



Why do you write?

Geo-political history engages one's mind; social history grabs one's heart.

Romance is social history in action. Romance lets me place representational, fictional characters in the tapestry of a real historical era. That gives me the creativity to envision what living during that time might have been like for women.

All my life I've been a storyteller. In 2015, my sister challenged me to stop telling and to start writing. I've been writing almost every day since. I like writing novels best, but I also give away a short story every month via my newsletter.

What is historical romance?

A story of romance, courtship, and love often lost then found, during any time period up to 1950 and placed anywhere in the world.

What are possible endings for a romance?

Generally, most romances end in one of two ways: "happily ever after" or "happy for now." Novelists usually vary their endings with the stories they tell, and they like finding variations on both themes.

Why did you decide to write historical romance?

Love is so powerful. Almost everyone wants to be loved. Women's lives have improved throughout history, but many modern women still struggle to be seen, to be taken seriously, and to be valued. Writing historical romance allows me to explore women's issues.

What inspires you to create your main characters?

I usually start with a time of change or struggle and then ask myself: What were girls' and women's lives like during this time? Then I create a person, name her, choose what she is searching for, and create her problems in reaching her goals.

Why not just read a history book?

To me, the usual history book is a geographical and political compilation events of the world of men. It covers the political structures, laws, wars, and conflicts without considering the consequences on the lives of the general public, especially women. Social history has always been important but has not been seen as such by academia for centuries.

How accurate about an era can a writer be in a work of fiction?

Recreating a real world accurately takes time and research. Doing so well depends entirely upon the author's willingness to verify the historical elements of the era they have chosen. My policy is not to place anything historical in a work unless I've verified it. That means I have either found it in a non-fiction work that documents the source of its statement, or I have found two sources that agree when I find conflicting evidence.

For example, I can't put carrots in the soup of my novel placed in 17th century Quebec, Canada, until I find a source that states carrots were grown in that place and time. I'm still researching. I have already verified they grew and put onions and cabbage in their soups.

Why does it take so long to get your stories written?

My careful, thorough level of research takes more time than writing the stories.

I start with a calendar and period maps. I obtain general information on the internet and look for the sources at the bottoms of entries. Then I find and read the books named. I move from bibliography to bibliography to verify information.

I also visit the places I write about. If I write "A is 100 feet from B," it is because I was there; I had walked and measured the distance. Sometimes, I travel to a location at the beginning of my second or third draft and return before my eighth or ninth draft for more details.

How difficult is it to be published?

Each type of publishing has different challenges. Every type expects you to have a large social following and to do much of the marketing to that following by yourself.

Traditional publishers can take from two to three years to get a book released. They need best sellers because the process is so expensive. If your book doesn't sell well, they often drop it within six months. Also, they can change the title, the plot, the ending, the cover—anything they desire.

Hybrid publishers contract to do some parts of publishing and the author does the rest.

Self publishing means the author is in charge of all publishing and marketing. That means they pay in time to do things for themselves or pay in money after they find the help they want.

