

# Katherine Center

## Author of multiple books including *Happiness for Beginners*

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

### Topics

- Family / Relationships
- Inspiration / Achievement
- Journalism / Literary / Author
- Storytelling
- TED-Talks
- Work-life Balance



### About Katherine Center

Katherine Center is a novelist—the author of five bittersweet comic novels about love and family, including *The Bright Side of Disaster*, *The Lost Husband*, and *Happiness for Beginners*. Her work has appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *The Atlantic*, *Redbook*, *InStyle*, *People*, *USA Today*, *Real Simple* and others, as well as several anthologies.

People magazine calls *The Bright Side of Disaster* “cleverly told and uncommonly appealing,” and The Dallas Morning News calls Katherine’s novels “satisfying in the most soul-nourishing way.”

Katherine’s newest novel, *Happiness for Beginners*, was a Book Club Pick for *InStyle* and a Target Emerging Authors pick. BookPage named Katherine a new writer to watch, the Houston Press listed her as a Top Ten writer in the city, and Instant Pictures recently optioned *The Lost Husband* for a movie.

Katherine’s has won many awards and fellowships for her work, and her novels have been published in translation in all over the world. Katherine just finished her sixth novel, which goes on sale in January of 2018. She lives in her hometown of Houston, Texas, with her husband, two children, and fluffy dog.

Katherine loves to speak about writing, and reading, and why stories matter. She is especially interested in sharing how we can all tell the best possible stories of our lives.

### Select Keynotes

- **How to Be Awesome at Failure**

How to Be Awesome at Failure

At its best, failure can make us stronger and wiser and more compassionate. The trick to failing well is learning how to harness the agony of it. New York Times bestselling author Katherine Center shares lessons about resilience she learned in all her early years of struggle to get her career off the ground—and how those struggles lead us to our strengths.

- **The Life-Changing Magic of Stories**

Stories are a particularly powerful way for us to talk to ourselves and teach ourselves the lessons we need to learn. New York Times bestselling author Katherine Center talks about how she discovered the magic of stories—both telling them and listening to them—and how we can all use that power to deepen, enrich, and guide our lives.

How to Read for Joy

or

How to Fall Back in Love with Reading

We all went to high school, and we all absorbed notions growing up about which kinds of books were valuable—and which kinds weren’t. After going through her own process of “de-snobification” about reading, New York Times bestselling author Katherine Center found her own compass for what to read: not books she thought she should read, but the stories she needed to hear. This talk is all about how to find the right books for you—ones that nourish and teach and delight you.

- **The Power of Stories in Business**

Stories are our most powerful way of connecting. Stories connect our heads and our hearts—and connect us to each other. For businesses, knowing how to tell stories that matter is crucial for connecting at every level. New York Times bestselling author Katherine Center talks about

how stories work and why they matter so much.

- **Why A Great Story Can Make All The Difference In Business**

Humans are wired to love stories. They are our best way of learning and our favorite form of entertainment. We go to nonfiction to learn things, but we turn to stories to feel things. Stories take us on journeys of the imagination—and bring us back changed. They are an indescribably powerful tool for connecting us to others, and influencing and inspiring us. Especially since research indicates that the majority of all decisions are emotional decisions. We can weigh the pros and cons in our heads, but when the time comes to make any decision, it always comes down to “a feeling” in our hearts. Stories can access those hearts. In business, a good story can mean the difference between customers that care and ones that don’t; teams that are passionate, and ones that aren’t; a vision that matters, and one that doesn’t. A good story can create profound bonds between the storyteller and the audience. Katherine Center, author of six novels, shares her knowledge about how stories work—and how to tell a great one.

- **Your Life Is A Story**

“What you notice is what you remember, what you remember is what you hold onto, and what you hold onto becomes the story of your life.” Novelist Katherine Center talks about how we tell the stories of our lives, saying the details matter as much as the overall narrative. Our stories tell us who we are and where we’re going. If we can change our stories, we can change our lives. Writers know that the heart of any story is in its details, and so telling our best stories is all about choosing the best details—ones that can inspire us and encourage us, ones that can remind us of life’s beauties and joys when times are hard, ones that can give us hope for the future. How you tell your story matters. It’s a simple idea, but it changes everything. People who are able to pull something good from life’s struggles and hardships are better adjusted and happier. We frame the stories of our lives in many different ways, and some stories really are better than others. **We live our lives in moments—and build our stories out of them.**

### Select Book Titles

- **2019:** Things You Save In A Fire
- **2018:** How to Walk Away
- **2015:** Happiness for Beginners: A Novel
- **2013:** The Lost Husband: A Novel
- **2010:** Get Lucky: A Novel
- **2009:** Everyone Is Beautiful: A Novel
- **2008:** The Bright Side of Disaster: A Novel

### Select Articles

- [Instant Pictures Picks Up ‘The Lost Husband’ Rights](#)

Bridget Stokes and Vicky Wight’s Instant Pictures has acquired film rights to Katherine Center’s 2013 novel “The Lost Husband,” and is set to partner with 8th Day Pictures on a feature film production.