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**NEW NOVEL, *A MERGER OF EQUALS*, SHOWS  
BUSINESSWOMEN HOW TO HAVE IT ALL**

(November 2006) *A MERGER OF EQUALS*, written by former business executive and sought after speaker Debra Snider, is a fast-paced love story set against the dynamic backdrop of the business world that offers important lessons about the true nature of success and how to achieve it. The main female character faces and addresses all the reasons women often opt out of the business world today and yet she chooses both to stay and to succeed. As it reveals corporate America in all its sexist, complacent and illogical glory, the novel demonstrates that quite a few so-called truths –about work, life and love– are not even close to true and that half a life is no life at all.

Men and women experience forces like brains, ambition, work, sex, love, marriage and parenting very differently for a wide variety of reasons, both internal and external. The characters and the storyline in *A MERGER OF EQUALS* illustrate and inspire on issues of enormous importance to the harried working people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century – overloaded schedules, corporate lunacy, fear of diversity, sexism, power games and the never-ending conflict between the zeal to achieve and the desire for a little peace and quiet. From its opening sentence –“*In a man’s world, a woman at work is an imperative but perilous proposition.*”– to its touching final pages, *A MERGER OF EQUALS* is an intelligent, incisive story for readers who want a perceptive, fun, thought-provoking and ultimately stirring read.

The story is told in the first person by two main characters. Jane is tiny, fierce, ambitious and brilliant. Sure that the business world is out to make it all but impossible for her to succeed, she is nevertheless determined to get to the top. Charlie is the quintessential golden boy, with all the attributes that make it natural for men to succeed. He’s hardwired with the rules of the corporate game; Jane has to

figure them out. The two meet when Charlie is assigned as Jane's mentor at the investment bank where they both work. Over the next ten years, first as colleagues, then as friends, then as partners, the two propel each other up the corporate ladder. Surrounded by friends and lovers, some of whom ease the climb and some of whom decidedly do not, Jane and Charlie defy the constrictions of the status quo to create a new model of professional and personal success.

Debra Snider retired in 2001 from a distinguished 20-year career as a lawyer and business executive. Her nonfiction works include *Working Easier* (Illinois Arts Alliance Foundation, 2005) and *The Productive Culture Blueprint* (American Bar Association Career Resource Center, 2003). *A MERGER OF EQUALS* is her first novel. A graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago Law School, Snider has been married for 29 years and has two grown children. After spending her first 50 years in the Midwest, she recently moved with her husband to Nevada, where she spends her time writing, swimming, playing blackjack, gazing like a still-amazed Midwesterner at the mountains, and speaking to audiences she invariably leaves enthused and energized.

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*A MERGER OF EQUALS* is now available for purchase at [www.bookmasters.com/marktplc/01764.htm](http://www.bookmasters.com/marktplc/01764.htm) and on Amazon.com. Appearances and readings by Debra Snider may be scheduled at [www.debrasnider.com](http://www.debrasnider.com).

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