

How did you decide on the title? Originally, I called this book BLOOD RELATIVES, and later changed it to A ZERO-SUM GAME. But that title was too long and didn't seem right. Finally, I came up with DADDY'S GIRL, and renamed one of the chapters "A Zero-Sum Game." Considering the cover I chose (my cover artist's idea), I think it fits well. And Valerie is the only one in the family who calls her father "Daddy."

What kind of research did you do? I interviewed two people who are extremely knowledgeable about startups, venture capitalists, and IPOs, and another person who has an IT background and who recently worked for a startup. I also emailed someone with a deep retail background about show-rooming and online shopping.

Do you play bridge? I used to, but not anymore. I got help for those scenes from someone who plays every day!

What characters reappear in DADDY'S GIRL from your suspense novel UNDERWATER, and how are they related?

1. Frank and Dawn Mitchell are in both books, with Dawn a bigger character in DADDY'S GIRL than she is in UNDERWATER.
2. Dawn is the older sister of Helen from UNDERWATER, who is now married to Frank's cousin John (also mentioned in UNDERWATER).
3. Candace (the protagonist in UNDERWATER) gets a mention in DADDY'S GIRL.
4. David Shepherd is in both books.

Do you own (or have you been to) a house like "Sea Gem?"

No, but I've stayed at beach homes that are smaller and less fancy. I've visited Sea Island and stayed at The Cloister there.