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Ann Thompson was born September 3, 1935, to John Miles and Dorothy Helen Gibson Thompson, in Lancaster, Wisconsin. After graduating from high school, Ann pursued a Liberal Arts curriculum at Cottey College for Women in Nevada, MO. She graduated in 1955 and transferred to the University of Wisconsin, in Madison, Wisconsin, where she majored in Journalism.

After just one semester there, she took a 21-year hiatus to be married (to fellow journalist, Bruce K. Estlund) and to guide their three children from infancy to adulthood (Cynthia L., David M., Eric N.). She honed her writing craft during those years with part-time jobs and free-lance article and fiction writing.

When Eric left for college in 1978, so did Annie. She graduated from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1980 with a degree in Mass Communication. She worked in Public Relations in Milwaukee for three years and then “retired” to write full-time. Bruce retired from his job as Assistant Vice President - Public Relations, for Wisconsin Bell in 1986 and the couple moved to their second home on Lake Michigan’s rocky shore in Door County, Wisconsin. Bruce wrote fiction there until his sudden death in July, 1991.

It was during her recovery from this life-altering jolt that Annie decided to begin writing a comprehensive and personal book for widows. She and a Cottey College friend, Pauli Shelden Jensen, had outlined such a guidebook more than 25 years earlier, when Pauli’s young husband died of liver cancer and left her with three young children. *For Widows Only!* became the book they had wanted to write at that time.

The book was published in 2003, and Annie’s “business” of attending to the needs of widows, spread with the introduction of two websites. The first, <http://groups.msn.forwidowsonly.com>, is a support site for widows who seek and provide help to others as they move through difficult times. The second site, <http://forwidowsonly.com> is an informative site about Annie, her book and her mission to help widows.

Annie’s children and grandchildren continue to provide her with balance and love. Cindy and her husband teach law at New York University (Harvard this year) and have two kids (Lucas at Princeton and Jessica at Grinnell); David teaches Philosophy at Brown Univ., is divorced and living outside Providence, RI. His Corey just started college at Lesley College in Cambridge, MA; Marshall and Hannah attend high school in Providence. Eric, a textbook editor, married and became father of a teenage boy at the age of 45. He and his wife both work for the State of Texas in Austin.