

## Press Release and Onix Information



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**Author** – Bridget Ryan

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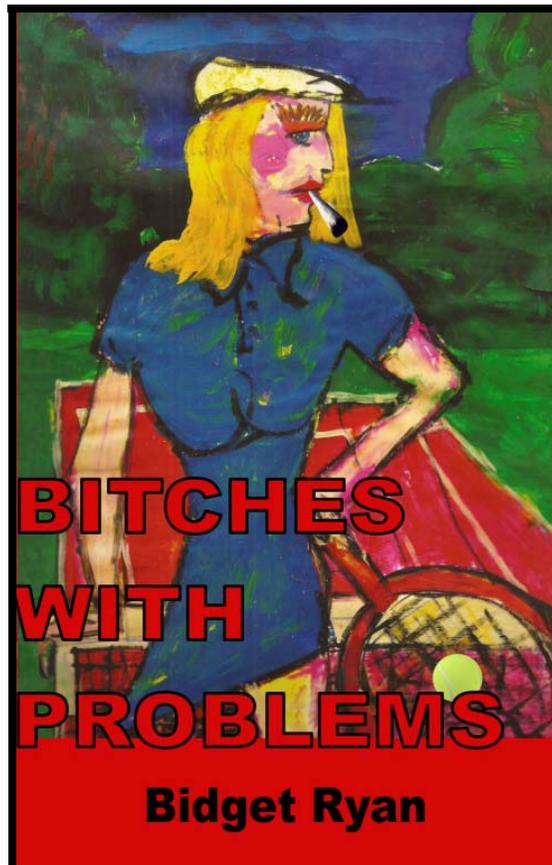
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## 3 Blurbs:

### 44 Words

*Bitches With Problems* interrogates with wisdom, joy, and a true sense of how to create self-preservation within a poetic memoir form. Ranging from engaging poetry to direct tell-all memories of past escapades, Bridget Ryan takes her reader on a ride they will never forget.

### 135 Words

Poems and short stories mingle in this provocative memoir that simultaneously explores and re-imagines one young woman’s pursuit of excitement in a world of drugs, booze, boys, rock and roll. On the border of Detroit and Windsor the stories Bridget Ryan recreates from her past reveal the immense pressures and pursuits that surround youth, beauty, and the need to win big and live fast. Tennis tournaments riddled with hallucinogenic episodes, romantic first sightings with Ferris Wheels on the horizon and tragedy lurking in further conquests, these short narratives create an overall journey through some of life’s greatest obstacles. *Bitches With Problems* re-appropriates the strength women are often denied through an objectifying gaze and gives the protagonist and her many fascinating female cohorts an agency and a power wrought through sheer survival, conflict, and hard-won camaraderie.

### 288 Words

*Bitches With Problems* tells the tale of a strong woman who simultaneously resists and embraces the “bitches with problems” scenario as a kind of toxic masculine construct that the women she meets and the woman she becomes must acknowledge, live through, and rise above. Bridget Ryan’s first person account takes ownership over all of the trials, tribulations, traumas, and elations that have challenged her throughout her life.

In poetic form, as well as a very direct, at times conversational style, our protagonist’s words follow an autobiographical route that brings the reader into a present where she both critiques and cherishes the memories – the books the boys the booze and the all-around debauchery. She moves seamlessly from her teens into adulthood, all the time confronting a life of romance, rebound, and recovery.

Helium happy dentists, Ferris Wheels, suave English dudes, and the tableau-like enchantment of ‘five bitches in a pack’ drift through this autobiographical narrative with a powerful and poignant pacing. The poems and stories that make up this overall sequential journey include a cast of truly memorable characters. Nancy, in a see through negligee, and fond of scrabble, wanders through rarified public spaces and simultaneously enchants, befriends, and bewilders the narrator who sees a profoundly unique personality amidst the chaos of Nancy’s fractured identity. Identities that intersect, beginning with joy and laughter, gradually becoming fractured by tragedy and social pressures, create a complex and direct series of stories and poems that give this memoir all the nostalgic force of the past. A past that contributes to the strength of character of an author present, surviving, and re-counting life events that she moved through with a necessary sense of humour, pathos, and a profound instinct for survival.

## Reviews:

I've known Bridget Ryan since her 'beatnik' daze. This is a woman who has lived, loved, and lost... deeply. *Bitches With Problems* is a testament to not only turning tragedy into triumph but a manual for young adults to successfully navigate the onslaught of temptations that life tends to put in our paths. I highly recommend reading, no, devouring Ryan's book.

*Rick Beneteau*  
Award-winning author  
and songwriter

Throughout Jet's retelling of her life's adventures we learn of a shy, introverted and yet precocious young girl who begins a lifelong search for the meaning of her existence. We are introduced to the few and utter lack of familial influences from her aging parents, the interactions from her brothers and loving sister as she reveals to us how she struggled through her wild, life experiences.

In true flashback form, as if awakening from a dream we meet Jet's teenage friends and the wild experimental rides they went on.

Through her poignant, naive impressions of her youth we learn of her alcohol, drug and pot-filled attempts to obliterate her pain and the fear of moving on without their influence.

Jet's naive love of life gets terribly tangled. It begins innocently enough like anyone's experimentation with underage drinking, dabbling in drug use & making (some) bad choices not only in the 60's & 70's but in the decades to come.

Her ability to handle what comes her way is soon out of her control as she experienced pressure to perform at her best and then loses the one she loves. Her struggles to maintain her equilibrium with no support from her Irish parents (as they would not speak of it) or friends (who mostly didn't know what she was dealing with) alienated her even more.

It is a gripping read which gives you a sense that Jet is always hanging from a precipice. It begins with snippets of her development and grows to a heartfelt emotional prose as she comes to understand and shape her purpose.

'Somehow I had to face people & figure out a way forward'.

This she comes to learn without delusions, without stimulants, by living in reality, accepting its moments of grief and subsequently allowing herself to embrace the possibility of joy & peace; not only in the present but essentially in moving forward.

Readers please read on but hang on for the bumpy ride!

*Colette Beliveau*

## About the Author

### Short Bio:

Bridget Ryan was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario and spent her formative years crossing the border into Detroit, where many of her stories originate. A tennis pro, a former librarian, York University graduate, and intricate storyteller, her literary roots are planted firmly within a variety of rich traditions from the beat poets to Dorothy Parker, Sylvia Plath and Tennessee Williams.

### Author Bio Note:

**Bridget Ryan** was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario across the river from Detroit. Her teenage years saw the glory days of a blossoming alternative pop culture amid the lure of punk rock and Motown.

Born last into a large Irish Catholic family, she excelled in most sports, but found comfort in the solitude of tennis and quickly achieved a provincial ranking.

Through her teens, the suffocation of prim Windsor, forced her over the river and into Detroit where she found the hottest clubs and on many occasions was rewarded with sightings of The Rolling Stones, Patti Smith, and The Ramones.

She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and a Bachelor of Education in Toronto, Ontario where she has worked as a Librarian, Teacher and a Tennis Pro.

Her passion for live music, poetry and literature have led her on many a harrowing soul searching trips.

Her book, *Bitches With Problems*, is a collection of memories culled from her boisterous travels through addiction, asylums, death and back again.