

Steel Magnolias is the story of women bonding together in the face of tragedy and is **based on true events**.

Playwright Robert Harling grew up in a small town in Louisiana, much like the town depicted in the movie.

Robert had recently graduated from Tulane law school around the time he wrote the script, and was trying to make it as an actor in New York City. He never thought his script would see the light of day, let alone become an iconic story.

He wrote the play following the early death of his sister, Susan, who died due to complications from type 1 diabetes when she was just 33.

Susan passed in 1985, after starting a family of her own. She did this knowing that her health would suffer after giving birth.

Robert was concerned that his nephew, Susan's 2-year-old son, would never know who his mother really was, which is why he decided to memorialize her in *Steel Magnolias*.

He says, "All I wanted to do was have somebody remember her." Needless to say, her spirit and her story have lived on, and touched more people than she could have ever imagined.