**Author Biography**

Lilo Abernathy is a somewhat eccentric, deep-thinking, warm-hearted young woman of at least 43 years. She started out as a restaurant chain hostess and worked her way up to the exciting world of global mergers and acquisitions. She has enjoyed an on again/off again relationship with formal education and has been affectionately referred to as information hound. In the evenings, she fills her writing breaks by scanning the internet for answers to provocative questions, such as: “What causes diamonds to be formed in different colors?” or “How many welfare recipients are employed ?” As she suspected, the answer is not what you would think.

One thing that never changes is Lilo’s ongoing love affair with books. A born bibliophile, at age ten she had finished all the children’s books in the house and started devouring the wall of books in her parents’ library. By age 15, she was working her way through grocery store book aisles and libraries. Just as Picasso had his blue period, Lilo had her own periods of readership--urban fantasy, historical romance, self-help, business skills improvement, Encyclopedia Brown, etc. She has always known she would become a writer but deliberately delayed it until after her daughter came of age. She has recently released her debut novel, ‘The Light Who Shines.’

**Pursuits**

Lilo has two primary loves in her life outside of family and her day job: books and social change. Her desire to help others began when she was five years old and she viewed a poster of a starving Ethopian baby on her way to Sunday school. That poster is still vivid in her mind. This desire was strengthened upon receiving the help of others when her daughter was diagnosed with cancer. She was amazed and humbled by the number of people who give in both time and donations to the child cancer community. After two and a half years of chemotherapy, her daughter is now fine, thanks to the dedication of child oncology researchers everywhere. Because she lived it, Lilo truly believes in the proverb:

*“It takes a village to raise a child.”*

Lilo Abernathy hopes to give back by bringing expanded awareness of some of our most challenging social issues to her readers through entertaining fiction while helping nonprofits along the way.

**Education**

Lilo Abernathy studied business management at DePaul University where she qualified for several honor societies. She never joined because she felt that qualifying was more than enough. She is a committed life-long learner.

**Memberships/Associations**

* Western North Carolina Humanist Association
* Americans United for Separation of Church and State
* The Rational Future Institute
* Mensa