

MJB Reviewers Author Interview

When did you know that you wanted to be an author? What things, if any, influenced that decision?

As a professional actress, I had started writing screenplays and TV shows. I was lucky that a series I developed got picked up, but when my husband and I moved across country for his career, I had to give up acting and TV writing. Hard to do from 3000 miles away. So...seeing as I really enjoyed the long-form of writing screenplays, I decided I'd try my hand at a novel. Mysteries, in particular. That's what I liked reading. I took lots of classes and joined a critique group. Lots of years later, I found success.

With so many cozies being written today, what makes your books stand out from the crowd?

My protagonists are very strong and dedicated to family and friends. I think the settings also set them apart. And I love introducing themes to the towns so that each book focuses around a special theme or event, for example, a Book Club Bonanza as is featured in *Sifting Through Clues*, or a Renaissance Faire in *Pressing the Issue*, or a grilled cheese competition, as in *Inherit the Word*.

Do you work from an outline or plot or do you just see where the characters take you?

I need an outline. It's flexible and I change it a lot, but it really helps me focus from beginning to end. I consider it my road map.

Do you read your reviews? Do you respond to them, good or bad? Do you do anything special to get those reviews?

No I don't read them. I'm happy to have them (thank you to anyone who posts one!), but I can't take the time and I don't want to be depressed by the bad ones. I've had a few people write me an email with a bad review. Oy. I write back saying "Thank you for your input." That's all. I'm as gracious as I can be and don't let it get me down. It wasn't someone's *cuppa*. Not a big deal.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Read more, more, more. Read entire series. And don't skate through freshman English.

Do you think that the cover plays an important part in someone buying your book(s)? Who designs your book covers?

Yes, I think cover has a lot to do with it. The cover tells the theme. My artists have been great. Teresa Fasolino has done many of my covers. And now I also have Dar Albert. I'm very lucky.

Please give us an insight into your main characters. What do you think makes them special?

Jenna, being a former ad exec, has a keen eye for detail. This gives her an edge as an amateur sleuth. Coping with the sorrows that have befallen her in her life has given her courage and a strong spine. Her aunt Vera is a hoot. Telling fortunes is a sideline. What she's really good at is understanding Jenna and giving her all the support she needs. Tigger, Jenna's rescue cat, is simply one of the best pets any girl could have.

What have you learned about yourself since becoming an author?

That I need more time. I'd like 24 more hours every day so I could get the work done. With writing and PR, it just backs up, but I'm dedicated and I'm very organized. I can get it done as long as I remain disciplined and allow creativity to sneak in unannounced.

Do you write full-time or part-time?

Full-time. I'm lucky in that regard.

What do your plans for future projects include?

I have a couple of suspense novels coming out later this year. And I have a new cozy series – shh, it's a secret – next year in 2020. I can't say more about that yet. Plus there will be at least one or more Cookbook Nook Mysteries on the horizon.

What do you think the hardest part of writing is? What is the easiest?

The hardest is having ideas spring forth without my getting in the way and then capturing them on paper while not being repetitive. The easiest is dialogue. I love writing dialogue. I probably write too much of it. It's the screenwriter and actor in me. I love hearing scenes play out entirely.

What type of books do you like to read? Who are some of your favorite authors?

I read mysteries and thrillers. I enjoy Krista Davis, Jenn McKinlay, Hannah Dennison, Harlan Coben, Lisa Gardener and Meg Gardiner. Plus so many more!!!!

What is the one thing you would like your readers to know about you?

That I like to laugh.

Do you have anything specific you would like to say to your readers?

Please tell friends about authors you like. We can't make a living and keep writing books if reader aren't buying them. Word of mouth is the most important thing. If you like an author, at least support them by going to the library and asking for their books. Libraries are sales for an author.

How can readers discover more about you and your work?

WEBSITE: <http://www.darylwoodgerber.com>

FACEBOOK: <http://facebook.com/darylwoodgerber>

TWITTER: <http://twitter.com/darylwoodgerber>

BOOKBUB: <http://bookbub.com/authors/daryl-wood-gerber>

YOUTUBE: <http://youtube.com/woodgerb1>

INSTAGRAM: <http://instagram.com/darylwoodgerber>

PINTEREST: <http://pinterest.com/darylwoodgerber>

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