



HOT TIP

SWEET RELIEF

Marnee Robinson figures her cookie company was bound to happen from the moment she started using Pillsbury Slice 'n Bake as a young girl. That was back when she was a "cookie enthusiast." She has since graduated to a cookie perfectionist, as her Serendipity and Nirvana cookie lines attest. The gourmet snacks transcend baked goods and become almost edible artworks — the Nirvana a blend of chocolate chip and toffee, Serendipity a mix of coconut, raisins, walnuts, and cereal — and they're just the beginning. **Marnee's Cookies**, based in Bath, has a dozen varieties now, from Destiny to Xanadu, and they can be purchased by the dozen. You can buy them as party favors, gifts for friends, or gifts for yourself. Order yours at www.marnees.com. Because, as Marnee Robinson points out, life's too short to eat a bad cookie.

The FreLincolville novel
creative approach

For writers whose books are the sales of John Grisham or Stephen King, teaching typically pays well. In exchange for leading early morning seminars with bored undergraduates or relating seminars with talented students, the writer gets a flexible membership in a community and, most importantly, time to

None of that ever appealed to Elizabeth Hand. The Lincolnville and short story writer tried teaching and occasionally ran a shop or two, but the voice doesn't appeal to her. "I'm not being the ink-stained wretch," she laughs.

So for nearly the last 10 years, Hand has made a living solely from writing. While she professes to be unaware of the sales figures for her serious work — fantasy novels like *Waking the Moon* and *Moon Love* — her books have been reviewed by outlets ranging from the *New York Times* to *People*. She's been able to find publishers and a shepherd her novels to the market, and her short stories and novellas have found a paying home.

Still, Hand's fiction simply doesn't earn enough to support her two high school-age children. The resourceful New York native has put together a career in which writing in one kind or another — pays the bills. In many novelists, she's got a side gig: book reviewing, writing regular columns for *Washington Post* and *Fantasy Magazine* (as well as a regular review for the *Magazine of Fantasy*).

More intriguingly, though, she's gone Hollywood, writing screenplays and novelizations — in which the payoff for a popular movie is turned into an expensive paperback novel. Her *Star Wars* books for juveniles and novelizations in particular are "a steady feeder work," Hand says. The