

PEOPLE IN THE CITY

Maureen Smith fourth novel due for September release

What is the connection between a powerful secret society and a string of murders along the Riverwalk? This is just one of the mysteries to be revealed in local author Maureen Smith's fourth novel, *Weapon of Seduction*, a romantic suspense thriller set in San Antonio.

FBI Agent Korrine Friday has no idea that Rafe Santiago, the handsome stranger she encountered at a crime scene, is her

that may be linked to a secret society. As the temperature between Rafe and Korrine keeps rising, so does the killer's body count. The case gets personal when the next victim targeted is someone close to Korrine. Suddenly she finds herself trapped by a sadistic killer who wants her dead—and has horribly specific ideas about how to do it.

Mrs. Smith is no stranger to crafting edge-of-your-seat thrillers. In 2002, her debut novel, *Ghosts of Fire*, won multiple literary awards and received national critical acclaim. Midwest Book Review lauded Smith as a "writer of considerable promise and ability." Her second novel, *With Every Breath*, was nominated for a Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award and an Emma award in the categories of Favorite Hero, Favorite Romantic Suspense, Book of the Year and Author of the Year.

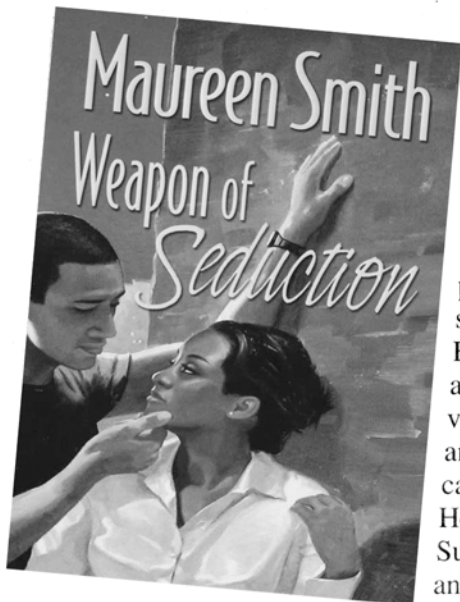
"San Antonio is such a vibrant city," Smith says. "From the beautiful Riverwalk to the colorful Fiesta celebrations, there's just something



extraordinary about this place. I hope I captured some of the city's essence in *Weapon of Seduction*."

A former freelance writer whose feature articles have appeared in various magazines, newsletters and Web sites, Smith now works as Public Information Officer at Northwest Vista College in San Antonio. She is also a recent graduate of the FBI Citizens' Academy in San Antonio.

Mrs. Smith lives in San Antonio with her husband Lorrent, a graphic designer, and two children, daughter Maravia and son Jared. She was born in Nigeria and moved to the U.S. in 1975 when her father came to America to earn a Ph.D. in art education from the University of Iowa. Her mother is a registered nurse. They live in Maryland.



new boss at the local FBI field office. Before she can recover from her shock, she and Rafe are paired up to investigate a series of murders