would you consider selling your story? I think it needs to be told," Mr. Dawson's Creek said. "You tell it, we'll write it, you get paid."

Before he even asked, I knew my answer would be no. What I said, however, was, "Thank you so much for the offer. I'll get back to you."

Of course, I never did get back to him. I was afraid those I cared about might be exploited in some way. I would have no control over their reputations. Even as a bruised magnolia from the South, I cared deeply for those who cared for me.

And so, I chose to tell my own story in my own way, thirteen years after the gentleman with the wonderful pink socks came to town. The *why* was so simple. In the words of Carl Hiaasen, one of my favorite Florida authors, "*You just can't make this stuff up.*" Mr. Dawson's Creek was right. My story really did need to be told.

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Amazon Reviews:

http://www.amazon.com/Far-Outside-Ordinary-Prissy-Elrod-ebook/product-reviews/B00JEM2WME/ref=sr_1_1_cm_cr_acr_txt?ie=UTF8&showViewpoints=1

Where to Buy:

<http://www.prissyelrod.com/far-outside-the-ordinary/>

http://www.amazon.com/Far-Outside-Ordinary-Prissy-Elrod-ebook/dp/B00JEM2WME/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1401997514&sr=8-1&keywords=far+outside+the+ordinary

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/far-outside-the-ordinary-prissy-elrod/1119084391?ean=2940149371211>

Various boutique bookstores and retail stores as well



Dear (first name):

Leather Leaf Publishing is pleased to let you know about our newest title, *Far Outside the Ordinary*, written by Prissy Elrod. Readers will enjoy this poignant love story chronicling, in southern-style, the period in Prissy's life when, on an ordinary day, her young husband was given less than a year to live. It is also a story of happily-ever-after, a fairytale, and how it can come disguised and when least expected. When her high-school boyfriend reappeared in her life, she learned old love has no expiration date.

The author is an artist at heart and lives in Tallahassee, Florida with her husband. Writing her first novel, 'Far Out of the Ordinary' was an exercise of courage. It took four years to write, three computers, two espresso machines, 48 how-to writing books, a Florida State University memoir-writing class, 24 blog subscriptions, a half-dozen periodical journals and 14 revised drafts. Elrod kept the manuscript to herself, not allowing anyone to read it for the first three years of writing her story and finally, in 2013, she sent the draft to a Pushcart Prize-winning writer in Texas, engaging him to read the manuscript and provide feedback. Elrod is currently working on her second book.

"Prissy Elrod is a talented writer far outside the ordinary. Her prose is unique, it sets her apart, defines her as a writer of immense talent. She will not go away. Her story will take you on a journey of tears, heartache, frustration, determination, and ultimately, triumph. This story needed to be told, she owed that to the world, at least that's the way I see it. Her characters are not only real, but vivid and compelling. Her family and friends became mine, her tears my tears, and her personal victory a shouting fest."

✶ Ronald G. Miller (Author, Amelia Island, Florida)

We will continue to send review and media updates as they appear while the title is being considered. Thank you for your time and we look forward to setting up a sales presentation to discuss the book with you directly.

Best regards,

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Media Coverage: Prissy Elrod

Far Outside the Ordinary

Newspaper

06/2014	The Times	Apalachicola, FL
07/2014	Monticello News & Jefferson Journal	Monticello, FL
08/2014	The Citizen	Peachtree City, GA
08/2014	Thomasville Talks	Thomasville, GA
09/2014	Lake City Reporter	Lake City, FL
09/2014	Suwanee Democrat	Gainesville, FL
02/2015	Tallahassee Democrat	Tallahassee, Florida
02/2015	Apalachicola Times	Apalachicola, FL
04/2015	Valdosta Daily Times	Valdosta, GA
08/2015	Tallahassee Democrat	Tallahassee, FL

Magazine

10/2014	Tallahassee Women Magazine
12/2014-15	<i>Tallahassee Women Magazine (cover) December/January 2014</i>
12/2014-15	<i>Print Magazine: Cover is 2014 Regional Design Award winner and will be featured</i>
02/2015	<i>Writer's Digest: Success Stories in Self-Promotion</i>
Winter 2015	<i>Pi Beta Phi magazine: Alumnae feature story</i>

Radio

11/2014	NPR Radio (Morning Edition on 88.9 WFSU-FM)
11/2014	Divine Intervention Radio (with Daniel Fazzina)
12/2014	Hope, Healing and Well-Being (Mary O'Keefe)
1/2015	Skype interview with Steve Harrison (Bradley Communications)
1/2015	Go To Guru (David Pullock & Lisa)
1/2015*	BlogTalkRadio (Read My Lips with Bonnie D. Graham)
1/2015*	Preferred Radio (Joel Markel, President Preferred Home Health Care)
2/5/15	Lewis Harrison Roxbury, NY WIOX 91.3 FM, syndicated radio
2/2015	Maggie Linton Show, Sirius XM-Channel 110, Washington, DC
8/2015	Kathryn Eriksen Show, I Heart Radio, BlogTalkRadio, Syndicated radio
9/2015	Front Porch podcast interview with Annie, owner of The Bookshelf, Thomasville, Georgia

(Prissy Elrod- continued)

Television

11/2014 WFSU Broadcasting and Media Production (Television Series 'Dimensions')
11/2014 WTXL (ABC News Channel 27)

Blogs

5/2014 Bedfellows
5/2014 Grateful Simplicity
6/2014 B.C. Brown Books
6/2014 The Reader & the Chef
6/2014 Bubblenews
6/2014 The Thomasville Townie
7/2014 One Writer's Journal (Penny Ehrenkranz)
8/2014 The Girl with Curls
8/2014 SoulKissed
9/2014 Five on Friday: Interview on Five things about Prissy Elrod (Bookshelf Bookstore)
9/2014 Old Age Is Not For Sissies
12/3/2014 LuxeSoul by Kimberly Fisher
03/2015 Jones Design Company

Media Outlets

5/2014 Book Movement Circulated
5/2014 Author Cover Award
7/2014 Book displayed on Instagram EXPLORE picture collage
8/2014 Wattpad
9/2014 The Writer Practice
10/2014 Book Design Template Featured Author
11/2014 Book Summit (NYC)
11/2014 Far[m] Outside the Ordinary Party: fundraiser hostess to support non-profit organization for young cancer widows

Book Signing Engagements

4/2014	The Bookshelf	Thomasville, GA
5/2014	Barnes & Noble	Tallahassee, FL
5/2014	Bedfellows	Tallahassee, FL
6/2014	Downtown Books	Apalachicola, FL

6/2014	Kanvas	Tallahassee, FL
7/2014	The Hidden Lantern	Rosemary Beach, FL
7/2014	Sundog Books	Seaside, FL

(Prissy Elrod- continued)

7/2014	Southern Authors Book Signing	Monticello, FL
8/2014	Atlanta Seminole Club Spear-It Fest	Atlanta, GA
8/2014	Omega Books	Peachtree City, GA
9/2014	Hometown Book Signing	Lake City, FL
10/2014	The Thomas Center	Gainesville, FL
10/2014	Sisset's	Gainesville, FL
10/2014	Meet the Author Library event	Lake City, Florida
11/2014	Private Sip and Sign Event	Highland Park, TX
11/2014	Frisco, Texas Public Library	Frisco, TX
11/2014	Green Peridot	Frisco, TX
11/2014	Narcissus	Tallahassee, FL
12/2014	The Tallahassee Symphony Tour of Homes	Tallahassee, FL
1/2015	Sundog Books	Seaside, FL
1/2015	Hidden Lantern Books	Rosemary Beach, FL
3/2015	Sweet Patina	Tallahassee, FL
4/2015	Kevin's	Tallahassee, FL
4/2015	Mockingbird	Valdosta, GA
4/2015	Ponte Vedra Inn	Ponte Vedra, FL
4/2015	Governor's Club	Tallahassee, FL
10/2015	Hidden Lantern Books	Rosemary Beach, FL

BOOK CLUB Selection/Guest speaker

6/2014	Tallahassee Book Club	Florida
7/2014	Fairhope, Alabama Club	Alabama
7/2014	Tallahassee Book Club	Florida
7/2014	Tallahassee Book Club	Florida
8/2014	Atlanta Book Club	Georgia
8/2014	Tallahassee Book club	Florida
8/2014	Speaker, Tallahassee Book Club	Florida
9/2014	Speaker, Thomasville Book Club	Georgia
9/2014	Speaker, Tallahassee Book Club	Florida
10/2014	Speaker, Gainesville Book club	Florida
10/2014	Speaker, Trinity Book Club	Florida
11/2014	Speaker, Maclay School	Florida

12/2014*	Speaker, Tallahassee Book club	Florida
2015		
1/2015	Sundog Books, Seaside	Florida
1/2015	Speaker: Writers in the Round (speaker)	Rosemary Beach, FL
(Prissy Elrod-continued)		
2/11/15	Speaker, book club	Tallahassee
2/19/15	Speaker, book club	Tallahassee
Prissy Elrod- continued		
3/2/15	Speaker, book club	Tallahassee
3/5/15	Skype Speaker, book club	Lakeland
3/10/15	Skype Speaker, book club	Markle, Indiana
3/14/15	Guest Speaker, Author Fair	Apalachicola, FL
4/7/15	Keynote: Speaker 100 –woman’s forum	Valdosta, Ga
4/8/15	Keynote: Speaker to Merrill Lynch clients	Tallahassee
4/11/15	Word of South Music & Literary Festival	Tallahassee
4/13/15	Speaker, book club	Tallahassee
4/15/15	Speaker, book club	Tallahassee
4/17/15	Speaker, PEO-philosophic education organ	Tallahassee
4/18/15	Speaker, Rosemary Beach Book club	Rosemary Beach, FL
4/29/15	Keynote Speaker, Women of Wealth, Sun Trust	Jacksonville, FL
8/2015	Keynote: Speaker, FTBA 2015 Convention	Naples, FL
9/2015	Keynote: Women’s Club-Altrusa Meeting	Lake City, FL
9/2015	Keynote/Emcee: Reader-meet-Writer	Thomasville, GA
10/2015	Keynote: Thomas County Friends of Library	Thomasville, Ga
11/2015	Keynote: Hospice Fundraiser	Tallahassee, FL
2/2016	Speaker: DAR meeting	Tallahassee, FL
3/2016	Speaker: Garden club	St. Augustine, FL
4/2016	Keynote speaker, Women of Wealth, SunTrust	Atlanta, Georgia
5/2016	Keynote speaker: Flagler College	St. Augustine, FL
	Women of Vision (Power of the Purse) fundraiser	

Book club selected in other states: California, Maine, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Kentucky

