

Featured on Bella's Book Buzz Blog 2013

1.) How long have you been writing, as Daryl Wood Gerber and Avery Aames?

I started writing years and years ago. I began as a screenwriter and then, when we moved across the country, I started writing mysteries and thrillers. I became officially published as Avery Aames (my pseudonym for the Cheese Shop Mystery series) in 2010. I became officially published as Daryl Wood Gerber (other than short stories) this month, 2013, with the launch of FINAL SENTENCE, the first in A Cookbook Nook Mystery series.

2.) What are your inspirations?

I am inspired by so many things. People that persevere. My family. My friends. I love walking in nature and getting inspired by the beauty of trees, birds, flowers. I love listening to good music, which often acts as my muse.

3.) Where did you get the idea for this series?

I was at a book signing at a culinary bookshop in Occoquan, VA called Salt & Pepper Books (it has moved to another location, fabulous store!) and I fell in love. With the cookbooks, the variety of culinary mysteries and fiction, the darling gift items. I knew that the store would make a wonderful setting for a new cozy mystery. I added a café to the store because I have found that I enjoy writing culinary mysteries, and my fans appreciate when I include food, the mention of food, recipes, and the like. My character, Jenna, is a foodie, but she's not an experienced cook. In fact recipes with more than five ingredients panic her, but she's going to learn.

4.) Who is the character of Jenna Hart based on?

She's not based on anyone. She came to me and I adored her. Jenna is a former advertising executive who returns to Crystal Cove to help her aunt open a culinary bookshop and café. If I had to give you a definitive answer, Jenna could be a compilation of Mary Tyler Moore in her young years, Angie Harmon playing Jane Rizzoli (on the TV show – I love her), Amy Adams (the actress, so fresh and sassy), a bit of me (I used to work as an actress and am very familiar with the advertising world; I also adore the beach), and Jenna is a bit of my girlfriend from college. She's fun, energetic, intelligent.)

5.) How many more books do you have planned for this series?

The publisher has made a three-book deal. I'm hoping to write many more than that. I'm truly enjoying Jenna's journey. She's close to thirty. She's recently a widow. She's learning how to cook. There are a lot of stories and possibly mysteries in her future.

6.) Who are your favorite authors?

I love Krista Davis, Kate Carlisle, Hannah Dennison, Janet Bolin, Lucy Burdette, Cleo Coyle, and so many more. I also read thrillers and tend to read Lisa Gardner, Meg Gardner, Harlan Coben, and a new author Matt Quirk. I also was an English major in college and focused on the fabulous work of Shakespeare, Milton, Dickens and more. I grew up reading Nancy Drew and Agatha Christie novels.

7.) Besides mysteries, what other genre do you like to read?

I think I answered that above. 😊

8.) What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to read, cook, garden, and take pictures. I golf, swim, and love to take long walks. And I adore visiting with family!!!