

It's about time: Southie author's era-hopping tale gives teen girls a hero of their own

By **TENLEY WOODMAN**

In a genre populated by Luke Skywalker and Frodo Baggins, Christina Bauer longed for a hero she could relate to.

"I just always felt vividly let down. I thought it would have been great to have a book like that as an option," said Bauer, 36, author of "The Pirate Queen," an adventure/fantasy book with a teenage heroine.

The Southie resident credits "Harry Potter" creator J.K. Rowling with providing the opportunity to fill a void in young adult entertainment that she felt was

wanted to be. She was probably not literate but she spoke Latin."

The two characters meet when Grace appears to Jess in her dreams and pleads with her to help her find her treasure.

But Jess' dreams aren't normal.

With the help of Selma Mairead, a grandmotherly bookkeeper in Westport, County Mayo, Ireland, she soon learns she has the ability to "timewalk" and join Grace in her era.

"I love science and quantum physics. I got to a certain point in the book and I couldn't get past," said Bauer. "I looked into wormholes and I had just a blast doing

BOOKS

missing in her youth. "I love J.K. Rowling. I think she opened up a whole new set of readers and made fantasy for a whole new generation of geeks who are playing 'Dungeons & Dragons' in the basement as a kid," said the Syracuse University graduate.

Bauer, a software marketer, began writing "The Pirate Queen" after her software customer service company went under. Growing up in Buffalo, Bauer enjoyed the dimension-hopping adventure "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle.

the research."

Surprisingly, Bauer has never been to Ireland, nor does she have any Irish heritage in her family.

"I thought I did for a while," Bauer said. "I asked my grandmother and she said she was Irish."

However, after taking Irish history courses at Syracuse she learned her grandmother was mistaken. Her roots are Polish.

Bauer researched details for the book on the Internet and bought an Irish-to-English dictionary.

"The house that they live in is a place you can actually rent," she said of Jess' home.

In "The Pirate Queen," Bauer combines her love of fantasy and women's history to create a 'tween-age escapade through time along the Western coast of Ireland.

The story line involves Grace O'Malley, a real life Irish chieftain and pirate from the 1500s, with Jess, a 13-year-old 21st century girl coping with the loss of her mother and the constant moving caused by her father's job.

"I think there are so many wonderful women out there that have done these things and it is part of all of our heritage," Bauer said.

"In traditional Gaelic Ireland, women could be anything they

"The Pirate Queen" is Bauer's first book. She plans to continue Jess' story with a series of time travel adventures. Next on Jess' agenda is solving a mystery in ancient Egypt.

To learn more about Christina Bauer go to www.timewalks.com



BOSTON
Herald

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2005 ■ 50 CENTS (75 CENTS 30 MILES OUTSIDE BOSTON)