



Christian Romance with Sizzle

Author Ellise C. Weaver's Interview Questions & Answers:

Q: Ellise, what has qualified you to write a romance novel?

A: Absolutely nothing—except, perhaps, that I read well, type well, and have read romance novels all my life. I think that last part, alone, qualifies me.

Q: What made you think you could do it?

A: Honestly, I wasn't sure I could. But I wanted to. With that, I just began. I just typed one paragraph after another. As I saw what I was able to accomplish simply because I desired to achieve it, the story came to life bringing me great hope. It's amazing what a person can accomplish when they set their mind to do it. So many times we stop ourselves from accomplishing something amazing because we talk ourselves out of it. I could easily have talked myself out of writing a book simply because I was so, so tired all the time. But I didn't want to be tired. I wanted to do something special after my ordeal the previous year with cancer. I could have let myself off the hook by telling myself I didn't have the proper education to back up writing a book. Who cares! I thought. People write books every day—why not me, too. So I just did. I'd encourage anyone to try something new and very difficult. It's very rewarding.

Q: What was your inspiration?

A: I've read hundreds, probably more like thousands, of books. Those stories had to have rubbed off on me. I thought about how I could start a story off. One scene kept coming back to me that is exactly where I started. After that, everything I wrote was either before that incident or after. Funny. I'm not sure that's how you're supposed to write, but it worked for me. That

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scene is currently in Chapter 13 of *The Governess—Book One: Volume Two*, titled Prisoner. I like it a lot. It's one of my favorites. :)

Q: Why are you choosing to self-publish?

A: I think authors of today are seriously lucky. We have so much available at our fingertips—*literally*—because of the internet. We can do everything right from the computer. We can research, write, publish, and market right in one chair. It's pretty amazing. So much of the footwork, money, and time that traditionally published books and their authors put into their work can be stepped over by doing it yourself. I've been sending out queries to agents and publishers since I began writing this novel in 2008. I've had nibbles, but never a definite bite. Mostly, they wanted 90% of the profit for themselves. Forget it! For me, *this* is the way to go. I've seen many self-published authors do well going this route even picking up an agent and big publishing house contract because they have become noticed in this self-published marketplace. I'm hoping it'll work for me, as well.

Q: Who are your favorite authors?

A: I've read so many that I don't even remember all their names. But the authors that I do remember or who've inspired me to write and keep trying would have to be Victoria Holt first. She's my main inspiration, my first-loved author of all time; then Phyllis A. Whitney, Mary Stewart, Barbara Cartland, Mary Higgins Clark, Marcia Lynn McClure, and Clair M. Poulsen. There are more authors than this that I love, but I think that's a pretty good start.

Q: Do you have any future writing projects planned?

A: Oh yes! Now that I've started, I don't think I'll ever quit. I'm a writer now. I'm hooked on the craft. I've always got a new story forming in my mind. In fact, I can't keep up with the ideas that have come to me. I've now finished all three volumes of *The Governess*, as well as putting them altogether in a trilogy. I'm very proud of that endeavor. Work on *Pirate Bride* is coming along nicely. I'm really excited to share this next book in The Huntington Saga Series Novels. I'm really enjoying the continuing story and how they all fit together. I think devoted readers will enjoy the little twists that come along throughout the books and the characters that they've come to love, even as I have. It's true what they say about characters coming to life all on their own. They have dreams and goals, too. They have real life issues. I find that it's strange how this has happened to my characters, but rewarding at the same time.

Q: When will the sequels be published?

A: I'm hopeful that *Pirate Bride* will be published by spring 2014. After that, I may be finished with homeschooling. If so, I'll punch the other two out pretty quickly, I hope. It takes much to really produce a story. I think I'll give each at least a year to be worked on. *Elsbeth Was Her Name* will come after *Pirate Bride* probably by summer 2015. *Creighton's Daughter* will come the year after. I'll let you know if these characters surprise us all and show up sooner than later. :)

Q: Thank you for sharing with us your writing career.

A: I'm very happy to oblige. This has been fun, and I look forward to more questions any time. Thank you for this opportunity to share.

To ask more questions of the author, or to interview her, contact her at:
elliseweaver@hotmail.com

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