

Suggested Interview Questions for Sarahlyn Bruck, Author of DESIGNER YOU

- How did you find yourself writing contemporary women's fiction? Why is this genre important to you, personally? How do you define the genre?
- Themes and topics that resonate most strongly in DESIGNER YOU include 1) losing a spouse, 2) (single) parenting, 3) work/life balance, 4) women's identity separate from their spouses or children, and 4) modern stresses on teenagers.
- What are the challenges of touching on these themes in your fiction?
- Pam Wheeler, the forty-four-year-old heroine of DESIGNER YOU, loses her husband early on in the book, which makes her a young widow. There are a lot of "widow" books out there. What sets yours apart?
- Pam is not always the best mom—she chooses work over spending time with her troubled daughter, who needs her, especially now. Why show that side of Pam? Why is it important to show her as such an imperfect mother?
- In time, Pam dips her toe into the dating pool. What's it like for Pam to start thinking of dating again after losing her husband so suddenly? What are some of the challenges and obstacles she faces?
- In their very successful DIY (do it yourself) design business, Designer You, Pam's husband, Nate, is the brains behind the operation. It was his baby, and Pam often thought of herself as the magician's assistant, never the lead. When he dies, she's forced to take over. What challenges does Pam deal with as the sole face of Designer You?
- Much of the book is set in the design world of Philadelphia. What made you decide to choose an urban setting such as Philadelphia? What's special about this city for you?