

INTERVIEW by Rachelle at the [Stifled Squeal Blog](#), June 27, 2007

Why did you become a writer?

I just couldn't help myself, but mainly it was to shut up the voices in my head. And as far as I know, I'm not schizophrenic. LOL!

Was it a dream of yours since you were younger or did the desire to write happen later in your life?

I started writing when I was twelve or so. I loved books and read everything I could get my greedy little hands on. Unfortunately I showed my work to a friend of mine and she pooh-poohed it. I did some writing in high school, but my teacher said my work was, "trite." Yes, it was a romance and she was a very intellectual person who didn't respect any writing unless it was LIT-trah-ture. Again in my early thirties I started writing again, and it was one of those Rosemary Rogers type romances. Still I hated typing and retyping on my old Smith-Corona portable typewriter. Finally came the computer age and I jumped on the bandwagon and started writing. I haven't looked back.

What do you love about being an author?

I love working from home and making the characters in my head live, breathe and love.

Is there anything you dislike about being an author?

No.

How do you balance your personal and writing time?

I don't really try for a balance. I find time once a month to meet with other writers at our local romance writers' chapter meeting. The more difficult balancing act is balancing writing time with promoting my work on the various chat loops, etc.

How do you write?

I'm a hybrid. I started out being a seat of the pants writer. I've morphed into more of a plotter than I was earlier, but I'll never attempt to outline a book—no fun whatsoever. **Do your characters come to you first or the plot or the world of the story?** Most of the time it's the characters. When I decide to work on a story idea, I do an interview so that they can tell me who they are and what they like. I begin to pick up clues about their goals, motivations and conflicts which will in turn drive the story and the story world.

What genre(s) do you write?

I write romantic suspense. Why do you write the stories that you write? My two favorite genres are romance and mystery, and writing romantic suspense allows me the opportunity to blend the two.

Do you tend to base your characters on real people or are they totally from your imagination?

Most of the time, they are totally from my imagination. I start with an image—quite often male and female soap stars, but once I start writing the characters evolve and take on a life of their own.

Out of all the characters that you've written, who is your favorite and why?

That's so difficult to decide. Sheriff Rilla Devane from TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE is one of my favorites because she's nothing like me. She can kick ass and doesn't take any BS from anyone. She's tough and in charge, but a real woman when it comes to falling in love. The other one I have to mention is Randi Raines from LOVE ON THE RUN. She was my first heroine to see print. She was much more like me twenty years ago—afraid to fly, a mother who would do anything for her young son, but finally risked her heart and gave it to a yummy Scotland Yard detective. I love my detectives—all of them.

What would you want readers to take away from your books?

The rabid desire to go and buy up all of my back list. Other than that, I'd like to know they took away the satisfaction of having read a well-written story and sorry it ended. I'd like them go away and feel something of the heart I've infused into the story.

Do you have any advice for beginning writers in regards to writing a book?

Don't give up. Write consistently. Learn to take constructive criticism. Connect with a solid writing group. Romance Writers of America is absolutely the best organization for wannabe writers.

What are you reading right now?

I just finished FUNERAL IN BLUE by Anne Perry. Have to head back to the book case to see what I haven't read.

If you could be anyone or anything that you wanted, who or what would you be?

LOL! I'd be an author who didn't give up writing for something like twenty years before delving into it again.