



Page Turner

LOREN STEPHENS '65

When Loren Stephens returns from work every night, she mentally detaches from her own life so she can enter a different one. By day, she raises funds for the Anti-Defamation League. By night, she writes and publishes other people's life stories through her ghostwriting business, Write Wisdom (www.writewisdom.com). When transforming her clients' memories into hard-bound autobiographies, Stephens strives to showcase their passions. "My job as a ghostwriter is to step out of the way and let their voices really shine through," she says.

A double English and government major, Stephens became interested in personal histories while working at the Tompkins County Mental Hospital as an undergraduate. She earned a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia, then embarked on an eclectic career editing economics textbooks, working in investment banking, and producing plays and documentary films. After helping her mother write her life story, she received so much feedback from friends that she recognized a market demand for self-published memoirs. As a ghostwriter, she spends about twenty-four hours



conducting multiple telephone interviews with her clients, who tend to be older and want to leave legacies for their families and friends. So far, she's completed four autobiographies. After listening to numerous triumph-and-tribulation accounts, Stephens concludes that everyone has a story worth telling—which is where she comes in. "The end product is something that has all the bells and whistles that I think people at that point in their life deserve."

— Megs DiDario '07